



Madison Area Concert Handbells

# Messenger

Fall  
2011

## ***Jingle Bell Jazz & More II!* at the Middleton PAC with more of your Christmas favorites!**

Dear Friends,

How excited we are to return again this Christmas to the beautiful setting of the Middleton Performing Arts Center, 2100 Bristol Street, Middleton, for our annual Christmas concerts—the fine acoustics, great music of the season, and your presence are destined to create special Christmas memories for all. Please join us!

Each year our Christmas concerts include an exciting blend of Christmas favorites and special guest artists, and this year is no exception! We are especially pleased to welcome soprano Field Stark to the stage in several pieces featuring her vocal artistry, with handbell accompaniment, including the joyful English carol, *My Dancing Day*. We are equally pleased to welcome back again this year Mark Brampton Smith, piano and keyboard, and Ethan Martin, percussion.

Part One of the concert opens with the familiar sounds of *Ukrainian Bell Carol (Carol of the Bells)*, interwoven with another Christmas favorite, *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, arranged by Wisconsin composer and arranger, Dr. John Behnke. Other highlights from the first half include a lively setting of the ever popular *Deck the Halls*, our very own Rachel Bain's arrangement of Mannheim Steamroller's *Veni, Veni (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*, an absolutely beautiful setting of *Love Came Down at Christmas* for handbells and piano by Wisconsin handbell arranger Sandra Eithun, and a favorite from last Christmas, Handel's *For Unto Us* arranged in a contemporary style by the popular pianist and performer Lorie Line.

After intermission, return to enjoy Bruce Greer's *Jingle Bell Jazz*, and many of your favorite Christmas songs and carols...*Winter Wonderland*, *Silver Bells*, *The First Noel*, *O Holy Night*, and more, including an audience carol sing. The MACH team wraps things up with a unique and colorful setting of *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* by the always creative Joel Raney.

We look forward to seeing you in December for two wonderful evenings of your favorite Christmas carols and special music of the season. There really is something for everyone, from traditional carols to jazzy new settings. We hope you will join us.

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas!*



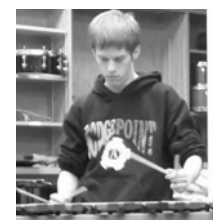
Mark Bloedow  
Music Director



Field Stark



Mark Brampton  
Smith



Ethan Martin

### **Jingle Bell Jazz & More II!**

Friday, December 16, 7:00pm  
Saturday, December 17, 7:00pm

(see back page for ticket information)

## MACH in the Community

### Play Ball (or Bell)!

On July 13, 6000 fans of the Madison Mallards (Northwoods League) baseball team were in for a treat as a very unique rendition of our National Anthem “rang” across the field. As the six members of MACH played The Star-Spangled Banner, a hush fell over the crowd. When the ringers started, out on the pitcher's mound with just the one microphone, you could have heard a pin drop as people in the stands strained to hear. A MACH fan said even the players were all watching the ringers rather than the flag. About halfway through, the sound was finally turned up and the crowd could hear it all through the stadium. A fan who is a bell ringer was later heard to say that she was in awe when she recognized what it was from behind the stands by the concessions.



How did this happen? A former member of MACH saw on Facebook that the Mallards were auditioning groups to perform the National Anthem and thought, “Why not on bells?” Another member arranged the piece for 6 ringers. After a couple of practices, they passed the audition and were given the July 13<sup>th</sup> game. And of course, most of the rest of the MACH ringers were there to cheer them on!

So go on! Think outside that box. Not only can bells be used for the prelude on Sunday morning, but also as the prelude to the big game!

### MACH Wins Recognition for its School Project

The Crane Department of Music at SUNY Potsdam, NY, was the nation's first school to train music educators. In honor of its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, graduates of that school were asked to submit their innovative classroom music projects for possible inclusion in a book and presentation at a celebratory symposium at the college.

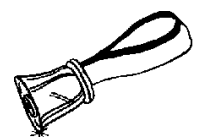
Dr. Susan Udell, founder and former director of MACH and Crane graduate, submitted a summary of the choir's project, *Enriching Music Appreciation Through Handchimes and Handbells*. In the five years that grants permitted the choir to present this project, over 3000 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Madison and surrounding communities were taught to play the handchimes, were given a demonstration of handbells, and were treated to a culminating concert by MACH for which the students had been prepared by means of written materials and a CD of pieces to be performed. There was no cost to students, teachers or the schools for participating.

The project allowed students 1) to explore making music with handchimes while responding to musical icons, 2) to gain immediate satisfaction by playing accompaniments that involved focus, teamwork and commitment, and 3) to be exposed to a variety of musical styles in concert that ranged from popular to classical with emphasis on the latter. Students of all abilities were able to participate and their enthusiastic comments showed that they really enjoyed and valued their classroom and concert experiences.

