

Philadelphia Bronze

Informational Press Kit





was established in 2008 at the encouragement of several talented ringers who were in search of a challenging musical experience. Founded as Main Line Ringers, Philadelphia Bronze has since re-branded to include all of greater Philadelphia.

It has included ringers from as far away as New Jersey, Delaware and Lancaster, Bucks County in Pennsylvania. These dedicated musicians boast over 300 cumulative years of ringing experience.

Intense rehearsals every Monday evening include focus on precision, expression in movement and meticulous attention to a composer's original intent, particularly when programming orchestral transcriptions.

Repertoire includes a variety of genres but always remains true to the original vision of Philadelphia Bronze, that of *elegant energy*.

Philadelphia Bronze holds a 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Our Director: Martha Alford



Sometimes Bach, sometimes expressively improvised hymn arrangements, as a child Martha Alford fell asleep every night listening to her mother play piano. She always found ways to join the music; her green singing bear had to be left behind at concerts because she'd wind him up to participate! Her parents nurtured her love for music as she competed in both flute and piano throughout high school. Since they deemed teaching more practical than performance, Martha earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Houghton College. Later, to prove to herself that she could, she earned a Master of Flute Performance from the University of Idaho.

Once she started teaching, however, pedagogy became a passion. She authored a beginning flute method book and developed a general music theory and history curriculum using handbells as practical application. Martha serves as adjunct professor of Woodwind Methods at Eastern University. She taught music history, Basic Experiences in Music and flute at Lancaster Bible College, directed the concert bands at Delaware County Christian School in Newtown Square, PA and the orchestra at The Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr, PA. She taught general and instrumental music at Westminster Academy of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, FL and in the South Colonie School District in Albany, NY.

Love of performance continued: Martha played principal flute with the Washington Idaho Symphony, the Gold Coast Opera, the Florida Symphonic Pops, the Florida Wind Symphony and the New York State Band Director's Association Intercollegiate Band. Winning a Northwest collegiate orchestral competition, she soloed with the Spokane Symphony. She studied with Gary Schocker, David Cramer, Kimberly Reighley, Christine Nield, John Oberbrunner, Richard Hahn and Joanna Bassett, and has performed in masterclass with Bonita Boyd and James Galway.



Technical Requirements

Equipment Needs:

5 8-foot tables

Microphone

2 dressing rooms with chairs

1 case of water in dressing room

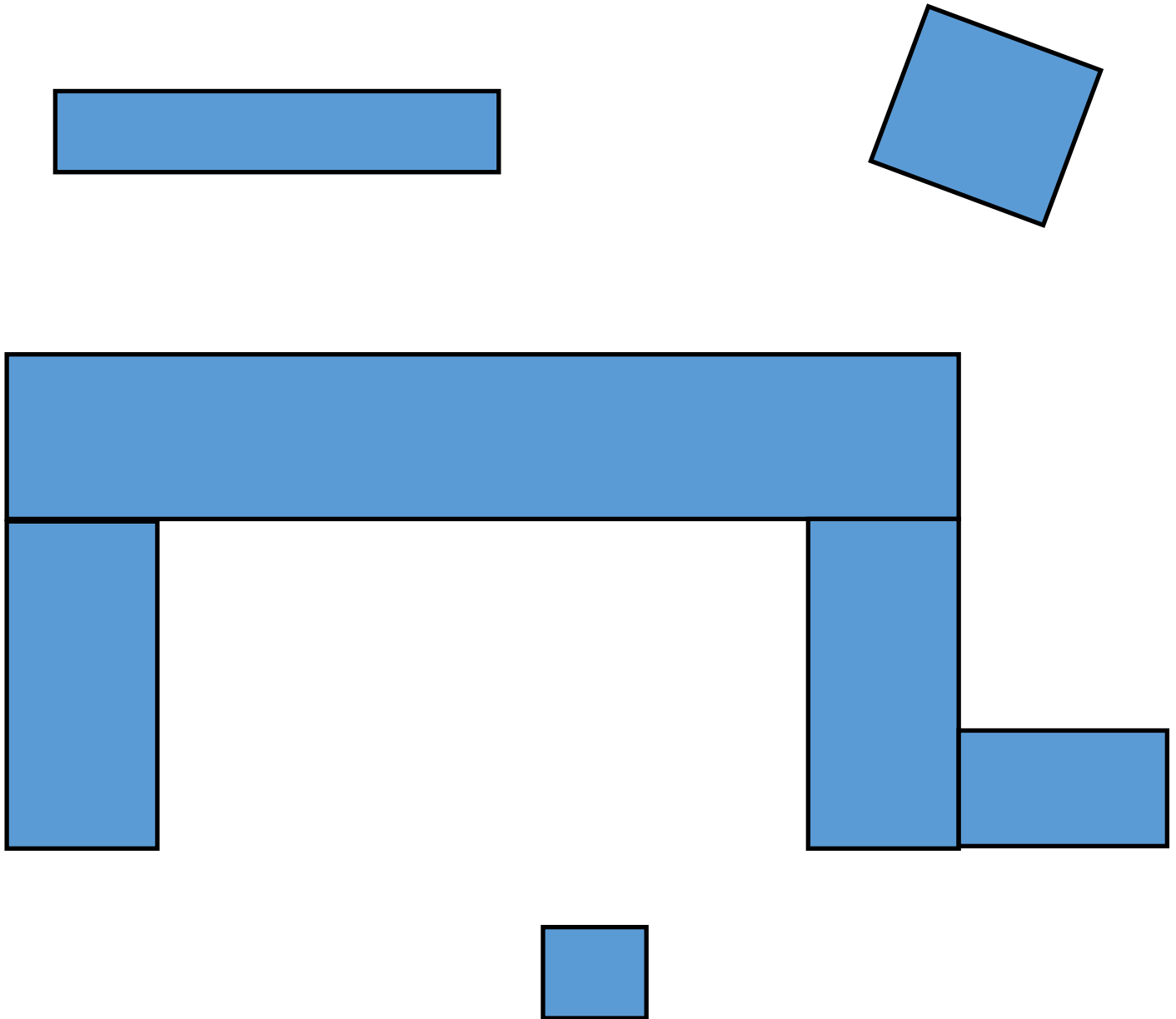
Space Requirements:

Philadelphia Bronze requires a performance space of 40' wide x 20' deep.

If lighting is available:

House lights on full until performance, then down to zero.

Typical Concert Configuration



Space required is 40' wide and 20'-24' deep for our typical concert configuration.

Current Repertoire

Philadelphia Bronze plays a wide variety of music ranging from classical transcriptions to hymn arrangements to jazz and ragtime selections as well as international pieces.

This year's repertoire consists of selections from the following pieces:

Flight of the Bumblebee	Rimsky-Korsakoff transc. Freeman/edited and accomp. Maggs
Fountains of Light (from the St Francis Suite)	McChesney
Jazz Pizzicato	Anderson/ arr. Thompson
Fantasy on Kingsfold	arr. Wagner
Rag-Time Dance	Joplin/transc. McChesney
Fantasy on "Samanthra"	arr. Tucker
Sherekea Usafari!	Moklebust
Spiritual Boogie	arr. Sue
Symphonia on Hyfrydol	McChesney
Star Spangled Banner	Key/arr. Bartsch Jr.