

VOL. 4 ISSUE 1 · SPRING 2023

# RINGER'S NOTES

Official Newsletter of the Suncoast Bronze Ringers



*Suncoast Bronze Ringers*

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

### MICHAEL LAMB

I want to start this newsletter with a huge 'THANK YOU' to all of you who came to our Christmas concerts. We were very excited to see all of you there and to present some wonderful pieces of music that we hope you enjoyed. As I'll discuss in a bit, we have more wonderful music for you this spring and I hope you can join us for our concerts in May!

I also want to thank those of you who donated to our group this past year. Not only have you helped us purchase new music and remain in existence with our location and business costs, but you helped us purchase 2 of the low bass bells we were looking to get! We now own 3 of the 12 lower octave bells thanks to your generosity! Our fundraising efforts will continue to help us to round out the wonderful handbell sound of the low bass bells.

The group took a well-deserved rest after the Christmas concerts although we continued to present Chamber group (6 ringers) music at a nursing home, 2 afternoons at Neiman Marcus and 2 afternoons at the Tampa airport. These last 4 were in conjunction with Breezin Entertainment who is representing the group. If you are interested in booking us for similar events, please contact them at Breezin.com.

I want to thank our fall Assistant Director, Kathryn Jurado. She was wonderful to work with and the group really responded well to her direction. Our next AD this spring is William Murphy. I've known William for many years and look forward to ringing under his direction. And by-the-way, William and Kathryn are married, so we are seeing back to back a wife and husband directing team!

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SUNCOAST BRONZE RINGERS

Performance  
Tour of

*Spain*



July 18 – 27, 2023

"I also wanted to Thank those of you who donated... you helped us purchase two of the low bass bells we were looking to get!"

-MICHAEL LAMB

Michael Lamb, Director, and Brenna Lehman showing off two new bass bells purchased with the help of donors and supporters. A2 and Ab2



Please visit our website (scan the QR code) and consider a donation to help us continue to round out the handbell sound with low bass bells, purchase new music, and help with our location and business costs.

## ... A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR CONTINUED

The group is now busy recording a number of the Christmas pieces to complete our first album which will come out, hopefully, in time for our May concerts. Be sure to come and pick up your copy there. It includes pieces from this past Christmas concert as well as other past Christmas concerts. (more information about the cd on page 3 of this newsletter)

We continue to plan and take reservations for our Spain trip in July. Half of the seats are gone at this point but there is still time to sign up if you would like to go. You can find more information and sign up at <https://bookings.wittetravel.com/tour/6690>.

Finally, I am excited about our music for spring. Selected to take advantage of the numerous large cathedrals that we'll be performing in on the Spain trip, I have selected local venues that we feel will be advantageous to the sound of this music. From soaring original works like 'Nocturnal Fantasy' to American tunes like 'Shenendoah' and popular music like 'Autumn Leaves', this concert will once again highlight the variety of music that handbells can achieve. Please plan to join us at our concerts in May for this wonderful experience we are calling 'Journeys'.



William J Murphy,  
2023 Spring Assistant Director

Michael Lamb, Director



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
WITH YOUR PHONE:**

CONTACT US, JOIN OUR MAILING LIST OR USE THE DONATE BUTTON AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WEB PAGE!

# SUNCOAST BRONZE RINGERS RECORDING PROJECT

MICHAEL LAMB,  
SUNCOAST BRONZE  
DIRECTOR AND  
RECORDING ENGINEER!

At the time of this newsletter, the group has finished recording and we have started adding additional instruments and working on editing and mastering of the group's first CD. Although this is my 4th handbell CD with a community group, as a first one for Suncoast Bronze Ringers, it has been a bit of a learning experience for everyone. Rather than record everything at once, part was recorded following our 2020 Christmas concerts and part this year after the 2022 concerts.

The first challenge was selecting music. To help us, we polled the audiences and the group members each year to find out their favorite songs. Everyone will be happy to know that ALL of the top pieces for both groups have made it into the album! Topping off that list was 'Thundersnow' for the group and 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' for the audiences. We are also working to include our 10th anniversary commission 'Rockin Around the Christmas Tree'.

After deciding on what to record, we then needed to find a location to record in. I normally prefer a location that isn't too dead or too live. A moderate room is best for a variety of music. Plus it needs to be located away from any major roads so that background traffic noise is not heard in the recording. Luckily, our home-base church at Holiday United Church of Christ was the perfect location for both of these factors.

The recording process is pretty straightforward since I already have the equipment and software needed. We generally record in sections of each piece and do each section 3 times. In the editing phase, I then take the best of these 3 takes and merge them together. For purposes of balance, we recorded the high 8's, low 2's, and low chimes separately. We also did separate tracks for the various percussion and Ben, our drummer, as well as oboe, keyboard, etc.



**Michael Lamb, Director**

Once everything is combined, it's time to master to make sure everything is balanced, equalized for the CD and added things like compression and reverb as needed. During this time we also research and obtain mechanical licenses for the various pieces. We also look for and contract an artist to do the label and cd liner graphics and layout. When it's all done, we finally contact a CD pressing company and upload everything for them to create the cds and print the materials and finally a month or so later get our cds!

Whew! So there is a LOT that goes into it all, but things are shaping up great and I hope to have our cd by May or at least in time for your Christmas shopping next fall! Look for additional information via our email mailing list (hint, hint) or our newsletter next fall.



