

Notes from NEW HAMPSHIRE



Hilary Kovar Justice and Heidi Prior
NH Co Chairs

Hi, everyone.

It's hard to know what to write this month.

It sort of feels like everything's gone into free-fall, what with Spring Rings canceled throughout New England and pretty much every community and church bell choir we know of on at least a temporary hiatus. One minute you're focused hard on Spring concerts and Easter pieces, yanking your hair out over a tricky passage (Heidi: Finale to "Le Carnaval des Animaux") (Hilary: "Dorian Dance"), and the next thing you know...

...no bells.

For a while.

And no one knows how long.

So maybe you head over to Facebook, where your bell buddies are compiling coronavirus playlists (Hilary's contribution: "Don't Stand So Close To Me"; Heidi's is "I Will Survive").

And maybe you join your church's prayer meeting on Zoom.

Maybe you do both.

Whatever you and your group are doing (or not doing) right now to stay safe, we applaud and thank you for it and are with you in spirit until we can safely join in person.

So now we have a request. Something for you to think about in these profoundly weird times when we all are probably missing things we didn't realize were so important and wishing we could do things we've not given any thought to until suddenly... nope. Can't. Inadvisable. Not allowed.

Think about your favorite moments with your groups. Think about your favorite pieces. Think about the first thing you would want to ring with your group the second you all get back together, get the bells out, and make music together again. Think about where you would want to ring, if you could.

And make a list of those things, because those things matter.

Because sooner or later, we're going to get through this.

And tell us. What do you want your reunion songs to be? Where would you want your group to play? If tables and quarantines were no barrier, if we could all gather atop Mount Washington with the blazing Fall colors spread out under a perfect blue sky, what musical message would you want to send to the world from the handbell ringers of New Hampshire?

Let us know at nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Next time we'll have more business and hopefully better news.

For now, know that we're holding each and every one of our New Hampshire ringers and all of our bell folk worldwide in our hearts, thoughts, and prayers.

Hilary and Heidi

NH Co-Chairs