

Notes From *The Raleigh Ringers*<sup>®</sup> Spring 2012

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive Raleigh, NC 27613 866-717-7464 www.rr.org

## Spring Concert

**Saturday, June 2  
7:30 pm**

Meymandi Concert Hall  
Raleigh, North Carolina



**Progress Energy**

Center for the Performing Arts

The Raleigh Ringers is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

Adults - \$19\*\*  
Seniors - \$17\*\*  
Groups (10 +) & Students - 15\*\*

*All tickets are \$2 more at the door on the day of the concert. Group tickets available only in advance.*

"Early Bird" tickets are available through May 22. See the order form inside this newsletter.

*\*\*Prices INCLUDE the \$2 Meymandi Facility Fee\*\**



raleigh arts

## It's Official!

Our 2012 holiday concerts will be recorded by UNC-TV of North Carolina, to create another concert special to be aired in December 2013!

This recording will also be turned into The Raleigh Ringers' next concert DVD!

Mark your calendars NOW for the 2012 Holiday concerts at Meymandi Concert Hall and you may see yourself in the audience on our next DVD!

### HOLIDAY CONCERTS:

**Saturday, December 8  
3:00pm & 7:30pm**

**Sunday, December 9  
3:00pm**

There are also opportunities for underwriters for this new program, who will get credit at the end of the TV program and on the DVD. Contact Dave Harris at [ringer@rr.org](mailto:ringer@rr.org) if you'd like more information about the underwriting program.

**24th Annual  
Capital Area Handbell Festival**

November 3, 2012

Kerr Scott Building,  
NC State Fairgrounds  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**CAPITAL AREA HANDBELL  
FESTIVAL CONFERENCE**



RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

**Clinician: Sandra Eithun**

Join us at 4:00 pm for the final massed concert featuring all the choirs under the direction of Sandra Eithun. The concert is free.

Repertoire:

*All Glory in the Highest* - arr. Sandra Eithun

*Amazing Grace* - arr. Sandra Eithun

*Angels from the Realms of Glory* - arr. Sandra Eithun

*Rejoice! He Is Risen!* - Cathy Moklebust

*Steadfast Assurance* - Jason Krug

Optional Bronze piece:

*Gloria Hodie* - arr. Julie Turner & Kevin McChesney

More information about the festival can be found on the Capital Area  
Handbell Festival website:  
<http://cahf.paulmcklveen.com/current.php>

**Beginning Ringers Workshop**

Saturday, October 20, 2012  
Highland United Methodist Church  
Raleigh, North Carolina

**Clinician: Greig Ashurst**

This workshop is designed for youth and adults who have never rung handbells, or for ringers with less than two years of experience ringing bells. There will be a session for youth in the morning and for adults in the afternoon. Registration forms and additional information will be available on [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org) in June.

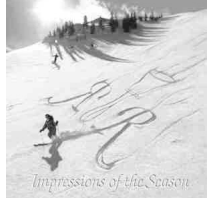
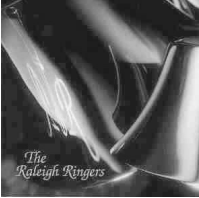
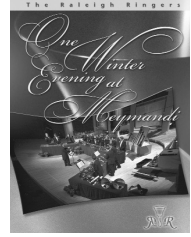
**Read & Ring for Advanced Ringers**

Sunday, November 4, 2012  
1:30 - 5:30 pm  
Raleigh Ringers Central  
Raleigh, North Carolina

David Harris leads an afternoon of sight reading advanced handbell literature, some of which is not even published yet. If you are looking for an opportunity to sight-read challenging music, this is for you!

Registration forms will be available at [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org) in June.

