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The 2019 Position Captains

Dear Bay View Alumni, Friends and Supporters,

The introduction of Position Captains last year received positive feedback on the majority of the survey forms. Most ringers found them very helpful, not only in solving ringing challenges, but also in building community prior to the event. Nobody, especially new ringers, needed to arrive at the BVWOH feeling like a stranger.

We've made some improvements for next year: All performance notes will be kept in a single Google Document. No longer will you wonder if you've missed something, or question which information is the most recent. PCs will also be giving you more time to study the scores before chiming in to help solve problems.

There were 33 applications for the 13 openings which witnesses to the amazing abundance of experience and team spirit with which our event is blessed. Every applicant was well qualified, having considerable experience in figuring out solutions in other handbell choirs. I would have liked to accept *all* the applicants, but alas, choices had to be made. I have maintained a number of volunteers from last year for the sake of continuity and have added some new alumni who are most eager to assist. The 2019 Position Captains will be:

Position 11	B6,7C7,8	Christopher Boilesen
Position 10	GA6,7	Pattie Barnes
Position 9	EF6,7	Tracy Peterson
Position 8	CD6,7	Carla Sue
Position 7	AB5	Linda Holzwarth
Position 6	FG5	Sherri Stoffer
Position 5	DE5	C.J. Leoncini
Position 4	B4C5	Paul Young
Position 3	GA4	Barbara Marley
Position 2	E4F4	Cindy Massey
Position 1	CD4	Beth Ann Edwards
Position 0	GAB3	Laura Swafford
Pit Bells	C1-F#3	Paul Kingsbury



The Position Captains will help answer your questions about the repertoire, giving you a *tremendous* head start on your preparations. We learned last year that some did not desire to connect with their PC. That is of course everyone's choice. However, I heartily suggest that everyone respond in some way to their PC, even if only to say, "Doing great. Will let you if I have any difficulties." Please also consider your own role in helping create community, and possibly offering a helpful solution that you may have discovered. The Position Captains will never claim to have the one and only way of achieving a clean, musical result and are totally open to all input and ideas. Please bear in mind that a healthy atmosphere can only be achieved if everyone participates in a positive spirit of cooperation with the betterment of the group in mind.

Fred

First-Time Ringers at the 2019 BVWOH

There were many more applicants than available ringing positions and I regret that I couldn't make room for all who applied. Below is the list of the bronze-level musicians who have been selected to take part in the 2019 BVWOH for the first time.

Linda Boatright
Curtis Butler
Patty Butler
Barbara Cote
Lauran Delaney
Eric Schlef

Susan Schultz
Brian Seemann
Roger Tucker
Sondra Tucker
Alex Yates
Nancy Youngman

I am anxious for these fine musicians to experience our close-knit community, confident that our alumni will welcome them warmly and mentor them as they get acquainted with how the BVWOH functions. The "family feeling" we so value doesn't simply happen on its own. It is created and shared by being collegial, respectful musicians. I am confident that we will benefit from the musical expertise and experience these new members possess, and that they will aid us in reaching our goal of presenting a concert at a high professional level.

YOUNG ADULT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Thanks to your support of the new **Carl Wiltse Scholarship Fund**, we are better able to assist talented young ringers in attending the BVWOH. A new generation needs to be encouraged if a 50th, 60th or 70th anniversary of the BVWOH is to be celebrated. The future of the event depends on this generation.

The young ringer scholarship committee is made up of Laveita Brinson, C.J. Leoncini, Karen Eskew-Wyllie and myself. I am pleased to announce that we have unanimously chosen to award two tuition scholarships for 2019. They will go to **Matthew Compton** and **Alex Guebert**.



A native of Colorado Springs, **Matthew Compton** has been composing, arranging, and conducting music for handbells since 2007 when he was in the eighth grade. He had his first composition published at the age of 15, making him one of the youngest ever published handbell composers. His music has been selected for regional and national handbell festivals, including Distinctly Bronze East and West, the Bay View Week of Handbells and the International Handbell Symposium. He is also the Music Director of Bells of the Cascades, a community ensemble in Portland, Oregon.

Alex Guebert is a composer, arranger, percussionist, music director and music teacher from Orange, California. He directs five handbell groups in the area, among which are two advanced-level groups: Cathedral Bells of St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange, and L.A. Bronze. His compositions and arrangements have been published and performed nationwide and overseas. Alex's compositional style is a result of his background as a percussionist, his love of film score, and his desire to broaden the horizons of handbell repertoire. Alex holds a bachelor's degree in percussion from Concordia University Irvine, and an M.M. in Music Composition from Cal State Long Beach.



I am extremely excited about the unique gifts these two young musicians will bring to this event.

Fred

Deep Pit Team for 2019

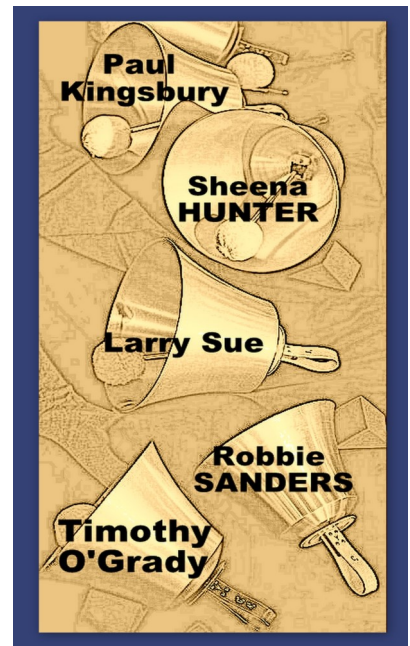
One of the aspects that make the BVWOH so special is the team of five musicians who ring the aluminum 1s and 2s, the section fondly known as the Deep Pit. The reason for selecting these ringers in advance by application is to insure that the roster includes five people with the necessary capabilities. They are in fact the only ringers that are allowed to touch these bells.

