



# Ringers' Notes

## Jazz on Handbells? by Valerie Bush

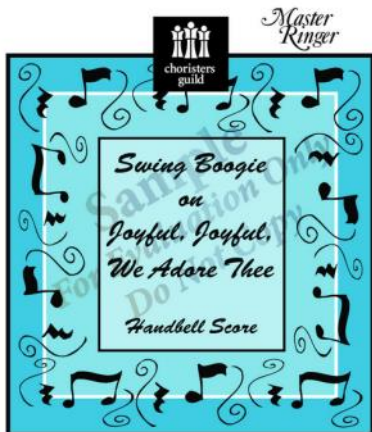
One of Suncoast Bronze Ringers' most difficult pieces for our Spring concert series, Peace to Joy, is "Swing Boogie on Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" by Cathy Mokolbust.

Cathy Mokolbust, an accomplished percussionist and composer with nearly 400 compositions, decided that the straight quarter notes of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" lent itself to a Swing, as well, as Boogie style.

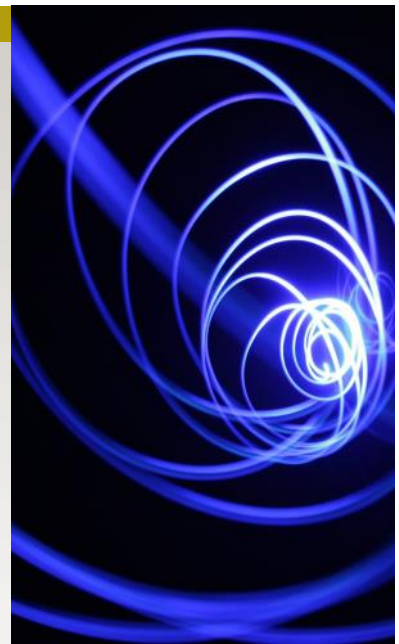
Hear the famous hymn, Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee in this contemporary composition. Written by Henry Van Dyke, this hymn was set to "Ode to Joy" by Ludwig Von Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

Cathy's take on this hymn for handbells is quick, with a quarter note= 152. There's much handbell sharing, a wonderful treble solo and a malleted bass so-

lo. Listen carefully to the repeated "Joyful, Joyful" woven through this wonderful composition.



As quoted by Van Dyke himself, the lyrics of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" are simple expressions of common Christian feelings and desires. This composition surely holds on to Van Dyke's expression of trust, hope, and joy as Suncoast Bronze Ringers swings and boogies from beginning to end. And yes, all on English Handbells!!!!



### Inside this issue

Jazz on Handbells?.....	1
Upcoming Concerts.....	1
A Note from the Director.....	2
Our Wish List.....	2
Behind the Bells.....	3
About SBR.....	3
Moving Forward.....	4
Concert Information.....	4

### Upcoming Concerts

- Sat, June 12 @ 4 PM  
Holiday United Church of Christ  
4826 Bartelt Rd.
- Sun, June 13 @ 4 PM  
Palm Harbor UMC  
1551 Belcher Rd.
- Sat, June 19 @ 7 PM  
First UMC of Lutz  
960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd.
- Sun, June 20 @ 3 PM  
Sun City Center UMC  
1210 Del Webb Blvd., West
- Sat. Dec 4, Tarpon Springs
- Sun, Dec. 5, Lutz
- Sun, Dec. 12, TBA

## A Note From the Director, Michael Lamb



*Thanks to our generous supporters, our fund-raising efforts are doing well. Our goal of raising \$6,000 for the set of low bass chimes is getting very close. We are only about \$2,000 short and hope to raise enough money in 2021 to purchase those chimes and add a whole new dimension to the sound of the group.*

We should call our spring/summer concerts 'From Peace to Joy - Take 2' since it is the concert we were preparing for last year before COVID-19 forced us to cancel rehearsals. But, the music is timeless and represents the same now as it did last year with perhaps a dash of 'Hope' in there as well.

When I took over directing Suncoast Bronze Ringers in 2019 I wanted to introduce the group to new music, but also a lot of the 'standards' in the handbell world. So, our next concert features our typical wide variety of musical styles from The Beach Boys to Beethoven and also has some 'Golden Oldies' from the handbell world by composers William Payn, Arnold Sherman, Hart Morris, and Margaret Tucker. If you haven't heard music by these arrangers and composers, you are in for a unique treat. Add to that

some newer arrangements of The Beach Boys tunes and a fun, jazzy arrangement of 'Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee' and I know you will be sure to find something new that you'll enjoy!

The group has been extremely busy this year. After our three holiday concerts, we laid down five tracks for a future CD, set up four concerts for June and have been finalizing our concert dates for next Christmas in December.

Although we took January off, the group continued to work hard virtually, looking at music and evaluating ourselves to help everyone ring better.

We've added three new ringers to replace three who will not be able to ring with us this Spring. So, we want to welcome Sue, Kirsten, and Amy and say a sad goodbye (for now) to

Jack, Kathryn, and William.

We are also enjoying our new home base church at Holiday United Church of Christ.

Thanks to our generous supporters, our fund-raising efforts are doing well. Our goal of raising \$6,000 for the set of low bass chimes is getting very close. We are only about \$2,000 short and hope to raise enough money in 2021 to purchase those chimes and add a whole new dimension to the sound of the group. If you attended our Christmas concert where we featured a borrowed set, you heard how much those beautiful low tones help to round out the group's sound. So please keep remembering us with your donations as you are able!

Thank-you all again for your support of Suncoast Bronze Ringers and please join us at one of our upcoming concerts!