## RECORDINGS



Item	Qty	Price	Total
Newest CD: <i>A Wintry Mix</i>		\$15	
CD: <i>Going to Extremes</i>		\$15	
DVD: <i>One Winter Evening at Meymandi</i>		\$25	
CD: <i>The Raleigh Ringers*</i>		\$15	
CD: <i>Impressions of The Season*</i>		\$15	
CD: <i>More (double CD)*</i>		\$20	
CD: Boxed Set (*original 3 CDs) save \$10!!		\$40	
Sub-total:			
Shipping: add \$3 per CD, \$3 per DVD, \$5 per Boxed Set			
NC Residents, add 7.75% Sales Tax:			
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:</b>			

Name:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Email:		Phone:	
Credit Card #:		Exp:	

To place an order, mail to:

**The Raleigh Ringers, 8516 Sleepy Creek Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613**

You may also fax this form to: 866-914-7578 or order online at [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)

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BP Studios

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### Benefactor: \$500 - 999

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*The Raleigh Ringers' work with the Farmington Woods International Baccalaureate*

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As of 4-1-12

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Sara Perkinson, in honor of my family and The Raleigh Ringers

Linward & Beverly Shivers

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In honor of David M. Harris and his many years of dedicated service to The Raleigh Ringers

In appreciation, Grace Community Church

In memory of H. Hawkins Bradley

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. A. Foster Williamson

To the Riordan family, in memory of Stuart H. Riordan, given by a friend

## What on Earth was “Fred Fest”????

This past November, The Raleigh Ringers were honored to have longtime friend and Honorary Associate Director Fred Gramann as the clinician for our Capital Area Handbell Festival. Having a friend visit from faraway Paris, France was a special occasion, and the group wanted to acknowledge it appropriately. So we put our heads together and came up with some big surprises for Fred and our audience! Midway through the Raleigh Ringers' lunchtime concert for the festival participants, Dave welcomed the audience to “Fred Fest 2011,” and the RR's donned special concert attire: t-shirts with Fred's face on the front and “RR <heart> FRED!” spelled out across their backs! The Raleigh Ringers then played a special set of Gramann pieces, including “Fantasy on King's Weston” and Fred's arrangements of “Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy,” Saint-Saëns's “Prelude in B Major,” and “Pat-a-Pan.”

With each song, more elements were added to the Fred Fest celebration, including a large banner behind the stage spelling “FRED” in twinkling lights, two “native North Carolina chickens” (rubber) as requested in Fred's contract, and a bejeweled throne for the guest of honor. Finally, each member of the audience received a souvenir keepsake card printed with Fred's face and “Fred Fest 2011 – I Was There.” Each card had a place on the back for an autograph and in fact was “not valid until autographed.” Needless to say, there was quite a line for Fred after the concert! The RRs closed the concert with a rock song “(Don't Fear) the Reaper,” featuring Fred as special guest and backup cowbell artist. His participation was a hit! After Fred was back home in Paris, we heard from him that someone there had brought him a “Fred Fest” card to be signed... so the celebration lives on, until the next time we get to see him here!

## **“Mommy, where does music come from?”**

When we were a very young organization, one of our goals was to perform a wide variety of handbell music for our audiences, thus promoting public appreciation of our remarkable instruments. Finding enough of this music wasn't always easy. We knew we weren't the only handbell group in need of repertoire that would keep highly skilled ringers happy and generate audience enthusiasm. But where would this new music come from?

The answer may seem obvious, but for us, the idea of commissioning a piece of music was new and rather scary. Our Board of Directors decided that we should go for it. So we picked a composer whose work we loved, we scrutinized our budget, and we went for it! That first commission led to Dr. William Payn's "Illumination" (4-6 octaves, Hope Publishing Company, 1993). We couldn't possibly have been more pleased.

So here we are in 2012, and "Illumination" – which we still love - was 117 new pieces of music ago! Many of those were commissions; others were gifts, sometimes from composers unknown to us until they showed up and handed over the sheet music. The most prolific producer of new pieces has been Hart Morris (of "Linus and Lucy" fame), with a current total of 18. We've been fortunate to have some ringing members with fine skills at arranging music for handbells. Our appetite – and our audiences' appetite - for ringable rock & roll led to a whole subfamily of new music, and gave the copyright holders an opportunity to show some generosity by permitting us to rock out on handbells.

