



## THE KLAPPER KAFÉ

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RINGERS.....OR IS IT?

In recent weeks comments have surfaced relating to how handbell directors prepare for a new season of handbells. Concerns include repertoire, rehearsal planning, cleaning and adjusting instruments (bells and chimes), organizing materials (notebooks, gloves, pads, tables), and setting goals for your choir. For the moment, let's focus on repertoire and rehearsal planning.

If you've waited until now to plan your season's repertoire (at least thru December), it's a bit late!

The prime and most convenient opportunities for hearing and seeing new repertoire were at last spring's concerts, Spring Rings, and gatherings such as the Area 1 Festival Conference. Keeping concert and Spring Ring programs can remind you of pieces you'd like to consider for your own choir. At the Festival Conference there were multiple read 'n ring sessions where one could actually ring through several categories of repertoire; and with a few music vendors on site, there was ample time to browse hundreds of titles.

Like everything else, music is ever more expensive! But thanks to several publishers, digital licenses are available for many new titles whereby you can pay a fee, then download and print your own copies.

Depending on the number of copies you need, they can save a few dollars. Planning repertoire based on ringing events in which your choir may participate; getting several presentations from a few titles is cost effective!

Planning rehearsals is a bit more complex: directors need to consider the pace at which his/her ringers can work and learn the music. The frequency of their presentations, services, or concerts, and the amount of time (minutes) you have to rehearse each week are also important factors. There *never* seems to be enough time. Successful directors sequence rehearsals to include adequate repetition, or 'woodshedding', and provide time for individual work with ringers when necessary. Often, directors publish a weekly rehearsal schedule. All that, in addition to allowing time for warm-up, questions, technique instruction, and other choir business, requires the director to juggle everything. Careful planning is an ominous but important task.

The *Klapper Kat* is always interested to learn of your rehearsal and repertoire planning experiences. Please share, and get your ringers to those Fall Skill Building Workshops. They're FREE!



*Klapper Kat*

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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:

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