

Notes From



The Raleigh Ringers

Spring 2004

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh NC • 27613

Holiday Special Broadcast in 44 States

In the fall of 2003, the University of North Carolina Television System (UNC-TV) sponsored and submitted the hour long Holiday Special version of The Raleigh Ringers' video, *One Winter Evening at Meymandi*, to American Public Television (APT) for national distribution consideration. The special had premiered in December 2002 on UNC-TV, North Carolina's statewide public television system.

Acceptance to the APT national distribution offerings list requires the votes of at least 25 of the 157 APT member stations. The Holiday Special generated an initial interest from 85 members, leading to APT offering the show nationally. Thanks to multiple letter-writing campaigns by handbell fans throughout the country, the Holiday Special was ultimately chosen for broadcast by 250 stations in 44 states. Statistics on the 2003 broadcast of the Holiday Special:

- **250** PBS stations
- **44** states
- **351** individual airings
- **91.5** million households (estimated)
- **228** million viewers (estimated)

The Raleigh Ringers wish to thank Scott Davis, UNC-TV Director of Program Development, the member stations of APT, and the very many fans

of the art of English handbell ringing who contacted their local PBS stations in support of this project. If you were in an area that did broadcast the special, please take time to thank your station and encourage them to program us again this coming holiday season. If we were not televised in your area, contact your station and request that they program *One Winter Evening at Meymandi* this year.

Young Ringers Festival

The Capital Area Young Ringers Festival was held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Durham on Saturday, February 28, 2004. Kevin McChesney, the clinician, provided a fun yet challenging atmosphere for the 225 youth who participated. Rehearsals were interspersed with plenty of snacks and an array of handbell-related door prizes. Those who attended the concert at the end of the day were impressed to see that the ringers had even memorized one of their pieces!

Energize your youth group by making plans to attend next year. Information about the February 2005 festival will be available on The Raleigh Ringers' webpage at www.rr.org later this year. See you there!

Festival Participants Learn Change Ringing Basics

Rounds, Queens, Tittums... These were just a few of the commands that could be heard in the Raleigh Civic Center at the Friday night session of the Capital Area Handbell Festival 2003. Led by Fred Gramman, Director of Music at the American Church in Paris and Honorary Assistant Director of The Raleigh Ringers, participants learned about change ringing (see "Change Ringing..." p. 3). Ringers were connected with the origin of the art of English handbell ringing as they used their handbells to simulate tower bells.

On Saturday, 431 ringers came together as a group, again under Fred's baton, to polish the repertoire that each choir had previously rehearsed. One of the pieces selected for this massed ringing was "Faith," written by Paul McKlveen and commissioned by The Raleigh Ringers and Ridge Road Baptist Church. It is a moving instrumental prayer written for Jerry Jones, Music Director at Ridge Road Baptist Church, who is currently courageously battling pancreatic cancer. All proceeds from the sales of this music go directly to help Jerry. Anyone interested in obtaining copies for their group may contact The Raleigh Ringers.

Put November 6, 2004 on your calendar. Tim Waugh will be the clinician at CAHF next year. For more information, visit www.rr.org for updates later this spring.

Unique Opportunity

In the spring of 2003, The Raleigh Ringers were involved in a recording project with local mezzo-soprano, Ellen Williams. The resulting CD, "Grand Larsen-y" contains the four-movement "Hell's Belles" piece (originally commissioned by Sonos), along with other Libby Larsen music. "Grand Larsen-y" is now available through Albany Records.

The Raleigh Ringers Spring Concert

**Sunday, June 13, 2004
4:00 p.m.**

**Meymandi Concert Hall
Raleigh, NC**

Purchase your tickets in advance!

Adults	\$12
Seniors over 60	\$10
Students (including college)	\$7
Groups of 10 or more	\$8

Ticketss will be an additional \$2 at the door.
(Group tickets not available at the door.)

Tickets may be purchased at the BTI Center Box Office located on the lower level of the A.J. Fletcher Opera Theater, adjacent to Shaw University in the 700 block of Wilmington Street. The Box Office is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Tickets may also be purchased through Ticketmaster at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at 919-834-4000 after May 1, 2004. (A service charge will be added by Ticketmaster.)



