

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)



Members of the Utah Valley Handbell Choir display their handbells. The choir will perform at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Thorley Recital Hall.

---

## Utah handbell choir rings original works, tribute, *Pirates*

**By: Sean Miles**

**Posted: 4/24/08**

The Utah Valley Handbell Choir will perform a selection of works Saturday in the Thorley Recital Hall at 4 p.m.

The concert will include some original pieces for handbells and also some arrangements of popular songs, Handbell Choir Director Karen Eskew-Wyllie said.

The concert is called "Music For All Reasons," Wyllie said.

"People will be blown away by the quality of the music," Wyllie said.

Donna McIntyre, an administrative assistant in the Music Department, said she hasn't seen a bell choir perform at SUU since she began her job here four years ago.

"I'm excited to see the handbell choir," she said. "They are playing a student-written piece."

Wyllie said the concert uses original music by SUU student Glen Hicks, a sophomore music education major from Springville, as well as movie themes and ethnic music in order to display the variety of sounds the bells can produce.

Hicks said the bells are an instrument he has always liked.

"They are a great medium because of what the bells can do," Hicks said.

Bells can fit any occasion and are not just for Christmas music; for example, one of the songs performed will be the theme from the *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Wyllie said.

Hicks wrote one of the original pieces that will be performed in memory of a fellow choir member who passed away a couple of years ago, Wyllie said.

Hicks said the piece is a special arrangement of the German hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King."

Wyllie said the bell choir she had originally been a part of at church was too political and limited the variety of music their ringers could play.

"After the first year it wasn't working out ... (and) I went and purchased my own set of bells," Wyllie said.

Wyllie founded the Utah Valley Handbell Choir in 1993, and though she started out with only three octaves of bells, she has since received contributions and paid for a total of five octaves, she said.

Hicks has been a member of the choir since about 2002 and said he "got hooked" on the bells in high school.

"My high school had a set of handbells with nobody using them," Hicks said.

Hicks used the bells and started directing a handbell choir at his high school, he said.

Wyllie said getting members for a handbell choir takes effort.

"It has taken years to get to where we are," he said.

Wyllie said most people only want to join something once it has been well established, so it was difficult at first to recruit and keep ringers.

"We may actually have extra ringers for the first time ever," Wyllie said.

The choir now loses only one or two ringers in a season compared to about five per season in years past, Wyllie said.

Wyllie said when she first started the choir she placed an advertisement in the BYU newspaper in order to recruit ringers.

"Most people came through word of mouth," Wyllie said.

---

© Copyright 2009 University Journal