We are indeed fortunate to have the following team for 2019: **Paul Kingsbury** will return as Pit Captain, a genius at adding the aluminum 1s and 2s and the bronze 3s to the texture.

Sheena Hunter will be there, again transporting the aluminum bells from the Malmark headquarters in Pennsylvania to Bay View and back again.

The very talented **Larry Sue** and **Robbie Sanders** will again be integral members of the bucket brigade.

A new addition this year to the Deep Pit is **Timothy O'Grady**, a member of Twin Cities Bronze.



Music Display at the BVWOH

Carol Scheel will be back again this summer, bringing a variety of handbell scores from **Heitz Handbells and Music** for us to carefully peruse. You may also wish to

order your music for the 2019 BVWOH from her. You can contact her by email at info@heitzhandbells.com or call toll free: 1 (877 or 866) 426-3235. **Heitz Handbells and Music** - 6603 Queen Avenue S, Suite S, Richfield, MN 55423.



COMMENTS ON THE 2019 REPERTOIRE

I trust you have seen the repertoire list which was emailed to last year's alumni on November 1st. It has also been posted on the web site and on our Facebook page.

Perhaps you're wondering why it is published so early in the year?

It allows the music dealers to make sure the music is in print and available. Then they can pre-order the pieces to have them in stock as 104 orders arrive.

It also gives those who are interested in registering for the 2019 BVWOH an opportunity to look over the repertoire in advance of registration. It seems only fair that ringers know what they are signing up for, especially in regard to the difficulty level of the music. This year there is a level 5 piece and two level 5+ pieces which will require a good deal of individual preparation. It is up to each musician to judge if they feel they will have adequate time to commit to the event. I know some think, "the harder the better!" which is great. But some have also expressed concern in the feedback survey that the demands seem to be increasing. Their impression is correct and is how it should be in my opinion. So check out the repertoire to avoid any surprises. You can look at the scores and hear demos of the two level 5+ works, **Drive** and **I Got Rhythm**, on the "From the Top Music" web site. <https://fromthetopmusic.com/>.

Best,

Fred

What's Special About the 2019 BVWOH?

- 1) The composers and arrangers of eight works on the program will be in attendance: Linda Boatright, Matthew Compton, Alex Guebert, Larry Sue, Sondra Tucker, Carl Wiltse and myself.
- 2) The Donald Allured piece for this year, "The Church Triumphant", is being put back into print for us. Even more exciting is that this has sparked an effort by Thomas Jeffers to work with Melissa Allured and Bruce Allured to make available all of Don's "out-of-print" and unpublished handbell scores.
- 3) Our head percussionist will be none other than Alex Guebert, an expert in this area.
- 4) We will ring a memorized opening number out among the audience, standing in the four aisles.
- 5) For the first time you will have the opportunity to mingle with the audience right after the concert, prior to breaking everything down.

An Interview With Matthew Compton

Many of us have been performing works by Matthew Compton for a number of years. Since bursting onto the handbell scene as a teenager, his music has become a staple in the repertoire of many handbell choirs. This summer Matthew will join us for the Bay View Week of Handbells, being one of our young scholarship winners. Matt was willing to engage in a brief email interview with me:

FRED: Hi, Matt. It was wonderful to finally meet you in person last March at DB West. Like everyone else, I am an avid fan of your compositions. Tell me how you got into music, and how and when handbells entered your world.

MATT: It was a joy to meet you as well! Thank you for the kind words! My Grandma directed the handbell ensemble at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO. When my Dad was deployed to Kuwait, she essentially wanted to find a distraction for me while he was gone and so she asked me if I would be willing to consider joining her group. I had only attempted to sing in 6th grade choir up to that point, so I really consider handbells to be my first real experience trying and understanding music. I was terrible, but my Mom said that I couldn't just do it for a week and then quit. I had to commit to a full year with handbells. Well, I guess it's been a very long year.

FRED: The first piece of yours that I ever conducted was "Through the Walk of Life" which was programmed for the Canadian Classic Bronze event. I've selected it for BV this summer and am wondering if there's a story behind the piece?

MATT: I was a sophomore in high school when I got the crazy idea to write a piece in honor of Joan and Frank Kuehn for their 15th wedding anniversary. Joan is the Director of Music Ministries at First Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs and was my second handbell director. She's an unbelievable woman - inspiring, kind, nurturing, and such an important person in my life. So, we wanted to surprise her. I wrote the piece, then asked ringers from the church to participate in the surprise. We rehearsed early on a Saturday morning for 4 hours, and the next morning surprised Joan and Frank with the piece between the services. There's even a video of the premiere on YouTube. A hidden surprise in the piece is the constant stream of 3 eighth notes over a two measure phrase, a theme which permeates the entirety of the work. This 3-note pattern repeats 5 times every two measures, equaling a total of 15 notes, one for each year of marriage between Joan and Frank at the time. :)

FRED: Tell me a bit about your life when musical endeavors are given a little time off. What do you enjoy doing? How do you resource?

MATT: Free time... I'm not sure exactly what that means :) Recently, my time off has been spent enjoying newly married life with my husband, Trevor. We live in Vancouver, WA. We spend much of our time playing board games, video games, enjoying cooking (especially finding recipes that work with Trevor's plethora of allergies), hiking, and spending time at Cannon Beach on the coast of Oregon. I find myself looking for new movies to watch (I'm hoping to start doing some film scoring soon), and spend way too much time watching videos of cats doing strange things on YouTube, or just simply being lost in my own thoughts and doing absolutely nothing when there is some down time!

FRED: Thank you, Matt. It will be such a joy this summer to perform one of your works and have you there ringing with us.