So... in our case, that's where a lot of new music comes from! And here's what we're doing with some of it this season:

"Escape Velocity" comes to The Raleigh Ringers from our friend in Indianapolis, Jason Krug. This piece was written in honor of the Space Shuttle program, which completed its final mission on July 21, 2011. "Escape Velocity" takes us through an entire mission, from the dawn awaiting the launch, the entry of the shuttle into orbit, and finally its return and landing. The Raleigh Ringers were honored to perform this piece for Jason at a concert in Indianapolis last year.

Hart Morris has come through again in his long line of Trans-Siberian Orchestra transcriptions written for The Raleigh Ringers. "Requiem" highlights TSO's unique abilities by taking the well-known main theme from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and the *Confutatis maledictis* section from Mozart's *Requiem Mass in D Minor* and infusing them with a healthy dose of rock-n-roll.

In the last few years, the handbell world has been shaken by the deaths of two enormously influential leaders, David Davidson and Don Allured. Dr. William Payn has produced a fitting tribute in the form of a new composition called "Legends", which uses letters from David's and Don's names sounded as notes in the opening measure of this piece. The Raleigh Ringers will premier this piece this spring.

Recently, it had come to light that Frederic Chopin had composed some music for handbells. *Really?* Well, no. Actually, this new piece, "Valse Brillante", comes to us from Karen Lakey Buckwalter. When she originally submitted the idea for the piece, she had commented that it was "a little Chopinesque" - quite an understatement. The Raleigh Ringers will also be premiering this piece this spring.

## Music (cont.)

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about how overjoyed we were to have Fred Gramann, our Honorary Associate Director, in our presence again. At the celebratory "Fred Fest," we made sure to play a number of Fred's compositions, including his new arrangement of Camille Saint-Saens "Prelude in B Major," originally written for organ.

In 2010, The Raleigh Ringers premiered its first commission from Sandy Eithun, "Savior of the Nations, Come". We liked it so much that we asked for another piece from Sandy for 2011 and received "Coventry Carol". This piece does a fine job capturing the emotion necessary for a carol that indirectly celebrates the birth of Jesus by commemorating the Massacre of the Innocents in Herod's search for The King of the Jews.

The opening riff of "Sweet Child o' Mine" originally started out as a joke played by Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash. The rest of the band began jamming along and came up with the basic structure of the song in a matter of minutes. The song went on to become the band's only number one single! The Raleigh Ringers wish to thank Marcia Murphy for supplying us with this excellent arrangement, which premiered in December of 2009.

"Dust in the Wind" comes to The Raleigh Ringers in a different way from most of the other rock arrangements. In 2010, we were invited to perform at the Area VIII handbell festival in Topeka, Kansas. Through some research, Dave Harris discovered that the well-known rock band Kansas had its start in Topeka.

So Dave asked our own Keith Burt to arrange a Kansas medley blending his arrangement of "Dust in the Wind" with Marcia Murphy's "Carry On Wayward Son." At the beginning of 2011, Keith extracted "Dust in the Wind" and made it a stand-alone arrangement which The Raleigh Ringers performed all year before "premiering" it on the radio as the official rock song in December 2011.

Returning to our music folders this year is another rock arrangement by Keith Burt. This one is Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'," which was our rock song for December 2008. Audiences are encouraged to sing along during concerts on this one! Surely everyone knows the words, since Journey's original version of the song was listed as the top-selling catalog track on iTunes as of November 2011.

Blue Oyster Cult's "(Don't Fear) The Reaper" is familiar to many who still hear it on classic rock stations more than 35 years after its release. Its fame has recently increased because of a skit on Saturday Night Live featuring another kind of bell - a cowbell! The Raleigh Ringers thanks Keith Burt for another rock arrangement, and also thanks our own David Metz for doing his Will Ferrell impression on stage during our performances. Our version of "(Don't Fear) The Reaper" was premiered in December 2010.

