



Ring Tones

Newsletter of
The Capital City Ringers

Fall

2020

A NOTE FROM CCR'S MUSIC DIRECTOR, NICOLE LEPPALA

As CCR begins what would have been our 37th fall ringing season, I find myself thinking, this is not normal! With so much talk about embracing the “new normal,” I find that I am rebelling against this because, in the handbell world, this is *not* normal. We should be ringing full steam ahead and looking forward to our fall/holiday concerts—again, not normal! Right now, we should be in weekly rehearsals, polishing our music, groaning over *Sleigh Ride*, and getting ready for you, our audience. Instead, our bells sit tucked away in their cases, silent. Recently, I was asked to write a short essay on “how has the relationship between performer and audience changed over the years and how COVID has impacted those relationships,” and the first thing to come to mind was—connection. For those of us in the ringing world, the connection we have with our audience is vital to how we communicate as musicians. I have often said that the visual and technical aspects of handbell ringing add splendor to what the music intends to convey, and the ringers do not just *do* music for the people, the ringers work to share themselves through their presentation. Handbell ringing is visual; it’s communicative; it’s unique. It connects.

Since becoming the music director for CCR five years ago, I have never stopped being amazed at the level of musicianship and dedication the ringers have for their art. I am continually in awe of the music that the ringers of CCR create and how they connect as soon as the bells are in their hands. This connection we have as musicians, as music makers, and as friends, is missing while we are on hold, for now. No amount of CCR virtual Zoom parties or notes via e-mail will replace the bond we create with each other on a weekly basis. This extends to our audience as well. Handbell ringing is a social act of communication from the musicians to the people. Handbell ringing is music that you can see! The action in and of itself is awe-inspiring, entertaining, and is nourishment for the soul. It is connection. So, as we try to adjust to the “new normal,” we are working toward new ways to connect to each other and to our audience.

As I close out my final year as CCR’s director, I find myself reflecting on my time with CCR and how it has connected me to many people, places, and extraordinary audience members, namely *you*. From traveling and visiting unique venues to creating visually inspiring concerts, my time as CCR’s music director has been unforgettable. I look forward to my future endeavors while I keep an eye out for what CCR will be up to in the future.

Take Note! Except for Friends of CCR and those who request paper copies, we have switched to email only. Send an email to info@capitalcityringers.com to provide your email address or to be removed from our list. Call (517) 321-3221 or send a note to Capital City Ringers, 1104 Alexandria Dr., Lansing, MI 48917, if you need to receive paper mailings. Thanks!

CCR DIRECTOR SEARCH

As you've read in the message from Nicole, she is "retiring" from her music director position at the end of this ringing year (or non-ringing year, as it will likely be!). We are in the process of searching for a new music director, and will be accepting applications until November 29. If you or someone you know might be interested and qualified, please contact us immediately at capitalcityringers@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF CCR

While we are unable to ring, we will maintain our Friends list as it was at the end of the Fall 2019 season, with the addition of any new Friends who have been added.

We do have expenses to cover and would be glad to receive your Friends donations if you are able and willing to continue your support at this time. There is a form included for that purpose. Your name(s) will be listed on our website, in the **RingTones**, and in our Lansing-area concert programs when we are able to resume our concerts. We thank you in advance!

MEET CCR'S NEWEST RINGER

Sarah Dymond (a.k.a. *Saved by the Bell*) joined CCR in 2020 and is thrilled to be a part of the group. Sarah grew up in a bell-ringing family and remembers seeing CCR perform at the Spring Ring as a teenager, hoping one day she would join them! Sarah is the former Handbell Director at Delta Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, Kyle, recently joined the handbell choir at The Peoples Church in East Lansing. Sarah also plays flute and played saxophone in the past. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is employed as a Mental Health Therapist, working with children and families. Sarah and Kyle have three children and a mini dachshund named Link.

THANKS, CORPORATE SPONSORS!

CCR thanks our current corporate sponsors:

- Along the Fence Daylilies, Dansville
- Bappert Automotive Services, LLC, Williamston
- Sue Eckhart, Capellini Salon, Okemos
- Capital Data, Inc., Lansing
- Carrie Mae Thorburn, Edward Jones, Williamston
- Lindsay Finison, Healing Touch Clinical Massage LLC, Lansing
- Kim Finison Photography, Lansing
- Mayflower Congregational Church, Lansing
- Schaefer Dental Group, Lansing
- Smith & DeRose Insurance, Inc., Williamston
- VanAtta's Flower Shop, Inc., Haslett

CCR always seeks additional sponsors. For a minimum \$50 annual donation, we will include your business card-size advertisement in our local concert programs and on our website. If you would like to become a sponsor, contact Lorraine Finison at (517) 321-3221 or visit CCR's website at www.capitalcityringers.com.

CCR Unwrapped

CCR's Fall 2019 concerts, "CCR Unwrapped," featured both popular and lesser known holiday tunes. Concerts were opened with the dedication of CCR's newest addition, a C2 Choirchime, which was donated by CCR member Shannon Spasova in memory of her father, Michael Donnally. The concerts also provided the audience with a boost to their vocabulary by highlighting terms including melismatic, quodlibet, onomatopoeia, precipitously, strepitous, and phonophobia. Familiar tunes in the repertoire included *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Feliz Navidad*, and *Sleigh Ride*. Challenging pieces for the group were *A Dash Through the Snow in 7/8* and *Masters in This Hall*.