Change Ringing... the Origin of Modern Handbells

Change Ringing is the English art of ringing tower bells in a systematic manner. While it is most popular in Great Britain, there are change ringing groups in most other English-speaking countries, including three dozen active towers in the United States. Nearly all of the towers are located in churches, and generally have 6, 8, or 10 very large bells that are rung with a system of ropes and wheels.

A peal is the number of possible permutations that could be rung by playing all of the bells in a tower, one at a time. So, a tower of just 6 bells could be rung in any of 720 ways. Sometime during the 17th century, ringers began devising mathematical formulas that could be used to ring bells in different patterns. Most changes begin by ringing the bells in sequence from highest to lowest, and then various rules are applied to switch the position of pairs of bells in the next sequence. Complete changes can be brief, lasting just a minute or so, or can be very intricate, taking more than 3 hours.

Legend has it that handbells owe their creation to change ringers who were tired of practicing in cold, dark church towers. In their desire to practice in a friendlier environment (such as a pub), they produced small, tuned bells with handles that would allow them to experiment with different changes. From that, the idea to play melodies on the bells wasn't far behind, and from all of this, the modern art of handbell ringing began.

The Raleigh Ringers own two sets of English-made handbells from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London. In continuous existence since 1570, Whitechapel is one of two British foundries that casts bells used in church towers around the world, and cast two of the most

famous bells in the world: Big Ben and the original Liberty Bell.

An example of change ringing can be seen on The Raleigh Ringers' video, *One Winter Evening at Meymandi*, in the introduction to Good Christian Friends, Rejoice. The ringers are performing a Plain Hunt Minor, which consists of 6 bells, with 12 changes.

If you are interested in learning more about Change Ringing, the internet has a large collection of interesting links, including a number of computerized simulators that let you see or hear many of the different change ringing patterns.

North American Guild of Change Ringers
<http://www.nagcr.org/>

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, England
<http://www.ringingworld.co.uk/>

Change Ringing Java Applet
<http://www.cs.ubc.ca/spider/kvdoel/bells/bells.html>

2004 Combined Campaign

The Raleigh Ringers have been selected to be included in the 2004 North Carolina State Employees Combined Campaign, which is the only charitable giving program authorized for the state employee workplace. This gives North Carolina state employees an opportunity to contribute to charitable organizations in an orderly and uniform process through one annual campaign. The Raleigh Ringers are very excited to be a part of this campaign for the first time in the group's history.

Friends of The Raleigh Ringers

The Raleigh Ringers truly appreciate the generosity of everyone who has supported the Friends program since its inception in 1995. For most of the 10 years the program has been in place, donations were used to help expand our collection of bell sets and other instruments, such as the recently acquired lower 6th octave of chimes and the Musser Orchestra chimes. Most of the Friends levels include ticket benefits to The Raleigh Ringers local Spring & Holiday concerts, and there is no easier way to get tickets along with priority seating than donating to the Friends program. Please consider becoming a Friend today!

Founding Friends

- Jack & Sing Boddie
- Ben & Laveita Brinson
- John & Amy Gaydos
- David & Kristina Harris
- Doug & Connie Harris
- Theodore & Marsha Havens
- Mr. & Mrs. T. Hopkins
- IBM Corporation
- IBM Funds for Community Service
- George & Claire Latham
- Barbara & Robin Marley, *In memory of Bob & Sarah Marley*
- Cindy Massey, *In memory of my Beatsy*
- Mr. & Mrs. George E. McGregor
- David Metz
- Richard & Elaine Mueller, *In memory of Betty Garee*
- Sara Perkinson, *In honor of my family and The Raleigh Ringers*
- Linward & Beverly Shivers
- Howard & Margaret Tiano
- Emily & Byron Williams
- Anonymous
- In appreciation, Grace Community Church
- In honor of David M. Harris and his many years of dedicated service to The Raleigh Ringers
- 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*

Director's Circle: \$1000 +

- Barbara Kuekes
- Sandra Mason
- Julie Spitzer

Benefactor: \$500-\$999

- Karen & Gil Brock
- David & Ruth Brown
- George & Marilyn McGregor
- Emily & Byron Williams

Sustainer: \$250-\$499

- Jack & Sing Boddie
- Albert J. & Mary P. Dornseif
- Glenn & Susan Grigg
- JAECO Engraving
- Harold & Lois Lauffenburger
- Kathleen Riordan

