Chicago Bronze
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Fall 2026 Newsletter

Cincinnati, we thank you!

Summer vacation? What's that? Chicago Bronze was busy! After our spring concerts, we started making travel arrangements and hotel reservations to go to Cincinnati. Now, Cincinnati is a fine city, but why would a band of bellringers make the trip? We were invited to perform at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar! In front of fellow ringers, composers, arrangers, and educators. So, of course with that audience in mind, we used the summer hours to continue to rehearse at St Luke's in Park Ridge. Thanks, St Luke's!

While in Cincinnati, we picked up new music, techniques for playing, and new ideas for performing, and even picked up some new friends.

And we had a blast! What a thrill to hear other top ensembles perform, and to ring for them. So now, it's time to think about HMA National Seminar 2028, in Albuquerque! Think cool thoughts.



Practice makes perfect as Chicago Bronze rehearses for their performance.



Enjoying Cincinnati's summer weather after a long day.



It takes a lot of gear to put on a concert. It's a good thing we rented a truck.





In Cincinnati, we performed our Spring concert program which featured a musical tribute to our hometown, Chicago. One selection played up the rivalry between the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox with our rendition of *Duelin' Banjos*, arranged by Chicago Bronze Musical Director, Andrea Handley. Yep, those are Cubs and Sox hats on the ringers. (Some folks refused to wear one or the other of them. Gotta love team loyalty.)



Veteran CB member Cynthia Seputis enjoyed Virtuoso 2026 and hanging out with The Raleigh Ringers



Denise Caliendo, Cynthia Seputis, and Laura Olsen had a great experience at Bay View Week of Handbells



Former CBer Jalin Stocker, Laura Olsen, Denise Caliendo, Cynthia Seputis, and alum Kathy Murray took a photo break with conductor, Fred Gramman, at Bay View Week of Handbells

Beyond Chicago

National Seminar wasn't enough for some of our ringers. Several events for high-level ringers saw Chicago Bronze at the tables.

Cynthia was quite busy, ringing at Distinctly Bronze West in Vancouver WA,, Forte Handbell Workshop and Concert in Green Mountain Falls Colorado, Zenith in Minneapolis, and Virtuoso in Raleigh NC.

In August, Cynthia, Denise, Laura, and alum Kathy returned to northern Michigan for another summer of Bay View Week of Handbells in Bay View, Michigan.



Bay View Week of Handbells attracts more than one hundred of the best handbell musicians from around the country to participate in a stirring concert led by renowned conductor, Fred Gramman.

And coming up, a few CBers will be accompanying
the **Sounds Good Choir of Arlington Heights** at their holiday concert.
Please come and enjoy this festive event!

Monday December 7, 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights
1903 E. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL

New bass

This fall we welcomed two new fine ringers, Alex and Matt, to our crew. It means we can add a ringer, and bells, to our bass line! Of course we had to add a new music stand, and who knows, we might need to add a table to accommodate everything. And if we add a table, maybe we will add a bell? Does anyone else know the "If you give a mouse a cookie" books? Stay tuned!



Alex Shepard and Matt Przekota bring their considerable musical talents to Chicago Bronze for our Winter concert season.





New direction

2026 has been a big year for Chicago Bronze. Andrea Handley and her family moved from Evanston to Pasadena, California. We're delighted that she will continue her valued role as our Musical Director, commuting back to Chicago every three weeks for rehearsals. When she's not in town, two very capable Assistant Directors, Briana Belding-Peck and Max Dykla, lead the group.

December is a-comin'!

And now we head into our own Holiday Season! Nothing like ringing sleighing songs in 80° weather to keep us cool! This year's program features several newly-published pieces that we know you will enjoy. You'll hear old favorites in a new way, you'll tap your toes, giggle, and sigh.





Our Winter concert program features a wide array of holiday songs, from sacred to traditional and from joyful to whimsical. Please join us!

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Winter 2026
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 5 | 3:00 pm
St. John United Church of Christ
308 N. Evergreen, Arlington Hts., IL
No tickets required

Sunday, Dec. 6 | 3:00 pm
Ela Public Library
275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL
Free registration required at eapl.libnet.info/events

Saturday, Dec. 12 | 4:00 pm
First Congregational Church
900 Eighth St, West Dundee
No tickets required

Sunday, Dec. 13 | 4:00 pm
Barrington United Methodist Church
98 Algonquin Road, Barrington
No tickets required

Monday, Dec. 14 | 7:00 pm
Encore Village
350 W Schaumburg Rd, Schaumburg, IL
No tickets required

Want to Book Us?

We are always looking for new venues so we can share our love of handbells with new audiences. Our Business Manager, Anne Kivikko, handles our bookings and can answer any questions you may have. Contact Anne by emailing:

BusinessManager@ChicagoBronze.org





We Can Help!

Do you need a guest clinician?

If your handbell choir could benefit from a rehearsal or workshop with a guest clinician, we can help. Contact Anne Kivikko, our Business Manager to arrange for one of our ringers to visit your rehearsal.

BusinessManager@ChicagoBronze.org