



BELLS FOR PEACE

to Honor the Past ... and to Assure the Future

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A publication of Bells for Peace, Inc., a non-profit, charitable, tax-exempt organization approved under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code

Fundraising Campaign in Full Swing

Bells for Peace, Inc., introduced the Richmond community to its first fundraising benefit program. The Richmond Community and guests from as far away as Kentucky, Georgia, New York, and Nevada came for this inaugural and historical event on Sunday, April 23, 2006. The 800 member audience was entertained by a 75 voice mass choir

area churches and schools. The program featured a variety of local and national talent. The fundraiser was the first in a series aimed at restoring new bells in Virginia Union University's Belgian Friendship Building Vann Memorial Tower. The Building was a gift from the Belgian Government to VUU at the close of the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair. The building is listed as a

Virginia Landmark and U.S. Treasure. While in NY the building's tower had a carillon of 35 bells. These were given to former president Herbert Hoover by the Belgian government for his humanitarian efforts in Belgium during WWI. Bells for Peace will leverage attention needed to restore the building in mint condition and promote educational excellence.

EMBASSY OF BELGIUM SENDS REPRESENTATIVES



Dianno Watkins (center) introduces Virginia Senator Benjamin J. Lambert III (left) to Belgian's Minister Consul Geert Criel and Cultural Affairs Officer Andrea Murphy

Acclaimed Artists Donate Their Talent



Ray Chew, Director, Bells for Peace, Inc. expresses his commitment to the project. Mr. Chew is an acclaimed New York musical producer, director and composer.

Ray Chew Musical Director, Producer, Writer, Arranger, Pianist

Ray's musical career spans over 25 years in recorded music, television and live performance. Ray learned the ins and outs of performing while on the road with Chuck Jackson and Melba Moore at the age of 16. He then started his career as Musical Director and Arranger with Ashford & Simpson, playing with them for 20 years, recording 7 albums - including their only live record "Performance". In television, he has been a staff musician with CBS, Fox and NBC where he served as Arranger/Writer/Pianist

with "Saturday Night Live" during the 'Eddie Murphy Years'. Ray continues his television career as Musical Director of "It's Showtime at the Apollo" and was recently featured as musical director for BET's 6th Annual Celebration of Gospel. His discography is filled with most of R&B's classic elite, including Stephanie Mills, Diana Ross, Roberta Flack, Chaka Khan, Teddy Pendergrass and the late Donnie Hathaway as well as today's top contemporary artist, like Missy Elliott, Brian McKnight, and Monica. Some of his most recent work includes arranging and orchestrating strings on Alicia Keys' multi-platinum selling album *Diary of Alicia Keys*. His film credits include work

on the feature film *BABY BOY* - directed by John Singleton and live string/score arrangements for the feature film *ALL*. Ray used his musical knowledge and experience to build an entertainment production company, Chew Entertainment, with wife Vivian Scott Chew, providing event production and musical services for organizations such as NABOB, the TJ Martell Foundation, and The National Urban League. In addition to musical credits, Ray also serves on the NARAS board of governors. Ray's education includes Julliard's Children school, Harlem's school of The Arts, 3rd Street Music school, Mannes School of Music, High School Music and Art and Manhattan School of Music.

Balfour Singer, Pianist, Harpist

"Triple threat entertainer; singer, pianist, harpist!"
- Stephen Holden,
N.Y. Times

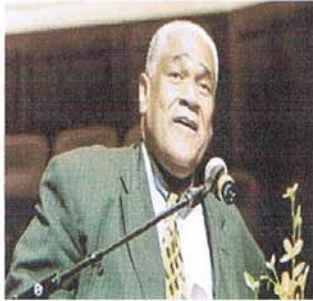
"...a stunning combination!" - Bob Harrington - N.Y. Post

