



2008 Concert Schedule

Please visit www.virginiahandbellconsort.com for more information and schedule updates!

May 10 Saturday, May 10, 2008 – 7:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church
6812 River Road, Newport News, VA

2008 Spring VHC Tour

Our annual tour will take us from the Hampton Roads area to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, then to Pocahontas County in West Virginia before returning to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Central Virginia.

May 30 Friday, May 30, 2008 – 8:00 PM
Court Square Theater
61 Graham Street, Harrisonburg, VA

May 31 Saturday, May 31, 2008 – 7:30 PM
Pocahontas County Opera House
818 Third Avenue, Marlinton, WV

June 1 Sunday, June 1, 2008 – 2:00 PM
Peakland United Methodist Church
4434 Boonsboro Road, Lynchburg, VA

Sept 7 Sunday, September 7, 2008
Thalia United Methodist Church
4321 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA

Sept 13 Saturday, September 13, 2008
The Prizery
700 Bruce Street, South Boston, VA

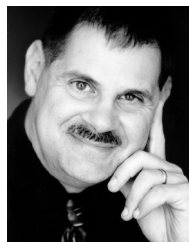
VHC Notes

Are you an advanced handbell ringer? Special auditions can be arranged for the 2008 Holiday season and our regular annual auditions will be conducted in January. Please contact us at 757-456-1312 and see our website for more information.

The Consort would like to thank our friends, volunteers, and sponsors for their continued support:
Corporate/Organization Support

- First Presbyterian Church (rehearsal space)
- Sammons Commercial Printer (printing)
- Art Louis Photography (website pictures)
- Virginia Commission for the Arts
- City of Newport News
- Newport News Arts Commission
- Charm Peterman (bell maintenance)
- Loran & Joyce Easter (graphic design & printing)

Welcome to our newest ringers, David Weirich and Joan Lamp, and to our interim director, Al Reese.



Director's Notes:

It is with great pleasure that I step out from behind the bell tables and move in front of VHC and assume the role of (interim) Musical Director. Our spring program is titled *Journey* and we'll take you on a journey through times and places. Five pieces were written specifically for handbells; two of these were written for VHC. We open the program by premiering *Commotion*, a composition of mine and also *Breakaway!* – a piece VHC commissioned Hart Morris to write in celebration of our 10th anniversary season, and was premiered last spring. In addition to Hart's rhythmic flair, he deftly adds the sounds of our Petit and Fritsen bells. William Payn's *Visions* is truly a piece written for 5 octaves as he uses ALL 61 bells! Cathy Moglebust's wonderful composition *Remembrance* and Michael Helman's *Metamorphosis* round out our "just for bells" selections.

We visit lands of fantasy with Igor Stravinsky's *Finale* from "The Firebird" and two fun selections from Disney's "The Little Mermaid" – *Kiss the Girl* and *Under the Sea*. We head toward ancient Peking to enjoy one of the most famous and popular tenor arias in all of opera, *Nessun Dorma* from Puccini's "Turandot." VHC is excited to have Jeffrey Easter, son of ringer Joyce, sing this fabulous aria with us at our May 10th concert at Trinity Lutheran Church in Newport News!

Our "dance set" includes Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona's *Malagueña* and an arrangement from my pen called *Duke, Glenn and Woody* (Ellington, Miller and Herman); a medley of *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, *Moonlight Serenade* and *Woodchopper's Ball*.

We end our spring journey in Russia playing *The Great Gate of Kiev* from Mussourgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." Make sure your imagination has its passport up to date so you can join us – we hope to see you at one of our concerts with many of your friends!

Alan D. Reese, Interim Director

We are accepting concert dates for our 2009 schedule. If you're interested in hosting VHC for a concert, wedding, or workshop, contact us at 757-456-1312 or by e-mail at vhc@virginiahandbellconsort.com

Composers thoughts....

