



## A NOTE FROM THE BRHMS CHAIR Spring 2023

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this note to you today, as I can truly say that BRHMS is almost back to our pre-Covid activities with the BRHMS' dreams still alive. Thanks to all of you for hanging in there and being willing to try ringing and making music in every-which-way! What a journey!

The success of our January's WinterRing concert was a clear indicator of the BRHMS teams' musical achievements. Our teams are continuing to reach new heights in musical and technical handbell ringing, as well as in performance and choreographic skills. It was a joy seeing the crowded audience's enjoyment of all parts of the concert. The music and our performing are truly beginning to soar!

BRHMS continues to develop and grow thanks to our many volunteers, of course. A sincere thanks to all of you who help in the ways that you do! From bell schlepping to concert decorating, from poster design to attending meetings, from helping a neighbouring ringer to stuffing another case into our closet...you are all appreciated!

Your BRHMS Board continues to work on your behalf. The best news this month is that we were finally able to acquire complete insurance (full replacement cost) for all our bell equipment. This was no small task, as our bells are a unique instrument, and the \$ value is so high. While it is expensive, as all insurance is these days, we are now protected as a society, and can continue to expand our collection without worry.

This spring BRHMS' small Board committees will continue to work on developing the society further. We are currently continuing to develop and perfect our Charity status application, pursuing fund-raising and grant opportunities, preparing for our next big concert, and working

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## A NOTE FROM THE BRHMS CHAIR (con't)

to build a bigger presence in the Calgary community. As always, we welcome ANY ideas/suggestions from our membership, and if you feel you have skills to add to our organization, we are ALWAYS willing to welcome you! **We are currently needing a new volunteer to take on our Board Secretary role. Any one want to try? No experience necessary !!** (Thanks again to our Board: Connie, Celeste, Christy, Debbie, Janet, Jim, Kim, Maureen, and Wanda)

Our BRHMS future is bright!

Sincerely, *Annie Hergott*

Chair,

Bow River Handbell Musicians Society ( [www.bowriverhandbells.ca](http://www.bowriverhandbells.ca) )

## Leaving the BOARD

Thank you  
**Lorraine Eger**  
for your fine efforts as  
Secretary for BRHMS !

This is the BELL we  
need to fill.  
Somebody  
Come be our  
**SECRETARY**  
soon!



# BRHMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Maureen Holmes**



**Lorraine Eger**  
*Secretary*



**Celeste Carruthers**



**Cristy Rouble**



**Jim Winslett**  
*Chair-Elect, Website, Founding Board Member*



**Connie Yates**



**Annie Hergott**  
*Chair Founding board Member*



**Wanda Costinak**  
*Founding Board Member*



**Debbie Opinko-Brown**  
*Founding Board Member*



**Janet Zatzka**



**Kim Dale**  
*Treasurer*

**NOV 2021 Board Meeting at our home base,  
The Anglican Church of the GOOD SHEPHERD  
Still in our MASKS**





## What has ERB been up to !

*Hello?*

**JINGLE BELLS**  
ERB had FUN  
with that TELEPHONE  
that kept *ringing*. For a  
little comic relief someone  
had to answer it !!



*Christmas BLUE*



*Christmas RED*

Ringling for many shut-ins....  
**SUCH** a rewarding experience!

**JIM WINSLETT** has been busy  
arranging new 12 bell music for ERB.  
Also composing with added recorder  
parts to try!!!

# STUDIO BELL

ERB performed at the  
**Studio Bell** ..  
Oooo \*\*stars\*\*  
in our eyes!!\*\*

DECEMBER 18  
**ATB Presents: Elbow River Bells**  
Studio Bell  
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Included with admission



Visit Studio Bell on Sunday, December 18 and enjoy a performance by Elbow River Bells! The handbell team will be performing in the Performance Hall from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Elbow River Bells, directed by Annie Hergott, is one of the handbell teams of the **Bow River Handbell Musicians Society**, or BRHMS. Elbow River Bells is a small 9-person (or sometimes less) ensemble of passionate musicians who love to ring handbells. With a varied and seasonal repertoire, ERB is dedicated to sharing the handbell artform with others throughout the city. ERB regularly perform at Retirement Residences, Hospices, Church Services, in Concerts, and use their City of Calgary Busker's ID to ring in some of the beautiful city parks.

