

ABOUT THE MAGIC OF BRONZE

The Magic of Bronze is a community handbell ensemble based in central Florida. It was organized in June of 1996 and is made up of advanced ringers selected from the greater Orlando area. The group rings on a four octave set of Malmark handbells, an octave of White Chapel handbells, and a five octave set of Schulmerich handchimes. It has recently released its first CD entitled "**A Bit of Magic.**"

The director of the Magic of Bronze is Blanche Marie Lewis. In addition to a Bachelor of Music degree from Florida Southern College and a Masters Degree in Music Therapy from Florida State University, Ms. Lewis holds the title of "Certified Handbell Director" from the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. She has directed a variety of handbell ensembles in central Florida churches, rung in small ensembles, performed solo bell pieces, and has served as handbell clinician and workshop leader for area events. She teaches private lessons in handbells, flute, and beginning piano and has recently published a collection of handbell inspired poetry entitled "**Belle Bon Mot.**"

The Magic of Bronze has performed for a wide variety of events all over the state of Florida. Most recently the group participated in a solo concert during the 13th International Handbell Symposium held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, and the performance will be broadcast by television station WMFE in December on their program "**The Arts Connection.**" The Magic of Bronze recently presented a joint concert with another central Florida musical ensemble, the Rollins College Flute Choir. The Magic of Bronze has played for numerous concert series, handbell festivals, private country clubs, retirement communities, and weddings - both Christian and Jewish. It has appeared numerous times at Walt Disney World, performing at such venues as the Grand Floridian Resort, Animal Kingdom Lodge, Wilderness Lodge Resort, Boardwalk Hotel, and Mickey's Very merry Christmas Party. The Magic of Bronze is dedicated to promoting the art of handbell ringing, and to this end, the ringers enjoy sharing their great love of handbell music with audiences everywhere.

The Magic of Bronze is open to auditioning qualified ringers and would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining. For more information, please visit the web site at www.magicofbronze.org.