

Streaming

WELCOME BACK



CHOIRS ARE BACK

We are (or were) ringing again! Yes, that's right! It is so exciting that we are back making music together, while we continue to stay healthy and follow all safety guidelines.

OUR VERY OWN BELLS

Exciting news! We have purchased our very own set of handbells! Look inside for the full story.

HANBELL MUSICIANS OF CANADA

Two BRHMS ringers have been elected to the new Handbell Musicians of Canada executive.



Just a reminder that the Alberta government has imposed new restrictions that prevent us from rehearsing until at least late November.

We will let everyone know when we can ring together again. In the meantime, enjoy the latest news.

Welcome message by Annie Hergott

As your Director, I'm so very proud of all the ringers within our four BRHMS bell teams! Not only are we adjusting to the new ringing realities, with distancing, masks, and all that wiping...but the music is absolutely soaring!

I'm pleased to say that all our groups are ringing as well as ever, and the repertoire is definitely starting to come alive. I'm looking forward to when we can share our accomplishments with each other and with the general public again!



Choir Schedules

Bell Epoque - Intermediate-Advanced Ringers
Mondays 7:30-9:20, 408 38 St SW

Tributary Bells - Beginner-Intermediate Ringers
Thursdays 7:15-8:45, 408 38 St SW

Elbow River Bells - Beginner-Advanced Ringers
Thursday rehearsals in the NW

Bell Epoque

Tributary Bells

Elbow River Bells

Bow River Bells

The Story of the New Bells

by Jim Winslett

I moved to Calgary from Houston, Texas six years ago. While in Houston, I was the director of a bell team called “HeavenSound”. I didn’t intend to be directing a bell group, it just happened. Let me explain...

Our church choir went to a regional conference in Dallas and one of the workshops they had was “Introduction to Handbells.” It was two, 2-hour sessions. The first was how to read bell music, how to ring the bells, and a few techniques like thumb damps and martellato. The second session was learning a very simple, level one piece that we performed at the closing service of the conference.



During that performance, our church’s music director was sitting in the audience next to a doctor who attended the church. He leaned over and said, “wouldn’t it be nice to have a bell choir at our church?” The doctor said, “send me an invoice and I’ll write you a cheque.”

The next choir rehearsal, the music director announced that we had just ordered three octaves of bells and asked for a list of people who might be interested. Afterward, he pulled me aside and said that I’d be directing the new group. I said I only had four hours of experience with handbells and he said, “That’s four hours more than I have.”

Flash forward nearly two decades and our group had added a fourth octave and had become a mainstay of the church. We performed twice a month, plus every Sunday in Advent, plus two concerts each year, plus festivals and other events. We were busy!

When BRHMS formed here in Calgary, I wrote to my former church and tried to buy the bells, but they said that there was interest in re-starting the group and the bells were not for sale.

A year later, I found that they still hadn’t restarted the group and I tried again. Nope.

When I left the directorship there (long story), the group kept going for about a year and then folded. The bells sat dormant and unused.

I tried to find used bells elsewhere. Kijiji, eBay, Facebook marketplace, and other places. I actually had bid on two different sets of bells on eBay, but sniper bids came in at the last second and I couldn't match it. Then Covid hit.

I know that my former church is still paying a big mortgage and I also know that they were always cash-strapped on the best of days. Weeks without having services meant the collection plate wasn't getting passed. I contacted them again and offered to buy the bells. They said that they were still thinking of re-starting.

I reminded the contact person (who used to play in my bell choir!) that they

still had four octaves of hand chimes and they could use those to re-start the group, plus pocket some money by selling the bells. I offered them \$5000 - which I figured would be countered with something around \$8000 or so. It wasn't. They accepted the \$5000 offer! I wired them the money ASAP before they changed their mind!

Soon after the bells arrived, the BRHMS board of directors met in the basement of Good Shepherd church and cleaned the bells. After a few years in storage in a humid climate, they were NASTY!

It took quite a lot of work to get them shiny again. After all that, we now have a full four octaves of bells to play with some nice low bells down to G3. It feels good to be able to play these bells again!

Handbell Musicians of Canada

The Handbell Musicians of Canada (HMC) is Canada's new national organization for ringers/handbell enthusiasts across the country. HMC held their first election in October and two BRHMS members, Ian Costinak and Jim Winslett, have been elected to the board. Congratulations to them both.





Bags **BRHMS** *Boutique* Bags
up and running !

Bags **GALORE** ! being made thanks to our volunteers who like to sew!
Thank you Lois, Peggy, Janet, Debbie's friend Barbara,
 Connie's friend Emily, Annie and Connie.
Hope I did not miss anyone.

Bags BRHMS also thanks everyone who purchased a bag
 or two. When our groups get back to performing, BRHMS can
 then **SELL** our Bags at our concerts.
 Plus other interesting items we have in mind!!!!

Ringling - Past and Present

By now, we have probably adjusted to the new ringing routine. Besides the music binders, gloves and pencils, we must also now tote along masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to rehearsals.

What are the pros and cons of ringing two metres apart? Your neighbour may not hear that F sharp you played that was supposed to be an F natural?

Do you miss hearing all the notes played at once? Or will the new set-up last long enough that we might forget the old style of ringing?

