

Notes
From *The Raleigh Ringers*[®] Fall
2015

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive Raleigh, NC 27613 Tel.: 919-847-7574 Fax: 866-914-7578

HOLIDAY CONCERTS



Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm

Monday, December 14 at 7:30 pm



Duke Energy Center
for the Performing Arts
Raleigh, NC

Meymandi Concert Hall
Raleigh, North Carolina

Adults - \$19

Seniors/Students - \$17

Groups (10 +) - \$15

All tickets are \$2 more at the door on the day of the show. Group-rate tickets are available only in advance. Ticket prices include a \$2 facility charge.

“Early Bird” tickets are available directly from The Raleigh Ringers through November 30 for \$15. See the order form inside.



You are invited to join in the festivities this holiday season and help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary! Little did we know when we started playing on a borrowed 5-octave set of handbells back in 1990 that our organization would grow to the point where we now own 29-1/2 octaves of bells and bell-like instruments. Over the years, 89 people have worked hard to shape and form the Raleigh Ringers of today. And what better way to mark this special occasion than to have a “Family Reunion” with those who created it. We sent out the invitation this spring and were amazed and humbled by their response. Alumni will be travelling from all over the country to participate in a full slate of RR activities, culminating with some appearing on the Meymandi Concert Hall stage along with the current group for part of this year's holiday show.

So make plans now to spend a few hours celebrating with us in downtown Raleigh at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts on Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm or Monday, December 14 at 7:30 pm - You'll leave with a smile on your face and a song in your heart, guaranteed! A convenient ticket order form is available on page 10.

23rd Annual Capital Area Young Ringers Festival

Saturday, February 20, 2016
Highland United Methodist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

Clinician: Nick Hanson

Nick Hanson is in his tenth year as the director of handbell ensembles at the Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, and in his eighth year as the handbell director at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia. At Potomac, Nick's duties include teaching instrumental music curriculum to 5th – 12th grade students who participate in any of the school's four handbell ensembles and teaching private handbell lessons. His directing duties at Bush Hill currently involve a teen/adult ensemble.

Nick is a published handbell composer, has served as faculty, clinician, and conductor at handbell events nationally (Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia), and internationally (Hong Kong and Taiwan), and is a member and assistant to the director of the Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble. This past year, Nick was privileged to be chosen as the first-ever Associate Conductor for Distinctly Bronze (in Portland, OR, under the leadership of Dr. William A. Payn), and the Distinctly Teen conductor at Pinnacle in Dallas, TX.

REPERTOIRE:

TINS:

My Heart Ever Faithful

Bach/Rogers
Choristers Guild, MCGB522

Let All Things Now Living

Sandra Eithun
Alfred, MAP42901

Holy Manna

Nicholas Hanson
Ringing Word, RW8245

COPPERS:

Triumphant Spirit

Hanson, Choristers Guild
2-3 oct CGB841, 4-6 oct CGB842

Faith

Paul McKlveen
Jeffers, MJHS9396
(Commissioned by *The Raleigh Ringers*)

MASSED:

Peal Con Brio

Karen Thompson, AGEHR
2-3 octs AG23042
4-6 octs AG46029

Registration forms are available at www.rr.org/Events/Festivals

***** ***Holiday Handbells is National!*** *****

In December 2014 our new special *Holiday Handbells* aired on American Public Television stations in over 37 states! The program is a one-hour version of our 2-hour video *A December Tradition*. In addition, our first holiday special, *One Winter Evening at Meymandi* is still going strong 12 years after it was first released, and is also available for stations to air. To ensure our program will be broadcast on TV in your area again this holiday season, please contact your local PBS station and request that they show "Holiday Handbells". The Raleigh Ringers appreciate your support and hope these television specials will help provide national exposure to the art form that we all love.

To find the station nearest you, go to www.aptonline.org, click on the Viewers tab, and then click on the box "find a station near you."

Upcoming Concerts

November 14, 2015 - 7:00 pm

Reveille United Methodist Church
Richmond, Virginia

November 15, 2015 - 3:00 pm

George Washington High School
Danville, Virginia

December 5, 2015 - 8:00 pm

Newberry Opera House
Newberry, South Carolina

December 6, 2015 - 4:00 pm

Smoky Mountain Center
for the Performing Arts
Franklin, North Carolina

April 2, 2016 - Time TBD

First Presbyterian Church
Greensboro, North Carolina

April 3, 2016 - 3:00 pm

Lincoln Theatre
Marion, Virginia

If your organization is interested in hosting The Raleigh Ringers in concert, contact David Harris at 919-847-7574 or rringer@rr.org.