*This event is part of a series of pop-up holiday performances presented by ATB throughout December.*



## What has **BE** been up to !



**BE**

VERY  
enthusiastic  
**WINTER RINGERS**

## **BETTY RADFORD STUFF**

BE welcoming Betty Radford at a special handbell rehearsal.

Betty is the author and composer of two beginner handbell books: Exploring Handbells (I and II) published by Themes and Variations.



How amazing and true is this Chinese FORTUNE Cookie !



# CLINICIAN VISIT

## BETTY RADFORD

### First Post-Covid Clinician Visit !

One of BRHMS' main goals is to aid in the continued development of our ringers, and one of the ways to do this, is to invite experts into our midst.

This month we were fortunate to have (handbell icon) Betty Radford accept our invitation to come and work with some of our BRHMS teams.

Betty Radford is an accomplished and published handbell composer and music teacher. Her music has been performed at premiere international handbell symposiums around the world. She is also the author/composer of the successful "Exploring Handbells" books 1 and 2, a series that includes 2 and 3 octave music compositions that feature certain handbell techniques, aiding learning while ringing music of excellent quality.

Betty worked with both Alpine Ringers and Bell Epoque BRHMS teams. Both teams are currently learning some of Betty's compositions, so to have her here to share her expertise and intimate knowledge of the music with us was an exceptional experience. Her many ideas and suggestions were well received, and we all went away with new ideas and skills.

For the first time, we also opened our Bell Epoque rehearsal to the public. Those who attended were all interested handbell teachers or ringers. It was a good experience to have an audience learn along with our ringers. It was an exceptional couple of evenings with Betty, and our BRHMS ringers made us proud with their careful attention to details and their fantastic ringing!



It looks like ANNIE sure knows how to treat a guest! The photo of BETTY shows it ALL.



# What are the HOT SHOTS up to !

Our HOT SHOTS had the opportunity to ring BELLS for Wanda's school, Chris Akkerman. (WANDA our own Be and ALPINE ringer) And yep, she teaches them how to ring "THEM BELLS".



Wanda !

ALSO.....

Calgary's 60 years in the making has a group called "Music Matinee" where 25 members enjoy and bask in the performances of its members. This group has generously provided a scholarship donation to our young ringers programs in BRHMS.

**THANK YOU MUSIC MATINEE**

Our Hot Shots and new young ringers may flourish with their donation.

# What are the ALPINE RINGERS up to !

Just have to WAIT and C what they are up toooooo!

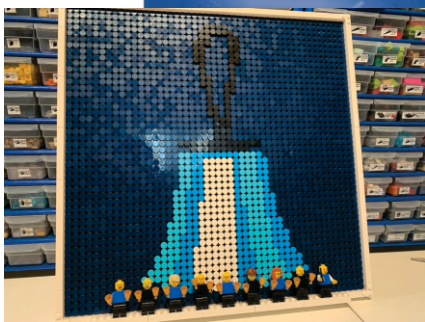


*New ! really big*



Thank you Kathy for the KIDS snowflakes

Look close...these two have identical actions conducting and singing



Annie receiving her many thanks gift of LEGO designed by Jim and assembled by fellow ringers.

