

by Fred Gramann

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Dear BVWOH Handbell Musicians,

I trust your ringing year is off to a momentous start. It's an exciting time with new music, new goals and new energy! I am already knee deep in planning for the **2019 Bay View Week of Handbells** which has proven to be a twelve-month process. As soon as the recent event finished, the next one took up residence in my head. You will find that the web site information has been completely updated with the assistance of our web master, Ed Krzes. We have also included some of Kim Finison's wonderful photos. Take a read through the information as there are a couple of new things. For example, the concert next year will begin at **7:30** instead of 8:00, allowing for a new secret plan for the ending. :^) The concert attire will shift from white gloves to **black gloves**.

The use of Position Captains received excellent reviews from the majority of ringers on the survey, so that aspect will be continuing. Much was learned about this practice aid from our first experience, so you should observe considerable refinement to the process. If you're interested in being considered, please fill out the application form on the web site. It is due by November 15.



I've been sorting through repertoire and have a plan already in mind. You'll need to wait until November 1st to consult the complete list, but I'll be tempting you with a few of the choices I've made before then. You may already know that Sondra Tucker was commissioned by the Allured Committee to compose a piece for us to perform in 2019. She has and it is *stunning*. "Songs in the

Night" is largely an original work, but gradually works in strains of Robert Lowry's well-known hymn, "How Can I Keep From Singing". John Behnke has already sent Sondra and me the proofs so it will be available in published form in plenty of time. There will be pieces by Don Allured and by Carl Wiltse. "Which ones?", you may ask. Stay tuned, so to speak. All will be revealed in good 4/4 time.

All my Bay View best,
Fred

Commissioned by the Bay View Week of Handbells

Songs in the Night

for Handbells (3-7 Octaves)

es
, (38), (45), (53), (57)

optional

optional

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80)

able all notes 8va)

Sk

2

Sk

Sk

Sk

LV

R

SONDRA K.

A musical score for handbells, showing staves with notes and rests. It includes dynamic markings like 'Sk' and 'LV', and a section marked '2'. The composer's name 'SONDRA K.' is at the bottom right.

Handbells in Whoville

The Grinch, of Dr. Suess fame, may well steal Christmas again this year, but handbells may just steal the show. This November 9th a new animated film will be released, recounting how the grumpy green Grinch decided to ruin Christmas for all the whos in Whoville. The co-director, Yarrow Cheney, and his wife, Carrie, have been active in the life of the American Church in Paris. Yarrow co-directed *The Secret Life of Pets* and was a production designer in *Despicable Me*, *The Lorax* and *Despicable Me 2*.



Being a great fan of the advanced handbell choir at the American Church in Paris, Yarrow decided to give Whoville its very own handbell choir for the film. His design to the left shows a rather unconventional group of Whoville handbell ringers. (That's me in the center with the handbell antlers so that I can ring 7 –in-head). It's hard to imagine how he arrived at such a zany ensemble as my ringers are quite subdued as you can see in the photos below.

WHO knows? Perhaps under your Christmas tree this year you will discover some ringlers, fuzzles, pantookas, dafflers or wuzzles. But no matter what, go see "The Grinch" and ring in the season with joy!



Wow! It's nearly October! Where does the time go? I imagine you are feeling good about your work in Bay View, but now it's over, and you're a better ringer for having been at the Week of Handbells. *In fact, you should be a better ringer, —from the first time you opened your music to see what challenges lay ahead—to the last note on the concert.*



I really missed seeing you this summer. Thank you for your thoughtful emails. Seeing Flat Carl almost made me feel that I was there in person. And the mass greeting card with all the notes was a touch of genius!

Congratulations to Fred and all the rest of the administrative team: Sue, Carmen,, Sheena, Paul, and everyone who had one of the many helpful assignments to make sure the music was *musical*.

I hope to see you next summer, for at least part of the week. Best wishes for a successful winter. Keep the handbell word alive!

Carl

The Carl Wiltse Scholarship Fund

I want express my gratitude to all who helped make the Carl Wiltse Scholarship Fund a reality. Beth Ann Edwards and the Allured Fund Committee members were most supportive and had many ideas on how to get the fund going. Norma Collison jumped right in and recruited her amazing husband, Al, to make some wonderful items to donate. Others joined in with excellent ideas, including commissioned handbell pieces by Larry Sue and Brenda Austin. A number of BV ringers helped set up the tables and watch over the details: Rose Wiersma, Norma Collison, Laura Swafford and many more. Volunteers came forward to form a committee which will review the applications for 2019. The members are Karen Eskew-Wyllie, Laveita Brinson and C.J. Leoncini.

One of the special things that resulted was that the dedicatory auction for my anthem “Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree” was won by friends of Ginny Fleming, a long-time attendee and supporter of the BVWOH. The dedication reads as follows:



At the dawn of the Bay View Week of Handbells' third score of years, a new era under the baton of Maestro Fred Gramann, this work is dedicated to the memory of Ginny Fleming, her legacy, and to Donald Allured, Carl Wiltse, and the other pioneers in handbell musicianship who have gone before us. In the true Spirit, who inspires our best endeavors, with love, from the Friends of Ginny.

The Silent Auction raised \$2,357.50, while the monetary donations amounted to \$1,438, constituting a total of \$3,795.50. This is a testament to our deep appreciation of Carl's contributions to the BVWOH, and a statement of faith in the future of this event as we invite young ringers into our midst to hopefully catch the BV spirit.

We have decided not to hold a Silent Auction next year, but, as always, there will be the opportunity to make monetary contributions to the Donald E. Allured Composition Fund and the Carl Wiltse Tuition Scholarship Fund.

Gratefully,
Fred