

Quarternotes

The newsletter of the BC Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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Inside...

Early Bird Deadline

PAGE 2

Introducing VIBE

PAGE 2

Ring Out! Report

PAGE 4

Spring Ring

PAGE 5

Member Reports

PAGE 6

Quarternotes is the newsletter of the British Columbia Guild of English Handbell Ringers,

Nikki Attwell, editor. Published quarterly (September, December, March, June), submissions can be sent to the editor at any time or by each issue's deadline, the 15th day of the month preceding publication.

Quarternotes seeks to reflect the interests and activities of all Guild members, and to be a tool to foster and facilitate communication and cooperation among handbell musicians in BC.

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BC RINGERS NATIONAL WINNERS!

Sound Wave takes top honours in CBC competition

By Jan Nordstrand

When I saw the list of songs for this year's CBC Music Class Competition for Canadian school students, I was drawn to the anthem of the year for Indigenous Languages titled "Human" by the Canadian group *Twin Flames*. I approached two Sound Wave ringers to see if they would be willing to write an arrangement of it for our entry this year. To my delight, Sonya Tsou, Grade 10 at Moscrop Secondary, and Rowena Huang, Grade 11 at Burnaby South, replied "Yes."

Rowena and Sonya stayed many weeks after our two-hour rehearsal to arrange the piece. They sat at the piano and created it. After a few weeks, they tried their ideas on the bells, again following rehearsal. More ideas were exchanged electronically. Finally it was time for the rest of the ringers to play the piece — on October 15 we sight read their hand written composition.

Following that, edits were made, sugges-



Jan Nordstrand and the ringers of Sound Wave are all smiles as they celebrate their first place win in the Senior Instrumental Category of the 2019 CBC Music Class Competition. Congratulations from all your BCGEHR colleagues — we are so proud of you!

This is Sound Wave's 20th anniversary year. It has been my joy to volunteer my time and conduct them for the entirety, and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate this milestone.

tions from myself and ringers were given, and the final version arrived having been entered into a computer software program by Linden

See *SOUND WAVE* continued on page 3

PLEASE LET US KNOW

When there are changes to the personnel in your choir, or an address or email change for any member, please let our membership secretary know so that the roster can be kept up to date. Doing this ensures that every BCGEHR member receives the communications they should. Thank you!

Send notifications to membership@bcgehr.com

JUST 2 WEEKS LEFT

You have until March 15 to take advantage of the Early Bird rate when you register for Spring Ring. Submit your registration form and payment by that date and save \$50!



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NEW ENSEMBLE

Introducing *vibe*

By Anne Hill

VIBE is the new Vancouver Island Bell Ensemble, which debuted in fall 2019. The ensemble was selected from advanced ringers living within a driveable distance on Vancouver Island to make gathering for rehearsals easy and affordable. Members come from Victoria, Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, and Comox. The musical director for the ensemble is Anne Hill.

The ringers were chosen for their abilities to: perform technically difficult techniques; be flexible in allocation assignments; exhibit high-level musicality and musicianship; be willing to work with ringing partners on the best allocations of bells to ensure a musical and professional performance; and, be committed to rigorous rehearsals and personal practise. All members ring in the ensemble with occasional conducting by Anne.

Christmas performances for the ensemble included the First Baptist Christmas Music Concert in Nanaimo and two performances in Victoria: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Advent service and the annual Family Carol Service at CFB Esquimalt held in St. Peter's Chapel. Spring 2020 performances include the First Baptist Spring Music Concert and possibly the Spring Ring 2020 concerts.

The ensemble is planning to be available to perform at weddings and in venues on Vancouver Island that host special events and conferences. Also, the ensemble hopes to work with other musicians to explore a variety of instrumental combinations and music genres. Some performances are already planned for the 2020 fall and Christmas season.

VIBE is so fortunate to be hosted by the First Baptist Church in Nanaimo where VIBE member Cara Beirnes is the handbell/handchime music director. We are very grateful for the use of this facility and the equipment for our rehearsals and performances.

Anne Hill is a past president of BCGEHR and formerly directed BCBronze.

Left to right:

Cara Beirnes,

Fran Hawker,

Anne Hill,

Christie Noseworthy,

Caroline Adams,

& Antonia Mahon.

