



Spring 2002

Notes



From

The Raleigh Ringers

The Raleigh Ringers Inc • 8516 Sleepy Creek Dr •

Raleigh NC 27613

The Raleigh Ringers Spring Concert

Sunday, June 9
4:00 pm

BTI Center
for the Performing Arts
Meymandi Concert Hall

For tickets, contact
The BTI Center box office
or

Ticketmaster
(919) 834-4000

California, Here We Come!

Ringers to be Televised Internationally on "Hour of Power"

Despite the increasing difficulty of traveling by air with their large equipment inventory, The Raleigh Ringers eagerly anticipate a long-awaited tour to the West Coast in June. From touchdown in San Diego, California, on the 14th to the return home on the 23rd from Portland, Oregon, the trip promises to be a memorable one.

Garden Grove, California, on Sunday, June 16. With its congregation of over 10,000 members, the Cathedral is well known for its support of the arts. The Raleigh Ringers' performance on the Crystal Cathedral's weekly program, "Hour of Power," will be broadcast internationally at a later date.

A major highlight of the trip will be our performance at the famed Crystal Cathedral in

(Continued on page 6)



Spring Concert 2002

What do green thumbs sleeves, waltzing flowers and bumblebees have to do with spring? Come to the 2002 Spring Concert and you will hear The Raleigh Ringers' answer to this question. You will also hear about Figaro's marriage, Linus and Lucy, and reaching the Pinnacle. In addition, The Raleigh Ringers will present new, original compositions from Paul McKlveen and Hal Hopson. You won't want to miss this concert!

For this annual event, The Raleigh Ringers will return to the "breathtaking," "world class" Meymandi Concert Hall stage. The concert is scheduled for Sunday, June 9 at 4:00 PM. A reception for the Friends of The Raleigh Ringers will follow the concert. General admission tickets are on sale now. Tickets purchased in advance are \$10

for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets purchased at the door will cost an additional \$2 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased at the BTI Center Box Office located in the lower level of the A.J. Fletcher Opera Theatre, which is adjacent to Shaw University in the 700 block of Wilmington Street. The box office is open from 10 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Group tickets for \$8 will also be available at the box office or by using the order form found in this newsletter. You may purchase tickets through Ticketmaster at all Ticketmaster outlets, on-line at www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at (919) 834-4000. (A service charge will be added by Ticketmaster.)

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Friends of The Raleigh Ringers

Bronze (\$500 and up)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| * Ben & Laveita Brinson | * Cindy Massey - <i>In memory of my Beatsy</i> | * Anonymous |
| * John & Amy Gaydos | * Mr. & Mrs. George E. McGregor | * Anonymous |
| * David & Kristina Harris | * David Metz | * In appreciation, Grace Community Church |
| * Doug & Connie Harris | * Richard & Elaine Mueller - <i>In memory of Betty Garee</i> | * In memory of H. Hawkins Bradley |
| * Theodore & Marsha Havens | * Sara Perkinson - <i>In honor of my family and The Raleigh Ringers</i> | * In memory of Mr. & Mrs. A. Foster Williamson |
| * Mr. & Mrs. T. Hopkins | * Linward & Beverly Shivers | * To the Riordan Family - <i>In memory of Stuart H. Riordan, given by a friend</i> |
| * IBM Funds for Community Service | * Emily & Byron Williams | |
| * Barbara & Robin Marley - <i>In memory of Sarah and Bob Marley</i> | | |

Copper (\$100– \$499)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| * David & Ruth Brown | * Dr. & Mrs. Dan & Fran Krautheim | * Connie Varner |
| * Chattie Byrd | * Barbara Kuekes | * Frances Vaughan |
| * Albert Dornseif | * George & Claire Latham | * James A. & Alice F. Ward |
| * Dick Graham - <i>For purchase of new tutu and cigar</i> | * Harold & Lois Lauffenburger | * Anonymous |
| * Ray & Ann Grush | * Pettyjohn's Quality Cleaning | * JAECO Engraving |
| * Anne & John Hines | * Mr. & Mrs. B.B. Roberson | |
| | * Howard & Margaret Tiano | |

