

## More news about Festival Conference '11 Bronze Division

The Bronze division is composed of advanced, **auditioned** groups and is typically the smallest ringing division. Bill Alexander will be directing this division which is generally represented by groups with many years of experience, extended sets of bells and chimes, and a desire to ring “bronze-level” music, which is graded at AGEHR levels 4-6.

The repertoire is *Pat-a-Pan* by Gramann, *Wizards in Winter* arranged by Geer, Waugh, *Te Deum* by Wagner and *Roundelay* by Philips. (ordering information can be found on the AGEHR area 1 web site)

In order to continue the high level of music making in this division, the following criteria for Bronze division choirs will be in place.

1. The bronze choir must submit an audio/video recording of two selections of L4-L6 music, one selection being an FC11 Bronze division piece.
  - A recording both of the sound and the images in which the choir and director are clearly visible.
  - Titles, composers/arrangers, and publisher information must accompany the submission.
  - DVD is the preferred format for this submission.
  - The ringers on the recording must be the ringers who will be registered for FC11.
  - No “orphans” are accepted into the Bronze division.
2. The recording can be of a rehearsal or a performance, but with the equipment currently available, should be high quality and clarity.
3. The bronze choir’s recording will be reviewed by a small, impartial, anonymous committee that will evaluate the performance based on the rubric found at the end of this article.
4. The recording must be clearly labeled and submitted to the FC Chair by January 31, 2011. This is sent separately from registration material. It may be submitted as soon as you are prepared. Mail to: Jean Degan, 32 Henderson St., Bristol, CT 06010
5. All choirs and directors will receive written feedback from the committee about the performance, including an overall score with a breakdown of each rubric category. (You may wish to use this rubric with your choir before you submit your audition DVD)
6. The “low” score is 9. The “high” score is 40.
7. Each auditioning group will be judged only against the rubric, not against other submissions.
8. Each auditioning group will be considered individually, but a score of 25 or high will be needed for acceptance to the FC11 Bronze division.
  - a. If the reviewing committee has a concern that the choir might not be prepared to participate in the Bronze division:
    - i. The choir may be asked to ring in the Coppers division
    - ii. The choir may be asked to work on suggested issues, work with an Area 1 mentor, and may resubmit a new recording.

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a positive experience for all in the Bronze division at FC11. This is the same process that was used at FC09. It is our hope to maintain a fair process for all participants.

Festival Conference 11 is shaping up to be a great time for all. We continue with our mission: POEMS! (Performing, Organizing, Educating, Mentoring, and Socializing). Looking forward to seeing you all in Amherst, MA for FC11!

Jean Degan, Chair FC11

### FC11 Bronze Division Audition Rubric

	Repertoire (10%)	Musicianship (40%)	Tempo (30%)	Contact (10%)	Assignments (10%)
4	The repertoire represents two L4-L6 pieces, one of which is from FC11 Bronze division repertoire.	Pitch, rhythm, dynamics, and expression are all correct throughout both pieces.	The repertoire is performed at the tempo marking indicated by the composer.	The choir and conductor are in contact at all times. The choir responds to the conductor's gestures with the intended musical result.	The ringers are playing at appropriate bell assignments that allow for a musically successful performance.
3	N/A	Some errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression—only a few ringers make errors.	The repertoire is performed slightly different than the one indicated by the composer.	The choir and conductor have a moderate amount of contact. The choir does not respond to some of the conductor's gestures.	The ringers are playing at appropriate bell assignments, but some planned omissions occur in some ringer's assignments.
2	N/A	Many errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression—several ringers make errors.	The repertoire is performed much different than the one indicated by the composer.	The choir and conductor are infrequently in contact. The choir responds to few of the conductor's gestures.	Some ringers are playing at inappropriate bell assignments and are unable to solve some passages.
1	The repertoire does not meet the stated guidelines.	Many errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression—these issues are pervasive in the choir..	The repertoire is performed at a substantially different tempo than the one indicated by the composer.	The choir and conductor are not in contact. The choir does not respond to the conductor's gestures.	The choice of bell assignment impedes a successful performance.