The season opened at the VanAtta's Greenhouse Christmas open house in Haslett with an abbreviated repertoire. It was followed the next day by a full concert at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Lansing. We completed a triple header by performing the following evening at Martin Luther Chapel in downtown East Lansing. The following week we entertained the Ladies Advent Tea at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Whitmore Lake. We ended the season with enthusiastic crowds at two of our favorite venues, St. James Catholic Church in Mason and the Lyons Muir Church in Muir.

CCR'S LATEST CD!

Our latest CD, *Pop, Rock, and All That Jazz!*, was released last December! You may order this CD and/or our other CDs, *Aurora Bronzealis* and *Season of Wonder*, by mail using the enclosed form or by visiting our website.

CCR TRANSITIONS

- Those leaving CCR at the end of last fall--some temporarily--were **Rosalyn Butler**, **Mitchell Eithun**, and **Dave Wright**. **Shari Dann** would not have returned this fall as she retired from a 30+ year teaching career at MSU and moved "home" to upstate New York in August. We wish her all the best in her "new" (circa 1835) home and new job teaching at one of the campuses of State University of New York (SUNY).
- Former ringers who returned for our ill-fated spring season were **Lindsay Finison** and **Dave Hafey**, and they were joined by **Sarah Dymond**, whose bio is on the previous page. Congrats to Dave on his retirement this summer from the Michigan Catholic Conference, after narrowly surviving a bout with COVID in March and April, thankfully!
- Congrats also to long-time ringer, **Laura Sparks**, on her retirement from a 40+ year teaching career at Morrice Schools. We hope she'll rejoin CCR when we return.

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Name (please print): _____

Box Set: Any 3 for \$40.00
 Shipping per order: \$ 2.00
 TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Item	Qty.	Unit price	Total
CDS Pop, Rock, & All That Jazz!	_____	\$15 each	\$ _____
Aurora Bronzealis	_____	\$15 each	\$ _____
Season of Wonder	_____	\$15 each	\$ _____
Merchandise total:			\$ _____

Mail completed form and check payable to:
Capital City Ringers
 1104 Alexandria Drive
 Lansing, MI 48917

Capital City Ringers Merchandise Order Form



CCR MERCHANDISE

The following CCR CDs are available for purchase via the attached order form, at our concerts, or through our website (www.capitalcityringers.com):

“Pop, Rock, and All That Jazz!” features popular songs, classic rock, and show tunes from our Spring 2018 concert repertoire, and more.

“Aurora Bronzealis,” a recording taken from live holiday concert performances and featuring Christmas and winter-related songs, including Trans-Siberian Orchestra’s “Christmas Eve Sarajevo” and “Wizards in Winter” as the first and last tracks.

“Season of Wonder” includes carols and holiday songs, featuring a beautiful rendition of “I Wonder As I Wander” as track 1.

Several other CCR logo items are available at our concerts. Check out the merchandise table and see our cool “stuff”!

To order by mail, complete the attached order blank and mail your check or money order to: Capital City Ringers, 1104 Alexandria Dr., Lansing, MI 48917. Add \$2.00 *per order* for shipping and handling.

CCR FRIENDS 2020

Platinum (\$1000 plus)
 Eileen Ellis
 Shannon Donnally Spasova

Gold (\$500-\$999)
 Robert Bappert
 Kim and Lorraine Finison
 Rob and Nicole Leppala

Silver (\$250-\$499)
 Bryce and Judy Forester
 Laura Sparks
 Joel and Karen Wortley

Bronze (\$100-\$249)
 Don and Carol Christenson,
 Patty Donnally, Rebecca Donnally, Kyle and Sarah Dymond, Keith and Corlie Eldred, Rick Hobria, Bob Hodges, Mark and Marcia Hoppeter, Sonja McCarty, Kathryn Rupp, Kristin Stroble, Claudia Tenny, Jane C. Wright

Copper (\$50-\$99)
 Anita Calcagno, Jerry and Barb Fuller, Terry and Sharon Graham, Claudia Heineman, Marci Hooper, Alan and Cara Jones, Chris and Sandy Keller, Rich and Mary Kimball, Irving and Connie Kranich, Steven and Maria Leiby, Ron and Judy Lott, Michael and Susan Mahoney, Elaine Noffze, Dave and Audrey Putman, Frank and Linda Wheeler, Randy and Cricket Young

Tin (\$25-\$49)
 Jackie Borszich, Eckhart Dersch, Mildred Dibble, Charles Gabler, Jon and Elaine Harrison, Jamie Keller, Roger and Meredith Kennedy, Cecelia Kramer, Dan and Lois Krieger, Mary Robison, Carol Swinehart, Martha Woodward, Sally Zetzer

Friends of Capital City Ringers

Contribution Levels	
Tin	\$25 - \$49
Copper	\$50 - \$99
Bronze	\$100 - \$249
Silver	\$250 - \$499
Gold	\$500 - \$999
Platinum	\$1,000 plus

Mail completed form and check payable to:
Capital City Ringers
 1104 Alexandria Drive
 Lansing, MI 48917

*All contributions are tax deductible.
 CCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Name(s) (print as you would like to be listed): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Contribution amount: _____