



THE KLAPPER KAFÉ

Klapper Kat says.....

WE CAN DO THIS!

During these past many months of forced solitude and nervous uncertainty, and with greater frequency in the past few weeks, the Klapper Kat has heard from and about several Area 1 handbell ensembles organizing some manner of ringing. Is it like it was before.....? Surely not. The point is that many more directors and organizers are finding ingenious ways to insure that our art does not become more the victim of Covid-19 than it already has.

Several community choirs are beginning to meet, albeit in smaller-than-usual groups and with a purposes other than preparation for next season's performances and many brave directors have launched themselves fully into technology in order to serve their church congregations.

The *Klapper Kat* is proud of all your efforts!

If you are among the many who are asking 'how', please seek out plans and advice from local directors and those from other HMA Areas. The recent *Overtones* had several interesting ideas to consider. The pandemic has motivated many to try unconventional or different tactics: solo or (socially distant) duet or small ensemble ringing; working on selections for bell trees or racked bells. If your organization will permit, lending bells or chimes to ringers to work on their own parts for Zoom-type rehearsals, seems to be a popular thing in many parts of the country.

And if ringing isn't yet your thing, use this Covid distraction as an opportunity to thoroughly clean and repair your instruments. Manufacturers and their representatives are always willing to help, and these mundane and necessary activities can be accomplished while observing Covid safety protocol. When was the last time your handbell library was sorted, brought up to date, pages mended, or re-catalogued? Two or three person teams of ringers can accomplish huge tasks...especially when time may not be a factor.

As always the *Klapper Kat* stands (more likely sits) ready to assist in any way. Just make contact through the editor of the *Fundamental Tone*. To those who are actively trying to make the best of this, bravo! While there is no certainty that a Covid vaccine will have a feline component, the *Kat* wishes you all well and encourages each of you to find ways to stay involved with handbells and to engage as you are able! This will pass!!!!



Klapper Kat

All Area 1 handbell musicians and directors are invited to contribute handbell related questions or issues about techniques, repertoire selection, conducting and rehearsing, maintenance, choir management and assignments, or most anything else.

The *Fundamental Tone* editor and *The Klapper Kat* reserve the right to combine questions and edit submissions for content.

Address questions to *The Klapper Kat* and email them at any time to the:

Fundamental Tone Editor: editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org