



Handbell Musicians of America
NATIONAL SEMINAR

July 14-18, 2026
Cincinnati, Ohio



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Welcome!

Message from the Executive Director



On behalf of the board and staff of Handbell Musicians of America and our event planning team, welcome to National Seminar 2026! We are so happy to have you here with us in Cincinnati as we make music, learn, and gather together.

Each handbell musician here brings their own story, experience, and musical journey. And together, we create something beautiful. Events like these provide us with opportunities to learn from each other, listen to each other, and evolve as musicians and people. What a gift it is to have this time.

Whether this is your first or twenty-first National Seminar, you will meet new people, gain knowledge, and finesse your skills over this week. We hope this experience provides inspiration for you, inducing energy and new ideas for your home choirs, classrooms, and performances.

With thanks and gratitude,
Linda Onorevole
Executive Director

General Information

- Name badges will be provided at registration and must be worn throughout the event. You will also receive a personal schedule to help you navigate each day. Badges are required to enter Handbell Commons, classes, and evening activities.
- Use this program as your guide to the event. You'll find maps, schedules, biographies, class descriptions, concert programs, and more to help you.
- If you have any questions or need assistance, the Registration Desk is open Tuesday, 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Wednesday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM; Saturday – 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Maps are available on pages 44-45.

Concerts

- All concerts are included with your registration. There is no charge for the general public to attend.
- Please silence cell phones, wait until presenters are between pieces to exit or enter the space, do not talk while performers are playing, and show your appreciation with enthusiastic applause at the end of each piece.
- No video or audio recording of any kind is allowed in the performance space.
- All concerts will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/handbellmusicians. Tell your friends!

Silent Auction

Stop by to find many wonderful and unique items and help support HMA at the same time. The in-person Silent Auction will close Friday, July 17 at 5:00 PM. You may pick up and pay for your items that evening or on Saturday morning.

In addition to our in-person Silent Auction, we are also hosting an online-only auction open to everyone—whether you're attending Seminar or participating from home. Bidding for the online auction is open now through July 31.

To access the online auction, go to 32auctions.com/ns2026 or scan the QR code.



Classes

- Try to arrive a few minutes before your class start time so you can get settled, and prepare your mind for the next 75-minutes of learning.
- Classes are for registered event attendees only. Please wear your name badge during classes to identify yourself as a registered event attendee.
- Class notes for most classes were available for download from the event website. You may still access them there by going to bit.ly/ns-class-notes-26 or scan the QR code below. It is your responsibility to download and/or print class notes. Notes will not be provided or printed on-

site. If a class is not listed on the Class Notes web page, the instructor chose not to provide these or will be distributing them in class instead.

- There may be times when instruments/equipment must be shared to allow everyone the opportunity to participate in hands-on classes. Please be mindful of this and courteous to your classmates.
- Music packets provided during classes must be returned before departing each class. The music should be available for purchase from on-site retailers in Handbell Commons.
- Please make sure all equipment provided in the class is left in the room when you leave. Take care not to mistakenly walk away with mallets or other loaned items.
- Be sure to wear gloves for all hands-on bell classes. At the end of class, please wipe down any bells and return the room to its original set-up.

Class Evaluations

Class evaluations are very helpful as we plan for future events. Please take a moment to scan the QR code below or go to bit.ly/seminar-eval to access the evaluation form and provide feedback for each class in which you participate.



Scan the QR code for class evaluations
or visit bit.ly/seminar-eval



Scan the QR code for class notes
or visit bit.ly/ns-class-notes-26



HMA “Let Freedom Ring” Merchandise
bit.ly/hmamerchandise

Class Sessions and Ringing Sessions

Class Sessions

Basics for Handbell Musicians

Bells, Ringers, Rehearsal Room: What Now?

Linda Lamb

You found handbells in a closet at your church, you surveyed and found enough people interested in ringing, and the church has tasked you with organizing and leading a choir. How do you get started? When do you rehearse? How do you choose music? What do you do at your first rehearsal? What are your goals for performance? Let's get started!