"His taste is as accomplished as his style!"
- Rex Reed, N.Y. Observer



New York born Paul Balfour gives impeccable interpretation to the lyrics and melodies of the greatest American songwriters. His performances of the music of Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Stephen Sondheim, Leonard Bernstein and others are at once elegant and distinctive. After a series of record breaking engagements throughout Europe, he emerged as a major personality in Sweden where he lived and performed for six years. His recording television, radio and concert appearances brought him to the top of Scandinavian entertainment. Trained as a singer, pianist, arranger and conductor, Paul served in "Pershing's Own," The United States Army Band and Chorus in Washington, D.C. Assigned to The White House, he was harpist, pianist and singer providing entertainment during both the Johnson and Nixon administrations. In 1989 Paul debuted at J.W.'s, a room created especially for him at the New York Marriot Marquis Hotel. Subsequently, Ivana Trump engaged him to "bring back sophisticated cabaret" to the world famed Plaza Hotel in New York City. Paul is a nephew to the late Elizabeth Balfour Ellison and sister to Barbara Balfour Allen.

State Senator Lambert Joins in Giving Support



Virginia State Senator, The Honorable Benjamin J. Lambert III, an illustrious Virginia Union University graduate and member of the University's Trustee Board attended the program, representing the Commonwealth of Virginia. His remarks were geared to the importance of the restoration of the Belgian Friendship Building to Virginians, Richmond citizens and Virginia "Unionites." Letters of support for the project were sent from The Honorable Timothy Kaine, Governor of Virginia, The Honorable Senators John Warner and George Allen, The Honorable U.S. Congressmen Bobby Scott and Eric Cantor and the Mayor of Richmond, The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder. Opportunities for economic development are weighed as great considerations for the people of Richmond, Virginia and VUU.

Sabrina Squire Weaves a Thread of Understanding



From the program's beginning to end, Sabrina Squire demonstrated mastery. She wove the "Bells for Peace" mission of peace, international understanding, restoration, preservation, and renaissance in educational excellence throughout her commentary as the program's narrator. One readily understands how Ms. Squire is a valued WWBT NBC 12 news co-anchor. Her poise, charm and thoughtfulness helped to ingratiate all who listened and left little doubt of the importance of the "Bells for Peace" campaign.

Saint Paul's Baptist Church Announces Gift

The audience was pleasantly surprised as Saint Paul's Baptist Church awarded a pledge of \$7,000 to Bells for Peace, Inc. The Pastor of the church is the Reverend Lance Watson, who is a VUU alumnus. Saint Paul's Baptist Church began in the shadow of Virginia Union University in a community known as Newtowne. The 6,000 member church graciously opened its doors to "Bells for Peace" at its new Creighton Road location, donating its facility to the charitable, tax exempt, non-profit educational organization. The church assisted in assuring a successful event. Communities that come together for the greater good of all is an underlying mission of the recently founded program that will enhance the restoration of the Belgian Friendship Building.



Dr. Lance Watson, Pastor

Corporate Donations Assist Fundraising Kick Off



Gifts of Music ...



Dr. Hattie Webb, Program Accompanist



Charmaine McGilvary, soloist, with the Mass Choir



Glennroy Bailey, Flutist



The Richmond Boys Choir, Billy Dye, Director

"Bells for Peace" Thanks You !



Glen McCune, Co-Director

The One Voice Choir, Glen McCune, Director
Ebenezer Church Choir, Anthony Jackson, Director
VUU Chamber Choir, Dr. Willis Barnet, Director
Richmond Boys Choir, Billy Dye, Director
Suffolk Ballet, Karen Watkins-Westebbe, Director
James River Ringers, Dottie Tweedie, Director
Jones School Bell Choir, Pamela Tait, Director
Saint Paul's Church Choir, Michelle Lightfoot, Director
First African Church Choir, Diane Briggs Bacon, Director



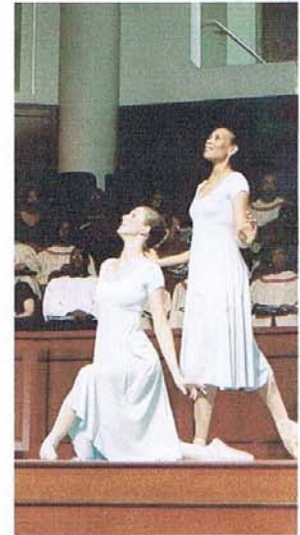
Anthony Jackson, Co-Director

Mr. McCune is Artistic Director of Richmond's One Voice Chorus and Director of Music at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. Mr. Jackson is the Director of Music at Ebenezer Baptist Church and Assistant Superintendent of Orange County Schools. Together they graciously volunteered their time and talent in preparing the 75 voice choir for the "Bells for Peace" Program and delivering a program of excellence.

