

Notes from VERMONT



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What a year it has been so far! When Covid 19 took hold in early March, I had just arrived home after 4 wonderful days playing handbells with some of the best at Distinctly Bronze East. Little did we know how quickly our bells would be put in closets and silenced. The Vermont Handbell Assn had to reluctantly cancel Spring Ring 2020. With churches and schools closed, it has been a hard time for us musicians who count on making our music as an ensemble to gather.

On July 11th we had our annual summer planning meeting, virtually over Zoom. At that meeting we have tentatively planned our 2021 Spring Ring to be held April 23 & 24 at the same location in Newport, VT where we had planned our 2020 Ring. Because of prior commitments, Brian Childers had to instead plan to be our 2022 clinician. For 2021 we will welcome back the always popular Monica McGowan.

We have chosen as our massed repertoire for 2021: Free Fall by Jason Krug, Acclamation in G Minor by Thompson, and Be Unto Your Name by Edwards

The members of the VHA planning board have been hard at work spending hours of Zoom meetings these past few months establishing Bylaws for VHA, defining job descriptions and adjusting and clarifying the 2 year Planning Calendar. Without the Planning Calendar the various SR committees situated around the state could never pull off the fabulous Spring Rings that VT is known for.

As I write this, some bells are still prisoners in locked up churches. Some bells have gone home with ringers who are working on solos, duets and quartets. Some local churches in my area have gone back to Sanctuary services without choral singing so the music is being supplied by the handbell choirs. However it is happening, the bells in VT are starting to fulfill their purpose again.

We will get through this. I pray you all stay safe and healthy.