

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers
Uniting People Through A Musical Art

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

www.areas11.org

An Introduction to Bob Tucker

Bob Tucker is the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer of Area XI. When asked to write a short bio, he came up with the following lessons learned from various musical mentors which he now applies to his passion for handbells. The paragraphs about each mentor are chronological beginning about middle school.



Bob begins with a warning. - Warning: It is recommended you tackle this article in a prone position, to avoid injury when you fall asleep while reading it (research has revealed that 5 out of 6 intelligent people did fall asleep while attempting to slog through the turgid prose, the 6th being diagnosed with a near-terminal case of boredom).

Music has always been a passionate hobby for me. It might have been a career but fortunately it occurred to me early on that the talent and discipline for becoming a successful professional wasn't there. At the same time, I owe a debt of gratitude to a number of teachers, mentors, directors, and colleagues who did their best to pass on their musical heritage to me (even though in the end I would rarely be able to execute appropriately). Herewith an abbreviated list.

Irving Coretz, piano teacher: One of his oft repeated lessons was seeking out the melody section by section (treble? bass? middle?) and making it sing, a lesson that for a handbell choir can make the difference between inspiring music and mush.

George Spence (RIP), former principal oboist with the Tucson Symphony: We spent a lot of time discussing the importance of listening to the sounds produced by fellow musicians and adjusting our own playing accordingly. Hint: there are a few handbell ringers who might want to try learning this skill.

Barney Childs (RIP), composer: Dr. Childs introduced me to music written after 1950, complex-meter pieces in particular, which has made all those 5/4, 7/4, etc. handbell pieces fun to play and even teach. This is also a good opportunity to give thanks to all of our great composers, without whom our lives would be exceedingly dull, and especially to our handbell composers and arrangers, who continue to enrich our world with new music.

(cont. on page 2 - **Bob**)

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AGEHR
 NATIONAL SEMINAR 2009
 will be in Area XI !
 Tucson, AZ
 July 15 - 18, 2009

It's never too soon to begin planning. Start fund raising. When 2009 budgets are set up, see if a line item can be included for the handbell director to attend this event.



February 12 - 15, 2009
Kitsap Conference Center,
Bremerton, WA



David Davidson will be the director for this event which will be limited to 114 ringers.

At last, a Distinctly Bronze event at a venue more convenient to those in the western part of the United States! Distinctly Bronze is a ringing event for the advanced ringer who is capable of learning the music on their own. Individuals must be accepted to attend. The acceptance process requires completion of a Ringer Information Sheet and two recommendations from ringing or directing colleagues. Rehearsals Thursday through Sunday lead up to a concert on Sunday afternoon.

Registration for the event is \$295 which includes working with David Davidson, a Bronze West Polo Shirt, 3 meals and a CD recording of the final concert.

The Conference Hotel is the **Hampton Inn and Suites, Bremerton**. Rooms are \$94 per night single or double. Triple or quad rooms require an extra fee.

If you or some of your ringers are looking for a challenge - this just might fill the bill!!

Distinctly Bronze West details, info, forms, etc.

<http://www.agehr.org>

Arizona State Fall Workshop - September 20, 2008

AGEHR member registration \$12, non-member \$15 (by Sept. 17)
Registration at the door - \$20.

Classes are planned for everyone - directors, ringers, beginners and advanced.

Class offerings:

- Fish Hooks and Line (techniques and notations)
- Handchimes
- 4 - in - hand Treble Bells
- Bass Bells
- Ringin-off-the-table Ensemble
- Stage Presence
- Malmark Bell Maintenance
- Schulmerich Bell Maintenance
- Music Reading Sessions - Separate sessions for Beginner and Intermediate

Workshop location: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
1500 W. Maryland Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85015

Time: 9am to 1pm - Lunch **NOT** included

AZ SPRING FESTIVAL
April 25, 2009

CLINICIAN:
Monica McGowan

Time & Place: TBD

Repertoire List available
www.area11.org

More details and registration form available at www.area11.org.

Colorado's Pikes Peak Ringers Participate in National Seminar (Teachers' and Performers' View of National Seminar) - by Jan Weisner



Greetings from Pikes Peak Ringers!

Thank you for inviting us to share some of our reflections from our experience at the National Seminar in Orlando this past August. We had a GREAT time and are very grateful that we were chosen to participate in this event as teachers and in concert.

Pikes Peak Ringers has a philosophy of movement and presentation which we very much enjoy teaching and demonstrating to any and all those willing to listen and watch! This was the basis of our presentation at National Seminar.

We believe we are the cutting edge of musical interpretation through handbells using movement, facial expressions, and some choreography. We hope you realize we are a

community handbell group and are able to add some "flashy" choreography to our music that might not be appropriate in a worship setting. However, many of our simple movements such as moving back & forth, picking up bells and ending pieces, matching circles, etc. can easily be taught and adapted into every group. Our feeling is this makes the music much more interesting to watch and definitely more fun to play!

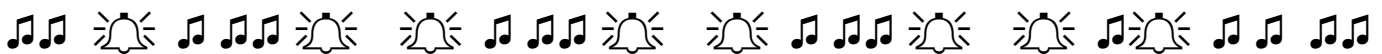
We believe through teaching directors of handbell choirs as we did at National Seminar, we are reaching many, MANY players! Much more than if we taught handbell players alone. We love what we do, we believe in what we do and nothing could be better than sharing it with other lovers of the instrument!

"Many of our simple movements can easily be taught and adapted into every group."

Of course, performing is the highlight of our time together. It is the absolute BEST to play in front of an audience and what an audience we had! WOW! We received a warm and spirited reception from those who attended our performance and, after what was a very long day for us, we were energized by the smiling faces and some "oohs and aahs".

Pikes Peak Ringers want to thank the many, many folks that made it possible for us to be in Florida and share with so many what we love through teaching and performing! RING ON!!!

NOTE: For those of you unable to attend one of their workshops, PPR has gathered instructions and demonstrations into a DVD titled "Music in Motion" which is available at www.pikespeakringers.org



ENDOWMENT GRANT AWARDED - The Swiss Belles of Midway/Wasatch High School in Heber City, Utah are the recipients of an AGEHR Endowment grant which was announced at the National Seminar in Orlando. The money from the grant will go towards purchasing equipment and music for the establishment of a handbell choir for the Wasatch County School District. Initially, choirs will include students from Wasatch High School and Wasatch Mountain Junior High School (grades 8 - 12). Once established at that level, they hope to expand to include a community children's choir as well.

"The AGEHR Endowment grant will go towards establishing a handbell choir for the Wasatch County School District. (Heber City, Utah)"

The project has the following goals:

- + Enhance the musical growth of students in a rural community.
- + More adequately meet the K-12 National Standards for Music Education.
- + Augment Students' musical understanding'
- + Enhance community events
- + Increase students' sense of ensemble, cooperation and teamwork.