... The Poetry of Dance

Karen Watkins Westebbe

Karen Westebbe began dancing at age 4 at Richmond Ballet. She is the product of Richmond Public Schools. Karen is the Artistic Director and owner of the Suffolk Ballet. A graduate of Howard University in communications and student of Mr. Arthur Mitchell at the Dance Theater of Harlem in New York, she was invited to continue her training there. Mrs. Westebbe became a soloist with the Asaph Dance Ensemble of the Christian Performing Arts Fellowship in Washington, D.C., performing at celebrated venues such as Kennedy Center and Constitution Hall. One of her personal highlights was performing in the 1996 televised Christmas Celebrations in Bethlehem. After leaving the D.C. area, she took over ownership and directorship of Bright Lights Performing Arts Studio in Chesapeake where her school grew 90 to 175 students ranging in ages from 4 through 18. In 2004 she and her husband developed the Suffolk Ballet to provide a training atmosphere for promising students interested in dance careers.



Suffolk Ballet featuring Karen Watkins-Westebbe and Aimee Long

Aimee Long

Aimee Long is a free-lance artist from Virginia Beach. She is currently working on her M.A. in Dance Education from the University of North Carolina, having graduated with highest honors from Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi. Her performance repertoire includes many classical ballets and training by celebrated artists. Her training includes study at North Carolina School of the Arts, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Ballet Magnificat. She has performed with Chamber Ballet, Belhave Dance Ensemble, Old Dominion University Ballet Company, Virginia Ballet Theatre, Chrysler Museum and the Virginia Symphony. Miss Long teaches classical ballet and is currently developing a resistance band conditioning class for dancers. Additionally, she is researching the Vaganova Method of Ballet and adapting it for study in the United States.

Individuals attending the Inaugural program were uplifted by the interpretation that these two professionals gave to popular songs that were specially selected because of their meaning to the "Bells for Peace" focus: "You Raise Me Up" (Loveland and Graham) and "From A Distance" (Gold)



... in a Community of Talent



The "Bells for Peace" mass choir was comprised of voices from the Greater Richmond Community. The choir members were attired in the respective uniforms of the choirs represented as a symbol of the diversity of our world. This was made more evident by the Richmond Boys Choir who shared in singing several anthems with the mass choir. These selections focused on peace, brotherhood and unity.



... with the Chime of Bells

VA Governor Tim Kaine Proclaims April 23rd "Bells for Peace Sunday"



Miles Jones Elementary School Hand Bell Choir Welcomes Guests

As guests arrived, they were entertained by the ringing of bells orchestrated by the Miles Jones Elementary School Bell Choir under the direction of Pamela Tait. Mrs. Tait teaches students in grades kindergarten through fifth Grade who attend music class every week for 30 to 45 minutes. A small group of 4th and 5th grade students make up the Hand Bell Choir. The students have learned about music from the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque periods. They have heard The Richmond Symphony and Virginia Opera.



Pamela Tait



Miles Jones Elementary School Hand Bell Choir Prepares

The James River Ringers

The James River Ringers opened the formal program with several selections that set a tone of excellence for the afternoon performances. The James River Ringers is Richmond's premier auditioned community hand bell group. Its ringers are dedicated to performing quality hand bell music, including hymn arrangements, classical works, show tunes, popular favorites and original compositions. The James River Ringers also provide educational opportunities and workshops for others interested in learning about English hand bells. Performing were Dottie Tweedie, the director of the group, Kristin Banek, Cara Griggs, and Dotty Parker.