Developing Young Choirs – Ringing for Today and Building for the Future

Mark Arnold

Children and youth can be a vital part of your handbell program, but they are definitely not the same as your adult ringers! This class, which could also be called "Care and Feeding of your Young Ringers," is based on the instructor's 30+ years of teaching young ringers. It will provide an overview of developmental stages for different age groups and ideas for how to develop a children's or youth bell group, including recruiting, group dynamics, music selection, and rehearsal strategies for various ages and situations, with examples from a variety of churches' handbell ministries.

Fear Not! Good News of Great Joy for Inexperienced Directors

Jackie Stephenson

Whether you volunteered or were volun-told, you are now the handbell director at your church or school. Now what? We will explore and expound on ten recommendations to help you succeed, garnered from 41 years of experience. Topics include (but are not limited to): to mark or not to mark, musicality, teaching rhythms, conducting, assigning bells, rehearsal musts, special events, attendance challenges, teaching beginners of all ages and choosing music. This class is devoted to the participant becoming a confident, successful leader/director... with or without a music degree.

Gamify the Basics – from Newbie to Confident in Record Time

Taryn Davis

Have you ended up in a church or school that has a set of bells but no one that knows how to use them? Or do you have eager beginner ringers that you want to start with correct technique and help them learn to read music without bogging them down? Then this is the class for you! Based off of the Strikepoint Program Curriculum created by Stevie Berryman, this class will show you how to get your new program off the ground running. Within 8 sessions, your ringers will be ready to conquer

level 1+2 music! Take the guesswork out of how to organize and scaffold new skills. Learn how to teach proper ringing strokes, simple rhythms, score reading, and the all important conductor watching skill, all while having fun with the gamified lessons. Perfect for teachers wanting to incorporate bells into their school as well as community and church group leaders starting new groups or needing a way to quickly integrate new members into an already established group without scaring them away. Participants will receive a free pdf of the 8 lesson Strikepoint curriculum before its upcoming publication.

Organizing Your Ringing Year

Kathleen Wissinger

The joys of directing handbells: a continual juggling of people, equipment, schedules, repertoire, rehearsals, subs, venues, other people's schedules, performances. Keeping track of all these moving parts in a well-prepared and organized way keeps your ringers well-informed and saves time in rehearsals – producing better results from your ringers and more fun for everyone, including the director!! We'll discuss tips on how to get your ducks in a row for a season of ringing – and keep them there!!

Ready, Set, Ring! A Practical Guide for New Handbell Directors

Marie Loeffler

Based on the 2016 edition of the Back to Bells workbook, this workshop provides a practical, hands-on guide for starting or revitalizing a handbell choir. We will explore essential elements of a successful handbell program, including equipment, rehearsal space setup, basic ringing techniques (stroke, damping, and dynamics), bell assignments, score preparation, and strategies for incorporating novice ringers into worship. This interactive session invites you to actively contribute ideas, share best practices, and practice ringing and directing in a supportive setting. Everyone will receive a copy of the Back to Bells workbook (with updates), offering additional guidance on working with small choirs, repertoire selection, and creative ways to integrate handbells into worship services. By the end of the workshop, as a new handbell director, you will gain practical skills, fresh inspiration, and a wealth of resources to help start and support your program.

Take It Up a Notch

Jennifer Stack

This session is for directors who seek to understand how to raise the bar for their choirs. Participants will be led through reflective and cooperative exercises to evaluate the needs or their choir and the opportunities they have to select new music for their group. We discuss intentional selection of repertoire that will help the choir to advance in any number of ways-their

understanding of rhythm, specific techniques, a new musical style. The instructor will dive into some rehearsal strategies, and ways to leverage otherwise wasted moments within the rehearsal in order to teach and reinforce techniques. By using these strategies throughout the year, any group is capable of growing to a new level.

Communications

From Good to Great: Stage Presence for Everyone

Hillary Marotta

The public performance is the culmination of all that a handbell choir has learned. This class teaches the importance of and attention to details that allow performances to truly stand out and communicate the unspoken messages and musicianship of the art of handbell ringing. From the way we as ringers and conductors get on stage through the final note of the last piece, this class covers all of the ways we communicate with our audiences and achieve the level of professional musicianship. This class is applicable to everyone on the stage including ringers, conductors, and other performers.

