

## Penobscot Bay Ringers enjoy a Facebook moment!



For the 2020 Advent Season, the Raleigh Ringers invited community choirs from all around the world to share their holiday handbell videos as a way to brighten the season amidst pandemic recommendations of no live concerts. A total of 39 videos were selected and posted daily (sometimes two per day) on the Raleigh Ringers Facebook page, from December 1 through December 24.

When Amy Rollins, artistic director for Penobscot Bay Ringers, received the invitation from the Raleigh Ringers, she was at first skeptical that she would be able to provide a submission. The organization's full, five-octave handbell choir does not record their performances, so there was nothing on file that could be submitted. However, three members of the Penobscot Bay Ringers had been meeting regularly throughout the fall, playing Christmas music for the sheer joy of it. Amy suggested that they record a few of these carols for submission, and the three of them agreed to do so.

The Raleigh Ringers selected Penobscot Bay Ringers' ensemble rendition of "Angels We Have Heard on High" (recorded and broadcast with the permission of arranger/publisher Larry Sue of choreagus.com). The Penobscot Bay Ringers trio of Evelyn O'Connell, Debra Hall and Amy Rollins debuted on the Raleigh Ringers Facebook page on December 3, 2020.

As of January 18, 2021, the Penobscot Bay Ringers report that their video has received the most likes (189) and the most shares (116) of all the 39 videos! Amy notes, "It was very gratifying to be able to ring for a purpose this holiday season. I think our Christmas setting, which was staged in the steeple room of an historic church in Rockport, Maine (home of PBR President, ensemble coordinator and ringer, Debra Hall) added to the appeal. This is probably the closest thing to 'going viral' that we'll ever experience as a handbell choir."

Rollins, who is also Communications Director for HMA Area 1, noted that one other Area 1 community handbell choir, the Shoreline Ringers, was featured in the Raleigh Ringers event, with their performance of "Savior of the Nations, Come" airing on December 18.

To view this feast of Handbell Advent Calendar videos, visit <https://www.facebook.com/raleighringers>.