Virtuoso

(as a participant of Virtuoso and as a member of The Raleigh Ringers)
By Kevin Quick

In 2012 I had the opportunity to attend one of The Raleigh Ringers' holiday concerts and came across an ad in their program for an event called "Virtuoso." I had first attended a Raleigh Ringer concert in 2007, was completely blown away, and knew I wanted to one day be in the group. Upon seeing the ad for Virtuoso, I knew this was the perfect opportunity for me. So, I immediately called up 12 of my friends and asked them to help me make an audition tape.

I completed the audition process and received a call from Dave Harris informing me I had made the cut, and I was thrilled! However, once I received the repertoire list and started listening to the pieces, I thought, "What have I gotten myself into???" The repertoire was extremely complex and challenging, and I knew I had my work cut out for me. When the downbeat came in the summer of 2013, I instantly knew all the hard work I had spent studying the music and practicing was going to be well worth it. The Raleigh Ringers were fantastic hosts, and had planned every last detail. They were so excited about the event and the fact that 28 other handbell nerds had arrived and wanted to ring with them. We rang, we had fun, we ate, we rang some more, and we made lasting friendships with The Raleigh Ringers and the other Virtuoso participants. I saw how much hard work The Raleigh Ringers put into the event, and it really showed all throughout the weekend. This even has certainly been one of my favorite handbell experiences of my (relatively short) handbell career so far!

Fast-forward about 7 months later to January 2014, and I had made the decision to audition for The Raleigh Ringers. Once again, I was thrilled to learn I had made it into the group and excited to be able to participate in this fun-loving, passionate group of handbell ringers!

(continued on page 9)

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



Bell Polishing Services!!

The Raleigh Ringers are offering bell polishing services to groups (or individuals!) in the Raleigh and surrounding areas as one of our Paris fundraisers! We hope you will consider letting some VERY experienced bell polishers (members of The Raleigh Ringers!) make your bells shiny and new for you.

Price: \$50 an octave (3 octaves for \$150, 4 octaves for \$200, etc.)

Turnaround time is 1 - 2 weeks.

Drop off and pick up your own bells.

For more information, contact Lisa Ann
at RRKelder-polish@yahoo.com

New Product from The Raleigh Ringers!!

HANDBELL FOAM PAD COVERS!

- Ready to be placed on your handbell foam!
- Hand stitch it closed!
- Protect your investment and keep your foam good as new!
- Any color of your choosing!

100% cotton,
pre-shrunk.
Can be made to size.

Free Shipping!

\$22 Each

Contact Cindy at cindymassey@mindspring.com to order!!

The Raleigh Ringers are going to France!

Fred Gramann will be celebrating 40 years at the American Church in Paris in June 2016. As part of his celebration, Fred has invited The Raleigh Ringers to perform in Paris. We are honored and excited to be heading across the pond to share this event with our good friend. We are also planning other concerts in the London area as well.

It Started Like This...

You know summer tour is off to a great start when a mass email is sent out to the group asking if anyone knows of a 15-passenger van we can rent. Full blown panic mode commenced. Texts were flying.

DAVE>

What do you mean we don't have a van? We're leaving in an hour!!! What about our 2 month reservation???

I'm looking in the parking lot, and Enterprise doesn't have ANY!!!

DAVE>

WHAT???

DAVE>

WHAT????!!

Enterprise has checked, and there are none to be had between Virginia and Myrtle Beach

THE GROUP>

panic

<NANCY

<NANCY

Walking was NOT an option.

Finally, a van became available and we were able to hit the road, albeit much later than we had anticipated. We may or may not have broken a few land-speed records on the way to our first concert. If you ask, we will deny it.

This is what we found out: Ford was no longer making 15Ps like we needed and we would not be able to reliably find the vans to rent. The new and "improved" style did not suit our purposes. It was time to bite the bullet and buy one of the few remaining 15Ps in the state of NC. After much negotiation, we are now proud owners of a used 2014 Ford 15 passenger van.

While we no longer have to worry about searching high and low throughout the state for a van to rent, we do need to pay for the van, and we could use your help! Please use the form below to make a tax-deductible donation to help us with our new van purchase!