*The Raleigh Ringers seeks to accommodate people of all abilities in our programs. If you have an accommodation request or question about the accessibility of our performance venues please call us at 919-847-7574 for more information.*



## **New Instruments**

The Raleigh Ringers' latest additions to our collection of instruments are a set of Malmark Cymbells<sup>®</sup>, and a set of Deagen Organ Chimes.

The Cymbells set consists of two racks of handbell castings, each containing 13 bells, arranged in chromatic order. The Cymbell racks are mounted on a percussion stand, allowing one or more ringers to play melody lines and ostinati using handbell mallets over the range of C6 to C8.

The Deagen Organ Chimes (*aka Shaker Chimes*) are our oldest instrument, constructed by the Deagen Manufacturing Company of Chicago, IL in the early 1900s. Its design is based on the *angklung*, an Indonesian instrument that uses multiple tuned bamboo tubes for each note. Ours is a two-octave set, with each note comprised of three tubes tuned to octave intervals. The groups of tubes hang on a rack in chromatic order. The player pushes a note assembly forward, which causes each wooden tab in the assembly to strike a wooden part at the base of a metal tube; the note sounds, amplified by the resonating metal. The assembly for each note can also be held in the hand and rung. A set of Shaker Chimes is an unusual, complicated instrument we look forward to showing off.

## **The Raleigh Ringers Own A Building!**

That's old news, you say? Yes, it's been almost five years since we took the plunge into "home" ownership and first set foot into the blank slate office condo that would become "Raleigh Ringers Central." At that time, we undertook a four-year "Opening New Doors" Capital Campaign to assist with the mortgage payments.

Here's the NEW news: The capital campaign was a rousing success! Thanks to SO many generous donors and a lot of belt-tightening by The Raleigh Ringers, we are happy to announce that we now truly own RRC, free and clear!

Thank You, "Opening New Doors" Donors!

Thank You, Friends of The Raleigh Ringers!

Thank You, Raleigh Ringers, past and present!

Your cumulative financial and creative efforts over the years have helped to make this dream a reality.



## Workshops

The Raleigh Ringers has steadily expanded its education program since moving into Raleigh Ringers Central in 2007.

The four-hour "Read & Ring for Advanced Ringers" began in the fall of 2008, with the 5th annual one being held this fall. The first "Great Rep Ring" was held in March 2012, a two-hour sight reading session of level 2-4 music. It also provided the opportunity to purchase the 2012 Capital Area Handbell Festival music at a discount and without shipping costs.

In 2010 we added workshops of classes at Raleigh Ringers Central, offering a selection of the classes listed below at each session:

- \*A-Z Techniques
- \*Treble Bell Techniques
- \*Bass Bell Techniques
- \*Solo & Ensemble Ringing
- \*Weaving
- \*Introduction to Change Ringing
- \*Handbell Repair & Maintenance
- \*How to Be a Better Ringer
- \*Raising the Level of Musicianship in Handbells

The Raleigh Ringers will continue holding class sessions several times a year at our building.

**The next session of classes will be on Saturday, September 22nd.**

Watch [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org) or sign up for our electronic mailing list to find out what classes will be offered that session.

*Did you know you can also have a member of The Raleigh Ringers come to YOUR handbell rehearsal and teach one or more of these classes to your whole choir at the same time?* If you're interested in discussing that option, contact Nancy Ritter at [rradmin@rr.org](mailto:rradmin@rr.org).