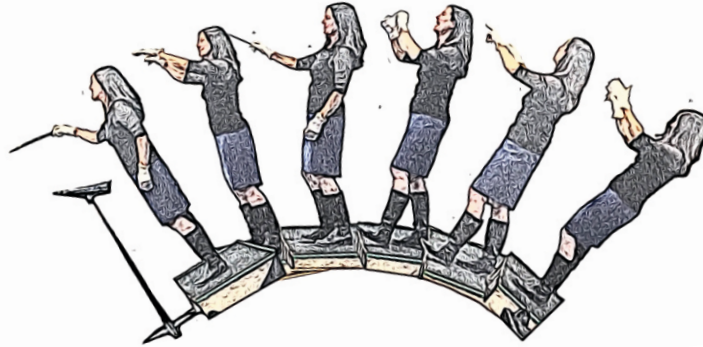


Cutting out Programs!



# BRHMS FAMILY and WINTER RING





## CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

### Have you ever dreamed about Conducting?

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be in front of a ringing team?

Are you interested in learning conducting basics?

Ever wonder if you could do it?

Annie is preparing a Directing Workshop this spring for anyone who may be interested. You will learn and practice the basic conducting techniques, and then learn how these techniques best apply to working with bell teams. With theory and practice components, including the option of working with a real bell team, this will be fun! Challenge yourself!

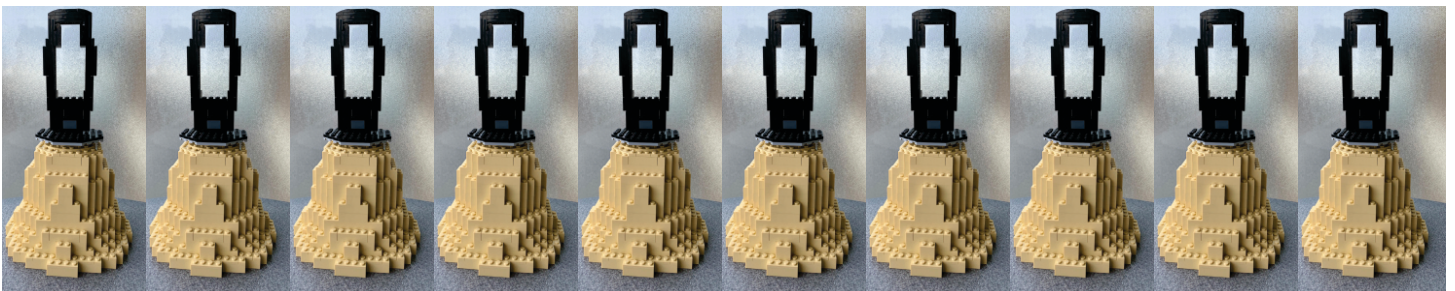
Auditors welcome- if you are too shy to try conducting in front of a team this time!



Date TBA, and there will be a small fee to cover rent/materials.



Let Annie know if this is something you would like to try!!





## THREE RINGER'S PERSPECTIVES

### A Ringer's Perspective, By Gail O'Neill

The winter concert of the Bow River Handbell Musicians Society took place on January 23, 2023, at our rehearsal location, the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in Calgary. It was another interesting experience for me, as previously to joining this group as a ringer, my experience in handbells has been as a director in elementary and junior high schools. As far as performance goes, I found it a lot easier to stand with my back to the audience and to support the ringers by pretending to be calm! I have to admit that when I face the audience as a ringer, mostly I am feeling vulnerable and hoping that I don't obviously mess up! What I find most wonderful about being a member of this particular group under the direction of Annie Hergott is how friendly and generous everyone is-with their time, their humour, their expertise, and their incredibly hard work ethic. It is also a great honour to ring the arrangements of Jim Winslett, and even more to experience sharing in his high energy and musicality! It is also a distinct pleasure to be directed by Annie. Her ability for and love of music is reflected in the time spent with us in practising, and she certainly prepares us for performance- technically through specific practice and emotionally through positivity and encouragement. From me, I would like to thank everyone for their humour and encouragement!