Yes, I would like to make a DONATION to help The Raleigh Ringers "get on the road again" with my tax-deductible donation in the amount of:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

My check is enclosed. Please contact me to discuss my donation.

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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

The Raleigh Ringers at Pinnacle

The Raleigh Ringers had a unique opportunity to teach at Pinnacle 2015 in July. Pinnacle was a 4-day handbell event geared specifically to the performing ringer and focused on cultivating performance-quality handbell ringing. Many classes, concerts, exhibits, and networking opportunities were presented.

When we were asked to teach, we immediately did what we do best: we planned. We formed committees. We created outlines, and class notes, and handouts, and Powerpoints, and...well, you get the point. Our desire was that this professional intensive would be an in-depth learning opportunity for all who attended. The focus of our class was divided up into 3 different sections: history and identity, performance, and business. Oh, yeah. Did we mention that the class was to be 4 HOURS LONG???

After many long hours of planning and putting our heads together, we were very pleased with the outcome! We had the maximum allowed class size, a little over 50 attendees, all of whom seemed very interested in what we had to say. We were able to cover topics such as how we first got started, significant events that helped define who we are today, performance and rehearsal methods, logistics, the audition process, our recording process, and the business side of things (which included topics such as venue contracts, publicity, fundraising, and sales).

By the time we were done, there was a professionally bound booklet with a very thorough appendix containing lots of information (such as by-laws, current program samples, contract examples, our sales catalog, and perhaps the kitchen sink). Did we mention there was lots of planning involved? The class was divided up into 3 sessions with breaks in between. There was also a Q&A session after each class segment. The attendees were extremely interactive and we have received some excellent feedback from the class! One example from the survey stated: "Very informative! Content was superb - highly valuable, and not the sort of thing that's easily accessible. Great start to this conference! Wonderful opportunity to learn from a well-organized established group. Wonderfully prepared and presented."

Several of our own were also involved in other aspects of Pinnacle. The All Star Choir was lucky enough to be directed by David Harris, along with Jim Meredith and David Weck. On the teaching front, Andy Punch was selected through an application process to teach a handbell recording class, where he covered the entire recording process such as choosing a sound you like, work on the day of the recording, and creating the final product. His class also involved an optional round table discussion. As our resident expert on all things audio, this class was an excellent educational opportunity for all interested in recording handbells and demonstrates the enormous amount of work that goes into recording this instrument!

Pinnacle 2015 was a most memorable experience for those Raleigh Ringers who attended. They were able to learn from other groups' experiences, participate in round-table discussions, enjoy a diverse set of concerts, and were honored to be part of such a professional handbell event.

www.rr.org

Donation Opportunities

The Raleigh Ringers can receive designated donations through any **United Way** agency in the United States.

The Raleigh Ringers are part of the **State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC)**, a workplace-based donation program for North Carolina State Employees. Code 1549.



iGive.com - it's free, it's easy and every purchase you make generates a donation to The Raleigh Ringers! Shop online at any of the 700+ stores in the iGive network and The Raleigh Ringers will receive a check for a percentage of each purchase. Just go to www.iGive.com/RaleighRingers, join for free and designate The Raleigh Ringers as your cause. And on those days when you just want to browse? Even searches can generate income if you do them at www.iSearchiGive.com/RaleighRingers.

Pointworthy - Do you have loyalty points that you are not using? Convert those unused (and likely forgotten) points to dollars and donate them to The Raleigh Ringers! It is easy to sign up and donate at www.pointworthy.com.

For those of you who shop on Amazon, if you use **Amazon Smile** (smile.amazon.com), you can designate that your purchases support The Raleigh Ringers and we will get a percentage of what you spend. It's easy!

Original Handbell Art

The Raleigh Ringers commissioned and received a beautiful painting of original handbell art and we would like to share it! We are offering a limited edition, signed print of the artwork. To see this beautiful work of art and find information on how to purchase one of the limited edition prints, see our website: www.rr.org.

This would make a great gift for your director or other handbell fanatic in your life! Hurry while there are still some left!

Stay up-to-date with The Raleigh Ringers!

Subscribe to our e-newsletter to get updates and special announcements delivered directly to your email inbox. Just go to www.rr.org and click on the E-NEWSLETTER sign up link near the bottom of the page.