Tin (\$50– \$99)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| * Judy Auman | * Gail & Billy O'Neil - <i>In appreciation of your work on behalf of The Raleigh Ringers</i> | * Elaine & Malcolm Williams |
| * Michael Glasgow | * William & Barbara Oram | * Joyce Wolfe |
| * Nancy Greer | * Robert & Elizabeth Smith | * In honor of Reverend & Mrs. John Nagle |
| * Susan & Glenn Grigg | * Thelma P. Stansell | |
| * Paul G. & Esther Heidepriem | * Jim & Chien-Hsin Wagner | |
| * John & Meg Hodge | * Lisa & Lewis Wetzel | |
| * Bob & Mary Jo Lassiter | | |

As of May 1, 2002

Do You Use Email?

We are currently in the process of updating our mailing list database to remove outdated addresses and to include email addresses. Since our newsletter only comes out twice a year, sometimes the best way to alert you about special events or concerts in your area is by email. If you have received this newsletter, it means our database has correct "snail mail" information for you. We would appreciate it if you would send a quick email to RRAdmin@rr.org so that we may add your email address to our database. Please make sure to include your full name and the city and state where you live. This will also let us know we have an accurate address for you and you are receiving our mailings. If you did this within the past year, you do not need to do it again unless your information has changed.

Blue Light Special, Aisle RR!

If you've been waiting for just the right time to purchase The Raleigh Ringers CDs, you're in luck! We are now offering boxed sets containing all three recordings for the low price of only \$40! That's a savings of \$10 compared to buying the CDs individually. Don't miss out on this great deal!



CDs and Tapes



The World's First Double Handbell CD!



Item	Quantity	Price	TOTAL
CD Boxed Set (all 3 recordings)		\$40.00	
CD: MORE (double CD!)		\$20.00	
CD: The Raleigh Ringers		\$15.00	
Cassette: The Raleigh Ringers		\$12.00	
CD: Impressions of the Season		\$15.00	
Cassette: Impressions of the Season		\$12.00	
Shipping: add \$1.50 per item			
Sub-Total:			
NC Residents add 6.5% Sales Tax			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Credit Card # _____

Signature _____ Exp _____

Method of Payment

- Check
- Visa
- MasterCard

Mail your order to: The Raleigh Ringers,
8516 Sleepy Creek Dr., Raleigh NC 27613

Or **fax** to (919) 847-RLRG

Q: What's Purple and Green and Yellow and White and Red and Orange and Black and Blue and Pink?

A: The Raleigh Ringers' Best Fund-Raiser Yet!

— A Blue-fingered Ringer

This story began horribly early one December morning, many years ago. The Raleigh Ringers were groggily congregating at a local radio station, preparing for a live performance of our new rock & roll piece on the Morning Show. Several of us were still technically asleep. Shelley Lund, enthusiastic member of The Raleigh Ringers until called away by grad school, came bouncing up and told me (with unseemly good cheer for such an hour) that she had brought me a present. "Here," she said, handing me something strangely purple, white, and bright pink. "I made these just for you!"

It was then that we beheld our first pair of tie-dyed handbell gloves.

I loved them, of course, aging hippie that I am, and thanked Shelley profusely. Many of the other ringers, who were not aging hippies, wanted some too. "I was going to make them for everyone," Shelley said, "but they're just too much trouble!"

We regretfully abandoned the prospect of tie-dyed gloves for all of us. However, the idea just would not go away. I quizzed Shelley about her technique, hoping to find a short-cut. I experimented with some beat-up old practice gloves, leftover dye that I had around the house, and rubber bands from the junk drawer. The results were dismal: washed-out colors and blotchy non-patterns. I asked a helpful salesperson at a craft store what kind of fabric dye to use for really vivid colors, and bought some of the recommended

stuff.