Tuning Your Message: Strengthening Communication within Your Group and with Your Audience

Marie Loeffler

Talking is easy, communicating takes intention. In this hands-on workshop, we will explore how to connect more effectively with both your ensemble and your audience. We will dive into speaking and listening skills, explore the four sides of communication, and discover how tone, body language, and words shape what people hear. Along the way, we will consider how to prevent common miscommunications and strengthen trust within a group. This interactive session mixes practical strategies with plenty of participation. You will leave with actionable tools to help you listen with purpose, speak with confidence, and communicate in ways that spark clarity, connection, and collaboration.

Composing, Arranging, Publishing

Conquering Copyrights

Nick Hanson

This class is for participants who have wondered how to start the journey of receiving permission to arrange copyrighted music for handbells. Topics to explore will include simple scenarios like seeking permission from handbell publishers for small edits/changes, up to tracking down ownership for songs from favorite artists, shows/movies, and performances. This class will also explore the concept of self-publishing, either as a sole entrepreneur or through an online service like Arrangeme.com.

Ringings with the Congregation – Arranging Hymns for Handbells

Christopher Boilesen

Incorporate your handbell ensembles into more of your service by accompanying the hymns. This course will

introduce strategies for writing your very own hymn arrangements for handbells. Whether you have two ringers with 8 bells or a full 7-octave ensemble this course will have you writing arrangements for your ringers accompanying the congregation, choir and organ in no time. Music theory experience is not required.

The Art of Arranging Pop Music for Handbells

Nick Hanson

This class will explore various ways to bring popular music to the handbell medium. The class will take time to analyze different songs, discuss what pop music would or would not work on handbells (and the reasons why/why not), and ways to incorporate techniques and other musical ideas to best translate to the performer's intentions. One point of clarification is that this is not a copyright class! The goal for this class is to specifically research and analyze reasons some music works well for handbells and what steps to consider when considering and/or making arrangements.

The Art of Engraving (and the Chore of Proofing)

Michael Glasgow

Perhaps your piece has been accepted for publication and you've just received proofs. Maybe you've just finished writing a piece for your group at home. Or you work in the publishing industry as an editor or engraver and have to proof your work (or someone else's). How do you tackle the task at hand? This course isn't about working with engraving/notation software. It's about systematically proofreading a piece to ensure that what shows up on the page is accurate and legible (which are obviously critical), but also unambiguous and consistent (and many other positive adjectives), while balancing the broad-strokes objective information with the subtle nuances of more subjective edits. Michael will take you through a multi-step proofing methodology that's been shaped by his own unique blend of OCD and ADHD. He'll offer lots of tips to make the process efficient, prevent mistakes from slipping through the cracks, proactively address potential questions, communicate with editors/engravers...all of which help ensure that ringers and directors can be as successful as possible *from the very first read of your piece.* This course will benefit composers, arrangers, publishers, editors and engravers...whether you've never done this before or you've done it hundreds of times.

Conducting

Basic Principles of Conducting

Stephanie Rhoades

This class is designed for anyone who wants to learn the basics of conducting. Whether you are a new director or a ringer who wants to be prepared to step on the conductor's podium when necessary, this class will provide you with basic techniques to proficiently lead an ensemble through a piece. By the end of the class, participants will know proper conducting posture, how to execute preparatory gestures, releases, and cutoffs, and how to conduct various patterns (two beat, three beat, and four beat), subdivide beats, and demonstrate tempo changes. Participants will also explore ways to use the left hand to provide cues, articulations, and dynamic changes.

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WITH
NICK HANSON
AND
BRIAN SEEMANN



Nick and Brian talk and discuss about
anything and all things handbells...
and tacos?



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Behind the Baton

Debbie Rice

The conductor's role is to provide leadership through conducting to communicate rhythmically accurate as well as musical interpretations for ringing performers. This session provides a check list for physical gestures beyond standard beat patterns including but not limited to the importance of prep beats, managing fermatas, cues, adding the left hand, and dynamics with practice as a group to explore these skills. We will also address the importance of learning styles which requires conducting to encourage ringers getting out of the score.