The Raleigh Ringers can also be found on Twitter (@RaleighRingers) and Facebook! Join our other 6,000+ Facebook fans and be among the first to see photos from our latest events.

Friends of The Raleigh Ringers

as of Sept 19, 2015

Director's Circle: \$1000+

Anonymous • BP Studios • Randolph & Pam Cloud • David & Kristina Harris • Bill & Cristi Heffelfinger • Tim & Terri Hopkins • Malmark, Inc • Richard & Elaine Mueller • Nancy Ritter • Kevin & Sherri Shepard

Benefactor: \$500 - \$999

David & Ruth Brown • Richard & Diana Callaghan • Allen & Ellen Dickson • Lori Fenton • Erin Glendening • Kevin & Brenda Hamm, *in memory of Shirley Moore* • Scott & Allison Hemphill • Billee Jo & Lisa Ann Kelder • Anna, Maria, Randy & Mary Hamrick, *in honor of Ann Lowe Vodicka* • Claire Latham, *in memory of George Latham* • Harold & Lois Lauffenburger • Spreading Flames Media • Mr. & Mrs. R. Frederick McCoy, Jr. • Ida Stanley, *in memory of William Stanley* • Chip & Ellen Wentz • Carol Williamson, *in memory of Dr. Carolyn Bowden*

Sustainer: \$250 - \$499

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Patron: \$100 - \$249

Anonymous • Bob & Cathy Auchter • Barbara Baldwin • Donna Barnes • Ike Bear • Helen Blakely • Laura Blauch • Susan Boeh • Bill & Sandra Boyd • CP & Dottie Brezeale • Chattie Byrd, *in memory of Brenda Byrd* • Tom & Mary Carey • George & Susan Currie • Charles & Karen Dale • Heather Duschl • Diane Fischer • Donald & Elaine Fletcher • Dana Rees Folley • John & Amy Gaydos • Mark & Erin Goetsch • Steve & Tish Hagler • Margaret Scaturro Heil • Mari-Jo Hill, *in memory of Jeanne Adams* • Andrea Hilliard, *in honor of Christopher Hilliard* • Henry & Deanna Huber • Harrison King • The Lull Family, *in honor of the Harris family* • David & Grace Martin • Cindy Massey, *in memory of Beatsy* • Thomas Mauney • Alfred & Janet Meyer • Brent Miller • Donald & Dixie Peterson, *in honor of Diane van Dijk* • Pettyjohn's Rug Spa • Ronald & Carolyn Pittman • Norman & Vernice Punch • Judith Ray • Mr. & Mrs. B.B. Roberson • Darwin & Debbie Roseman • Susan Sorrells • Brian & Jennifer Stearns • Mr. & Mrs. Dean Tryon • Julie Vaquilar • Connie Varner • Wendy Weidman, *in memory of my parents, Bertha & Myron Weidman* • Fred & Nancy Welfare • Rhonda Welfare • Larry Wikoff • Dr. L.G. & Claudia Wilson • S.K.Y. Woo

Contributor: up to \$99

Anonymous • Suzanne Alton • Judith Bergman, *in memory of Steven Harris Bergman* • James Bustrack • Ann Corbly • Jane DeWitt • Joan Ellison • Esther Heidepriem • John Hobson • Roger & Pat Kosak, *in honor of NRUMC Silver Bells* • Ann Pearce • Walye Rasulala • Joan Reilly • Nancy Shaw • Don & Nancy St. Onge • Darrell & Nancy Tarnow • Ann Lowe Vodicka • Lisa Wetzel

Corporate Matching Grants Duke Energy • IBM Corporation • XL America

Founding Friends

Jack & Sing Boddie • Ben & Laveita Brinson • Sarah Clark & Family, *in memory of Frosty Clark* • John & Amy Gaydos • David & Kristina Harris • Doug & Connie Harris • Theodore & Marsha Havens • Mr. & Mrs. T. Hopkins • IBM Corp. • 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 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*

For more information on the Friends program, email rmmgdir@nc.rr.com or see the "Supporters" page of www.rr.org.

Ringling Enrichment

The Raleigh Ringers love to help other handbell ringers develop their ringing skills and grow in their enjoyment of handbells. We also love to introduce handbells to people who have never had the opportunity to ring them.

Through the Artists in Schools program of Wake County, The Raleigh Ringers can be booked to share the experience of handbells with students from Kindergarten through High School. Band students at Apex High School last year had so much fun playing the bells that they stayed on their own after the workshop was over and figured out how to play their marching band program on the bells! As we were walking out the door we heard the students imploring their band director to buy bells for the band.

