



Celebrating 65 Years of Area 3

2025 Ocean City Festival March 7-8, 2025

**Roland E Powell Convention Center
Ocean City MD**

Brenda Austin, Guest Conductor

**Featuring Current and Past Area Chairs: Kerry
Johnston, Kyler Brengle, Al Reese, Paul Brill,
conductors**

Repertoire

Music must be purchased and learned in advance.

Everyone plays the massed repertoire. In addition, ensembles should choose to learn either the Copper OR the Bronze repertoire. If your group chooses not to take classes, you may participate in both groups.

Massed Repertoire

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Brenda Austin

Jubilate Music JMG 1333

3-5 octs. | L3

Carol of the Bells

Alex Guebert

Agape 2929

3-7 octs. | L3

Prayer for Peace

Michael Helman

AGEHR AG36023

3-6 octs. | L3

Copper Repertoire

With a Joyful Heart

Susan Geschke

Agape 2319

3-5 octs. | L2-

The Angels and the Shepherds

arr. Jason Krug

Beckenhorst HB612

3-6 octs. | L2+

Bronze Repertoire

Passage

Kerry Johnston

Beckenhorst HB657

3-5 octs. | L4

Metamorphosis

Michael Helman

AGEHR AG35214

3-5 octs. | L 4+

Tentative Schedule

Friday:

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Registration & Set-up Ocean City Festival
6:00 pm - 6:20 pm	Copper Rehearsal – Kyler Brengle
6:20 pm - 6:40 pm	Copper Rehearsal – Paul Brill
6:40 pm - 7:00 pm	Welcome/Announcements
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Community Ensemble Concert
7:30 pm - 7:45 pm	Break
7:45 pm - 8:30 pm	Massed Rehearsal – Brenda Austin
8:30 pm - 8:45 pm	Break
8:45 pm - 9:05 pm	Bronze Rehearsal – Kerry Johnston
9:05 pm - 9:25 pm	Bronze Rehearsal – Al Reese

Saturday:

8:30 am - 9:20 am	Massed Rehearsal – Brenda Austin
9:30 am - 10:20 am	Bronze Classes
9:30 am - 9:55 am	Copper Rehearsal – Paul Brill
9:55 am - 10:20 am	Copper Rehearsal – Kyler Brengle
10:30 am - 11:20 am	Copper Classes
10:30 am – 10:55 am	Bronze Rehearsal – Kerry Johnston
10:55 am – 11:20 am	Bronze Rehearsal – Al Reese
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	Massed Rehearsal – Brenda Austin
2:00 pm - 2:50 pm	Bronze Classes
2:00 pm – 2:25 pm	Coppers Rehearsal – Kyler Brengle
2:25 pm – 2:50 pm	Coppers Rehearsal – Paul Brill
3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	Copper Classes
3:00 pm – 3:25 pm	Bronze Rehearsal – Al Reese
3:25 pm – 3:50 pm	Bronze Rehearsal – Kerry Johnston
4:00 pm - 4:25 pm	Massed Rehearsal – Brenda Austin
4:25 pm - 4:45 pm	Copper/ Bronze Run Through – Brengle, Brill, Johnston, Reese
4:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Break
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Final Concert

Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 supports the copyright laws, and no photocopies of music will be allowed. Unauthorized recording of the sounds and images of the musical performances is a violation of the Copyright Act (17USC~1101)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Why Should I Attend????

- ◆ To ring with other ringers who love handbell ringing too
- ◆ To make some unforgettable moments
- ◆ To help Area 3 celebrate their 65th Anniversary

Who May Attend

- ◆ This festival is designed for full or partial handbell ensembles and/or individuals from church or community handbell ensembles.
- ◆ **Ensembles must learn the festival music prior to coming.**

Registration

- ◆ Significant discounts are offered for early registrations and if the full or partial ensemble or individuals are staying for the Ocean City Festival.
- ◆ Ocean City Festival: \$85 (if postmarked /entered online by October 31, 2024)
- ◆ Ocean City Festival: \$95 (if postmarked/entered online by January 15, 2025)
- ◆ Ocean City Festival: \$120 (if postmarked/entered online after January 15, 2025)
- ◆ Community Ensemble Ringer staying for Ocean City Festival: \$15
- ◆ HMA membership is NOT required. If you are currently not a member and would like to join, you will have that option as part of registration. HMA Membership – add \$95 (optional).
- ◆ You have a choice of registering & paying online or registering and paying by check through the mail.
- ◆ **If registering via US mail, please include only one (1) check from your organization with full payment - partial payments will not be accepted. Make your check payable to *Handbell Musicians of America Area 3* and mail to Gail Williams, Registrar - 7903 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814.**
- ◆ The Registrar will acknowledge registration within two weeks of receipt.