Patron: \$100-\$249

- Doug Amaxopoulos
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- Frances Council
- Chamblee Graphics
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- John & Anne Hines
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- Pettyjohn's Rugwasher.com
- Connie Varner and Alex Sisson
- William & Jane Wilken

Donor: \$50-\$99

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- Michael & Nancy Kastner
- Terry & Marcia McCartin
- Bill & Barbara Oram
- Pegasus Postal Center
- Bob & Ellie Van Valkenburgh
- Vlada Stankus

Contributor: \$25-\$49

- Cindy Cothran
- Steve Dibble
- Georgia Hosking
- Jeanine Lueke
- Nan Shively

Corporate Matching Grants

- Glaxo Wellcome
- IBM Corporation
- Progress Energy
- Square D Company
- The Children's Place
- United Technologies

Current as of April 2, 2004

For more information on how you or your corporation can become a Friend of The Raleigh Ringers, and to learn about the benefits available at each level, visit the friends website at friends@rr.org or write The Raleigh Ringers • PO Box 68022 • Raleigh, NC 27613 • (919) 847-RLRG

Capital Campaign Update

Nearly \$11,000 has been donated in the first ten months of the Capital Campaign to raise money for The Raleigh Ringers' new truck. With increasingly strict airline regulations, travel has become more and more of a challenge. Having the truck made it possible for us to perform at Pinnacle in Dallas in January, and will allow us to carry our music to the Midwest for our 2004 summer tour in June. The goal is to raise the full \$40,000 to pay for the vehicle. If you have not yet contributed, we hope you will consider helping us reach our goal. Thanks to the generosity of those who have contributed so far.

Donations to the Capital Campaign can be mailed to:
The Raleigh Ringers, PO Box 68022, Raleigh, NC 27613

Pinnacle 2004: The Performing Ringer's Event



Pinnacle 2004, an event that focused on topics of interest to community and professional performing handbell groups and ringers, was held in Addison, TX (just outside of Dallas) in early January.

The Raleigh Ringers attended and taught roundtables, classes and networking sessions. Topics included such things as auditioning, maintaining handbells and other bell-related equipment, touring, selecting repertoire, marketing and imaging.

The Raleigh Ringers were privileged to present the featured concert on Saturday evening, performing for the packed and enthusiastic crowd of our peers.

An added bonus was the opportunity to perform for a standing-room-only audience at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in the Dallas area on Sunday afternoon. This final concert certainly added another chapter to our scrapbook of photos, memories, and stories to tell.

Midwest Summer Tour

Saturday, June 19, 2004 - 7:00 pm
Spring Creek Church
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

Sunday, June 20, 2004 - 6:00 pm
Benson Great Hall at Bethel College
St. Paul, Minnesota

Monday, June 21, 2004 - 7:30 pm
Full Faith Church of Love
Shawnee, Kansas

Tuesday, June 22, 2004 - 7:00 pm
Manchester United Methodist Church
Manchester, Missouri

Wednesday, June 23, 2004 - 7:00 pm
Center for the Arts
Springfield, Illinois

Thursday, June 24, 2004 - 7:30 pm
Wesley United Methodist Church
Muscatine, Iowa

Friday, June 25, 2004 - 8:00 pm
Paramount Theater
AGEHR Area VIII Festival
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Triangle United Way

The Raleigh Ringers have been approved to be included in the 2004 Triangle United Way Expanded Donor Choice program. This program expands the options for contributors to the annual United Way Campaign, by allowing donors to directly designate gifts to local non-profits even though they are not United Way Member Agencies. The Raleigh Ringers will be listed on the Triangle United Way website (www.unitedwaytriangle.org) from June-December 2004 in the Additional Giving Options list. This is a great way to support the Triangle United Way and The Raleigh Ringers!

