



Ringers' Notes

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Virtuoso

By Kathryn Jurado & William J. Murphy

Virtuoso is an extraordinary performance experience that truly lives up to its name. It is a unique three-and-a-half-day performance event for advanced handbell ringers and combines the opportunity to work with renowned maestro Dr. William A. Payne and The Raleigh Ringers, with a final performance on the stage at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. The Raleigh Ringers, under the direction of David Harris, are this country's leading handbell ensemble, and have been delighting audiences with their handbell performances for over 30 years. In 2013, they sponsored the first Virtuoso event, and have done so again in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2022.

Ringers who wish to be considered for this double handbell ensemble must apply by submitting an application, several audition videos, and two recommendations from their directors or fellow ringers. Once selected, ringers anxiously await their ringing assignments and repertoire, and the intense preparation begins! Why? From the very first downbeat, you are expected to be at the top of your ringing game. Approximately 30 ringers show up with their parts almost memorized, focusing on making music. Ringers are selected from all over the United States and three members of SBR have participated. William J. Murphy and Kathryn Jurado have had the honor of being selected twice now, and SBR Conductor Michael Lamb has done this event an amazing four times!

Bronze Under the Sun

by Jackie Kerschbaum

Nine members of Suncoast Bronze Ringers (Nancy Chase, Cyndi Hughes, Jackie Kerschbaum, Teri Michael, Susan Napier, Julie Roahrig, Delaine Roberts, Terry Rotunda and Jeanmarie Seabaugh) traveled to Gainesville to join with members of Magic of Bronze, Ring Sarasota and individual ringers from across the state to ring under the direction of composer Matthew Compton. Having prepared our music ahead of time, we consulted with our stand partners for the occasional sticky spot needing bell handoffs to finish the preparation of each piece. It was an intense 2 days of ringing in three separate sessions on Friday, three more on Saturday and culminated with a public performance. The small but enthusiastic audience reaped the harvest of our efforts as well as a wonderful performance by Ring Sarasota of "Bring Him Home" arranged by their director, Rick Holdsworth.

During meal and rest breaks the 40+ ringers made new friends, learned different ways of doing bell techniques and were treated royally by the members and staff of First United Methodist Church of Gainesville. We came home with a sense of accomplishment in playing these very complex pieces with time changes and key signature changes as well as different rhythms. We encourage all advanced ringers to attend this event in the future to stretch and grow your ringing skills. The Repertoire included: Spires – Matthew Compton Level 3, Gaudete! – Jason Krug Level 3+, Les Cloches – John Behnke Level 3+, Majesty – Daniel Cerna Level 4, Outburst – Karen Lakey Buckwalter Level 4/5, & 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime – Arr. Sandra Eithun Level 5.

Upcoming Concerts:

- December 3, 4 PM
First UMC of Lutz
960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd.
Lutz, FL 33548
www.FantasticFirst.org
- December 3, 7 PM
First UMC of Lutz
960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd.
Lutz, FL 33548
www.FantasticFirst.org
- December 4, 4 PM
Holiday United Church of Christ
4826 Bartelt Rd.
Holiday, FL 3469
www.HolidayUCC.com
- December 11, 4 PM
Peace Memorial Presbyterian
Concert Series
110 S Fort Harrison Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33756
www.PeaceMemorial.org

A Note From the Director, Michael Lamb



Happy Fall 2022! We are mid-way through our 2022 celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Suncoast Bronze Ringers. Thank-you to the ringers for their hard work and preparation, to the former SBR members who came back and rang under Pat's direction at Hudson UMC, to

Lynne Marks, our Spring 2022 Assistant Director, to Michael Amos our guest cello soloist, to Ben Vrbony on drums, and especially to our audiences for coming and supporting our endeavors! Whew, I hope I remembered everyone! As you can see, it takes a LOT of people and a lot of work to pull all of this together! And we're not done, yet...this Christmas we'll feature 3 concerts and a special appearance in a concert series.

Let me introduce you to this season's Assistant Director, Kathryn Jurado. (Be sure to read the article on page 4). I have known Kathryn for many years and I'm thrilled to have her with us to direct 2 pieces and

play in others. Her fiancé, William, will be adding his talents to our group, as well. I am excited for the group to work under her direction and for all of you to get to know her.