Beyond the Gesture: Conducting Past Basic Patterns

Billy Brandt

By learning the basic conducting gestures, we open a highway of communication between the directors musical intentions and the ensemble. However, basic beat patterns can quickly become limiting to advanced musical expression. Portraying the sound through your body and expanding your toolbox of gestures are all keys to moving past the basic conducting patterns. In this session we will dig deeper into the art of conducting and explore emotive gestures, macro vs micro meters, dynamic ranges, and more. One additional key area of study will be the role of conducting in a rehearsal setting and how to balance the tasks of teaching with appropriate conducting.

Conducting Creativity: Introduction to Conducting Gesture

Billy Brandt

Standing in front of a group of musicians and having to lead them in artistic performance using only body movements is an intimidating task for even the most tenured among us. But, what do we do if we have no background in the art of conducting? How can we approach conducting in a way that goes beyond basic patterns and evokes authentic expression for our ensemble? In this class, participants will work collaboratively to develop basic conducting gestures grounded in healthy kinesthetic movement, discuss score studying from a conductor's perspective, and analyze methods for being a creative conductor. By the end of this class, each participant will create their own "method" book complete with exercises and resources to foster a continued growth in creative, thoughtful, conducting.

How Do I Conduct That?

Joel Plaag

Changing meters! Random ringing! Adding percussion instruments! Conducting across giant spaces! How do we lead through these conducting problems? How do we best communicate with our players so that they feel confident and ready to play through the most challenging gauntlets of bell choir mayhem? In this course, we'll look at changing meters, fermatas, and the dreaded "nebula" conducting that comes with random ringing. We'll look at how to lead best when we have to conduct far across the room. Using real-world examples, we will discuss how to handle some of conducting's biggest challenges.

Culture

Boomer Bells—Keeping the Passion and Challenge

Sandra Eithun

"Would you like me to bow out of the ensemble, as I'm just not as fast as I used to be?" Many directors are hearing this question from their experienced older ringers. These are folks who are fantastic musicians, not beginners. They've been ringing bells for a lifetime, and don't want to be part of a beginning/level 1 ensemble, as they are used to working beyond fundamentals and love musical challenges. They are just starting to feel the effects of age and their hand-eye coordination might be compromised a bit. They feel like they're losing an "edge" they once had. This class will feature discussion and ringing of repertoire that provides a musical challenge – carefully selected to include level 1-3 pieces that have elements to feed their musician's soul while being a bit more "friendly" to their current challenges. Pieces with challenging syncopated patterns that repeat or return so that they do not need to be learned twice; pieces with a fullness of chordal texture that sound more difficult than they are; compositions where picking up mallets or chimes, etc. have a sort of "built-in" space for that to happen. Older ringers have still "got it!" and this class will help them thrive!

Handbells Are for Everyone – Music Reading Is Not Required

Diana Montgomery

Learn about adaptive notation, a system of colored letters that allows anyone to make music. This can bring music and its emotional and social benefits to non-readers of all ages. Find out the latest resources available in this specialized format. Try your hand at ringing music in this format.

Noticed, Known and Needed: Creating a Culture of Belonging in Your Ensemble

Suzanne Neafus

Think of a time when you truly felt you belonged in a group; what made that experience meaningful? How can you create that same feeling with the people you ring with? In this interactive session, we'll explore how to build a culture of belonging where every ringer can be themselves and feel noticed, known, and needed. Together, we will explore small, intentional actions that foster trust, connection, and joy. Whether you're a ringer, director, or somewhere in between, you'll identify behaviors that help or hinder belonging and commit to one small change to strengthen your own ensemble.

Marketing

Handbells and Pop Culture

Mitchell Eithun

"Winston would have loved this" is the most common response to handbell content on TikTok. But who is Winston and how is he related to handbells? This class will provide an overview of some notable culture touchstones between handbells and pop culture. Together we will think about how explore the community's public image online and how engaging with

pop culture can grow our reach in new and creative ways. What are our goals when we post about handbells? How can our online activities engage with new audiences and challenge our assumptions about who plays handbells? This class is applicable to anyone interested in promoting the art of handbells!

