

## Handbell Ensemble Concert To Set Ears Ringing!...In A Good Way

By Rachel Kuhnle

The Concordia Handbell Ensemble will perform a concert Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 PM in the Graebner Memorial Chapel. It will be the only full length concert featuring the ensemble this semester. Many people look forward to seeing the ensemble perform each year.

The concert will feature a variety of musical selections including a popular piece from last semester, "Beach Spring Stomp." The upbeat and lively song calls for a lot of movement from the ringers, "And people like to see us move!" said ringer Bri Traquair.

The ensemble is directed by adjunct professor Carolynne Mathias, who is the Director of Music and Worship at Faith Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Mathias is accomplished in the handbell world—she was a Past Chairman of Area IX of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and has conducted both adult and young ringer festivals, as well as served as a clinician. She even has a book entitled *Teaching Young Ringers* published by AGEHR.

"Ringers must learn to be both independent and interdependent," said Mathias. "They have to ring their notes in the correct place even if a ringer next to them misses theirs, but they have to listen and make their notes fit musically into the whole."



Photos Courtesy of Greg Helgeson

Transfer student Krista Hasse is enthusiastic to be in the ensemble. "One thing I knew for sure about coming to Concordia was that I really wanted to play in the handbell ensemble. I had heard what a great director Carolynne Mathias is and I wanted to expand my knowledge of handbell ringing."

The ensemble is also an all female choir this year for the first time in a while. Hasse commented, "We'd like to see that change in the future."

## Spring Instrumental Ensembles Concert Not To Be Missed

By Josh Hinck

Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 PM in the Beutow Auditorium, four of Concordia's instrumental ensembles will perform in the Spring Instrumental Ensembles Concert—one of two performance opportunities they have this semester.

The concert will feature performances from the Chamber Wind, Percussion, String, and Guitar ensembles. Lasting about an hour, each ensemble will present a few pieces.

The string ensemble, directed by Professor Lara Mac Lean, will perform a work by Norwegian Romantic composer Edvard Grieg, as well as a "saucy" swing/jazz number. "I think both pieces will be really enjoyable to hear!" said violinist Laura Mews.

The percussion ensemble, under the direction of Professor Aaron Isakson, has grown to eleven members this semester and will be presenting two works. One of which is a quartet entitled "Andiamos," written by world famous percussionist John Beck.

The other piece is a large group arrangement for body percussion that mimics the rhythms of flamenco dancers—flamenco being a vigorous rhythmic

dance style of the Andalusian Gypsy "No instruments are used—just our hands [to make] finger snaps, thigh pats, toe taps, and foot stomps. It's pretty neat," said ensemble member Sarah Jensen.

Professor Isakson also directs the Chamber Wind Ensemble, which has also grown since last semester, and will be performing a wide variety of music styles from across the globe.

"With Ralph Vaughn William's 'Studies in English Folk Song' the audience will experience haunting beautiful melodies from the English countryside," said Isakson. They will also perform a collection of Chinese Folk Songs from pre-industrial China. The piece "Persis" is a newer work, treating the audience to Middle Eastern melodies. The ensemble will also present selections from the musical *Chicago*, of which Isakson said, "It allows them the freedom to cut loose and show their fun side."

Isakson said, "I really feel that there is something for everyone in this concert. The ensemble is showing great depth in their musical interpretation." The guitar ensemble, led by Professor John Roth, will also be performing.