**Suncoast Bronze Ringers during CD recording**



## INSIDE THE MUSIC: Palladio

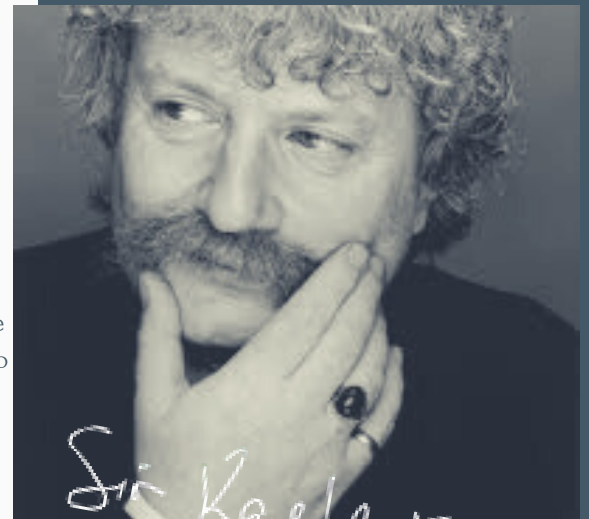
BY THERESA AGOSTA ROTUNDA,  
SUNCOAST BRONZE MEMBER

Sir Karl Jenkins, a Welsh musician and one of the most performed living composers in the world, composed and named his concerto Palladio to communicate the mathematical design of the piece, which mirrors the mathematical harmony and symmetry of the architecture of Andrea Palladio, the Italian Renaissance architect (1508–1580). Though Palladio is a modern piece written in 1995, it is reminiscent of the Baroque style of Antonio Vivaldi, with the first movement taking inspiration from Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons”. Karl Jenkins talks about his comparison to Palladio’s architecture: “Palladio was inspired by the sixteenth-century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, whose work embodies the Renaissance celebration of harmony and order. Two of Palladio’s hallmarks are mathematical harmony and architectural elements borrowed from classical antiquity, a philosophy which I feel reflects my own approach to composition.”

The first movement of Palladio was made famous by Escala, the female electronic string quartet that showcased Palladio on their first album. Escala’s Paladio begins with deep strums of the cello followed by a lively violin bringing in the melody. The Suncoast Bronze Ringers bring in the melody using malleting and ring-touch, which makes the piece spirited but delicate and balanced. SBR’s director, Michael Lamb, has incorporated CymBells with their unique timbre to add sparkle and dimension to the counter-melody. Palladio arranged by Shawn Gingrich and performed by the Suncoast Bronze Ringers culminates in a dynamic and exciting conclusion.

**"Palladio was inspired by the sixteenth-century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio, whose work embodies the Renaissance celebration of harmony and order. Two of Palladio’s hallmarks are mathematical harmony and architectural elements borrowed from classical antiquity, a philosophy which I feel reflects my own approach to composition."**

-SIR KARL JENKINS

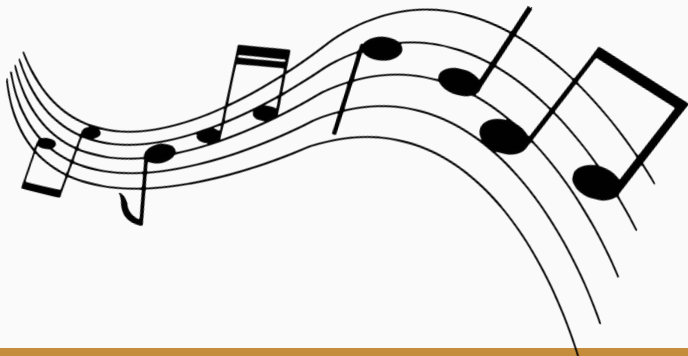


# Suncoast Bronze Ringers

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 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.

**Interested in Suncoast Bronze Ringers performing for your event OR in auditioning for Suncoast Bronze Ringers?**

**Contact Michael Lamb, Director, at 217-685-9212 or email at [suncoastbronze@gmail.com](mailto:suncoastbronze@gmail.com)**



## BEHIND THE BELLS

### VALERIE BUSH

As the mom of three, grandmother to five, dog owner of 2 golden doodles, and wife of John, juggling things has always been a part of her life. Valerie grew up with music playing theater organ and oboe as a child. She learned some German, became a nurse, got married, had children and when all of that wasn't enough, handbells entered her life in a church in Matthews, NC in 1990. She has belonged to 3 auditioned community ensembles; the first in Md, the 2nd in Sarasota, and the 3rd, Suncoast Bronze Ringers. Many summers have been spent going to Bayview Week of Handbells in Petoskey, Michigan where 105 ringers from across the country prepare a concert after an intense week of rehearsal. She has rung under the direction of Don Allured, Carl Wiltse, and Fred Gramann, Larry Henning, Rick Holdsworth, Pat Deighton, and now Mike Lamb.

Her handbell pinnacle will be Suncoast Bronze Ringers' trip to Spain this July. Valerie says she had done more than she ever could have dreamed with her love of handbells since her start in Matthews NC.



#### CONNECT WITH US:

[WWW.SUNCOASTBRONZERINGERS.COM](http://WWW.SUNCOASTBRONZERINGERS.COM)



# More Recording Pictures for our first CD!

CD FOR PURCHASE COMING LATE 2023!



**Kiki Clark on the last day of recording for the SCB CD**



**Suncoast Bronze Ringers during CD recording**

**DON'T MISS OUR SPRING CONCERTS!**  
FREE-WILL OFFERING



Suncoast Bronze Ringers presents...

## **JOURNEYS**

### **SPRING 2023 CONCERTS:**

**Saturday, May 13 at 4 PM**  
Lake Magdalene Methodist  
2902 W. Fletcher Ave., Tampa, FL 33618

**Saturday, May 20 at 4 PM**  
Holiday United Church of Christ  
4826 Bartelt Rd, Holiday, FL 34690

**Sunday, May 21 at 3 PM**  
Peace Memorial Presbyterian  
110 S Ft Harrison Ave, Clwtr, FL 33756

**Free-will offering.**



**Suncoast Bronze Ringers during CD recording**



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