

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

Area XI Newsletter

Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

www.area11.org

www.coagehr.org (Colorado)

YO-YO-MA "CELEBRATE AND COLLABORATE" CONTEST

The Pikes Peak Ringers are the winners in the Yo Yo Ma "Celebrate and Collaborate" Contest! The prize is to record a collaboration with the world-renowned cellist that will appear on an upcoming commercial recording.

PPR Music Director Kevin McChesney heard about the online contest from a friend in early October of 2008. Entrants downloaded a recording of Yo Yo Ma playing the traditional melody *Dona Nobis Pacem* through twice. Then the entrants created an arrangement which they recorded alongside the original and uploaded to the contest website. Deadline for entering was Dec. 31, 2008, and then the public voted for their favorite entries for the first ten days of January, 2009.

The intention of Kevin's arrangement was to get Mr. Ma's attention by creating a fairly complex handbell part. With the cello playing only the melody, the musical drama was in the handbell score, showing what handbells are capable of. There were no stopped techniques used, as that didn't seem appropriate to the gentle *Dona Nobis Pacem* tune. But the arrangement featured flowing lines and counterpoint.

Pikes Peak Ringers had to learn the arrangement in a very short time because of the contest deadlines and because they had other commitments to keep up with. There were only three rehearsals, probably a total of an hour's practice on the piece. "They really stepped up to the plate and created a very fine recording," says Kevin.

In recording, they couldn't have the cello track playing over speakers and there weren't enough headphones for all the ringers. So Kevin literally loaded Mr. Ma's track onto his ipod - he could hear the cello part through the earbuds, and the ringers had to follow his direction. To everyone's great delight, PPR had several takes that were perfectly synched to the cello track, so no electronic doctoring was needed.

The second day of voting, Pikes Peak Ringers took first place in the voting process, and remained in first place through the end of the contest. PPR received support from friends and family, of course, but clearly also from the handbell

Inside this issue:

Area XI Spring Events pg 2

Young Ringers' Camp pg 3

Area XI New Members pg 3

National Seminar pg 4

Vacation with Seminar pg 4

E-notes - Sign up for your monthly national AGEHR news at www.agehr.org. You'll find the link under communications.

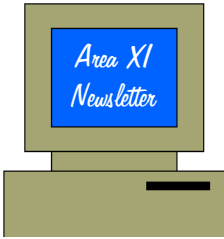
You do not have to be a member of AGEHR to get E-notes.
 Tell your friends.

PLEASE

Keep your e-mail address current.

**REMEMBER TO RENEW
 YOUR AGEHR
 MEMBERSHIP**

(cont. on page 2 - CONTEST)



(CONTEST cont.)

community. "We are so grateful for the outpouring of support," says Kevin. "The handbell community rallies around their instrument."

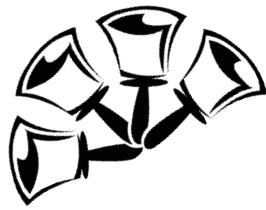
Being in first place in the voting was not a guarantee of winning the grand prize. Mr. Ma chose two co-winners from among the 354 entrants - Pikes Peak Ringers and a heavy metal guitarist. It's clear he was looking for unique ideas and creativity!

As of this writing, no specifics have been set for the collaboration and recording. Look for announcements of the timeline as the details become known (possibly in the next E-newsletter).

"We are all stunned but thrilled, of course," Kevin says. "I'm so grateful to my ringers for their hard work and to all who voted for us and cheered us on. This is the greatest honor Pikes Peak Ringers has ever had. Having an artist of Mr. Ma's fame and notoriety take notice of our instrument makes this a landmark time for the art of handbells."

For more on the Celebrate and Collaborate Contest and to hear the winning entries, go to <http://www.indabamusic.com/contests/show/yo-yomacontest>

For more information on Pikes Peak Ringers, go to <http://www.pikespeakringers.com>



AGEHR Area XI Spring Events 2009



UTAH SPRING RING

March 14, 2009
Greig Ashhurst, Clinician
Murray High School, Murray, UT
Repertoire list is now available

ARIZONA SPRING FESTIVAL

April 25, 2009
Monica McGowan, Clinician
Saguaro High School, Scottsdale, AZ
Repertoire list and Registration form available

WYOMING SPRING RING

April 3 - 4, 2009
Cathy Moglebust, Guest Conductor
Casper, WY
Repertoire list & Registration form now available

NEW MEXICO FESTIVAL/CONVOCATION

April 25, 2009
Tammy Waldrop, Clinician
St. John's UMC Church, Albuquerque, NM
Repertoire list, Registration form and Rehearsal schedule now available.

COLORADO KEYSTONE FESTIVAL

April 17 - 19, 2009
Dr. John Hooper, Guest Conductor
Keystone Resort & Conference Center
Keystone, CO
Info at www.coagehr.org

For Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming event details go to <http://www.agehr11.org> and click on the state events. Colorado event details are available at <http://www.coagehr.org> (click on events).



GOOD NEWS!

