



THE KLAPPER KAFÉ

We are all (including your favorite feline) concerned and anxious about the current health crisis, and it has certainly taken a toll (pun intended) on Area 1 handbell ringers and choirs. While the **Klapper Kat** is deeply disappointed that spring rings, rehearsals, and other handbell gatherings have been cancelled or postponed, it is for the common good. Please do not be totally disheartened; there are few things more sad than a bummed out ringer! There will be opportunities for all to ring again but at this point we must both in support and be grateful for the decisions made by our directors and event organizers in their efforts to help us not spread and/or contract this horrible pandemic.

When we *do* get back to handbell ringing, you can minimize the spread of viruses and germs from impacting your handbell choir by:

1. Washing your hands!
2. Wiping down your handbell, mallet and chime handles, and binders with disinfectant wipes after each use.
3. Washing your gloves as often as possible.
4. Not ever attending an event or rehearsal if you have symptoms or feel at all ill.

The **Klapper Kat** is aware that many choirs have already adopted similar precautions and they are to be applauded! For those who do not have a plan, get to it!!!! Help to protect your stand partner, fellow ringers, your director, and all others who may use your bells and chimes. Do your part, please.

Enough of the lecture! On a brighter note, there will soon be opportunities to ring (we hope) with many choirs already planning fun rings and other outings this summer; and don't forget that *Friends and Family Handbell Camp* is still on the calendar and registration is currently open. Keep an eye on the Area 1 website for details of those events. If your choir/ensemble is sponsoring an event, please share that information with the webmaster.

This lull in ringing activities is also an excellent opportunity to assess the condition of your instruments. Do they need polishing, adjustments, or replacement parts? Contact your manufacturer or local sales representative with your questions. And if you have *absolutely* nothing else to do, you could re-organize your handbell library, or mend music, etc.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy spring,



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