Refund Policy

- ◆ \$ 25 per registrant is nonrefundable when requested prior to January 15, 2025. After that date, there will be no refunds regardless of reason including medical issues and family emergencies.
- ◆ ****Online processing fees are non-refundable****

Email Information

- ◆ Event Information Packets will be available online at www.area3.handbellmusicians.org and also sent to your provided email address.
- ◆ So that information does not go to your junk mailbox, please add the following email addresses to your contact list: Debbie Henning - chairelect.area3@handbellmusicians.org; Registrar: Gail Williams - gailwilltoo@verizon.net; Event Chair: Fran Underwood fran@clarendonumc.org

Tables

- ◆ Indicate on the registration form if you are bringing your own tables or using those provided and the table footage that you need.
- ◆ Choirs must bring pads, notebooks or music racks, bells, chimes, mallets, gloves. Table covers and skirts are optional. All equipment must be clearly marked!

Meals

- ◆ All meals are on your own
- ◆ A list of local restaurants will be located at the Registration Desk

Individuals without a choir

- ◆ An opportunity will be provided for directors or individuals who wish to ring in the festival by filling vacancies offered by other choirs, on an available basis, or by bringing bells and pads. Individuals will ring the same repertoire as the massed choirs and participate in the festival concert.
- ◆ If you are a director with vacant positions, please indicate the positions available on the Registration Form.

65th Anniversary Polo Shirts

- ◆ In celebration of the 65th Anniversary of HMA Area 3, an anniversary polo shirt has been designed with the anniversary logo embroidered on the shirt. Sizes range from Men's XS-6XL and Women's XS-6XL.
- ◆ Polo shirts can be pre-ordered by February 1, 2025 for \$20.

About the Clinician Brenda Austin



Brenda Austin is in demand nationally as a conductor and clinician because of her dynamic and energetic approach to connecting musicians through handbells. In 2019, Brenda joined the team at Hope Publishing Company in Carol Stream, IL as Editor. In 2023, she was named Music Director for Embellish handbell ensemble. Before joining Embellish, she served as the Artistic Director for the Detroit Handbell Ensemble since 2016. Under her baton, DHE was honored to open the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in 2018 and be the featured concert for HMA's AREA 2 2019 Festival in Lancaster, PA. Additionally, she has served First United Methodist Church in Eaton Rapids, MI, as Director of Music since 2003. She is also active in the community directing Children's musical theatre.

Brenda graduated with degrees in Vocal Performance from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She studied with Craig Arnold, Steve Zegree and Eph Ehly.

Brenda is sought after as a handbell clinician throughout the year and has been the conductor and clinician at numerous festivals and workshops including HMA National Seminar, and many of the Areas' festivals. Additionally, she has had more than 90 titles published for handbells and sacred choral since 2015.

For more information about Brenda, please visit her website at www.BrendaEAustin.com.

Our Current and Past Area 3 Chairpersons



Kerry Johnston is Director of Music Ministry at First United Methodist Church in Cary, North Carolina. At First Methodist, he oversees a large music ministry of participants from kindergarten through adult, including a graded handbell program. He served churches in Texas and Arkansas, before moving to North Carolina. Kerry holds a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, and a Master of Sacred Music jointly from Perkins School of Theology/Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Kerry has been involved with handbells since 1974, when he borrowed a 2-octave set of Petit & Fritsen bells to spur interest in the church he was serving. That started a long association with handbells and bell ringers. Kerry served previously on the AGEHR Area VI board as Arkansas State Chair, and on the HMA Area 3 board as North Carolina State Chair. He was the founding director of Ozark Bronze, an auditioned community ensemble in Northwest Arkansas.

