



# Sonos

Sonos Handbell Ensemble  
James Meredith, Artistic Director  
2001—2002 Season

## Sonos Goes International

Much of the inspiration for the American handbell community has come from Japan, through the work of the late Katsumi Kodama. It is fitting that the first trip Sonos takes out of the United States will be to Japan December, 10 - 26.

Taiko Otsubo, a protégé of Kodama's, approached Sonos with an invitation to play in the great major concert halls of her country. Ms. Otsubo has been recognized by the Japanese government as the First Professional Handbell Artist of Japan and will be performing with Sonos on the tour.

The two-week tour is being planned under the auspices of Nippon Artists Management,

an agency representing many Japanese and western artists, including The Warsaw Philharmonic, the Bartok Quartet, pianist Yefim Bronfman and opera sensation tenor José Cura.

Repertoire for the tour will consist mostly of seasonal music, including both classical works and Christmas carols. Additionally, William Ludtke has arranged the orchestra part of his Suite for Handbells and Orchestra for organ, and Sonos will perform this work with a noted Japanese concert organist.

Sonos is grateful for this opportunity to perform internationally and hopes to continue to do so in the future.

## On The Road

Sonos Completes A Challenging Three-State, Two-Week Tour

Every tour has its high points and challenges but the December tour to Texas, Florida and New York provided some of the highest points and most challenging moments in all of Sonos' history. With a family emergency and a medical emergency immediately prior to leaving, Sonos faced the prospect of having to cancel concerts for the first time in ten years of touring. Fortunately, the emergencies cleared up, sending Sonos on its way to Lufkin, Texas, balmy West Palm Beach and the clear skies and 70 degree weather of New York.



Grosman Amphitheater, West Palm Beach

This marked Sonos' third tour to West Palm Beach but the first time playing at the Kravis Center in the Grosman Amphitheater. The first challenge came battling planes flying overhead, trains rolling by and intermittent

rain. However, the audience simply opened umbrellas and did not want to leave. The second challenge became the wind. Sonos needed clothes pins to hold the music pages down, but did not anticipate the books blowing off the table and music stands toppling over.

In St. Petersburg, the wonderful acoustics of the Palladium Theater were a welcome relief and the program for school kids in the beautiful Mahaffey Theater just delighted Sonos. 600 kids responded with a standing ovation. The educational coordinator said that in all her years she had seen only

two standing ovations from the kids. With spirits buoyed, Sonos returned to the Kravis Center to give a masterclass for the 18 member Jefferson Davis Middle School handbell choir and play for 1100 school kids in the amphitheater.

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Spring 2002



**"Space Between the Notes"**  
June 30  
San Francisco, CA  
(See Page 3 for Details)

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### Highlights:

- Advertising opportunities in Japan
- Watch Sonos on the Web!
- Bay Area appearances in Summer, and Winter of 2002.



## Sonos

### "Runaway Child" Live On The Internet

Duke University Host To First Handbell Webcast



Two concerts and a workshop at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center in New York.

"Continental Harmony"  
Reaches Millions:

— The fall airing of the PBS documentary "Continental Harmony", featuring Sonos' 2000 performance of Jaron Lanier's "Navigator Tree" with San Jose Taiko and Gamelan Pusaka Sunda, played on **118 stations**, reaching over **58 million households**, translating into **148,434,000 viewers**.



Traveling with bells can be a chore.

In October of last year, Sonos was excited over the opportunity to perform its "Runaway Child" program at the acoustically and historically rich Chapel on the Duke University campus. About a week prior, Andy Punch of Raleigh Ringers offered his recording services for the concert and proposed an exciting project that Sonos had not expected: a Webcast. This would mean that "Runaway Child" would be available live in audio and video to anyone with an internet connection. Needless to say, Sonos jumped at the opportunity as this would be a first for the handbell world.

A Webcast is an amazing bit of technological wizardry that has enabled thousands of people from all over the world to see Sonos in action. The process involved multiple microphones, and a Super VHS camera that captured the images. The image from the camera and the sound from the microphones were mixed together and then digi-



Preparing for the Webcast

tized so that it could be read by a computer. The digital "stream" was made available from the Duke Chapel Web site to everyone with a Web browser and a decent Internet connection.

