

Newsletter Spring 2005

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Greetings!

By the time you receive this newsletter, many of you will be preparing for the Ringing Link in Penticton. If you haven't registered yet, please consider attending this Canadian Handbell Festival. Handbells Etc. is looking forward to seeing all of you!

If you are interested in receiving our newsletter via email, please let us know at

camille@handbellsetc.ab.ca

We are pleased to let you know that Shari has a new son, Sheldon Matthew Lange, 7 pounds, 10 ounces. The Lange home is very busy with three little boys! We are very pleased that Shari will be coming to the Ringing Link with us in July.

Please keep sending us your questions so that we can include them in our newsletter.

Thanks for your continued support!

Camille Ream & Susan Galloway



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About Handbells Etc.

Handbells Etc. was established in Edmonton, Alberta in February 1995 and serves Handbell Directors and Ringers across Canada. We strive to fulfil all of your handbell needs.

Camille Ream has served as clinician for workshops across Canada. She is currently the director of the handbell program at First United Church in Fort Saskatchewan,

Alberta. Camille is ringing in the auditioned community handbell choir, JUBILOSIO! Ringers of Concordia.

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Susan Galloway has also served as clinician for workshops across Canada. She has directed and rung in handbell choirs for 20 years. She is currently the Malmark Handbell Representative for Western Canada. Susan is ringing in the auditioned community handbell choir, JUBILOSIO! Ringers of Concordia.

Edith Galloway has been an avid supporter of handbells in church music. Her assistance in marketing at workshops and conventions allows us to better serve our customers.

Shari Lange assists with the processing of your orders. She has directed the handbells at Concordia University College in Edmonton, Alberta. She has been the director at Concordia's Ringspiration, a summer music program at Concordia University College for youth.

Melanie Samuelson is currently helping with processing of your orders. Melanie received a Bachelor of Music degree in flute from the University of Alberta. She also has experience ringing handbells!

Thinking Outside the Box

Bell Assignments

Too often as directors and ringers, we get used to doing what is familiar and comfortable and don't think outside the box in terms of making bell assignments. traditional assignments. Ringers most certainly have to discuss with their neighbours who will play what bells when!

Better ringers could be given the option to change positions if they wish. It would need to be negotiated as to whether ringers should move to a different position on each piece or for the season. There is a lot of controversy over this concept. Some believe that ringers should be versatile and able to ring in any position. If ringers are flexible in their assignment, they will likely improve their ringing abilities much more quickly than if they are married to one position. Others believe that ringers should become masters of a particular position - after all, a violin player would not be expected to play the viola even though they are both string instruments.

Directors usually have reasons for assigning certain bells to certain ringers. It might be due to a ringer's abilities - there may be only one ringer who can do the four-in-hand position. Perhaps there are only a few ringers that can ring bass bells. Sometimes a ringer will only read music in the treble clef, therefore only ring treble bells. Personalities sometimes play a role in the decision making. Often a new ringer is partnered with one who is willing to mentor. The director might assign positions based on the difficulty of a particular part. Perhaps a ringer is afraid to try a new assignment. In an extreme case, a ringer may be absolutely inflexible and if asked to change positions, will threaten to resign. When a director is possibly short of ringers, it seems to be a better idea to leave well enough alone rather than cause an uncomfortable situation for both the director and the ringer. Sometimes ringers play in the same position because it is working so well!

When determining either traditional bell assignments or those that are "outside the box", it is important for the director to have done a thorough study of the score first. Part of score study is reviewing bell assignments. When planning bell assignments, the director needs to make note of any challenging places

Sometimes certain rhythmic patterns are better done by one person so one ringer may ring D4E4 instead of two ringers. It can be difficult for a ringer to only play on the "ands" of a beat. Making a change in bell assignments for a few measures can result in making music much sooner.

Handbell choirs often have a bell hog. Directors need to be aware that bellhogs can sometimes have a difficult time ringing musically.

It is vital for directors to know their music well and to know the abilities of their ringers. If assignments are adjusted to accommodate both the music and the ringers, rehearsals can be spent on making music instead of trying to do the difficult or the impossible. This approach will help your choirs to make the best music possible in a shorter time!

Q & A Column

Q. How do you assign bells for the Twelve Bell series that uses C5 to G6 handbells?

A. My initial response is - whatever works! These bells do not allow for directors to assign bells in a traditional manner.

Sometimes, I wish that the bells needed would include B4 to F6 instead of C5 to G6. Choices depend on the abilities and numbers of the ringers as well as their attitudes. Sometimes, I have given ringers their traditional assignments and assigned one ringer the C5 and G6.

Other times, I have assigned the top two ringers 4-in-hand and the bottom two C5D5 and E5F5. I have had four ringers ring three bells (one hand using the 4 in hand and the other hand ringing one bell). Another time, I had three ringers ring 4-in-hand but had them hold the bells up one fifth higher. This

for each ringer. Can the ringer play all of their accidentals by weaving? Are there some fast passages that mean another ringer should help? Ringers can be possessive of their bells and may believe that if they can't do all of their accidentals, they are not a good ringer. To play musically, where can the accidentals go? Directors need to be able to determine how neighbouring ringers can help each other. As ringers increase in their confidence and abilities, they can negotiate amongst each other where the accidentals can go. Some of the more advanced handbell music have almost impossible passages using

allowed the ringer to play C¹₅ to F⁵₅ notes but hold G₅ to C₆. That made the bells much lighter and much more manageable. We have added piano or guitar accompaniment for added variety to this music.