Music Theory

A Music Theory Primer

Kathleen Wissinger

(Must attend both sessions) Why all the accidentals? How do I count this measure? What was the composer thinking? Music Theory to the rescue! Our ears know what sounds right, but we don't always understand how or why it works. We'll cover the staff layout, notes, scales, modes, meter, note values, intervals, chords, expressions, dynamics, tempos and all the things that make music.musical!! Become more connected with the music and understand the Whys, Hows and Whats of the music happening in your score.

A Pedagogical Approach to Understanding Rhythm in the Handbell Ensemble

Corbin Rasmussen

Does your handbell ensemble have new ringers who struggle with rhythms? Need an easy approach to making rhythms more accessible for everyone? The class is geared towards directors or ringers who want a new way to break down rhythms for those who are new to ringing in their handbell ensemble. The focus will mostly be for directors, but would also be great for ringers who want to learn how to better understand rhythms within the context of the handbell score. The class will be hands-on and will include handouts and resources that directors and ringers can take home and use with their own ensembles.

BINGO – Theory is FUN!

Joy Toll-Chandler

Let's PLAY! – Bingo and Theory! Yes, indeed, theory IS fun – and we will use a "Bingo" board to work our way through "Basic Music Theory," including some aspects related directly to handbells. This class is for those seeking a refresher in basic theory, as well as those who have some knowledge of music but have been afraid to delve into music theory specifics. Key and time signatures, all things clef-related, notes on the staff, intervals, dynamics, tempos – this will be theory 101 in 1 hour. We will finish with a quick game of BINGO as we review what we learned (and there WILL be prizes!)

Counting Counts! How Do I Count Thee? Let Me Love the Ways

Kathleen Wissinger

Rhythm is the heartbeat of music – and to keep track of the rhythms we feel, we count: most commonly with "1-2-3-4." But sometimes a different method of counting suits better – perhaps the beats are divided differently, or the meter or tempo of the music requires a different approach. We'll explore 7 methods of experiencing and vocalizing rhythms, weighing the benefits of each: Numeric, Eastman, Gordon, Orff, Kodály, Takadimi and mnemonics (word syllables). Sometimes even

mixing them up a little is beneficial. You'll soon have a range of counting options to choose from.

Exploring Symbolism through Music Theory

Madeline Carey

Why is music able to evoke such intense emotion? Why do certain performances feel life-changing? In this listening and discussion-based class, we will be examining the effectiveness of musical storytelling based on compositional and performance-based decisions. Using music theory concepts as the foundation of analysis, we will discover how tonality, chord progressions, articulation, etc. formulate the listener's journey as well as the performer's artistic choices. Whether you are a ringer, director, or composer (or all three!), this class seeks to bring a higher awareness to the aesthetic experience of music which will help to more effectively shape our intentions when approaching our craft.

Meters Matter

Michael Glasgow

The world is messy, but time signatures don't need to be! Most of us understand the differences between 3/4 and 6/8 time (though we'll cover it for those who don't!), but what about 5/4 vs. 10/8? Or 6/4 vs. 12/8? What about "imperfect" or asymmetrical meters like 5/8 and 7/8? Is there REALLY a difference between 4/4, 2/2, and 8/8? (Spoiler alert: absolutely!) And must you conduct the time signature printed in the score? (Spoiler alert: not necessarily!) This course breaks it all down and then builds it back up using an accessible and engaging pedagogy. Participants will learn how to approach all sorts of time-signature building blocks and the jargon that goes with them (so if you're reading this and think all of these terms are "over your head," don't be afraid; this is exactly the course for you!). We'll cover beat groupings and subdivisions ("macrobeats and microbeats"), downbeat stress and secondary accents, syncopations, homorhythms, simple vs. compound time...and then explore how these apply to various meters. Concepts like tuplets, hemiola, l'istesso, rhythmic diminution and augmentation will also be covered (again: if it's all gobbledygook to you, or if you "basically get it" but can't really explain it to your ringers or colleagues, COME TO THIS CLASS!).