## New Advanced Performing Ringing Event!

**Currently in the planning stages, this unique event will offer an advanced, performance-oriented ringing experience for auditioned ringers from around the country, led by a respected, top-notch clinician. Details will be coming soon, so watch The Raleigh Ringers' website, Facebook page, or Twitter for official news of this exciting new event!**

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Our printed newsletter is mailed twice per year (spring and fall), and concert information occasionally changes between those mailings. The best way to stay up-to-date with The Raleigh Ringers is to subscribe to our **email** newsletter. Special announcements are sent via the email newsletter as well. Just go to [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org) and click on the "e-newsletter" sign up form on the home page.

You can also keep up-to-date with The Raleigh Ringers through our Twitter and our Facebook page!. Join our other 3500+ Facebook fans and be the first to see new photos and hear audio clips.

The Raleigh Ringers can also be heard on Spotify, and our products are available on Amazon and iTunes.



follow us on  
**twitter**

*If you have a change of address, either snail mail or email, please send the update to [rradmin@rr.org](mailto:rradmin@rr.org).*

## Upcoming Concerts

**May 19, 2012 - 7:30 pm**  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Atlanta, Georgia

**May 20, 2012 - 4:00 pm**  
Shandon Presbyterian Church  
Columbia, South Carolina

**July 11, 2012 - 8:15 pm**  
Chautauqua Institution  
Chautauqua, New York

**July 12, 2012 - 7:00 pm**  
Elim Gospel Church  
Lima, New York

**July 13, 2012 - 7:00 pm**  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania

**July 14, 2012 - 8:00 pm**  
Schwab Auditorium  
Central PA Festival of the Arts  
State College, Pennsylvania

**July 15, 2012 - 2:00 pm**  
Leffler Chapel & Performance Center  
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

**August 25, 2012 - 7:00 pm**  
Seaside United Methodist Church  
Sunset Beach, North Carolina

**August 26, 2012 - time TBD**  
Carolina Civic Center  
Lumberton, North Carolina

**September 8, 2012 - time TBD**  
Hylton Performing Arts Center  
Manassas, Virginia

**November 15, 2012 - 7:30 pm**  
Levy Performing Arts Center  
Florida Gateway College  
Lake City, Florida

**November 16, 2012 - 7:00 pm**  
Pine Shores Presbyterian Church  
Sarasota, Florida



**November 17, 2012 -**

**November 18, 2012 - 2:30 pm**  
The Lakeland Center  
Lakeland, Florida

**December 1, 2012 - 8:00 pm**  
Wright Auditorium  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, North Carolina

**December 2, 2012 - 2:00 pm**  
High Point University  
High Point, North Carolina

Complete information on all concerts  
can be found at [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)

## A Look at 2013

The Raleigh Ringers are excited to be returning to some favorite locations on tours this year, including the Chautauqua Institution in New York, and the Lakeland Center in Florida.

In 2013, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in places we have never gone before! In May, we will be performing and teaching at the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers 2013 Festival, in London, Ontario, Canada. This will be the first time The Raleigh Ringers has "crossed the border" to perform in Canada. We also have preliminary plans to tour the Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire, hopefully adding some new states to our list of states in which we have performed.

## \*EARLY BIRD TICKET OFFER\*

Orders must be postmarked no later than **May 22**.

Include a check made payable to **The Raleigh Ringers** or complete the credit card information below. INCLUDE A BUSINESS-SIZE, SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR ORDER, and mail to:

The Raleigh Ringers, 8516 Sleepy Creek Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613

Or fax the order to 866-914-7578. Faxed forms **must** include credit card information and e-mail address.

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### The Raleigh Ringers 2012



Bob Auchter  
Ruth Brown  
Keith Burt  
Erin Glendening  
Anna Hobgood  
Sandy Hopson  
Alexandra Jantzen  
Lauren Jones  
Lisa Ann Kelder  
Barbara Marley  
Cindy Massey  
David Metz  
Andy Punch  
Nancy Ritter  
Jennifer Stearns\*  
Diane van Dijk  
Ann Lowe Vodicka  
Doug White

Director:  
David Harris

\* new member

The Raleigh Ringers  
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