Missing: Maureen Bray



SOUND WAVE continued from page 1

Shi, Grade 7 at Suncrest Elementary, on October 28. Following that we continued to prepare it each week for our recording day on November 22.



◀The arrangers at the first run through.



Jan is all smiles when the plaque commemorating Sound Wave's first place win arrives. ▶

Students gathered in the common room of my building to spend their professional day off school playing bells. I was off, too, as I am finishing my master's degree and working part-time this year. Our sound engineer and videographer joined us in the afternoon for the recording session. Our entry had to be one take, with no editing of sound. Parents supported the project by donating and securing the engineer.

We entered the Senior Instrumental Category, as six of our ringers were in Grades 11 and 12. Technically with eight younger students from Grades 7–10 we could have been in the Junior Instrumental category, however I believed our piece belonged in the Senior division. Our videographer, a first year UBC student, edited and prepared our entry. All that was left to do was wait.

We were announced as top ten finalists in our category on December 10 — a day to celebrate as we had our last concert of the Christmas season that night! The winning announcement came on December 17. I will never forget reading our name as the winner at 6:00 a.m. in the morning. I was thrilled for my ringers. This is Sound Wave's 20th anniversary year. It has been my joy to volunteer my time and conduct them for the entirety, and I cannot think of a better way to celebrate this milestone.

We gathered as a group in January to celebrate. Our plaque has just arrived, and we are yet to be together with

CBC MUSIC CLASS COMPETITION

Every fall season, CBC Music and MusiCounts — the charity of the Juno Awards — launch this contest to engage music classes across the country.

The goals are three-fold:

- 1. CBC Music/MusiCounts want kids to learn Canadian music in the classroom.*
- 2. CBC Music/MusiCounts want to draw attention to the exceptional work of music teachers in this country.*
- 3. CBC Music/MusiCounts want to reinforce the importance of music in a well-rounded education.*



How the challenge works Each year CBC Music/MusiCounts pre-approve a list of Canadian songs and ask music teachers to pick one and have their class (or classes) learn a cover version. Once a class performance of the song has been captured on video and submitted, CBC Music/MusiCounts post it on their YouTube channel. Their judges choose the winners.

Who can enter? Last year, more than 1,000 music classes (including music clubs, after-school music programs and traditional school board programs) entered from every province and territory in Canada.

Teachers are encouraged to enter the challenge no matter what the playing level of their class is, from kindergarten to Grade 12. Through CBC Radio, TV and digital, CBC Music/MusiCounts proudly showcase a variety of playing abilities, and tell the stories of communities enriched by music.

CLICK HERE to read the story behind “Human,” the official anthem of the year for Indigenous Languages.

all ringers present to take a picture with it. It's beautiful. The only thing left to do is spend our prize money: \$3000 to be used at Long & McQuade.

You are invited to join us at our anniversary concert on May 25 at 7:00 p.m. at Laura Muir Theatre in New Westminster. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door.

Jan Nordstrand teaches at École Inman Elementary in Burnaby, as well as directing Sound Wave. She is a former BCGEHR board member.

RING OUT!

Another successful youth event

Submitted by Elizabeth Eckert



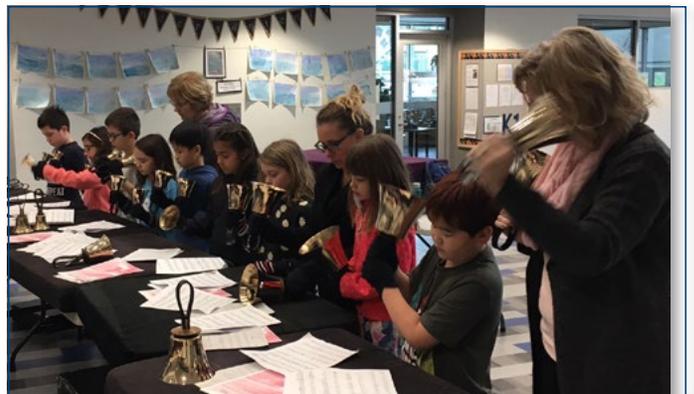
Thank you to everyone who made Ring Out! 2020 happen! The event was held at White Rock Christian Academy in Surrey, BC this year. We had a full day of ringing handbells and for many, learning to read music. This year the majority of ringers were beginners or had experience with handchimes but not handbells. It was lovely to have so many beginner/Level 1 students from Virginia Barteluk's group, The Tinkerbells. We had about six ringers who were Level 2/3, of which some could read music well but this was their first time playing handbells. All ringers had improved by leaps and bounds by the end of the day, and I'm sure they were exhausted. Well done, everyone!