Prairie Sunset Bed and Breakfast
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta
www.prairiesunset.com
Hosts - Chris and Camille Ream
1-866-997-0551
reamc@telusplanet.net

Handbell/Choirchime® Lending Program

Handbells Etc. is pleased to be able to loan 2 octaves of Malmark Handbells or Choirchimes® to church, school or community groups. Each set includes music and gloves and is available for a three month period. The program is designed to promote the use of Malmark Handbells and Choirchimes® in communities in Western Canada. If you are interested or know of someone who is interested, please talk with Susan at Handbells Etc. via email at susan@handbellsetc.ab.ca or call her at 1-800-578-BELL.

Handbell Guilds of Canada
&
B.C. Guild of English Handbell
Ringers
present

The Ringing Link 2005
Canadian Handbell Festival

"To Everything There is Season"

Penticton, British Columbia

July 6 - 9, 2005

**Registrar: Janet McIver -
ringinglink2005@yahoo.ca**

If you are planning to attend, please let Janet know how many octaves of bells you are able to bring. The more bells available, the less they will need to be moved during the workshops.

Canadian Conductors for Ringing Link 2005

At each Ringing Link, three Canadian conductors are chosen to direct the choirs.

Susan Carscadden-Mifsud will be representing Ontario. She was first introduced to handbells in 1975 and is the founder/director of the Bellissima Ringers, a handbell quartet. Susan is a handbell soloist and an active workshop clinician. She will be directing the massed ringing for Bronze Level (4+).

Morna-June Morrow will be representing Manitoba. She has been involved in ringing and directing handbells for over 34 years. She was the Canadian conductor at the Symposium in England. Morna-June will be directing the massed ringing choir for the Copper Level (3-3+).

Anne Hill will be representing British Columbia. She started ringing handbells 19 years ago. She was the Western Canadian conductor at the Symposium this past summer in Toronto. Anne will be directing the massed ringing choir for the Tin Level (2-2+).

Spring (Level 2 - 2+) Anne Hill

**Lullaby of the Iroquois by Patricia Thomson
This Joyful Eastertide arr. Jane McFadden**

Summer (Level 3 - 3+) Morna-June Morrow

**Seasons of the Heart by Karen Lakey Buckwalter
In the Good Old Summertime arr. Fred A. Merrett**

Fall (Level 4+) Susan Carscadden-Mifsud

Let All Things Now Living arr. Cathy Moklebus

Froehlich Tanze (Joyful Dance) by Karen Buckwalter

Winter/Christmas - Massed Ringing

Song of the Manger arr. Arnold Sherman - Director Anne Hill

How Great Our Joy arr. Cynthia Dobrinski - Director Morna-June Morrow

Night of Silence arr. R. J. Ward - Director -Susan Carscadden-Mifsud

Music Preview Option

Call us and we will send a few sample pieces for you to preview. When you have made your choices, please call, fax, or email us with your order.

Malmark Handbells & Choirchimes®

Susan Galloway of Handbells Etc. is the Malmark Handbell Sales Representative for Western Canada. Malmark handbells may be purchased in complete sets of 1-7 octaves, as add on sets, or as additional individual handbells so you can complete your set. Malmark will also put inscriptions in each handbell handle. Malmark Choirchimes® which use handbell ringing technique, are sold in complete sets of 2-6 octaves, and are used as a stand alone instrument or as addition to a handbell choir to enhance sacred/secular music.

Choirchimes® and Handbells Together

Many choirs now have both Choirchimes® and Handbells in their music program. The challenge becomes how to put them together. Printed music often has some Choirchime® parts written as designated by the diamond notes. Other music doesn't have a part written but the addition of Choirchimes® would really enhance the music.

This is another terrific opportunity to think outside the box. Study the music score and try to determine where Choirchimes might fit. Initially, it can be a difficult thing to do, so try to involve the ringers. Take a specific

passage and try it with Choirchimes® in the melody line and bells in the accompaniment - then switch it. Listen to it both ways and then talk with the ringers about which way sounds better and why. Another way may include having the chimes and bells double on the melody. Any options are worth trying. The more you try, the easier it will be to determine what works best for a particular passage or piece. The sky is the limit with bells and chimes!

For details visit us at www.handbellsetc.ab.ca or contact us at 1-800-578-2355.

Malmark Handbells & Choirchimes®

*Handbells Etc. does servicing and maintenance of Malmark handbells and Choirchimes®.

Handbell Accessories

For Current Handbell Gift Items, please visit us at:
www.handbellsetc.ab.ca

Foam and/or Tables

- designed especially for Handbells Etc.
- trapezoid shaped 4" supersoft foam and matching folding tables
- foam can be purchased separately, with or without covers

Mallets

- Gray E6 and above - \$15.00
- Light Blue G4 - E5 - \$20.00
- Red F5 - D#6 - \$20.00
- Yellow C4 - F#4 - \$25.00

Mallets also available for lower bass bells.

Binder Stands

- oversized binders with foldback design - \$18.00

Polish and Cloths

- polishing cloths - \$ 6.00
- polishing cream(50 gram) - \$ 6.00

Etc. Items

For pictures and prices, [see catalogue.](#)

New gift items designed especially for Handbells Etc. now available

MUSIC PREVIEWS

Gloves

- Cheaper by the Dozen (prepackaged - dotted - white or black) - \$36.00
- Individual Gloves (dotted - white or black) all sizes - \$ 5.00

All prices are in Canadian Dollars
Payment by Visa, Mastercard, Cheque or
Cash

We continue to offer our preview option. Call us and we will send a few sample pieces for you to preview. We request that you return the music as soon as possible so that others may preview them. When you have made your choices, please call us, fax us, or email us and we will process your order.