### 3 Ways to Donate

- ⇒ Give online at:  
[www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com](http://www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com)
- ⇒ Drop off cash or check while attending a concert near you
- ⇒ Mail your check to :  
Suncoast Bronze Ringers  
Attn: Treasurer  
242 Riverwood Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34653



If you've already given toward our Low Chime Fund,

*Thank you!*

## Behind the Bells



*Jackie Kerschbaum's* musical journey started in 4th grade playing trumpet, then moving on to French horn, and baritone horn. Piano lessons also encouraged her love of music and she has sung in many choirs both locally, in the auditioned Nature Coast Festival Singers and in Rochester, NY.

Jackie's first interest in handbells was upon seeing the Raleigh Ringers and then joining her church choir in 2011.

Jackie joined Suncoast Bronze Ringers in 2013 and has since held many positions as secretary, publicity and now as venue chair. (If you're interested in hosting a concert at your location, she's the one to contact!) Her claim to fame is " You want me to do what with those bells?"!

Outside of handbells, Jackie volunteers at Good Samaritan Health clinic, helps the AARP tax sites for low income folks, sails and kayaks with the Hudson Beach Yacht club and helps with publicity.

Jackie has been known to be in situations where police cars and police officers congregate while Suncoast Bronze's small group rings. We have to watch this one and may have to raise bail money, eventually!

You would never know Jackie is retired...she runs circles around us with her volunteer work. We are grateful Jackie is a retired Medical Technology supervisor and former bookkeeper for St. Mark's Presbyterian in Hudson.

Her skills are valued as an active Suncoast Bronze member!



*Back Row: Delaine Roberts, Lynne Homan, Teri Michael, Vicki Apple, Cyndi Hughes, Jackie Kerschbaum*

*Middle Row: Valerie Bush, Patricia Deighton, Shelly Pinkard, Julie Roahrig, Brenna Lehman*

*Front Row: Nancy Chase, Diane Salmon, Michael Lamb, Kathryn Hinton, Adrian Carter*

*Not Pictured: Terry Agosta Rotunda, Kirsten Ostergren Clark, Amy Meyers, Susan Napier, Jeanmarie Seabaugh*

### Suncoast Bronze Ringers

Under the guidance of our Music Director, Michael Lamb, SBR is an advanced community handbell ensemble based in the Tampa Bay area. Formed in 2012, we play a repertoire that delights audiences and promotes the art of handbell ringing through concerts, community events and educational opportunities. We are members of Area 4 of Handbell Musicians of America, a professional society dedicated to the education of ringers and expansion of the art of handbell ringing throughout the United States.

Connect with us:

[www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com](http://www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com)



## Moving Forward In Spite of COVID-19

The following excerpt is from *Overtones* magazine, the *Handbell*. Musicians of America monthly Journal, Moderated by Stephanie Wiltse, Director of Embellish Community Handbell ensemble

Did your group continue during the months of COVID? If so, what precautions did you take? Did anyone opt out during that time? Did you make changes when there were spikes in cases?

Valerie Bush When COVID first arrived, we canceled all rehearsals thinking it was temporary. The church where we practiced also closed. We stayed away from rehearsals until the second week of September, 2020.

As we prepared to return to in-person rehearsals, our host church still had not opened. However, the church of one of our members had opened and they allowed us to rehearse, rent free, through our concert dates in December. They stored our bells, tolerated our invasion, offered a concert date, and were just wonderful.

All members agreed to honor these rehearsal protocols: wearing masks,

putting bed sheets over the foam on our tables, washing our gloves and sheets after every rehearsal, wipe down the handles of bells and chimes with disinfecting wipes, using individual binders & music, staying six feet apart, wipe down bell case handles. We agreed to skip social gatherings, and held our board meetings by zoom. We borrowed enough bells and chimes from the church so we didn't have to share.

To show our appreciation, we polished their bells when we polished our own bells prior to our concerts. We were all masked, shared a tighter space to clean, used paper towels, disposable gloves, throw-away rags, and disposable table cloths to place bells on. They all looked great when we were done!

Rehearsals were great, ringers were great, and no one contracted COVID. We gave three concerts: two were our own (with paid tickets), the third was part of a series of guest musicians, which featured SBR to a crowd of 100 or so subscription holders and was video-cast later that day for a fee. All three concerts were done masked, socially

distanced, with no gathering after, and no Q & A with ringers. We had a great response from our audience via texts, e-mail, and Facebook.

Our regular host church re-opened while we were rehearsing for our Christmas concert season, but we had run out of space and we were afraid they may close again. Our director, Mike Lamb, and our venue chair visited another church about ten miles away. They wanted us! They had two unused rooms to store all of our equipment, tables, pads, and other stuff. They would even store a trailer for us on their property; all for a fee slightly higher than the previous church. So, we booked a concert at this new venue (one of the three) to see how the congregation and community would respond—and it was great!

We now rehearse at Hudson United Church of Christ every Sunday 3-5 pm

We retained most of our ringers and added 3 new ringers. I think we have been quite successful. Kudos to our Board, our ringers, our venues, our director Mike Lamb, and our audiences!



**SUNCOAST BRONZE RINGERS PRESENTS** **Peace to Joy**

Sat, June 12 (4 PM) United Church of Christ: 4826 Bartelt Rd., Holiday

Sun, June 13 (4PM) Palm Harbor UMC: 1551 Belcher Rd.

Sat, June 19 (7PM) First UMC: 960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd., Lutz

Sun, June 20 (3PM) Sun City Center UMC: 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West.

SEATING IS LIMITED  
PRE-PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:

[www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com](http://www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com)