Recordings

Over
30,000 sold
as of April 1,
2004



CD/DVD

More

IOTS

TRR

Item	Quantity	Price	TOTAL
DVD: One Winter Evening at Meymandi		\$25.00	
VHS: One Winter Evening at Meymandi		\$25.00	
CD: Boxed Set (all 3 CDs) (a savings of \$10.00)		\$40.00	
CD: More (double CD)		\$20.00	
CD: Impressions of the Season		\$15.00	
Cassette: Impressions of the Season		\$12.00	
CD: The Raleigh Ringers		\$15.00	
Cassette: The Raleigh Ringers		\$12.00	
Shipping: add \$2.00 for each CD or cassette, \$3.00 for each VHS or DVD, and \$5.00 for each boxed set			
Sub-Total:			
NC Residents add 7% Sales Tax:			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:			

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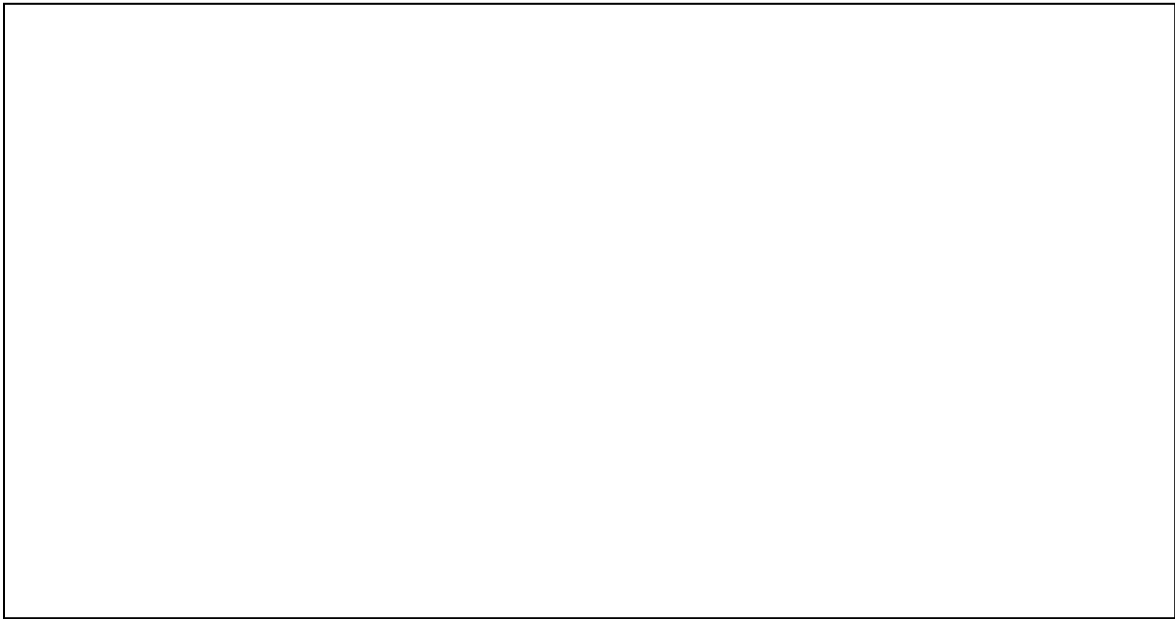
Method of Payment (Check one)

- Check
- VISA
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- Discover



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

Or fax this page to (919) 847-RLRG or order online at www.rr.org



Upcoming Concerts

June 13, 2004 - 4:00 pm
Spring Concert
Meymandi Concert Hall
Raleigh, NC

June 18 - 27, 2004
Summer Tour 2004
Midwest US (see p. 6)

August 28, 2004 - 7:00 pm
Mt Tabor Lutheran Church
West Columbia, SC

August 29, 2004 - 3:00 pm
John Knox Presbyterian Church
Greenville, SC

September 11, 2004 - 7:30 pm
Peachtree City UMC
Peachtree City, GA

September 12, 2004 - 6:00 pm
A Concert of Classical, Sacred
and Original Music
First Baptist Church
Asheville, NC

November 6, 2004
Capital Area Handbell Festival
Raleigh, NC

November 13, 2004 - 8:00 pm
Great Mills High School
Great Mills, MD

November 14, 2004 - 3:30 pm
National Presbyterian Church
Washington, DC

December 4, 2004 - 7:00 pm
Brock Performing Arts Center
Mocksville, NC

December 5, 2004 - 2:00 pm
Reidsville Senior High School
Reidsville, NC

December 18 & 19, 2004
Meymandi Concert Hall
Raleigh, NC

If you or someone you know would like to host The Raleigh Ringers, please contact David Harris at rringer@rr.org or 919-847-RLRG.