Thank you to Imran Amarshi and Julie Leopky for taking on such vital roles as the clinicians for this event. You both did such marvelous work with the students in such a short amount of time. The British Columbia Guild of English Handbell Ringers appreciates your hard work, patience, grace, and encouragement with each student to build them up into ringers who feel prepared and ready to explore handbells in their near future. Thank you to Brockhouse/Kerrisdale, Jan Nordstrand with the Burnaby School District, White Rock Christian Academy, and the British Columbia Guild of English Handbell Ringers for loaning us your equipment for this event. It couldn't have happened without your generosity and trust. I am grateful.

It was a blessing to have our workshop at this location, because the leadership of the school and staff were so accommodating and amazing hosts. The workshop was held in the beautiful new Junior School building, which was quite a treat. Thank you to all of our attendees and families for your patience with the confusion in entering the building through the underground parking lot, while construction was happening on the new Senior School building. Thank you to all the volunteers, chaperones and parents who helped clean up at the end of the day. You all made this event a success.

We hope to see more of you at Ring Out! 2021. Please contact me if you are interested in helping next year in March/April.

Elizabeth Eckert is the BCGEHR Chime Loan Co-ordinator and a former board member.



SPRING RING 2020, NANAIMO, BC

The time is near: Coastal Carillon

Cara Beirnes & Anne Hill, co-chairs, Spring Ring Planning Committee

The time is near! We are looking forward to hosting Spring Ring 2020 on Vancouver Island. The committee has been working hard to make this a memorable time for all.

A few important registration notes to keep in mind...



1. The early bird deadline is coming up so we want to encourage you to **get your registrations in by March 15**. You can access the registration package online at www.bcgehr.com/spring_ring/ if you have misplaced your copy.
2. All music is to be purchased ahead of Spring Ring. It is expected that you will come to Spring Ring with your music prepared and ready for finessing with the conductors. Remember, "Cherished Memories" is a massed piece and must be ordered through Peggy Bensler at pabensler@telus.net.
3. Conductors, please encourage your Level 1/2 ringers to attend Spring Ring to help them advance their skill level in ringing. Also, you may have ringers who play in your choir at Level 3 but are more comfortable with Level 1/2 music, so please encourage them to choose the Level 1/2 session.
4. The directors' performance notes are now available for download from www.bcgehr.com/spring_ring/. Please

read carefully and mark your music as indicated.

5. A few changes from the registration package under accommodation: **we will not be using Best Western**, only Ramada by Wyndham. Reminder when booking that you should phone the hotel directly and ask for the Spring Ring block.
6. Shortly before Spring Ring, all those registered for the Quick Study workshop will be contacted with the cost of the music. Please bring that amount with you, cash or cheque only. You will receive and pay for your copy of the music at the registration table when you arrive.
7. We did not make allowance for spouses/partners/companions (other than chaperones) in the registration package. We felt that since our catered meal is at lunch time and closely timed with the AGM, those accompanying registrants are more likely to be out and about enjoying the sites of Nanaimo and area. However, the Friday evening reception is open to spouses/partners/companions for an additional charge. Please contact Cara with names and numbers so she can inform the caterers.
8. BYOB² — bring your own carry bag and water bottle as indicated in the registration package.
9. We will be awarding door prizes throughout the conference. If you or someone you know would like to donate a door prize of any kind, please let Cara know. As well, we also have options for sponsorship and advertising in our concert program. If you know anyone in our area that may be interested, please send us contact information.

We hope you are checking out all that Vancouver Island has to offer outside of the Spring Ring days. If you've never been to the Island, or haven't been for a long time, please consider taking an extra day or two to see the sights.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to send Cara an email at vanisland@bcgehr.com and we will do our best to help you.