Kerry has conducted massed ringing at festivals, taught numerous classes at workshops, and has served as sectional director at the last two Virtuoso experiences held by The Raleigh Ringers. He is also a composer and arranger, with handbell pieces currently in print with Beckenhorst Press, Lorenz Publishing, and Choristers Guild.



Al Reese has served as the Musical Director of the Virginia Handbell Consort since January 2008 after joining VHC as a ringer in 2006. He was the associate director for Distinctly Bronze East in 2012; has taught classes for ringers and directors at Area 2 and 3 events; served as guest clinician for such events as La Plata, MD, Hampton (Genesis director), and Ringing at the Springs. He has rung in the All-Star choir at numerous National Seminar, and has been selected for Virtuoso in 2019, 2022 and 2024. Al is happy to have been able to serve as Chair of Area 3. He is a free-lance trumpeter, after spending 21 years in the Army band program performing across the country and internationally, and has sung with a number of opera companies.

Al is a published composer and holds a Master of Church Music Degree with concentration in Handbells from Concordia University, Wisconsin where he studied with William Payn, John Behnke, and Arnold Sherman. He is currently an Instructor in the Music Department of Norfolk State University teaching private Trumpet, Music Theory, Arranging and directs the Trumpet Ensemble, and serves as the Music Director and Organist at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Suffolk, VA.



Kyler Brengle is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, where he earned both a BS and MS in Music Education. Additional graduate work included an MS in School Counseling and Administrative Certification from McDaniel College (then Western Maryland College). After serving as band director at South Carroll High School from 1976 -1985, his career path took him places other than music settings but he remained active in church vocal and handbell choirs. Kyler is a past member of the Westminster Ringers (2006-2016), serving on their Board of Directors and as Assistant Music Director. He directed his church's 5-octave adult handbell choir from 2010 - 2020, and had the honor of serving as guest conductor at the inaugural Holston River Handbell Festival, Kingsport, TN, in 2017, and as Genesis Conductor at Area 3's Ocean City Festival in 2018.

He has taught at the Ocean City Festival numerous years and has arranged handbell pieces for the Westminster Ringers and various local church choirs. Kyler has served as an At-Large Member of the Area 3 Board (2013-2015) and as chair (2015-2017). Additionally, he has completed all certification areas offered by HMA. Currently Kyler is Director of Music Ministries at Westminster United Methodist Church where he directs the adult Chancel Choir and supports all aspects of a growing church music program. He holds memberships in the Fellowship of Worship Artists and the Hymn Society of the US and Canada.



Paul Brill has been involved in ringing and leading handbells for over fifty years. He grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland and attended the University of Maryland where he received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education in 1982. In 1985, he graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky with a Master of Church Music. Paul moved to Northern Virginia in 1990 to serve on the staff of Ox Hill Baptist Church in Chantilly, Virginia where he served initially as Minister of Music and Youth and later as the Associate Pastor for Music and Worship. During his time at Ox Hill, the music ministry included as many as 13 choral and handbell ensembles for singers and ringers ranging in age from preschool children to senior adults. In February of 2024, Paul retired from Ox Hill after serving there for 34 years. In June of 2024, he and his family moved to Roanoke, Virginia where they are enjoying retirement.

From 2012 to 2019, Paul served Area 3 in a variety of positions. First, as Virginia State Chair (2012-2015), then Chair-Elect (2015-2017), and, finally, as Area 3 Chair (2017-2019). After having attended many festivals in Ocean City both as a ringer and in various leadership roles, Paul is looking forward to the opportunity to once again be in Ocean City and serve as one of the conductors at this year's festival.



Linda Simms has been involved with handbells since 1980 when she started her first handbell choir in Maryland. She is a former Delaware State Chair, Delmarva State Chair, National Education Liaison, and Area 3 Chair of the Handbell Musicians of America (HMA). Linda is also the founder and former Artistic Director of Capital Ringers (www.capitalringers.org), a nonprofit auditioned community handbell ensemble. Capital Ringers performs on 6 octaves of handbells, and 6 octaves of handchimes which is the largest set of handbells and handchimes on the Delmarva Peninsula. In addition, Linda has been the guest conductor and clinician for national, regional, and local handbell festivals and events for youth and adults, and she has published several articles in the HMA Overtones.

