

## **Area III 2008 Spring Festival Hampton Bios**

**Ken Bissell** - Ken Bissell currently directs Joyful Noise at Centreville United Methodist Church in Centreville, VA, a group of eleven 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade ringers. He is a past Area III Chair and current member of the Area III Board for the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. Over the past 31 years he has led numerous workshops and festivals throughout the United States and Canada. During this time Ken has developed handbell programs at several Northern Virginia churches and his groups have toured throughout the US and Canada, appeared on public TV and produced a recording. He has also taught public school choral and instrumental music in New England, Virginia and Maryland. Ken received a BS in Music Education from the University of New Hampshire and a MA in Choral Conducting from George Mason University, where he served as Assistant Choral Conductor.

**Nancy Cappel** - Nancy Cappel is in her 39<sup>th</sup> year of serving as the Director of Music at St. Matthew's UMC in Annandale, VA. She directs 4 vocal choirs and oversees the 10 bell choir program, directing 7 of the choirs. Nancy holds a BS in Music Education from Manchester College and an MA in Music from Ball State University, both in Indiana. Nancy has taught public school music for 9 years and handbells at The Potomac School for 11 years. The St. Matthew's bell choirs perform in December at the Kennedy Center and tour for ten days and attend an AGEHR Festival each June.

**Ned Davis** - Ned received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Sacred Music from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC where he also worked for 17 years as Director of Music for their television program, conducting and recording both choral and instrumental groups. He also taught conducting during his time there. In 1991 he moved to the Chesapeake area to serve as a Minister of Music in a local church where he directed numerous choral groups and developed a bell program consisting of 5 groups, including teens and adults and has recorded two CD's with the church's musicians. In addition, his adult bell group has traveled nationally and internationally and he conducted an award winning high school bell choir. At present he is working to develop a bell program at Great Hope Baptist in Hickory, VA. He is also teaching choral music at Salem High School in Virginia Beach, VA. Ned has been active with the Guild for more than twelve years, attending numerous festivals, Director's seminars, National Director's seminar, and assisted with the National Seminar held in Norfolk in 2004 and is currently the Virginia Chair for area III.

**Risë Kagan** - Love for bells of any kind was laid in the cradle by my mother, who rang the Cornell University Chimes. Received a BA in Music Therapy from Montclair State U. in NJ. Started ringing handbells in the late 1970s, at the church where I sang in Plainfield, NJ. Started playing solo and directing a handbell choir in Germany in the mid 90s. Have sung professionally and semiprofessionally in Germany and in the US. Was handbell rep in Germany and gave beginning workshops and solo concerts hither and thither to drum up business. Also started directing vocal choirs while in Germany.

Returned to the US in August 2006, after 27 years in Germany, and settled in Bucks County, PA. Currently director of handbell and vocal choirs at God's Love Lutheran Church in Newtown, PA. Have just started a brand new bell program at a neighboring church. Also founding member of newly organized Main Line Ringers Handbell Ensemble in Philadelphia. Solo appearances as time permits outside of full-time clerical job at Ann's Choice Retirement Community in Bucks County. Just to add to the mix, I also have been a professional cook, and I have 4 grown children and 4 grandchildren.

**Paul Kingsbury** - Paul Kingsbury has been ringing for over 20 years, specializing in bass bells for most of that time. He's had the pleasure of ringing with such luminaries as William Griffin, Carl Wiltse, and Donald Allured. For the last eight years he's acted as the "Pitmaster" at the Bay View Week of Handbells. Most people assume Paul is either older or younger than he actually is.

**Rob Kobus** - Rob Kobus is the Artistic Director for Capital Carillon Inc., a professional handbell performing group in the Washington DC Area. He also is a change ringer with the Washington National Cathedral, Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul. Washington. Rob attended Westminster Choir College as a Church Music Major and while in New Jersey was appointed as director of music, Trinity Church, Hackettstown. The Choirs at Hackettstown consisted of 9 handbell choirs, 9 Vocal choirs and numerous children's choirs. Upon returning to the Washington DC area, he was appointed as Interim Director of handbells at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, Washington DC and was also appointed as the Area III Metro DC representative for the AGEHR. Rob is a member of AGEHR, AGO ( American Guild of Organists), RCCM (Royal Collage of Church Music) and NAG, (North American Guild of Change Ringers) Mr. Kobus has performed with the New York Philharmonic at Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, NSO National Symphony Orchestra, Riverside Church NYC, and Saint Thomas Church Fifth Ave NYC.

