



The Twelfth Tone E-newsletter

AGEHR Area XII Newsletter

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Handchimes and Home School Students!

By Dellene Harned



The Dickens Handchime Choir, pictured above is composed of home school students (3rd- 12th grades) from the HOPE Christian Academy in Garden Grove, CA. Dressed in early Victorian attire and presenting a variety of Christmas music, this group delights all those who see and hear their handchime performances!



This group has performed at many venues during the four years of their existence: Sunday morning worship services for local churches, the City of La Mirada Christmas event, the Long Beach Christmas Pageant, the Temecula Riverside County Republican Federated Women's Christmas luncheon, the Crystal Cathedral Sunday evening service and the Disneyland Community Arts Showcase! (The Community Arts Showcase at Disneyland is an auditioned event for local performing groups.) It is very competitive, as those who are chosen get to perform inside the park, and then get free admission! *The Dickens Handchime Choir* has been chosen for three years in a row!

Auditions for this performing group are held each year in August, following a three day "Music Camp" where handchimes are introduced to interested home school students. A regular Friday music rehearsal schedule of 75 minutes begins in Sept. for the coming school year, as a part of a larger music program involving over 60 students in choirs and other music related activities.

Founder and director, Dellene Harned, was originally a piano teacher and children's choir helper at her church. She formed her own children's choir when one of her daughters was home schooled - so that her daughter, Allison, could continue to participate in musical performances. Allison became her mother's assistant and taught the first class of handchimes. (Allison has gone on to graduate from Cal State Fullerton and is now a high school choir teacher at a local Christian High School... and her students use handchimes, also!) From this initial adventure, 11 years ago, has come a weekly music school for other home schooled students. Classes have included music appreciation, pre-school music, reader's theater, composer classes, beginning handchime class, music theory classes, honor choirs, and a patriotic performing group for girls. Mrs. Harned arranges much of her music, based on the handchimes that are available: such as, "Carol of the Bells" arranged in f minor, because the group owns a F3 chimes.



The Dickens Handchime Choir is available for performances in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas of Southern CA during the month of December. There is no fee or charge for a performance... but the group gladly accepts donations, used for handchime repairs and new music.