Linda actively assists handbell directors and ringers by conducting massed ringing events and workshops. After teaching music in public schools for 20 years, and serving churches in Maryland and Delaware, Linda teaches private piano lessons in her studio in Dover, DE.



Laura Shelton is a native of Northern Virginia and has a Bachelor of Arts in social science with a concentration in elementary education from Virginia Wesleyan University. Laura is married, has one son and enjoys living in Sterling, Virginia, with her family.

Laura started ringing after college and fell in love with the instrument instantly. She has been working at Floris UMC since 1996 as handbell director and other duties as assigned. She was the chair of the board for Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 from 2013-2015 and has worked as faculty and event chair at multiple Area 3 events.

NEW - Online Registration Information AND Payment (One Registration per Choir)

Area 3 uses TicketSignUp for online registration and payments. **If you register via TicketSignUp, you must pay through TicketSignUp.** The processing fee is per cart, not per person. If you need a refund, the processing fee is NOT refundable. **If you need to mail a check, please use the paper form (next page) and mail it to our registrar.**

To register online, visit

<https://www.ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/OceanCityFestival>



OFFICE USE ONLY: Postmark date: _____ Reg. # _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____



MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORM 2025 Ocean City Festival

Please **register online** (see info on the previous page) or **fill out one form** for each choir/ensemble attending the Festival. You may make additional copies of this form as needed. Enter the director's name, organization, and choir's name, city and state as they should appear in the program booklet.

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Secondary Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

(Email address is to receive important information about the festival. Your email will not be shared with others.)

Director's Name: _____

Organization: _____

Choir's Name: _____ City, State: _____

Information:

I am registering for (check all that apply):

____ Ensemble (# in group _____) How many octaves of bells will you bring? _____

My group will perform a solo? ____ Yes ____ No

If you have any vacant positions available for Individual Ringers, please list: _____

____ Individual Ringer

I need a Ringing Position ____ Yes ____ No

____ I'm ringing with a Registered Choir

____ I'm bringing my own bells

Are you attending for the first time? ____ Yes ____ No

Would you like to have a mentor for the festival? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you willing to be a mentor for the festival? ____ Yes ____ No

Table Requirements (you are responsible for your own bell pads)

BRINGING tables? ____ Yes ____ No Linear footage needed _____

NEED tables? ____ Yes ____ No How many 6' tables do you need? _____

Does your choir change positions for each piece of music? ____ Yes ____ No

REGISTRATION FORM - 2025 Ocean City Festival (continued)

If special accommodations are required for any ringers, please include that information below. Be specific, so we can meet those needs appropriately: _____

Persons registering for an Area 3 Festival who have served as Chair of Area 3, are serving on the current Area 3 Board or State Chair or are on the event staff for THIS festival, do NOT pay the festival registration fee.

Please list the names of any persons in your group who are in this category.

1. _____ 2. _____

Registration Fees (per ringer/director)

Ringling or Director	by 10/31	_____ X \$85 = \$ _____
Ringling or Director	by 1/15	_____ X \$95 = \$ _____
Ringer or Director	after 1/15	_____ X \$120 = \$ _____
Community Choir Ringer (if participating in both events)		_____ X \$15 = \$ _____
Handbell Musicians of America Membership (optional)		\$95 = \$ _____
Polo Shirts (optional)		_____ X \$20 = \$ _____
	Total Registration	\$ _____

If purchasing shirts, please indicate how many of each size you need:

Women's:

_____XS _____AS _____AM _____AL _____XL _____2XL _____3XL _____4XL _____5XL _____6XL

Men's:

_____XS _____AS _____AM _____AL _____XL _____2XL _____3XL _____4XL _____5XL _____6XL

\$25 of your registration fee per ringer is nonrefundable for cancellations thru January 15, 2025. Please note that there are no refunds after January 15, 2025 for any reason (including family emergencies and medical issues). TicketSignUp fees are NOT refundable.

PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED FORM(S) FOR YOUR RECORDS.

Write one check payable to: Handbell Musicians of America Area 3

Mail the original, completed form(s) with full payment to:

Gail Williams

7903 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814

gailwilltoo@verizon.net