Dr. Caron Collins of the Crane Department's faculty recently announced that MACH's project will not only be included in her upcoming book, *Messengers of Music: The Legacy of Julia E. Crane*, but is also one of twelve innovative projects that will be featured at the symposium. We are pleased that other music educators have recognized the innovation and impact of our school music project!

### Are you an experienced ringer? Come ring with us!

Does playing challenging and enjoyable music with a fun-loving group whet your appetite? To arrange an audition, contact Music Director Mark Bloedow at [musicdir@madisonhandbells.org](mailto:musicdir@madisonhandbells.org).



**Experience the uniquely beautiful music of one of America's finest handbell choirs!**

## MACH Welcomes New Ringers

**Nancy Evans** is a new member of MACH, joining in the fall of 2011. In the 1980s, Nancy directed the handbell choir at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ and is now glad to return to making music as a ringer. She recently retired from teaching music in the Monona Grove School District but is still working part-time as a mentor to new teachers. She enjoys playing volleyball, reading mysteries, and is an avid Badger and Packer fan.

**Jody Nibbe** began her musical career taking piano lessons when she was 3 years old. She continued her musical studies throughout school studying organ, violin, saxophone and French horn as well as piano. Jody began playing handbells with her church during her high school years and continued to play through college and beyond. She is a real estate agent with Keller Williams Realty, but the performing arts still remain a true passion in Jody's life. After an eight year hiatus, Jody is thrilled to be playing the handbells again and is honored to be part of MACH.

**Andy Schwei** began ringing during middle school with the youth handbell choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Madison. He continued to ring with the handbell choir at the University of Notre Dame while an undergraduate. Upon graduation in 2007, Andy returned to southern Wisconsin and began working as a Spanish teacher at Jefferson High School in Jefferson. He moved to Sun Prairie in 2010. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his girlfriend Amanda, playing cards, travelling and watching Notre Dame football games.

## Your Support is Appreciated

MACH has grown throughout the years by offering seasonal concerts, educational workshops, and festivals in the community, region, and state. Although our ringers volunteer hundreds of hours of rehearsal and performance time, there are many costs associated with producing concerts and events. Some of these include music, rehearsal and performance space, concert advertising, postage and printing, compensation for guest artists, technical assistance, and artistic staff expenses.

Whether you are a long-time supporter or new friend, we invite you to consider helping us continue to make a positive impact on the artistic and cultural life in our community by making a financial contribution. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your contribution to MACH is fully tax-deductible as your individual tax situation allows. Please mail your gift to:

Madison Area Concert Handbells  
P. O. Box 44056  
Madison, WI, 53744-4056



*Thank you for your support –  
it is greatly appreciated!*

### Bell Bucks for MACH

Shop at [www.greenraising.com](http://www.greenraising.com) and earn money for MACH. We will get 25% of all purchases made on [greenraising.com](http://www.greenraising.com) now and throughout the year.

**MACH will receive 45% of all purchases made from November 28 to December 18, 2011!**

Greenraising offers a wide variety of interesting and unusual eco-friendly and fair trade items that will help you to reduce, reuse, and recycle and make a positive impact on the world.

Visit [www.greenraising.com](http://www.greenraising.com) and "go green" today!

- \* Reusable grocery bags \* Fair trade coffee \* Stylish and safe water bottles \*
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To help support MACH, order online at <http://www.greenraising.com/index.aspx?AFID=2140>

## How to Contact Us:



Madison Area Concert Handbells  
PO Box 44056  
Madison, WI 53744-4056  
608-620-1997



Music Director:  
Mark Bloedow  
musicdir@madisonhandbells.org

See and hear us on the web!  
[www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org)  
[www.youtube.com/machandbells](http://www.youtube.com/machandbells)

Address Service Requested

Mark your calendar for  
***Jingle Bell Jazz & More II!***

Friday, December 16 at 7:00 pm  
Saturday, December 17 at 7:00 pm

Middleton Performing Arts Center

Advance Tickets: \$12 / \$9\*

At the Door: \$15 / \$12\*

\* Student/Senior price

See ticket information and map below.

# *Jingle Bell Jazz & More II!*

## How to Get Concert Tickets

Tickets for our Christmas concert, *Jingle Bell Jazz & More II!*, are available in advance in Madison at Orange Tree Imports, Ward-Brodt Music, Metcalf's Sentry-Hilldale and Cool Beans Coffee Café, and online at [www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org).

Watch our website for information about our concert in Oconomowoc, WI!

Sunday, December 4, 2011  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

## Middleton Performing Arts Center

2100 Bristol St., Middleton, WI ("A" on map)