Have you ever wondered what was going through the composers mind while they were writing a piece. Our interim director, Al Reese, recently asked the composers of two of our original pieces to share their thoughts on their compositions. Since handbells are such a unique instrument for which to write, knowing how they conceived the piece is helpful in interpreting it for performance. Here are insights on two of our favorite pieces by Bill Payn and Cathy Moglebust.



Bill Payn on *Visions*:

Visions captures many colors and emotions, creating sounds that touch deep into one's being. Ever-changing key relationships project the visionary concept of new horizons. Sweeping melodic phrases are presented in all registers which utilize all 61 bells in this work for 5 octaves and optional 3 octave handchimes.

The piece was written for my dear friend, Ann Schmidt who is at Gaithersburg church in Maryland and very active in Area III. We met each other nearly 40 years ago as members of the Area II Board and have been close friends ever since. This piece was given to her as a surprise from her husband Stan.



Cathy Moglebust on *Remembrance*: Margaret Miller, in whose memory this piece was commissioned, was a "grand dame" patron of the arts in her community of Waupaca, Wisconsin.

She was instrumental in creating the community Fine Arts Association, community chorus, was a driving force in the development of music in her church, which included the beginning of the handbell program, was a pianist, teacher, and "a member of every committee ever created." In the late 1980's, Margaret was honored at the Wisconsin State Fair as "Wisconsin's Most Active Senior."

Remembrance is the result of the consideration of this type of individual. The beautiful, soaring opening melody of the work illustrates Margaret's extreme love of music and passion for the arts. But, as the faster, rhythmic, more difficult middle section depicts, success comes only as a result of hard work, diligence, and perseverance – a testament to Margaret's daily endeavors to bring quality music to the people in her community.

Here's to all the "Margaret Miller's" in the world; to those who love music enough to teach, perform, inspire, plan, organize, fundraise, and implement programs so that all may be blessed by the beauty of music and the arts.

(Article by Lois Reese)

Breakaway with Hart Morris

Oklahoma City native, Hart Morris composed the percussive commission piece, *Breakaway*, for VHC. When asked to commission the piece, Hart asked for a complete list of instruments the group owned. He tried to incorporate all of them.

He studied percussion at Oklahoma City University and the University of Houston. However, Morris' degree is not in percussion but he has a Bachelor's of Music in Church Music and Voice from Oklahoma Baptist University. In addition, Morris holds a Masters in Choral Conducting from the University of Houston. With his Bachelor's in Church Music, Morris has been Minister of Music at Asbury United Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, since August 1992. Working in the church provides him great insight into composing works for the church, both choral and handbell.

In 1994, Morris co-founded Red River Music with fellow handbell composer Arnold Sherman. Their idea was that they could publish handbell music in a new, fresh way. Red River Music produces a catalog that features innovative and creative music, by Sherman and Morris along with other handbell composers with which any handbell ringer will be familiar with.



Being such a prolific handbell composer he has been honored by being the U.S. conductor at the 2002 AGEHR International Symposium in Pusan, Korea. Morris has also served as Chair of the AGEHR Area IX and a clinician at many other workshops, festivals, and seminars throughout the country. Even with all these accomplishments in the music world Morris still has time to be a regular family man, being a husband, father and even a grandfather.

If you have never heard a Hart Morris piece, definitely check them out, you will be glad you did. To hear Morris' *Breakaway* commissioned piece check out the VHC Spring 2008 schedule.

(Article by Vickie Brynildsen)



Meet: Deana Laney

Meet Deana Laney, along with winning the award for being one of our spunkiest ringers, she also holds the distinction of having more than 30 years experience ringing handbells. Deana was born in DeKalb, Illinois where she lived until she was 11. She attended High School in Arizona where she attended the first High School in the state to have a set of Handbells. She was hooked from then on!

After directing bells for 7 years Deana decided it was time to take the plunge and audition to ring with VHC. That was three years ago and we are so fortunate that she decided that she wanted to ring more than direct!

Along with Handbells, Deana also plays piano, organ, clarinet and sings. She is truly a woman of many talents! She also loves to read and do crossword puzzles. Deana lives in Grafton with her husband Bo. They have three children and three grand children.