Music Therapy

Experience a Music Therapy Session with Handbells and Handchimes

Bruna Marinho de Almeida

This session is designed to engage people in a peaceful and therapeutic musical experience using handbells and handchimes. Participants will be guided through a series of therapeutic activities that promote relaxation, coordination, active listening, and rich sound vibrations. The session begins with gentle and peaceful warm-up activities, helping participants focus on their breathing, posture, and movements. Throughout the session, participants will explore the instruments and their many possibilities, fostering a sense of accomplishment, confidence, and self-awareness. I will lead call-and-response activities and improvisation, encouraging creativity and deep listening. Emphasis is placed on mindfulness, emotional expression, stress and

anxiety reduction, enhanced mood, and the enjoyment of sounds. The session concludes with a reflective cooldown, allowing participants to share their experiences, sensations, and emotions. Overall, this music therapy session promotes cognitive stimulation, emotional well-being, and social connection, making it especially beneficial for anyone seeking meaningful and enriching experiences in life.

Programming

8 Bells and a Bell Tree

Karen Van Wert

8 Bells and a Bell Tree encompasses a variety of music, including processional, introductory bell tree, BT and ensemble or handbell choir, and challenging music. Whether you are just getting started with bell tree or are looking for a challenge, there is something for everyone in this class. All the music referenced is published. Several videos will be shared along with a link to the current list of 8-bell music.

Bell Tree and Ensemble Music

Karen Van Wert

The Bell Tree community has seen a recent increase in requests for BT and ensemble music (a.k.a. BT and 1-7 ringers). This is a growing genre that addresses smaller choirs, BT ringers who don't want to ring solo, a variation to 12-bell music, and a small number of people who can take the bells to a venue. This class will explore published music for BT and 1-7 ringers.

Demystifying the Art of Programming

Billy Brandt

Based on the HMA published article of the same title, this session tackles the creation of concert programming. The foundation for any music program, concert programs are one of the fundamental tasks we have as music directors. However, it is one of the hardest topics to find concrete strategies to use. While many consider the concert program an ethereal creation disseminated by the music director, this class examines the building blocks of concerts and encourages participants to expand their own philosophies on programming. Participants will identify the parts of a concert program, begin to dissect musical works, and learn formatting strategies for their concert program. Moreover, participants will collaborate with each other to build concert programs which make sense in their own contexts. Finally, this session is also adapted for those that work in the church music setting who do not have formal concert cycles.

Discovering the Creative Musician Within

Joel Plaag

We are in a creative field, but sometimes creativity can elude even the best of us. What inspires our creativity? What blocks it? How did we get "stuck" limiting ourselves, and how do we get out? In this discussion, we'll talk about what usually holds us back as creative people and how best to understand and adapt to it. We'll look how our work as creatives can influence our music-making, and how making music can influence our creative side and connect us with others. We'll talk about bringing that creativity into handbell concerts and how to make our performances into more complete experiences.

Rehearsal Management

Organizational Strategies: Ideas and Roundtable

Anne Kelley

Looking for ways to organize equipment or simplify your set up and take down process? Organizational Strategies is the class for you! This session will cover a variety of different ways to organize your ensemble, establish set-up and tear-down routines, promote independence and set your ringers up for lifelong success. This session will give ringers and directors ideas to promote independent musicianship and streamline your rehearsal set-up and tear-down process. Throughout the presentation, participants will engage in an open discussion to share their own organization strategies. This will provide more time for ringing and less time for the other stuff!

The Handbell Rehearsal: Inside the Process and Best Practices

Billy Brandt

As directors, and ringers, it is easy for our focus to be fixed on our culminating performances. However, the work that we do in every rehearsal will directly impact the confidence and musicality our ensemble arrives at the performance having. Advancing our ensemble requires us to look specifically at how we use our limited rehearsal time to get the most out of our ringing experiences. In this session, participants will consider their own rehearsal strategies and attitudes before examining best practices on warmups, score study, goal setting, long-term planning, and more!

Too Many Bells, Too Few Hands

Brian Seemann

You've been here: Too few ringers and hands, and too many notes on the page. Some notes have to be left out, but which ones? Using some basic music theory knowledge and a little score study, this class will cover how to how to distill a composition down while maintaining its musical integrity. We will also cover some creative assignment techniques to help cover more bells with fewer ringers.