The initial broadcast of the concert was live. People "tuned in" to the live concert and shared our music

making through the digital realm. However, unlike with broadcast television, Duke Technical Services preserved the concert in an archive for anyone to view at any time, and as many times as desired. So, if you missed the live broadcast, you can still view it in its entirety in the "Streaming Media" section of the Duke Chapel Web site, [www.duke.chapel.edu](http://www.duke.chapel.edu), until October 2002.

Sonos would like to thank Andy, Duke Chapel, and Duke Technical Services for making this milestone event a reality. Sonos has touched more people than ever thought possible through their efforts.

### Berkeley Symphony Hosts Sonos

Last summer, Berkeley Symphony Orchestra conductor Kent Nagano heard Sonos play a piece of music as part of a memorial concert for San Francisco Boy's Chorus Founder Madi Bacon. Nagano was so moved by what he heard that he asked Sonos to appear in late January as a guest artist on the Berkeley Symphony's concert season at the Berkeley Repertory Theater. Sonos played the same piece Nagano heard, Karen Buckwalter's "Nocturne in A Minor", as a transition between Franz Schubert's 5th Symphony and the posthumous world premiere of a Percussion concerto by composer David Sheinfeld.

When the Schubert symphony finished, Sonos took the stage and performed the piece. The audience was enthralled, most having never seen or heard handbells before. The audience applauded enthusiastically and many were disappointed that "Nocturne" was the singular offering from Sonos that evening.

"The genteel bell ringing of Sonos Handbellers came across as pure dulcet magic. Much the same applies to the balletic aspect of their performance. Never mind the music, the visual side was mesmerizing," wrote Heuwell Tircuit in his review for the San Francisco Classical Voice.

### On The Road (Continued from page 1)

ter; this time with no rain, wind, planes or trains to contend with.

The final leg of the tour took Sonos to New York for a workshop and two concerts at Staten Island's Snug Harbor Cultural Center, the second oldest concert hall in New York. Little did anyone know what the first concert had in store. In the middle of Tchaikovsky's "Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy", a midair collision with a bell and a hand took place that left one of the ringers with a fractured bone. A trip to the hospital followed the concert while the group made plans to salvage the next day's matinee concert. Sonos spent the entire next morning reassigning the music and rehearsing for one less hand. The hard work paid off as many audience members claimed they would never have known if it were not for seeing one arm in a sling. Once again, Sonos adapted quickly to the situation, performing for an enthusiastic audience.

Finally, the group packed up the bells and equipment, shrunk the foam to one-fourth its size and flew back to normal life, leaving many new friends, high points and challenges behind.

## "Space Between The Notes"

"Space Between The Notes" explores the effect performance venue has on the composition of a work. It includes a surprise opening routine, English change ringing, Italian polychoral works, Bach toccatas, French Impressionists, spirituals, marches and Handel's "Watermusic", all influenced by spaces.

Three works will premiere, including "Sonics" by Artistic Director James Meredith and "Grace" for bells and oboe by Roger Wiesmeyer, principle English Horn for the Nashville Symphony and oboist extraordinaire on Sonos' "Classical Sonos" recording. It includes a few old favorites as well, Bach's "Toccatina in D Minor" and Mozart's "Rondo alla Turca." This is handbells' "out of the box," a visually and aurally enchanting program for the entire family.

**Sunday, June 30, 5 PM**  
**Old First Church**  
**1751 Sacramento St.**  
**San Francisco, CA 94109**

**Tickets: (415) 474-1608**

\$12 — General  
 \$9 — Students/Seniors  
 \$6 — Old First Members

## Sonos Masterclasses

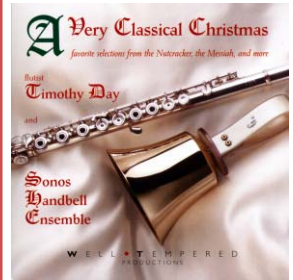
During national tours, Sonos has taught many workshops and masterclasses. Now, Sonos is delighted to impart this experience to other players and groups in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Sonos has structured the masterclasses for both full ensembles as well as smaller groups who want to take their playing to the next level technically and musically. A typical format would give each group, performing from its own repertoire, an hour of time divided between Sonos Artistic Director James Meredith, Assistant Director Jason Tiller and other Sonos members.