2009 YOUNG RINGERS' CAMP

June 3 to 7, 2009

**REGISTRATION COST WILL BE
THE SAME AS 2007!!!!**

Young Ringers' Camp will be held at the same location as 2007 too - Glorieta Retreat Center in Glorieta, New Mexico. Camp begins with registration, set-up and dinner on June 3 and ends with breakfast on June 7.

Regular Registration

Postmarked after April 4 - \$315 per registrant
Chaperones - \$305 per registrant

Early-bird Registration (save \$50 per registrant!)

Postmarked on or before April 4 - \$265 per registrant
Chaperones - \$255 per registrant

Registration fee covers accommodations, meals, festival expenses and music.

Registration fees for "optional activities" are **NOT** included.

Optional Activities (paintball, horseback riding, ropes course, etc.) registration is paid separately from Handbell Camp Registration.

Separate registration forms for optional activities will be available later.

Come on, camp is fun!! See you there!



CAMP REGISTRATION

DEADLINE IS APRIL 4!

You may register your group at any time with a \$100 deposit. Be sure to read registration directions carefully. Registration forms are now available at www.area11.org.

NEWEST AREA XI MEMBERS

WELCOME to our newest AGEHR Area XI members:

Linda Larson, Centennial, CO

Christi Ludwig (Main Street Ringers), Lamar CO

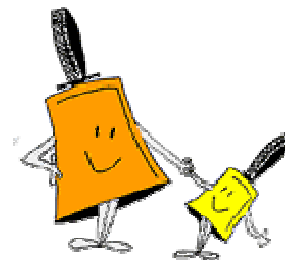
Jacki Huntsman, Albuquerque, NM

Gary Wayne Pyland (Santa Fe Indian School), Wayne, NM

Traci S. Boston (Thomas Edison Charter School), Logan, UT

David Bytheway, Murray, UT

Fort Caspar Academy, Casper, WY



Introduce yourself to new people as you meet them at Spring Festivals and encourage them to participate in all the AGEHR activities available. Tell them about www.area11.org.



AGEHR NATIONAL SEMINAR - July 15-18, 2009

Tucson, AZ El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort

Yes, National Seminar will be in Area XI! Take advantage of what is happening right in your own backyard. There is something for every-

one - directors and ringers - at the event.

CHURCH MUSICIANS might be interested in these classes:

- + Creative use of Handbells in Worship
- + Using Orff Techniques in a Church Children's Choir
- + Developing and Maintaining Youth Programs

MUSIC EDUCATORS, the following classes are being offered for you:

- + Cultivating Musical Habits
- + Beginning Handbell Ensembles in a School Setting
- + An Orff Approach to Handchimes in General Music

COMPOSERS can choose from:

- + A 7-class series on Finale - take all classes or only those that fill your needs
- + Composition Class with opportunities for 30-minute private sessions with Arnold Sherman
- + Unpublished music reading session

COMMUNITY/PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

can benefit from:

- + Marketing your Ensemble
- + Every Piece Tells a Story
- + Defining your Ensemble's Identity

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS, a great way to exchange ideas with others who have the same interests, will be held for each of the groups mentioned above.

RINGERS will benefit from ringing tracks for all levels as well as classes in:

- + Techniques for Bass, Treble and Battery Bells.
- + Musical Mallets
- + Bell Trees
- + Solo Ringing
- + Ensemble Ringing
- + Change Ringing

Of special interest to **DIRECTORS** will be:

- + Beginning Director's Track
- + Rehearsal Techniques
- + Score Study
- + Handbell Assigning
- + Advanced Conducting
- + Recruiting and Retaining Ringers

A preliminary list of Clinicians includes Barbara Brocker, Bell Tree Specialist; David Davidson, Director of AGEHR Distinctly Bronze Events; Monica McGowan, Twin Cities Bronze Director; James Meredith, Director of Sonos; Arnold Sherman, Composer; Martha Lynn Thompson, aka Finale Wizard; and Tammy Waldrop, Composer

More information about National Seminar is available in the January/February issue of Overtones and on line at <http://www.agehr.org/events/event2.asp> along with the necessary registration materials. Deadline for early registration is May 15, 2009

FAMILY VACATION - Want to combine National Seminar with a family vacation? The El Conquistador offers plenty of activities for family members who will not be participating in Seminar. There are several pools, a 143 foot waterslide, a special pool for small children, golf, horsebackriding, tennis, hiking, biking, fitness center, and spa. Find out more at: <http://www.hiltonelconquistador.com/>



If you want to come early or stay over there is plenty to do in the Tucson area. These are just a few :

Kartchner Caverns State Park
<http://azstateparks.com/Parks/KACA/index.html>

Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum

<http://www.desertmuseum.org/>

Old Tucson

<http://www.oldtucson.com/>

Kitt Peak National Observatory

<http://www.noao.edu/outreach/kpvc/>

Still haven't found what you'd like? Try this:

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/visitor.html>

Other points of interest:

- + *Mission San Xavier del Bac*
- + *Drive up Mt. Lemmon on the General Hitchcock Highway.*