**Carol Feather Martin** - Carol, a native of North Carolina, graduated from Oberlin Conservatory with a BM in piano performance in 1978 and a double major MM degree in Organ Performance and Piano Chamber Music and Accompanying Performance from Catholic University in 1985. Carol is midway through her 18<sup>th</sup> year as Director of Music and Arts and Organist at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia where she works with a program including eight choirs of singers and handbells. In the fall of 2006, Carol became the Artistic Director for Virginia Bronze, an auditioned community handbell ensemble in Northern Virginia. Recitals have taken Carol to many areas of the U.S. and also Canada and Germany. She frequently serves as clinician for professional organizations and is a member of The American Guild of Organists, Choristers Guild, American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and The Hymn Society of America. Carol resides in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband, two children, and four animals.

**Sandra Matthes** - Sandra Matthes recently retired from teaching college music theory, which she taught for 31 years; her education includes degrees from Bryan College, the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in music theory from Florida State University. She is the Minister of Music at Heritage United Methodist Church, Lynchburg, Virginia, and

has been involved in handbell choirs for 15 years in church and college. She serves as Treasurer of the Lynchburg Chapter of American Guild of Organists.

**Ellen Moretz** - Ellen is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College with an AB in Education. She has taught music at NC School for the Deaf, and is currently the Director of Music at A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church, as well as the Communications Coordinator at National Financial Services Group. She has worked closely with both Malmark and Schulmerich representatives in repairing and maintaining handbells, and currently works with Bell Haven as a maintenance technician.

**Charm Peterman** - Handbells have filled the past 30 years of musical activity for Charm. Having moved many times thanks to the USAF, she has been blessed with many opportunities to increase her handbell knowledge-base, learning from personal experience, countless ringers and continuing educational events. Included in these experiences she has learned much from conducting events and workshops in local, state, and international festivals. Her master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education has been invaluable for these circumstances! She conducts an adult handbell choir at Monumental UMC in Portsmouth, VA and rings in a community quartet, *Tapestry*, whose purpose is serving as a daytime ministry in the Hampton Roads area. She is a sales representative for Schulmerich Bells and is currently serving Area III as Chair.

**Linda S. Simms** - Linda is the founder and artistic director of Capital Ringers, Inc. She is also the director of music at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Dover, Delaware. Linda earned her master's degree in music from West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She is the Chair-Elect for Area III AGEHR. She has taught and conducted at local, Area I, Area III, and National AGEHR events. Recently, Linda has been appointed to serve on the National AGEHR Education Committee. After teaching music in public schools for 20 years, Linda opened a full-time piano studio. In addition, Linda is a certified group fitness instructor at Gold's Gym, Dover. Linda shares her "free time" with husband, Jim, and sons, Nathan and Jason.

**Edmund F. Tompkins** – Ed has served as Minister of Music and Organist at Morning Star Lutheran Church (ELCA), in Matthews, North Carolina, since February 2004. He previously served as Director of Music and Organist at River Road Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia, for over sixteen years. Ed directs two adult vocal choirs, two inter-generational handbell choirs, and two instrumental ensembles as well as vocal and instrumental opportunities for children and youth. Ed is a graduate of Duke University and Scarritt Graduate School. Ed is currently serving a four-year term on the Area III American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Board of Directors and is also currently president of the Charlotte Chapter Choristers Guild. He has served as handbell clinician at events in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Illinois, Virginia and Maryland. Ed has served on the handbell faculties at Montreat Conferences on Worship and Music, Massanetta Church Music Conference, and Lutheridge Music Week. He and his wife Judy and their two children live in Indian Trail, North Carolina.

**Frances Vaughan** - Fran is the Handbell Director at Browne Academy in Alexandria, Virginia. She was the Youth Handbell Director at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church in McLean from 1994-2006. She is currently a member of Virginia Bronze, a Northern Virginia community choir. Fran is a Past Chair of Area III of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and has served on several committees of the national organization. A graduate of Duke University, with a major in Music Education, Fran operates the Vaughan Piano Studio in her home in Alexandria, where she teaches 40 students.