Left to right: Dottie Tweedie, Cara Griggs, Kristin Banek, Dotty Parker

The Verdin Company Donates A Symbolic Bell

"Bells for Peace" Treasurer, Dr. Ruth Epps, CPA, VUU Graduate Makes Presentation



Dr. Ruth Epps, CPA, treasurer of the Board, presents the gift of an engraved Verdin bell to Dianne Watkins. Millie and James McGraw, Verdin Company representatives, seated in the audience watch. Other Board members present were **Barbara Allen**, Executive Secretary, **Sheryl Ellison-Blue, Esq.** and **Barbara R. Grey**.



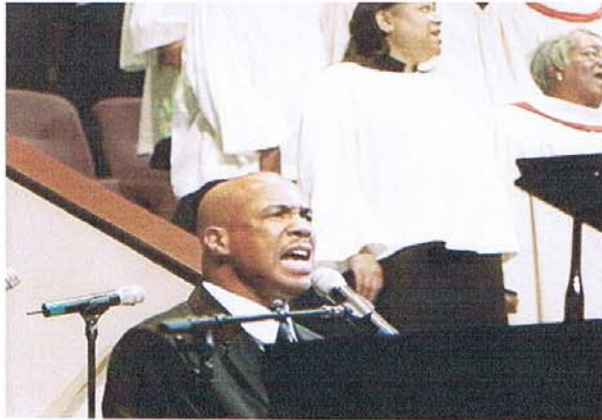
Millie and Jim McGraw, the Verdin Company representatives from Kentucky, are pictured above in the foreground. The McGraws provided an exhibit of Verdin Tower Bells at the event. Attendees heard how tower bells sound and played their own tunes on the Verdin simulation.

Bells for Peace, Inc. is planning to begin with 14 tower bells. These beautiful bells, cast and installed by fifth generation bell experts, The Verdin Company, can include an inscription honoring the bell's donor. The Vann Memorial Tower of the Belgian Friendship Building on the campus of Virginia Union University will consist of fourteen bells, beginning with the bell note C, weighing 4,730 pounds, and ascending to bell note G, weighing 184 pounds. A cast bell chime is a musical instrument consisting of nine to twenty-two bells, primarily ranged in a diatonic scale. The most popular range has fourteen bells: an octave and a fifth diatonically. The empty belfry originally held 35 bells. The originals now ring in Hoover Tower of Stanford University in California. Bells for Peace, Inc. is accepting donations for this project.

Thank you "Guild of Carillonneurs in North America" for Sharing "Bells for Peace" Information with Your Members World-Wide

... and other Voices Add Soul

with the musical genius of Ray Chew



Robert Cunningham



**"Thanks," Anthony Cosby, soloist,
with the mass choir**

A Note of Thanks *Shalimar Hickman-Jones*

Special thanks to Shalimar Hickman-Jones, who served as the "Bells for Peace" production manager. Shalimar Hickman-Jones is familiar to Richmond audiences as an accomplished singer-actress who has appeared in many local productions, most recently in the highly successful musical: "Crowns" and in the musical play "Muriel: The World Walked into Her Heart," about the life of Muriel Smith soon to open in Caux, Switzerland.

An Historical Perspective



Alan Nelson and Dianne Watkins

In early March 2004, Alan Nelson of Trenton, New Jersey, clued by Dianne Nelson Watkins, conducted a web search into the Hoover Presidential Library, putting "2+2 together" to find out what had happened to the original bells that were housed in the tower of the Belgian Friendship Building at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Dianne immediately followed by contacting the archivists at Hoover Presidential Library (Iowa) and Hoover Institution of Stanford University (California), and discovered information that was not publicly known for more than 65 years. (Alan is Dianne's oldest brother.) The bells that ring in Hoover Tower of Stanford University are the same ones that were

