



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

From the Chair . . .

I started ringing bells in 6th grade.

We were a small group of young teens. We had a two octave set of Malmarks, a set each of Begin to Ring and Richard Proulx's Tintinnabulum books, and some tables tucked in the choir loft of St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen, NJ. It was the most fun I'd ever had and we became incredibly close because of the intensive teamwork required for bells. Decades later, a bunch of us are still in touch because of those cooperative bonds that are not only crucial for effective handbell ringing, but pretty much inevitable. (Hope you like your current bell neighbors, because you probably won't ever get rid of them! Shout out to Katy and Paul and Ben and Danielle and Krystyna.)

As great an experience as I had coming-of-age with bells in my hands, I had no real connection to the greater handbell community or even full awareness of its existence. This was the 90s. There was no social media. I never went to a bell festival. I didn't meet a ringer from outside my circle of friends. I had a vague notion that there was a world out there where hundreds of bell people gathered to ring together and I knew we weren't the only bell choir in the state, but I didn't know much. I dropped out of ringing after high school because I didn't have anywhere to ring. It was only a fluke that I ended up back in bells in my mid-twenties and took myself to my first Area 2 festival conference.

It was life-changing for me in many ways. I learned how to 4-in-hand, something I'd never done before. I played in Masterclass and learned that 6-in-hand was a thing. I played Bronze and Massed rep that was challenging and exciting. Dave Harris was the director that year and I learned about handbell celebrities. Things people in big, connected choirs might take for granted were novel and wildly exciting. This year, I'm thrilled to be taking my own teen bell choir to the Area 2 festival conference. They've never been to a multi-day festival before and they are almost as excited to attend as I am to introduce them to that big, beautiful world of handbells and handbell people outside their church choir.

I'm violist and a singer, professionally. I've performed all my life. Quartets. Chamber Music. Symphonies. Master Works. I've still never found something that engages me so completely in performance as handbells. It's video game co-op mode on steroids. From bell tower to church ensemble to school and community groups, the history of handbells is steeped in the social contract. If you've been hesitant to attend an event, do it this year. If you always thought big events were for other bell choirs but not yours, take them somewhere this year. If you've wondered why you should be a member, take advantage of an Area 2 event or program this year. If you've wondered if the bell choir down the street where your bridge partner rings is part of HMA, ask them this year which events they're attending.

Come on out. Join the world of handbells.

Liz

Elizabeth Nowik - Chair, Area 2
chair.area2@handbellmusicians.org

➔ **Please Forward and Share our newsletter!**

Attention directors! Don't forget to share all Area 2 emails and Twice Tolloed Tales publications with your ringers. By doing so, you can keep them informed and engaged with our handbell community.

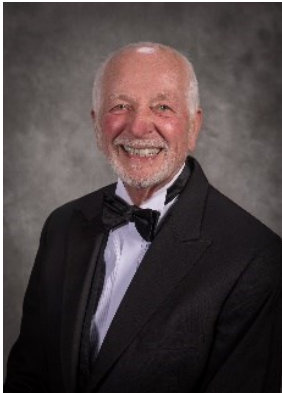
Area 2 Twice Tolloed Tales

June 2023

www.area2.handbellmusicians.org



2023 Festival Conference



Bill Payn
Festival Conductor



Karen Lakey Buckwalter
Masterclass Clinician

Lancaster Convention Center
June 23-25, 2023

Coppers

Exultate Deo – J Fedon	Level 3	3-5 oct	AG35355
I Will Arise and Go to Jesus – M Compton	Level 3	3-5 oct	AG35313

Bronze

Elegy – W Payn	Level 4	4-5 oct	HP1277
Te Deum – D Wagner	Level 4	4-7 oct / opt chimes	BL5027

Massed Ringing

Exuberance – W Payn & M Glasgow	Level 3	3-7oct bells / 3 oct chimes	CGB1100
Majestic Alleluia – J Raney	Level 2+	3-5 oct	HP2876
Soliloquy for Bells – K Buckwalter	Level 2+	3-5 oct	SPHP5175

2023 Festival Conference Composition Contest Winner
Together as One
Jason Krug

Not able to join us for the whole conference? Our final concert for the festival 2023 is on Sunday, June 25 at 3:30 PM in Freedom Hall. There will be a free-will offering, but tickets are not needed.



**Summer is here,
but if you're like me, you are already
thinking about
your Fall and Winter programming.**

Area 2 is here to help !



