

September 2009

Dear Friends and Supporters of Embellish,

We're looking forward to an exciting year as we begin our 15th season. Our hiatus was short this summer, since we completed our tour to Maine at the end of June, and rehearsals started the last week in August.

As you may know, we were invited to present the opening concert for Area I of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers this past June. The concert was held at the University of Maine in Orono, which is about as far east as you can go and not drive into the Atlantic Ocean. It was a mountain top experience for us, and there is no doubt that we could not have achieved this level of performance without strong support from our families, friends, and supporters here in the West Michigan area.

As part of our trip towards Maine, we toured the Malmark factory in Pennsylvania. This is the company that makes all the equipment that we use, and our visit to the factory gave us a better appreciation of the work that goes into making each bell and chime. It also made us wish for MORE and BIGGER bells—we specifically have our collective eyes on a C2 bell, which costs about \$4,000 for the aluminum instrument.

As part of our upcoming season, we are pleased to announce the formation of "Bellistic," a handbell ensemble for eighth through twelfth graders. This group will be directed by Kurt Stroh, and plans to perform at our Christmas concert. *Bellistic* will share a spring concert with *Campana*, and hopes to perform at Festival in Grand Rapids in June 2010.

Gifts from our supporters are a major portion of our revenue. We ask that you consider a tax-deductible gift to the Embellish family to make our 15th season a success. Please send your gift and the enclosed form to us, so that we continue to provide our unique musical gifts to the West Michigan community. You may also use the form to order season tickets and/or CDs.

Our concert dates are listed on the enclosed bookmark. Please join us!

The Board of Trustees, Ringers, and Director of Embellish

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