extracted from the Belgian Friendship Pavilion, now Virginia Union University's (VUU's) Belgian Friendship Building, of the 1939 New York World's Fair. "Bells for Peace, Inc" was conceived to leverage national and international support for (1) replacement of bells in the VUU Robert L. Vann Memorial Tower, (2) preservation of the Belgian Friendship Building in mint condition and (3) utilization of the project to assist the university toward enhanced excellence in education. The Belgian government awarded VUU its Belgian Friendship Pavilion, designed by Henry Van de Velde, because of its mission and location, since it could not be returned to Belgium because WWII had Belgium under fire. Twenty Seven (27) schools competed for the award. Former President Hoover was given the bells that he requested because of the "relief efforts" he led to help the people of Belgium following WWI. Stanford and Hoover Presidential Library archivists assumed that the pavilion had been demolished. There was no record in their archives, before March 2004, that the Belgian Building (Pavilion) exists on the VUU campus, until it was brought to their attention by Dianne Watkins in March 2004. As a result of their "new finding," Dianne Watkins established a charitable, non-profit organization under Code 501 (c) (3)

of IRS called "Bells for Peace, Inc." She, a 1965 VUU graduate, was reared by the Ellison's, her aunt and uncle, on the campus of VUU from age 4 to adulthood. She had climbed the tower stairs as a child. Ironically she heard the bells at Stanford in 2003, as a Stanford Fellow, in the Executive Program for Educational Leaders sponsored by the Schools of Education and Business, in partnership with Richmond Public Schools. international higher education. The project was conceived in memory of Dr. John Malcus Ellison, Sr. (1889-1979), first African American president of the university and his wife Elizabeth Balfour Ellison (1911-1994), whose training in the fine arts helped her husband to develop the fine quality university of the 40's and 50's and beyond. VUU was once known as the "Harvard of the South" because of its high academic emphasis. Many of today's world leaders graduated from the liberal arts university. Dr. Ellison, key driver of the project, worked tirelessly in the 1940's to raise the needed \$500,000 that would pay for dismantling the Belgian Friendship Pavilion, transporting it and rebuilding it on the VUU campus ... during strident economic times.

A Note of Thanks

**Board Members Who Donate Their Time, Wisdom and Resources*

**A Community of Supporters Who Have Made Donations and Given Words of Encouragement*

**Saint Paul's Staff for Facilities, Technology, Video, Lighting, Sound, Events Planning*

**Rudolph Powell and Rudolph Hickman for Photography*

... To Make A Contribution

Purposes

Bells for Peace, Inc. was established for Virginia Union University in memory of John and Elizabeth Ellison as a tax-exempt, charitable, non-stock organization under Virginia law and section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for the following purposes:

- to purchase, transport and install Virginia Union University 's bells in the Belgium Friendship Building
- to preserve Virginia Union University 's Belgium Friendship Building
- to provide for expenses "Beyond the Bells" for Virginia Union University i.e., for endowed chairs and related programmatic costs

Ways to Give

The tax information provided below is for general information only. All tax deductions for charitable contributions are subject to various requirements and limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code that apply separately to each donor. In addition, the deductible amount of any contribution to Bells for Peace will be reduced by the amount of any goods or services provided as consideration for the contribution.

Cash

Cash gifts are the easiest way to give. They offer a tax-deduction for the amount of the gift in the year it is made.

Make checks payable to:

Bells for Peace, Inc.
c/o Dr. Ruth W. Epps, CPA
Treasurer
P.O. Box 27371
Richmond, Virginia 23261-7371

Pledges

Gifts payable over one or more years. Deductible in the year(s) a payment is made.

Stock/Securities

Gifts of stock held by the donor for more than one year generally are tax-deductible at full fair market value.

Real Estate

Appraisal establishes fair market value and, in turn, generally the amount of the tax deduction for gifts of real estate held for more than one year by the donor.

Tangible Personal Property

Gifts of tangible property to be used by Bells for Peace, Inc. in a manner related to its tax-exempt purpose may generate tax deductions equal to the appraised fair market value of the gift, especially in the case of property held for more than one year by the donor.

To make a gift of stock or other securities, real estate, or tangible personal property to Bells for Peace, Inc., contact:

Dr. Ruth W. Epps, CPA
Bells for Peace, Inc.
P.O. Box 27371
Richmond, Virginia 23261

For further information contact: E. Dianne N. Watkins at (804) 359-3009 or bellsforpeace@comcast.net

Make a Tax Deductible Contribution

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Send a check or money order – No cash please

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.bellsforpeace.org>

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