We also hold workshops at our building at least twice a year and offer many different classes that fit all skill levels and interests. Information on our local workshops can always be found on the Events/Workshops page of our website.

If your members aren't able to attend our Raleigh workshops, we can also come to you! Members of The Raleigh Ringers can hold mini help sessions during your regular choir rehearsal time or just work with your ringers on those particularly pesky parts. We are also available for weekend workshops. We have a large selection of classes to choose from and will tailor the classes for your specific needs.

For more information about any of our educational offerings, email ringer@rr.org or call 919-847-7574

Virtuoso (continued from page 3)

Virtuoso gave me a small idea of what to expect from such a high-level community ensemble, and I felt it also prepared me to be a part of this handbell-loving family. Within a few months of being in the group, we had already started planning for Virtuoso 2015, which was more than a year away! This completely blew me away, but then I understood why Virtuoso 2013 had been so great: The Raleigh Ringers really spent hours and hours planning and striving to make the event as smooth, well-planned, and memorable as possible.

This year, as a Raleigh Ringer myself, I have been further amazed by the quality of musicians that participated in Virtuoso. They came well-prepared, excited, passionate, and ready to perfect their music even further. I'm fairly certain many of them took their music (and quite possibly their bells!) back to the hotel to study after rehearsals were done for the day. Everyone was excited and looking forward to our combined concert, and we were not disappointed. The final concert was an amazing experience and I am thankful to have had the honor of being on both sides of that experience: once as a participant, and once as a member of The Raleigh Ringers.

Audition for The Raleigh Ringers

Interested in playing challenging, rewarding music? Interested in playing with an advanced community group? Auditions for The Raleigh Ringers are coming soon. Auditions will be held in early January 2016 for the upcoming year. Please contact David Harris at ringer@rr.org for details.

2015 HOLIDAY CONCERTS at MEYMANDI CONCERT HALL
EARLY BIRD TICKET OFFER

Orders must be postmarked no later than **November 30, 2015**.

To purchase Early Bird tickets, please fill out the form below.

Include a check made payable to The Raleigh Ringers or complete the credit card information. **Please 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 1-866-914-7578. Faxed forms **must** include credit card information and email address, and will be charged an additional \$1 per order for the postage and envelope.

Please select a concert:

_____ Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 pm

_____ Monday, December 14 at 7:30 pm

Number of Tickets _____ × \$15 = \$ _____

Add 6.75% sales tax: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

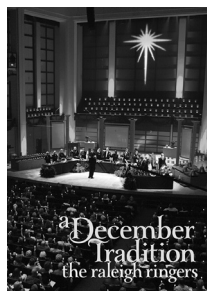
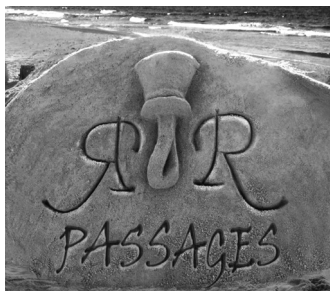
Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp: _____

(Visa, MasterCard or Discover)

NOTE: All seats are reserved, but if you prefer to select specific seats, please purchase your tickets through the Duke Energy Center Box Office or Ticketmaster. If you choose to order tickets through The Raleigh Ringers, there will be no refunds or exchanges. **Tickets will be mailed beginning in November.**



Item	Qty	Price	Total
NEW CD! <i>Passages</i> (double CD)		\$20	
DVD: <i>A December Tradition</i>		\$25	
Blu-ray: <i>A December Tradition</i>		\$30	
DVD: <i>One Winter Evening at Meymandi</i>		\$25	
NEW Boxed Set! Save \$10! <i>The three newest CDs are now available in a set: Going to Extremes, A Wintry Mix, and Passages</i>		\$40	
Boxed Set #1: <i>Original three CDs available for a savings of \$10: The Raleigh Ringers, Impressions of the Season, and More</i>		\$40	
Sub-total:			
Shipping: add \$3 per DVD/CD/Blu-ray, \$6 per Boxed Set (Max. \$12)			
NC Residents, add 6.75% Sales Tax:			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:			

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

(Visa, MasterCard or Discover)

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.

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8516 Sleepy Creek Drive
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