



Fall 2021  
Volume 2, Issue 2



# Ringers' Notes



## SBR Meets Summer Challenge

by Valerie Bush

After a 1 year hiatus due to COVID-19, HMA's Area 4 Treasurer & Secretary, Kathryn Jurado & William Murphy, organized this year's Bronze Under the Sun. An event that provides an opportunity for advanced ringers to play advanced repertoire under the direction of a different director every year.

This year's 2-day event featured director and composer, Nick Hanson. His arrangement of "And All That Jazz", was featured among the selections. Ten ringers from SBR attended, including our director Michael Lamb. Ring-

ers from around the state of Florida as well as ringers from Virginia, Maine and Puerto Rico met the challenge of rehearsing apart, meeting each other as separate choirs, then ringing en masse.

Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church, Tampa provided the facility for rehearsal space and a live-streamed concert as well as an in person audience.

This year's Repertoire included:

And All That Jazz( from "Chicago") arranged by Nick Hanson

Beach Spring arranged by Jeffrey Honore'

Eternal Father Strong to Save by John B. Dykes 1823-1876, arranged by Valerie Stephenson

Fantasy On King's Weston based on the hymn tunes King's Weston, Newmarket, Passion Chorale by Fred Gramann

Milele by Jason Krug

TeDeum, based on TeDeum, Leoni, Morning Song, setting by H.

Visit <https://www.suncoastbronzeringers.com/> for concert and ticket information for Suncoast Bronze Ringers.

If you are a handbell ringer, be sure to support HMA. You can find ringing events on the HMA calendar at <https://handbellmusicians.org/>

## A Note From the Director, Michael Lamb



### Calling Former SBR Ringers

In honor of our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in 2022, we are putting together a Reunion Choir to perform a song in the spring concert, under the direction of Pat Deighton.

Please contact Pat at 352-242-1622 or [mdeighton@verizon.net](mailto:mdeighton@verizon.net), with your current contact information, and she will share more details as they are worked out.

#### 4 Ways to Donate

- ⇒ Use Donate Button at: [www.facebook.com/suncoastbronzeringers](http://www.facebook.com/suncoastbronzeringers)
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- ⇒ 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

**THANK YOU!**

As the summer winds down, Suncoast Bronze Ringers is busy working on our music for our Christmas concerts in December. I selected the music in March, and then throughout the spring, assigned parts. This step was finalized in the summer after auditions were done. In August, the ringers get their part assignments and start learning the music in advance of our first rehearsal in September, right after Labor Day. Rehearsals, for us, are mostly to get together to coordinate the sense of ensemble, to put things together, as well as start to establish a group sense of musicality for each piece. So, unlike many school or church groups, ringers don't use rehearsal time to learn their parts, but to move beyond that. Although many of the members don't have access to bells at home, they can still learn their parts. Since they already know most of the techniques they need, a lot of the preliminary work is mental. They study the music, look for problem spots and work out logistically how they will try to handle those areas when they get behind the bells.

That brings up a great point about the intricacies of ringing bells at a more advanced level. Many people think that ringing in an advanced group involves just playing more challenging music. And although that IS part of it, there are many more advanced tools and techniques that are needed in order to handle the advanced music. For example, in less challenging music, playing a key change or an accidental (a sharp, flat or natural not in the key signature) is usually just a case of putting down one bell (say an E natural) and picking up another (like an E flat). But

what if you have a sequence where you have to play Enat-Eb-Enat one after another? You shouldn't short-change the note value by putting it down early and damping the sound, but you don't want to be late picking up the Eb either. So, this is when creative techniques are needed. Things like using "4 in hand" (pick up the Eb with a hand that is holding another bell), or sometimes asking your neighbor to help out. There are LOTS of different things we do, that happens many, many times throughout a concert, for every ringer.

So the challenge, of course, is to come up with a plan for the tricky parts, then master doing it when the music is flying by very quickly, all the while playing smoothly and musically. Oh, and make it seem effortless to the audience! As with any musical instrument, handbells are a constant learning experience and no matter how long you've played, there is always room to improve: new techniques, and ways to approach the music. So, as you are watching the concert, concentrate on 1 or 2 of the ringers and watch how they handle some of those more intricate parts. You'll probably notice some of those tricky spots I am talking about!