I dug out some more old beat-up practice gloves. I wadded, folded, twisted, and crumpled gloves, meditating on what would happen when they were plunged into the dye. Finally I settled on four folding and banding techniques that seemed worth trying. Into the dye they went! Final score: three for four (three cool-looking gloves, one glove resembling an extremely used paint rag). Only a short time later, The Raleigh Ringers were ringing rock & roll in wild-colored gloves.

Nancy Ritter, Treasurer and major energy source behind our eventual Glove Project, shared my belief that we could sell many pairs of these gloves as a fund-raiser for our projects, if we could get lots of group members involved in making them. The banding process was not really easy, but it was teachable and produced fairly predictable results. I made several dozen pairs for test marketing. They vanished from the sales tables immediately. Disappointed customers had one message for us: Make more!

After many hundreds of pairs of white gloves had been dyed and sold, I started banding and bleaching black gloves, producing black and off-white, which could then have a color added to it. The first batch (black, white, red) were for The Raleigh Ringers themselves and were named Darth Maul Gloves by Brian Roberson. The bleaching technique added some variety to our sales offerings.

The biggest problem became creating enough pairs to meet the demand. Some members of The Raleigh Ringers are quick and willing students at Tie-Dye School; others would rather have a root canal. They try to convince the Glove Project trainers that they don't have the manual dexterity to band gloves. Reluctant banders are pressed into service anyway, opening glove packages and operating laundry machines.

Nancy estimates that The Raleigh Ringers have sold approximately 3100 pairs of tie-dyed gloves.... no two pairs alike. (In fact, no two gloves are alike!) This means that ringers have wrapped 6200 gloves with at least 9500 rubber bands, immersed them in every sort of large cooking and serving vessel, and attended many social events with purple, orange, blue, or green fingers.

Shelley's unexpected gift, so long ago, has brought much more than she knew she was giving: an explosion of color to the hands of thousands of ringers; some badly needed "green" for our budget; and, for me, the temporary distinction of owning a cat with one blue forepaw. (I hope it's temporary.) That's the story of the tie-dyed gloves. Next time you get a chance, drop by our sales tables and look them over, or send an email to Nancy Ritter at rradmin@rr.org if you are interested in placing an order. In the meantime, I think it's time for me to go mix up a batch of purple.

The Raleigh Ringers – On the Road Again

Just as April showers bring May flowers, springtime found The Raleigh Ringers out on the road!

April 6th found the ringers back in familiar surroundings at the High Country Handbell Festival in West Jefferson, NC. Jane Lonon organized a full day of education at the Ashe County High School which was capped off with The Raleigh Ringers in concert. What a pleasure to have been asked back for this festival!

On Sunday, April 7th, The Raleigh Ringers made their way to Lynchburg, VA to play to a sold out crowd. Chestnut Hill Baptist Church and Steve Cox put chairs down the aisles to accommodate the enthusiastic crowd of almost 500 people for the afternoon concert. The church members were very gracious hosts and exceptionally good roadies – their help unloading and re-loading the truck was most appreciated!

May found the ringers reversing the route made in April. On May 4th, The Raleigh Ringers returned to Beulah United Methodist Church in Richmond, VA, where Pat McCall and others hosted an unforgettable reunion!

Sunday, May 5th, The Raleigh Ringers played at Central United Methodist Church in Asheboro, NC – home of the NC Zoo. Bev Lawrence organized everything wonderfully – what a way to end our spring mini-tours!