### A Ringer's Perspective, By Lorraine Eger

Because of an issue with my hand, I didn't get to ring at the concert in June, 2022. Instead, I worked at the front of house and got to watch my fellow ringers at the concert. (I had been ringing with Belle Epoque and Elbow River Bells). I was incredibly impressed with all the groups and the variety of music chosen. What I enjoyed the most, however, was chatting with audience members who were so impressed with everything – the music, of course, but also the great way the lobby was decorated (thanks to Connie's artistic vision and Jim's Lego). I'm hoping to be able to go back to ringing this fall

NOTE: Lorraine did get back to ringing in ERB and made the WINTER RING concert 2023.





## THREE RINGER'S PERSPECTIVES con't

### A Ringer's Perspective, By Wayne Hubbard

When I joined Elbow River Bells, a nine-ringer performing handbell team in Calgary directed by Annie Hergott, it was with a sense of anticipation at being given the opportunity to play music and experience the magic that performance with a group can create.

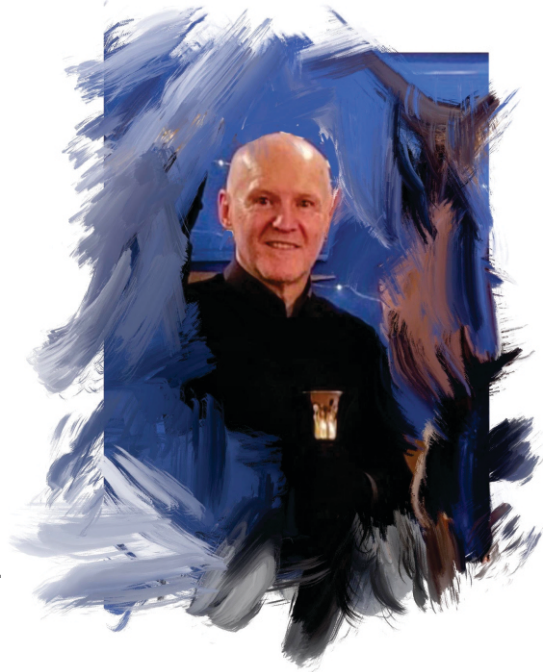
Rehearsals and eventually performances with ERB quickly became a highlight of my week. After a period of rehearsals with these talented, hard working people performances started. Debbie Opinko-Brown, one of our members, handles all our bookings and organizes our performance opportunities.


December 2022 proved to be a very active time for ERB. Most weeks saw anywhere from two to four performances. The majority of performances were at seniors residences. A Sunday morning church service was added along with an invitation to perform at a carol festival, as well as an invitation to perform at Studio Bell, the beautiful music centre in downtown Calgary.

Handbell ringing has benefits on so many levels. On a personal level there is the feeling that comes when a group plays as one; when the sound is shaped so beautifully, and the music is lifted off the page. We grow stronger as a group with each new performance. We learn to deal in the moment when things do not go as planned.

When an audience is added, the experience of performance takes on a very different feeling. We have seen how music has effected our audiences, evoking positive feelings and memories, taking people to a happy place for part of their day.

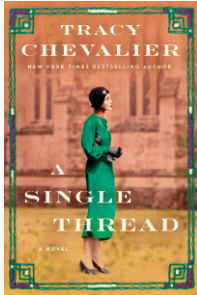
Music creates growth, renewal, community, and connection. After a very busy December and a break from performing, I'm looking forward to an equally exciting spring season with the wonderful members of ERB.



 "Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally, it comes from what you do consistently."

MARIE FORLEO

Just for FUN!  
A BOOK to read



**A single Thread**


A story of a woman coming into her own at the dawn of the Second World War.

In this book:  
**EMBROIDER KNEELERS**  
Lots of info about  
**CATHEDRAL BELLS**

Oh ya and all the love stuff too...



**NEXT CONCERT**  
**Water's Edge**

date and time  
 TBA 2023

**REMINDER**  
**Volunteer Hours**

Please note:  
Whenever you volunteer to decorate for a concert, arrange music for a group, sew a bag, attend a meeting.....

RECORD your HOURS in our website on the members page in the JotForm provided.