Sacred

Enhancing Worship with Handbells

Karen Van Wert

Handbells are commonly rung during worship as the Special Music, during Offertory, or as a Communion Hymn. Incorporating handbells into other liturgical elements of worship can enhance the worship experience and add a special element to a service. Together, we will explore several practical ideas for you to use and brainstorm other concepts to expand our common library of ideas.

Handbells – Music or Ministry?

Mark Arnold

Handbells contribute beautiful sound to a worship service, but are we just providing music, or do we serve a greater purpose? This class will explore how we as handbell musicians can be more intentional about our roles as worship leaders, both in and out of the worship service, and how handbell ministry can

contribute as part of both individual spiritual development and the overall mission of the church. We'll look at examples from several churches and discuss specifics that can be implemented by our own ringers at all levels of age and experience.

Worship Planning 101

Mitchell Eithun

How do handbells fit into the life of a faith community? What sort of music is appropriate for the congregation, the ringers, and particular days of the year? Together we'll explore ways to incorporate handbells into worship, focusing especially on selecting music and placing it in an order of service. Both theological and practical concerns will be addressed for a variety of church contexts. This class is aimed at ringers and directors in faith-based handbell ensembles.

Score Study

New Music, Who Dis?

Brian Seemann

You just got a new piece of music – there is a lot to learn before you even pick up a bell for the first time. We will cover some basic score study techniques to prepare, mark, and even get some practice in before starting to ring.

Score Scanning Success

Anne Kelley

Any score is accessible with any type of handbell group! This class will help directors, ringers, and/or aspiring-directors, quickly navigating a handbell score to select repertoire for a traditional or non-traditional handbell ensemble. After attending this class, you'll be able to identify the trickiest parts of a score in seconds to help you select repertoire, figure out the difficulty, plan ringing assignments, and prepare for sight reading success! Whether you're new to ringing, a director, or an advanced ringer, this will be a great review to help navigate handbell scores! Geared at directors or ringers who want to direct, this class will help make any piece of music accessible for your group!

Well, Look at That! Score Study for Ringers

Kerry Johnston

While we may all read music, how often do we read past the notes? Everything on a page of music has a meaning. We will do a deep dive into several music examples, and see how advance study can enhance your learning of a new selection. Participants will analyze and play increasingly complex examples to discover what the music holds beyond the obvious notes on the page.

Sight Reading

Improving Sight Reading and Score Study Skills

Christopher Titko

Have you ever wished you could improve your handbell sight-reading and become a more consistent ringer? This class will share, in a creative and fun manner, seven time-tested ways that you can improve your sight reading. Together, the class will learn to study a score and make plans for difficult passages before even picking up a bell. Developing these skills will enable ringers to play more consistently and gain confidence

in their overall musicianship. New music, from a breadth of composers and publishers, will be used and ringers of varying abilities are welcome.

Solo/Small Ensemble

Bell Trees – Introduction to the First Branch

Laura Blauch

Bell trees are fun to play and can be used in so many different ways, with or without other instruments. In this class, we will set up the tree stand, put together the first "branch", learn how to play some simple tunes, and explore various options for using your tree. Please bring mallets appropriate for C5 and up.

Bell Trees Continued – Beyond the First Branch

Laura Blauch

Adding branches to your bell tree opens the door for more exciting repertoire but also creates some new challenges. In this class, we will assemble additional branches using the traditional keyboard setup, learn how to move from one string to the next and how to approach sticking patterns. Please bring mallets appropriate for C5 and up.

Ensembles Beyond the Numbers

Mark Arnold

Ensemble ringing has reached new heights of popularity in the past few years, but it has focused primarily on "standard" 8 bell and 12 bell music. This class will explore the wider range of small ensemble literature, from on-table quartets to various other configurations for less than a full choir. We'll take a little time for why we might need this kind of music, then delve in to some hands-on exercise with examples at multiple skill levels.

Technique

Advanced Weaving

Nikki Evans

So you know how to weave. Maybe you're comfortable with several multiple-bell techniques. But can you do both at the same time? Learn how to combine weaving and four-in-hand. Some prerequisite knowledge of weaving is required; some knowledge of four-in-hand is recommended.