The Raleigh Ringers is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, with funds from the United Arts campaign and the Grassroots Arts Program of the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Capital Area Young Ringers Festival, 2002

The Capital Area Young Ringers Festival was held on Saturday, February 16, 2002, at Durant Road Middle School in Raleigh, NC. We were privileged to have Greig Ashurst as our clinician for the Festival. Greig is the Director of Bands and "Teacher of the Year" at CW Stanford Middle School in Hillsborough. Greig has been a clinician for regional workshops and has served as faculty for AGEHR area and national events. Greig is also a percussionist with a BME from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

A total of 17 choirs consisting of about 230 ringers ranging from 9 -14 years of age participated in the all-day event. At least six of the choirs were first-time attendees. After the opening bell sounded, the choirs were off to a hard

day of practice. During breaks, drawings were held for great giveaways including telephones, cameras, singing flowers, and handbell-related items. The repertoire for this year included "O Come, Let Us Adore Him", arranged by Arnold Sherman; "Ring Together Praise", arranged by Kevin McChesney; "Second Suite for Handbells", by Michael Helman; and "Rhythm Rock" by Michael Keller, which was commissioned by The Raleigh Ringers for the 2002 Capital Area Young Ringers Festival.

After lunch, the festival participants were invited to listen to Greig perform an African Drumming demonstration. Four or five students from Greig's school were included as part of the demonstration. A few CAYRF partici-

pants also were invited to participate and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the program.

In addition to the previously mentioned selections, the afternoon concert also included a few solo pieces performed by individual choirs. Parents, family and friends attended the concert.

After the closing bell was rung, the choirs and chaperones started packing up bells and equipment for their treks back from whence they came. To see young children get excited about making music and learning new things helps us, The Raleigh Ringers, realize why we do what we do. We would like to thank everyone who participated and made this festival a success.

California, Here We Come! *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

The RR Summer Tour Schedule:

- **June 15** College Avenue Baptist Church, San Diego, CA
- **June 16** Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA
- **June 16** First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica, CA
- **June 17** Modesto Central Seventh Day Adventist Church, Modesto, CA
- **June 18** James Rutter Middle School, Sacramento, CA
- **June 19** Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, CA
- **June 20** St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Medford, OR
- **June 21** Wilson High School, Portland, OR
- **June 22-23** Area X Festival Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR

Holiday Concerts at Meymandi

"Amazing!" "Phenomenal!" WOW!"

These were just a few of the exclamations that were heard resounding through the halls of the BTI Performing Arts Center in Raleigh on December 15 and 16. The Raleigh Ringers were proud to welcome over 2500 folks to their Holiday Concerts, a new record! Raleigh's new Meymandi Concert Hall provided the perfect acoustic setting for The Raleigh Ringers' 7 1/2-octave Malmark handbell set, not to mention the five octaves of Whitechapel bells, five octaves of Malmark handchimes, three octaves of Petit & Fritsen handbells, a set of rare Schulmerich Silver Melody bells, and the latest addition: Whitechapel Cup Bells. The stage setting was specifically designed to showcase all these beautiful instruments.

The concert opened with "Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)", a Trans-Siberian Orchestra rendition arranged

and adapted for The Raleigh Ringers by Hart Morris. The excitement continued with traditional Christmas favorites such as "Up On the Housetop", "Greensleeves", and "Blue Christmas" (yes, Elvis did make a guest appearance). The first half of the concert included some crowd-pleasing non-Christmas numbers as well, including "Overture to The Marriage of Figaro" and a handbell original, "Pinnacle" by Dr. William Payn.

The second half was solely devoted to selections from that all-time seasonal favorite, "The Nutcracker Suite". Never before in handbell history have all the available Nutcracker handbell arrangements been performed in one concert! Sherry Graham provided some historical and sometimes comic commentary on each piece. Of course, the Sugarplum Fairy *himself* also put in an appearance – a true crowd-pleaser. The Raleigh Ringers closed the concert

Calling All Beginning Ringers!

Make plans now to attend this year's Beginning Ringers' Workshop, to be held on October 5 at Millbrook United Methodist Church in North Raleigh. This workshop, which focuses on teaching basic handbell-ringing techniques, is open to first-time handbell ringers, as well as to those looking to polish their skills.