(Article by Missy Cernigliaro)

VHC Merchandise:

All items are available for purchase at most concert venues and online through www.virginiahandbellconsort.com.



VHC Recordings \$15 each, \$25 for the set

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring!

Recorded in December 2005, represents a wide variety of sacred and secular music of the season, including some of our favorite selections!

Ring in the Holidays

A mix of modern and classic holiday favorites featuring multiple handbell techniques and percussion instruments.



Bell Rehearsal Bumper Sticker \$2.50

Are you dedicated to the art of handbell ringing? Show off your fanaticism with one of VHC's newest, hottest selling products... *the dedication bumper sticker!* Attract glances of approval from fellow ringers by displaying one on your car bumper; inspire your ringers by displaying one in your rehearsal room; dress up your bell cases in preparation for your next Area Festival; or buy one for each of your ringers!

Stickers are available at concerts for \$2.50 each. Stickers are always available for online purchase from the VHC website. All stickers are shipped in a cardboard mailer to prevent folding or damage. Shipping is \$1.50 per order, regardless of quantity.



Featured Soloist –



Jeffrey A. Easter

VHC is fortunate to collaborate with Jeffrey Easter for our spring concert. Jeffrey, currently a student of Stephen O'Mara and coached by Mitchell Cirker, has steadily been climbing the operatic tenor ranks. Having an extensive background in concert work, the Empire Opera production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* gave Jeffrey an opportunity to sing his first lead role in the professional operatic world. Jeffrey has performed in concert with Musica Reginae, Southern Methodist University Orchestra, Virginia Beach Orchestra, Virginia Choral Society, and most recently the Oratorio Society of Queens. The May 18th concert with the Oratorio Society of Queens marks the third time Jeffrey has collaborated with the OSQ and Maestro Close. Jeffrey has done young artist programs with El Paso Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera and the New York Vocal Ensemble. Currently a resident of New York City, Jeffrey earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Eastern Illinois University and his Masters in Voice Performance from Southern Methodist University. One highlight from his graduate school experience was performing for the King of Spain. You can keep up with Jeffrey's career at www.jaeaster.com.

(Article by Joyce Easter)



Virginia Handbell Consort
 P.O. Box 64591
 Virginia Beach, VA 23467

Are you an advanced handbell ringer? Contact us for an audition!



Friends of VHC

The VHC is a non-profit community handbell ensemble that owns and transports all of its own equipment. Our program growth is dependent on the generosity of corporate and individual donors from our community. Donations go toward the purchase of new equipment and the commissioning of new handbell compositions. Our current goals include the purchase of bass bells (to complete the 6th octave set) and transportation for our equipment.

All donations are tax deductible. All donors at the designated levels will be members of "Friends of VHC" and will be recognized as such on our VHC website. "Friends of VHC" are also offered reserved seating at all concerts and will receive the gifts indicated below. Please join today by completing this form. Please make payment to "VHC". Send to: P.O. Box 64591, Virginia Beach, VA 23467.

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor: \$500 Contribute at this level and receive 2 VHC CDs of your choice. <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$250 - \$499 Contribute at this level and receive 1 VHC CD of your choice. <input type="checkbox"/> Donor: \$100 - \$249 Contribute at this level and receive a VHC gift. <input type="checkbox"/> Joan Monroe Memorial Fund: \$_____ (please specify)
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The Virginia Handbell Consort (VHC) was formed in the Fall of 1996 as the first community handbell ensemble in the Hampton Roads area. VHC's goal is to promote the art of English handbell ringing by performing concerts in the local area. The group is comprised of auditioned musicians performing on five and a half octaves of Schulmerich bells, six octaves of MelodyChimes, three octaves of Petit and Fritsen bells, and other percussion instruments. Concert repertoire includes selections of secular, classical, and sacred pieces that demonstrate a multitude of bell techniques currently being explored by composers.

If you would like to host that VHC for an upcoming concert, wedding, or workshop, please contact us today!
 Phone: 757-456-1312, e-mail: vhc@virginiahandbellconsort.com