The Raleigh Ringers

HISTORY

Founded in 1990, The Raleigh Ringers is an Emmy-nominated, internationally-acclaimed concert handbell choir based in Raleigh, North Carolina. The group has been dazzling audiences with unique interpretations of sacred, secular and popular music, including rock 'n' roll tunes that the group has become noted for, along with original compositions written just for The Raleigh Ringers.

PERFORMANCES & DISCOGRAPHY

Under the direction of David M. Harris, The Raleigh Ringers has performed in 39 States and the District of Columbia, France, England, and Canada; live on the nationally syndicated "Bob and Tom Show" radio show; and on the "Hour of Power" at the Crystal Cathedral in California. In addition to seven albums, The Raleigh Ringers has released two full-length holiday concert videos. From those videos, three one-hour concert specials were created and broadcast on over 250 American Public Television stations in 45 states. The most recent PBS special aired over 400 times in 38 states in its first year of national distribution.

THE RALEIGH RINGERS PROMOTES THE ART OF HANDBELL RINGING BY:

- Presenting entertaining performances of advanced handbell music to the widest possible audience;
- Commissioning composers to create works for advanced handbell choirs;
- Supporting and encouraging fellow handbell musicians;
- Offering educational opportunities through classes and event sponsorship.

The Raleigh Ringers sponsor two annual handbell festivals (one for youth and one for adults), a professional performance event (Virtuoso), workshops, classes, and reading sessions in Raleigh throughout the year. The Raleigh Ringers has made a significant impact on the world's handbell music repertoire by commissioning more than 125 compositions and arrangements for handbells.

AWARDS

The Raleigh Ringers was honored to have been selected as a recipient of the City of Raleigh's "Medal of Arts" award which is bestowed to groups or individuals from Raleigh that have made exemplary contributions to the arts community.

EQUIPMENT

The Raleigh Ringers performs on one of the most extensive collections of bells and bell-like instruments owned by any handbell ensemble in the world. The current grand total is 42.8 octaves composed of 514 individual pieces of equipment. Each individual handbell set has its own unique sound. By mixing the sounds of these instruments, members of The Raleigh Ringers are able to create contrasting moods and highlight melodic lines, bringing richness and depth to the music they perform.

MEMBERS

Members of The Raleigh Ringers are selected by audition. Returning members must re-audition annually as every position is open each year, ensuring the best possible group of ringers for each season.

FUNDING

As a self-supporting non-profit organization, The Raleigh Ringers supports itself through performance fees and merchandise sales. The group's patrons, *The Friends of The Raleigh Ringers*, have been instrumental in helping the group purchase equipment and two 15-passenger vans. Capital campaigns helped The Raleigh Ringers purchase a 26-foot box truck to haul equipment, stage sets and instruments, and purchase the group's building for rehearsal, storage, and classes.

To hear a sample of The Raleigh Ringers' music, to see a concert schedule, or to learn more about the group, visit the website at www.rr.org.

To arrange an interview with David Harris, Music Director of The Raleigh Ringers, please e-mail him at rringer@rr.org or call 919-847-7574.

"Noted for their creative, artistic interpretation, The Raleigh Ringers have established themselves as America's premiere professional ensemble."

Dr. William A. Payn, Retired Chair, Department of Music, Bucknell University