

Larry and Wilma Fink's musical heritage began when they married in 1935 and mutually agreed to a life goal of making music and involving others in worship. They left a music legacy that carries on today through their four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Their daughter, Kathie, is the single member of the original Fink Family Ringers who continues to ring.

Larry and Wilma both received their college degrees at Greenville College in Illinois. Later, Larry pursued an advanced degree in music education at Westminster Choir College in New Jersey. Larry was introduced to English handbells while teaching at Roberts Wesleyan College in North Chili, New York. He ordered his first set of White Chapel handbells from London in 1957. From that point on, handbells became an intricate part of their lives.

The Finks moved to Seattle in 1961. Larry Fink was asked by the Council of Churches to demonstrate and teach handbells to children at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. Ahead of the times in the 1960s, Larry taught handbells in the public schools and Pacific Lutheran College when bells were still a novelty to most churches, and music educators had not even heard of English handbells.

Each summer from 1961 to 1965, this family of ringers took a transcontinental tour to introduce handbell ringing to others and inspire a passion for ringing. They established a reputation among bell ringers for precision in rhythm, beauty in tone, and sensitivity of interpretation. Youngsters, oldsters, and teenagers sat with evident delight, enraptured with wonder and amazement as the Fink Family Handbell Ringers performed beautiful music with the precision and perfection of a virtuoso.

Larry and Wilma Fink were honored in February 1987 by the Greenville College Alumni Association for "lifetimes of effective music ministry in college, churches, and public schools" and for the "unique pioneering of handbell ringing in praise and worship to God."

In 1994, Larry Fink was honored by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers as an honorary life member for his outstanding contributions to the art of handbell ringing and the AGEHR (American Guild of English Handbell Ringers).

The Finks were married 63 years, until Larry's death in 1998. Wilma Fink passed away in 2000.

*This CD set is dedicated in loving memory to
Lawrence and Wilma Fink, in grateful appreciation
for their gift of music and love of handbells.*

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FINK FAMILY HANDBELL RINGERS?

Cyril Fink is retired and living in Tucson, AZ. His wife, Sharon, served as Kathie's Legacy Tour accompanist. They have two adult children and 3 grandchildren.

Mary Lu Schleiffers moved from Seattle to the Los Angeles area recently to enjoy her three grandchildren. She has two adult daughters.

Rev. Larry Fink, Jr. of Pittsburgh, PA, was married to Debby until his death from cancer in 2004. They have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

Kathie Fink (Hein) continues to share the love of handbells with others. As a young adult, she taught the solo ringing technique developed by her family at handbell conferences across the United States. She is a founding ringer of Sonos Handbell Ensemble based in the San Francisco Bay area. She moved to Kentucky after retiring from probation work in California in 2006. Since 2007, she has traveled through 43 of the 50 states presenting the "Legacy Concert" more than 150 times. Legacy honors Kathie's father and his accomplishments with an amazing mix of music, narration, video, and Kathie's solo ringing musicality. Kathie is the proud mother of two adult children, Jeremy (married to Veronica) and Alexis Hein.



*There is no musick play'd or sung
Like unto bells when they're well rung.*

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