**Please review the following and don't hesitate to get
the help you need to have your choirs come back strong.**

Fall Read and Rings

Interested in scheduling a Read and Ring Session for August, September, or October? As a director and/or ringer – are you interested in viewing/hearing new and classic music offerings? Host a read & ring workshop in your area. Contact me at workshops.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Techniques and Skills

Finding that your choir could use a refresher course to sharpen their ringing techniques and skills? Invite one of Area 2's clinicians to come and spend a morning or afternoon just doing that – or other areas that require a little attention. Contact me at mentoring.area2@handbellmusicians.org

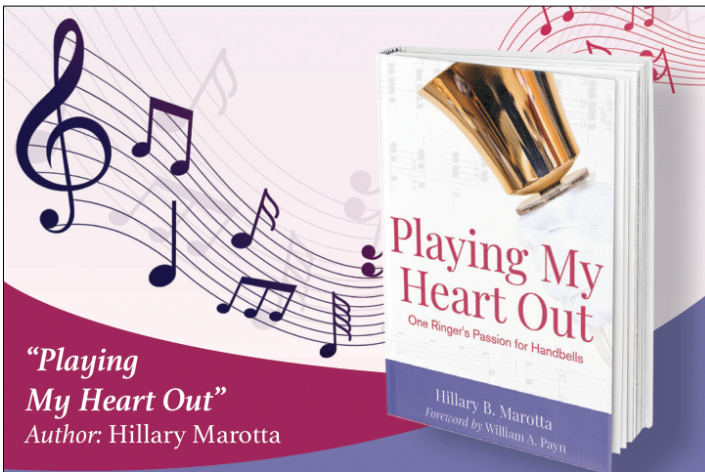
Design Your Own Day

Combine the above workshops into one, or make it totally your own. We'll help you create a workshop that will address the needs you want to cover. It could be your Fall and Winter Music, concentrate on Christmas Music only, more skills or more music. *Your options are wide open.* This could be a fun way to begin your Fall ringing schedule.

Contact me at workshops.area2@handbellmusicians.org



**Kaye Miller
Mentoring and Workshop Chair**


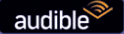



“Playing My Heart Out”
Author: Hillary Marotta

“A gift to our handbell community, the musical world at large, and to anyone who wants a peek behind the curtain at what drives passionate musicianship. Just wow!”

— Brian Childers —

Audio Book Now Available On

More Info at: HillaryMarotta.com

Available In Print From These Retailers:
Heitz Handbells and Music, Jeffers Handbell Supply, JW Pepper & Son, and Sonology

[Follow Area 2 on social media!](#)

@hmaarea2




Back to Bells

Area 2 can offer help in training directors, attracting ringers and getting bell programs started.

- Are your bells packed away and you'd like to investigate pulling them out again?
- Do you know of a church or group that has all the equipment and you would love to help them rebuild their program?

We are eager to help you, and these groups do just that, getting them **BACK TO BELLS.**

Contact me at mentoring.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Kaye Miller
Mentoring and Workshop Chair

From the Area 2 Photo Album...



***Ringers at the 1980 Area 2 Festival at Bucknell University
We're not sure who they are. If you recognize them, let us know!***

Do you have photos from past festivals or other events?

If you have any photos from past Area 2 events, whether they are from the past few years or the past few decades, we would love to feature them!

**Please send a digital copy of the photo to
communications.area2@handbellmusicians.org**

Area 2 Needs You!

Area 2 is looking for candidates to fill elected positions, as well as volunteers for appointed positions.

Don't worry if you're new to the Area 2 community! Everyone starts somewhere. We welcome your willingness to help and the opportunity to meet new people. Serving on the board is a great way to get involved and make a difference.

We're always looking for new eyes, heads, and hearts to join our team and help us better understand what our membership wants. While there are times when serving on the board is hard work, it's incredibly rewarding to be part of creating successful events that bring joy to our members.

So come and join us! We would love to have you. Contact us to learn about how to make a difference in our community.

Check out our events page!

Events

We hope it will be your go-to destination for information about upcoming handbell events in our ar-

Ring with David Harris
of The Raleigh Ringers

Westerly, RI 10/20 - 10/22

oktobellfest.org



WHERE CAN YOU HELP?

If you are a seasoned director/ringer who has an interest in helping others learn handbell skills and techniques, we'd like to include you in our pool of those willing to teach.

If interested, please contact Kaye Miller,
Mentor and Workshop Coordinator, Area 2

mentoring.area2@handbellmusicians.org

or

workshops.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Upcoming Area Events

Area 2 Festival 2023

June 23 – June 25, 2023

Lancaster Conference Center
in Lancaster, PA



STAY UP TO DATE WITH US!



www.rr.org



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Area 2 Board Members 2022 - 2023

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Chair-Elect

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Treasurer

Pat Dedert

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Secretary

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Past Chair

Robert Ward

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Communications Coordinator

Billy Mild

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