Our Christmas music is varied, challenging, and a lot of fun! From the stunning beauty of "Greensleeves" to the excitement of "Pat a Pan" to the fun of "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" I know that you'll enjoy the full breadth of our concert selections. Capping it all off will be our commissioned piece from Hart Morris of Johnny Marks' "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree". Arranged with a big band feel, (remember Hart arranged the version of "In The Mood" we did last spring), I know that you'll LOVE this arrangement. And this will be the world premier! So, please plan to attend one of our concerts to set the mood for your Christmas season!

Join us in SPAIN next summer! We'll be flying from Tampa to Madrid, Spain and touring for 9 days throughout northern Spain in mid-July. We'll play 4 concerts and end up in Barcelona. We have room for 48 people to join us on this fully escorted tour by Witte Travel. The cost includes all transportation, all

accommodations and touring expenses, full-sized bus, and 7 dinners as well as a welcome and final cocktail party. It is a travel experience like no other! This will be my 5th time leading a handbell group overseas and every single person that goes will tell you that it is by far their favorite way to travel. For more information, you can find the trip brochure at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bAupLPxip5xHS9H4fPmz9W_yfaODPPXd/view?usp=drivesdk

I encourage you to sign up early as the spots are limited and you'll want to be included in this fantastic opportunity to see Spain from a whole new perspective. For more information, contact me at SuncoastBronze@gmail.com.

I am SO excited for all of the many things that are happening around SBR right now and thank ALL of you for your continued support and contributions to that success. I hope you all have a safe fall and look forward to seeing and welcoming you to our Christmas concerts!

Mike

"We'll unveil a new and exciting arrangement that the group commissioned in honor of our anniversary and also let you know about a VERY exciting happening next summer!"

Inside the Music by Michael Lamb & Terry Agosta Rotunda

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree

Arr. by Hart Morris

One of the most exciting pieces the group will be performing this Christmas is the Hart Morris arrangement of "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" that was commissioned by the group in honor of our 10th anniversary. This was a very exciting project and we are delighted with the result! Hart has created a jazzy, big band type version of this contemporary Christmas classic.

The piece originally was written in 1958 by Johnny Marks and recorded that same year by Brenda Lee. At the time, Lee was only 13 years old and a relatively unknown singer. The song actually did not do that well at first but by 2008 it had sold over 25 million copies.

This arrangement by Hart Morris features a lot of classic big band sounds but also includes an 'ad lib' center verse that plays around with the basic tune in a jazz style. With the middle bells carrying the 'wind instrument' sections and the low bells handling the bass, this will be another popular arrangement by Hart. But the ONLY place you'll get to hear it as at our concerts this Christmas!

Los Peces en el Rio Arr. by Brian Seemann

This traditional Spanish Christmas carol, is little known outside Spanish speaking countries, but is quite famous in Spain. The carol tells of the Virgin Mary's daily chores, while the refrain describes the delight of living things everywhere, especially the fish in the river, by the birth of Christ.

The Virgin is washing and hanging clothes to dry in the rosemary: the birds singing and the rosemary flowering. The Virgin is combing her hair between curtain and curtain. Her hair is made of gold and the comb of fine silver. But look how the fish drink in the river, but look how they drink to see God being born. They drink, they drink and then they drink again, the fish in the river, to see God being born.

The song focuses on the Virgin Mary performing intimate everyday pursuits while the baby Jesus is nearby. Unlike many Christmas carols, angels, wise men, and shepherds are not in devout attendance to the Christ Child in this Christmas song, but instead lowly fish in the river and birds above are celebrating.

The fish may represent the disciples, the rosemary may symbolize Mary's loyalty and faithfulness to her divine calling, her hair of gold may symbolize

divine knowledge and faith, and the silver comb may symbolize purity.

Brian Seemann weaves into the piece the Fum, Fum, Fum melody. This carol begins with the calm, simple melody but quickly becomes energetic and rhythmic with an Arabic flavor characterized by an emphasis on melody and rhythm, as opposed to harmony. Our director suggested that we listen to the Gipsy Kings version of "Los Peces en el Rio" to get a feel for the flavor of Spanish carols. The Gipsy Kings' version begins with an ethereal introduction with concert chimes and pipe organ, then passionate vocals with melodic embellishment, and finally, aggressive percussion with acoustic guitars creating a lively and gritty flamenco style.