Sonos will hold these masterclasses as long as there is interest locally, while continuing to provide workshops and masterclasses nationally. It is Sonos' goal to keep increasing the standards of handbell playing by passing on what the group has learned from years of nationwide performing.

"A great evening! Brushing up on basics with the pros is worth your time. And I learned some new techniques to apply to difficulties in my own playing!" -JP, Cedar Falls, IA

"Many thanks for all that you did in southern Oregon this weekend ... My adults said they learned more in the workshops in the afternoon than they had learned at other bell events." -PE, Ashland, OR



## "A Very Classical Christmas"

*"The handbell faithful ... have reason to rejoice over this disc."*  
*"The ringing ... is astonishingly even and balanced, and varied in color and articulation."*  
 — **Los Angeles Times**

*"The 24-bit high-definition compatible CD offers spectacular sound."*

*"... an A+ recommendation."*  
 — **Classical Voice**  
 of North Carolina

**On Sale Now At**  
**[www.sonos.org](http://www.sonos.org)**

## Sonos Wins Major Grants From Hewlett Foundation And The National Endowment For The Arts

In recognition of its artistry and stature as a significant force in the performing arts, Sonos Handbell Ensemble has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. "We are most grateful for this very tangible support," said James Meredith, Sonos Artistic Director. "Aside from the much-needed dollars, the grant is also a validation of our artistic success, growth and goals by a discerning, prestigious foundation. It demonstrates clearly that we are recognized as a unique, high-quality musical performance group."

Blake Bauman, president of the Sonos Board of Directors, said that although the grant is vital in helping Sonos to advance, the organization must continue to rely on the generosity and support of individual donors. "As a supplement to the Hewlett grant, individual donor dollars will continue to be of enormous assistance in allowing us to attract and retain world-class musicians, enhance our repertoire, produce new recordings, and expand our home and touring performance seasons," Bauman said.

In addition, Sonos was pleased to have been given a grant of \$7,500 by the National Endowment for the Arts as partial support for a tour of the ensemble's acclaimed concert, "Runaway Child", that was premiered in the Bay Area last year.

### Upcoming 2002 Concerts:

**Friday, November 8, 7:30 PM**  
 Diablo Symphony Guest Artists  
 Rossmoor, Gateway Clubhouse  
 Walnut Creek, CA

**Sunday, November 10, 2:00 PM**  
 Diablo Symphony Guest Artists  
 Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts  
 Walnut Creek, CA

**Sunday, November 29, 8:00 PM**  
 Sounds of the Holiday Season  
 Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts  
 Walnut Creek, CA

California



Arts Council



NATIONAL  
 ENDOWMENT  
 FOR THE ARTS



## Sonos Handbell Ensemble

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## Rehearsal Space Needed

Your Help Is Appreciated In Fulfilling This Need

Sonos is exploring the possibility of finding its own rehearsal home (preferably no- or low-rent) where equipment could safely remain set up at all times and ringers could have unlimited access to the bells without having to haul, set up and tear down equipment for each and every practice session. We are extremely grateful to the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church for its generosity in providing storage and rehearsal space these many years. However, we are at a stage in our development when we would benefit significantly by having our own space in which to meet and rehearse more frequently than is possible at a location shared by so many.

Preliminary inquiries have uncovered a definite prejudice against musicians of any kind amongst landlords. If you have suitable contacts, helpful suggestions, or even know of a possible location for such a facility in the San Francisco Bay Area (ideally somewhere between Oakland and Fremont, but other locations will be considered as well), please contact us to share your information. Also, if you are interested in helping to underwrite the cost of renting such a facility, we would love to hear from you!

## Sponsorship Opportunities In Japan For Sonos' First International Tour

**Sonos is looking for sponsors at any level,  
especially businesses that want to  
advertise in the Japanese market.**

**Advertisements for sponsoring businesses  
will appear in over 200,000 concert  
brochures, 200 large posters and 5,000  
concert programs.**

**Please contact us at (510) 531-4780  
if you would like to take advantage of  
this unique opportunity to advertise  
overseas while supporting Sonos in  
its first international tour.**