Our Christmas concert this year is very exciting. We have a good mix (as usual) of traditional and popular tunes, older arrangements and newer takes on things. We have a surprise opening that you'll love and an ending that will knock your socks off. In between, we have 2 of the most profound and beautiful Christmas pieces ever arranged for bells with Betty Garee's 'God With Us For

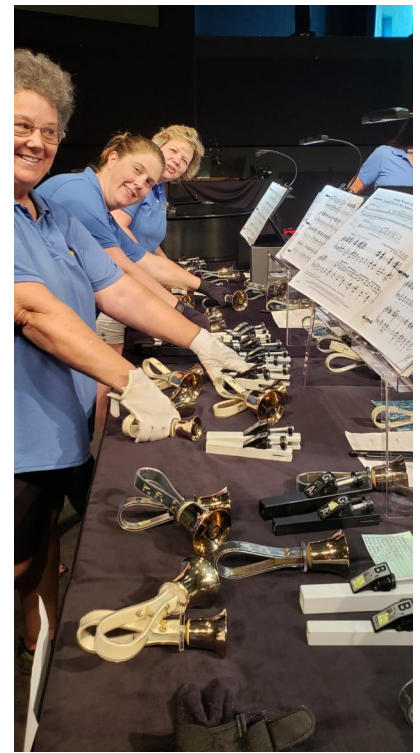
All Time (Veni Emmanuel)' and 'Stille Nacht (Silent Night)'. These were written back in the 80's and are as stunning today as they were back then. We also have a new Latin-style arrangement of 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing' by Cathy Moklebust and the ever-popular but extremely difficult TSO piece 'Wizards in Winter' arranged by Hart Morris. So again, a fantastic way to get you into the holiday

spirit in early December and I hope to see you and all your friends and relatives there! Keep an eye on our website for ticket information. Some of the venues will probably sell out fast!

Michael Lamb

*How DO they ring all of those bells?????*

Brenna, Kathryn & Delaine make it look easy. Maybe they've had juggling training!



## Inside the Music

Our 2021 Christmas Concert, once again has a wide variety of music, including some audience favorites from past years. The centerpiece of the concert is a pair of stunning arrangement of Veni Emmanuel and Silent Night, by one of the pioneers in the handbell world, Betty Garee. We have included 'God With Us for All Time' which features the tune to O Come, Emmanuel with 'Stille Nacht' to give a truly otherworldly feel to the middle of our 2021 Ring Noel concert. Starting with the chiming of the quarter hour, 'God With Us' takes us musically through the build up to midnight on Christmas Eve, by guiding us along a pen- sive and thoughtful landscape and then leading us to a momentous cul- mination at the top of the hour. There is no doubt in anyone's mind what is happening at this point and the musical mastery of the writing of this iconic piece is one that our audience will not forget.

Following that high point to the Christmas event, we experience the tranquility and peace that 'Stille Nacht' provides in a stunningly beau-

tiful setting. Although it's not long and is very simplistic in its presenta- tion, the genius of Betty Garee is on full display in the complexity of in- teraction between the different tex- tures and harmonies. The resulting effect is to transport the listener into an entirely different world...far away from the ordinary, where time is sus- pended. It will simply take your breath away.

Betty Garee was born in 1927 in New Jersey and taught music theory at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. She was one of the best early composers and arrangers in the handbell world, writing and arrang- ing more than 39 pieces and di-

recting an advanced handbell group, The Klokken Ringers. Her pieces are some of the most musically-complex available for handbells and remain firmly entrenched in handbell reper- toire to this day. She passed away in 1986 at the age of 59, but her music continues to enrich the lives of ring- ers and audiences to this day.

We hope you will join us at one of our three area concerts. You will experience two of the most pro- found Christmas pieces in the hand- bell world. We know you will enjoy everything in the concert, but espe- cially 'God With Us for All Time' and 'Stille Nacht' by Betty Garee.



*Ringling in the Season at Disney Springs!*

## Behind the Bells



*Diane Salmon* has been ringing for about 10 yrs. She first heard of handbells when she moved to Florida and her daughter became intrigued by handbells at their church. She later joined and has been hooked since! Diane works very hard on her music; affording her minimal time for her hobbies of cooking, baking, hiking, swimming, biking and reading.

Diane also puts in time at St. Petersburg College in their Workforce Education Department. Earlier in her life, she lived outside of Washington DC and worked for the Justice Department, and then worked her way up to the Deputy Attorneys office.

She also has lived in Ottawa Canada, as well as England...one offered winter sports, the other alot of history.

Suncoast Bronze Ringers leans heavily on Diane, as she volunteered to be the caretaker of our music library! She says the most difficult part of her job is getting us to turn our music in in a timely manner ... hmmm.....time for us to make her job easier.

Dubbed” the Navigator” by her carpool friend, Delaine, Diane’s skills run deep. She, along with her rocket scientist son and environmental engineer daughter, are no longer allowed to be on the same team when playing games at Delaine’s house. Too many “genius” genes in one family.

Be sure to say hi to Diane at our next concert!

Connect with us:

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



### *Suncoast Bronze Ringers Ring Noel 2021 Concert Schedule*

Sat. Dec. 4 - 7 PM First UMC Tarpon Springs  
501 E Tarpon Ave.

Sun. Dec. 5 - 3 PM First UMC Lutz  
960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd.

Sun. Dec. 12 - 4 PM Holiday UCC  
4826 Bartelt Rd

Featuring these fan favorites:  
Sleigh Ride, Stille Nacht  
Sing-a-long, All I Want for  
Christmas is You, Wizards in  
Winter and more!

Tickets available at the door or  
online:  
[www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com](http://www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com)