Under the skillful direction of Kathryn Jurado, the Suncoast Bronze Ringers strive to bring to you the emotion and rhythm that "Los Peces en el Rio" warrants.



Suncoast Bronze Ringers, Fall 2022

Left to Right:

Back Row: William J. Murphy, Jeanmarie Seabaugh, Kirsten Ostergren Clark, Patricia Deighton, Nancy Chase.
 Next Row: Susan Napier, Diane Salmon, Terry Agosta Rotunda, Julie Roahrig, Tracey Krimbill.
 Next Row: Brenna Lehman, Amy Meyers, Valerie Bush, Delaine Roberts, Michael Lamb.
 Front Row: Kathryn Jurado, Cyndi Hughes, Teri Michael, Jackie Kerschbaum.



Virtuoso, 2022 (Mike, Kathryn & William = Circled)



Bronze Under the Sun, 2022

Between Rehearsals

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| Jackie | Delaine |
| Cyndi | Nancy |
| Teri | Julie |
| Terry | |

Behind the Bells



Brenna Lehman Brenna started with bells in 1995 at her church in Kent, WA. Bells of the Sound, an auditioned community ensemble in Seattle was fortunate to have Brenna as a member from 1998-2007.

As an Air Traffic Controller for the FAA from 1984-2007, she kept aircraft aloft and her skills have helped us keep our handbells from crashing, too!

Brenna retired to Florida to breed horses. Her Fresian Stallion is now 15 yrs old and she stays busy with 2 Saddlebred mares. Brenna has a B.A. in Music Education, and directed Suncoast Bronze Ringers prior to Mike Lamb joining us.

She is our Resident Composer, having composed 5 or 6 pieces for Suncoast Bronze, and 4 or 5 for our 12 bell ensemble, of which she is a part, also. We will be ringing her arrangement of Dance of the Sugar Fairies at our 4 Christmas concerts.

When not ringing, Brenna stays in touch with her 3 Military serving sons and 2 small grandsons. Please come say hi to Brenna at our concerts....she will be wrangling the big bass bells or keeping the teeny treble bells in the air.

Connect with us:

www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com



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.

Welcome Kathryn Jurado, Asst. Dir., Fall 2022



Kathryn Jurado is excited to both ring with and direct the Suncoast Bronze Ringers this semester as the Associate Conductor. Recently, Kathryn was the clinician for Reaching for Bronze at Distinctly Bronze East in New Bern, North Carolina. Reaching for Bronze is a national handbell event geared at preparing ringers for advanced ringing opportunities.

Kathryn started playing handbells in October of 2015 at Lake Magdalene UMC in Tampa under the direction of Lynne Marks. Since then, she has attended numerous handbell festivals and events like Distinctly Bronze East and West, and has made every All-Star ensemble at the Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar since 2018. She was also honored to be selected for Virtuoso 2019 and 2022, an advanced ringing event held by the Raleigh Ringers.

Kathryn is currently one of the directors of Magic of Bronze, the premier community handbell ensemble in Orlando. She currently serves as the Treasurer of Area 4, Handbell Musicians of America, as Province Officer of the Lambda D Province of Sigma Alpha Iota, International Music Fraternity, works at Hillsborough Virtual K-12, is a freelance oboist and a Realtor in the Tampa Bay area.

Kathryn lives in Seffner with her fiancé, William J. Murphy, her 16 year-old son Daniel, and their four cats.



Mike Lamb, his daughter, unnamed Area 4 Ringer, Kathryn Jurado & William J. Murphy at Virtuoso 2022

SUNCOAST BRONZE RINGERS
2022 RING NOEL

12/3 - First UMC Lutz
960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd.
4:00 PM

12/3 - First UMC Lutz
960 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd.
7:00 PM

12/4 - Holiday UCC
4826 Bartelt Rd
4:00 PM

Tickets available online
or at the door.
\$10

www.SuncoastBronzeRingers.com

The poster features a circular inset photo of the Suncoast Bronze Ringers ensemble performing. The background is light blue with white stars and a red Christmas ornament. A large red and white polka-dot gift bow is visible in the bottom right corner.

Seating is limited. We suggest that you pre-purchase tickets on the website.