

INSTRUCTOR BIOS

Workshop, September 18, 2010 – Scottsdale, AZ

Roy Blomquist is the director of Campanillas del Sol, a community handbell choir, in Scottsdale, AZ. He teaches various classes for AGEHR Area XI including Ensemble and Conundrums and has been involved with AGEHR as a member of the national board which worked on creating bylaws for the group. He served as Area XI chair and was involved in planning the area festival in Casper, WY several years ago.

He has served many years on the Arizona State Festival planning committee. Roy's the master at floor layouts for this event! He has also worked on the fall workshop for many years making sure there are enough bells and other equipment for a successful event in addition to teaching several classes. Last summer, 2010, Roy and his wife Jennie attended all three big handbell events – the Area XI Festival/Conference in Tucson, Pinnacle/National seminar in Nashville and the International Symposium in Osaka, Japan.

Roy is teaching the “Conundrums” class at this workshop.

Marilyn Chandler obtained a degree in Music Education, but found her true love when someone put bells in her hands. She has directed youth to senior citizen choirs, (four choirs in one church) taught classes in churches throughout the US, and at state, area and National AGEHR events, She has had articles published in Overtones and rang at Distinctly Bronze four years.

Marilyn will be teaching “Basic Bells” and “Beginnings, Middles, and Endings.”

Shirley Hipwell is a Handbell Consultant for schools, churches and a mentor of Handbells with AGEHR. She taught Vocal Music and Handbells in the public schools, churches and for summer music programs for over 40 years. She is sought after as a resource person, an area clinician and adjudicator.

Mrs. Hipwell was the organizer and director of six graded handbell choirs at the First Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights, IL. As an adjunct professor at Roosevelt University School of Music in Chicago, IL. Mrs. Hipwell instructed handbell directors in Handbell Technique classes and forming handbell choirs.

At Harper College in Palatine, IL, she formed and directed three handbell choirs and instituted a “Spring Ring” which drew over 30 bell choirs from three states each year. She also formed and directed The Northwest Chicago Community Ringers. These choirs performed at the International Handbell Symposiums in England 1988, Canada in 1992, Australia in 1994, Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1996 and Japan in 1998.

Shirley served on the faculty for the National Handbell Director's Conference, First Special Groups Liaison Chairman for the National Board of AGEHR, and Faculty of the International Handbell Symposiums in England, Australia and Japan.

Currently Shirley is the Handbell Director for the East Valley Youth Symphony Handbell Ensembles. She is also teaching private handbell solo & ensemble lessons. She is sought after as

a resource person, an area clinician and adjudicator. Shirley is dedicated to the use of handbells not only in the traditional avenues of service, performance and worship, but also as an educational and therapeutic experience.

Shirley is teaching “Ensemble I” and “Ensemble II” at this workshop.

Dr. Michael Mazzatenta is an award-winning composer of multiple competitions sponsored by Areas I, II, III, XI, and XII of the AGEHR. Michael received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from Arizona State University and performs nationally as a concert organist, accompanist, handbell director, and jazz pianist. He is an Adjunct Faculty member at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Chandler, AZ - teaching Class Piano and Jazz Combo. Michael also directs both adult and children's handbell groups in Phoenix and has recently accepted a position as organist/bell choir director at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church in Scottsdale. He resides with his wife Joan, also a musician, as well as realtor, in East Mesa.

Mike will be teaching “Working with Children” and “Basic Music Theory.”

Elizabeth McNab started ringing handbells with her church in 1998 and has been ringing with Campanillas del Sol since November 2000. She has been involved in music most of her life and still plays Oboe with a community band in Chandler. Elizabeth also plays the English Horn, Clarinet, Flute, and Piccolo. Outside of music, she is happily married and a mother of three, with one more on the way. I work for NCL providing IT Support at their Reservations Center.

Elizabeth will be teaching “Beginning 4-in-hand” and “Intermediate 4-in-hand.”

Steven Robinson started ringing handbells at the age of 15, primarily treble bells, and soon learned to ring old style four-in-hand (handles interlocked). As he grew older he decided to ring Bass bells and found out he enjoyed them much more. Steve currently enjoys ringing in Campanillas del Sol, an auditioned community choir now in their 10th year of teaching and performance. He has had the honor of working with many directors, groups and clinicians from across the country at festivals and workshops in an effort to increase his ringing knowledge. He is available to any choir in need of help with Bass Bell ringing techniques. He can be contacted at 602-717-4593.

Steve will be teaching the “Bass Bells” class.