Back by popular demand, Greig Ashurst will once again lead youth ringers in the morning, from 9 to 11:30 AM, and adult ringers in the afternoon, from 1 to 3:30 PM. All necessary equipment and music will be furnished.

Registration forms will go out in the mail in August. For further information, or to register online, email Nancy Ritter at rradmin@rr.org.



with their traditional and moving performance of "God With Us For All Time" and "Silent Night", as arranged by Betty Garee. How beautiful and peaceful it was to see more than 1200 candles illuminating the magnificent concert hall!

The Raleigh Ringers returned to the stage to perform an encore of several of their signature rock & roll arrangements. This year's surprise was a rendition of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama", as arranged by Andrew Metz.

The Raleigh Ringers would like to thank their growing list of fans for their continued overwhelming support for what they do. We hope to see many of you back at our Spring Concert in June!



****SPECIAL LIMITED-TIME OFFER****

Purchase tickets for The Raleigh Ringers Spring Concert using this order form and receive the **group** rate. **No** processing charges will be added. Forms must be postmarked by **June 1, 2002**.

Mail Form to: The Raleigh Ringers
 PO Box 68022
 Raleigh, NC 27613

*Include a check made payable to The Raleigh Ringers, or fill out the MasterCard/Visa information.
 Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your order.*

Ticket Order: _____ # of Children @ \$5
 _____ # of Seniors @ \$7
 _____ # of Adults @ \$8 group rate

Total Amount: _____ **Note: No processing fees added!**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

MasterCard/Visa #: _____ Expiration: _____



New Members of The Raleigh Ringers

The 2002 Raleigh Ringers welcome four new members this year. The "newbies" have been working hard since day one and were relieved to get their first official RR concert under their belts!

Laveita Brinson is no stranger to The Raleigh Ringers – her son and daughter-in-law (Kemp & Melissa) are former members of the group! Laveita is a native North Carolinian, and rang in her church's handbell choir, as well as directed its children's chime choir.

Angela Chiatello comes to us from California via Purdue University. She has been playing handbells since the age of ten, and has also played the recorder, clarinet and flute. We're looking forward to having Angela as a tour guide when the group heads out to California in June!

Dawn Edwards has been ringing handbells in church choirs since she was in high school. She has played the piano since the age of six, and also plays the organ and the clarinet. A native of

Maryland, Dawn has lived in the Raleigh area for the past seven years.

Katherine Shaver was singing, ringing, and playing the trumpet by the time she was ten. She was born in North Carolina, but has lived in 12 towns in 8 states. Not only are we utilizing Katherine's ringing talents, but also her expertise in web design and digital photography.



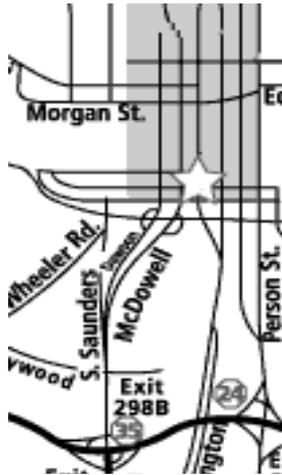
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Meymandi Concert Hall Directions

From the I-440 beltline take exit 298B for the South Saunders Street northbound lane. Travel north on South Saunders and stay in the right lanes. As South Saunders splits, veer right. You are now on McDowell street. Pass under a bridge, and at the next intersection with a traffic light, turn right onto South Street. Go straight through the intersection with Salisbury Street.

Raleigh Memorial Auditorium is then on your right, and the parking lot is on your left. At the next intersection turn left onto Wilmington Street, then turn left again into the parking lot.



Upcoming Concerts!

August 24	Marietta, GA
August 25	Rock Hill, SC
September 21	Morrisville, PA
September 22	Hershey, PA
November 2	Capital Area Handbell Festival
November 9	Hickory, NC
December 6	Ellicott City, MD
December 7	Blackstone, VA
December 21-22	Raleigh, NC (Holiday Concerts)

Visit www.rr.org for more information!