REPERTOIRE

MASSED RINGING SELECTIONS

- "Festival Celebration" by Michael Helman,
Lorenz 202072L
"Cherished Memories" by Betty B. Radford

L3/3+ SELECTIONS

- "Toccata on 'King's Weston'"
arr. Matthew Compton, Agape/Hope 2767
"Milele" by Jason W. Krug,
Red River Music BL5087

L1/2 SELECTIONS

- "I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger"
arr. Tammy Waldrop, Agape/Hope 2343
"Barcarole" by Patricia Cole,
Agape/Hope 2643

AROUND THE PROVINCE

Member Reports

Submitted by ringers and directors

▶ VANCOUVER ISLAND

Gabriola Handbell Choir

Submitted by Margaret Taylor

The Gabriola Handbell Choir played just before Christmas during the church service. Four short pieces; a cellist accompanied us in “Dona Nobis Pacem.” For the last one, “Silent Night,” the congregation sang two verses with us.

The choir has decided on the pieces for Easter. We are busy practicing Happy Birthday — our oldest ringer is 99 years old next month. She is a lively ringer on the small bells, handling four when necessary.

Some of us plan to attend the Spring Ring — it will mean early rising to catch the first ferry.



Mollie Ford (seated, second from left) will be serenaded by “Happy Birthday” on handbells at the beginning the church service in March when she turns 99.

▶ LOWER MAINLAND

Brockhouse/Kerrisdale Handbell Ringers (Vancouver)

Submitted by Jean Peggie

The Brockhouse/Kerrisdale Handbell Ringers are practising for various spring concerts and plan to premiere the new composition “Cherished Memories” by Betty B. Radford at our annual Spring Concert at Kerrisdale Seniors Centre on Sunday, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome. Admission is by donation. “Cherished Memories” is in memory of our long-term ringer and past president, Joanna Shephard, and was commissioned with the support of her daughter, Linda Castagna, and son, Keith Shephard. Featured in this is our new octave of chimes, donated by Grace Lau.

The Monday group will also play at Crofton Manor and the Wednesday group at Chalmers Lodge and Arbutus Manor.

We have again lost some long-time ringers, Barbara Morris and Amy Poon, due to illness, but are happy to report we have recruited three very promising newcomers, Bette Cosar, Laiha Lam and Mae Runions.

JoyBells Handbell Choir (Burnaby)

Submitted by Alma Tomei, director

Here it is mid February: the flurry of Christmas concerts is over but we are still busy planning spring concerts and preparing for Spring Ring in Nanaimo. Although we will not have a full choir attending, we are anticipating learning new technique(s) and renewing friendships.

Once again, I am busy trying to recruit new ringers, which is an ongoing activity for directors. One of our ringers will not be back with us before September due to illness; another has had to drop out because he has overextended himself due to studies at UBC. However, we have a new member who used to play in Lorraine Loewen’s Calvin Clappers in Abbotsford. Thank you to Virginia Barteluk for sending her our way.

On February 15 our youngest ringer attended the annual youth handbell ringers’ festival held in White Rock. She absolutely loved it and plans to attend other workshop/festivals that come up.

That’s about all for now, fellow ringers. I hope to see many of you in Nanaimo in May!

QAUC Memorial Bell Ringers (New Westminster)

Submitted by Virginia Barteluk, director

WHAT: Springtime Concert Cream Tea

WHEN: Saturday April 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Advance on-line sales only. [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase.

WHERE: Queens Avenue United Church, 529 Queens Avenue, New Westminster.

WHO: Featuring the new children’s handbell choir, the TINKERBELLS and the QAUC Memorial Bell Ringers.

Serving fresh home made scones, jam and DEVON Cream

▶ INTERIOR

Alleluia Ringers (Kelowna)

Submitted by Nikki Attwell, director

As well as working hard on the repertoire for Spring Ring, the Alleluia Ringers are also preparing for a joint concert with a vocal choir from Kelowna Secondary School, directed by Sheila French. It’s scheduled for Saturday, June 6 at First United in Kelowna (corner of Richter and Bernard). We’d love to see some of our Guild friends there!