All About That Bass – Digging Deeper

Leslie Lewis

In this class we will dig deeper into the realm of possibility by looking at when and how to double down so we can use the expanded sets of bells and chimes with the golden oldies in our libraries. We will also take a closer look at assigning the bass bells (many of the philosophies apply to the entire range of bells).

Basic Percussion Methods

Jack Burdwood

How do you hold a tambourine? What's a vibraslap? Why can't I play the triangle with a pencil? All these questions and more are answered in this crash course on all things percussion. We'll dive into drums, cymbals, tambourines, triangles, shakers, and more while exploring the basic techniques needed to play them within a handbell ensemble. Come ready to experiment, play, and have a blast making some noise!



New Handbell Memberships

We are excited to introduce our new membership options.

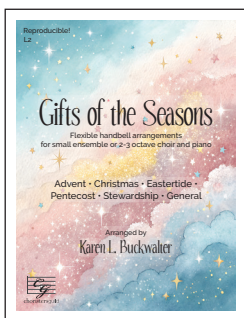
Choristers Guild Handbell Memberships include:

- Packets of new music publications twice yearly (print or digital)
- Free shipping of orders
- *The Chorister*—our quarterly journal, which now includes handbell features in every issue (print or digital)
- Fresh ways to connect



Choristers Guild
Membership

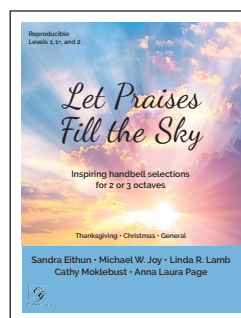
New Reproducible Collections



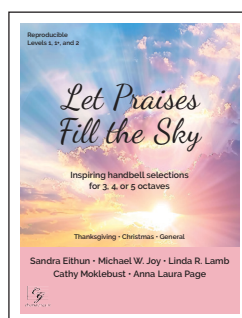
Flexible small ensemble



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2-3 octaves



3-5 octaves

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Choristers Guild Showcase

Please join us

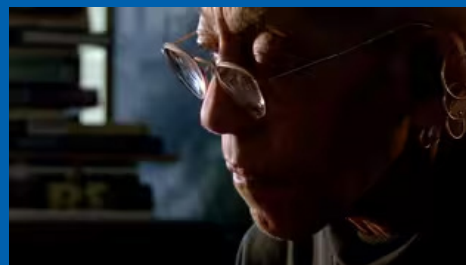
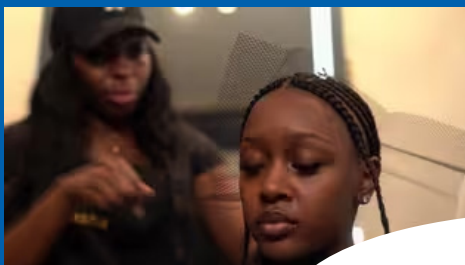
Session 7 • Thursday at 9 AM

New Tablet Policy

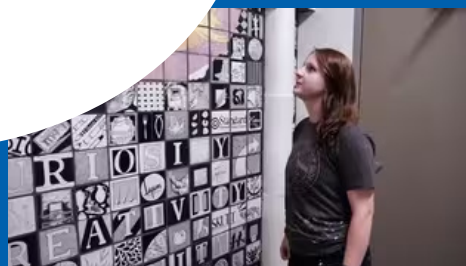
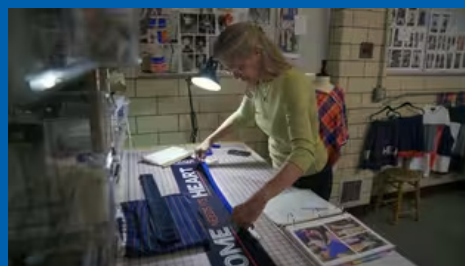


Tablet Policy and Form

If you have purchased a printed copy of our music, you may make a scan to transfer it digitally to one device for your personal use, provided you don't share it with anyone else. We don't charge for this, but there is a form on our licensing page to fill out to receive written permission before you make the scan.



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Bass-ics and Beyond

Mark Arnold

It's all about the bass! This class will focus on healthy and safe bass bell technique, including equipment, setup, and ringing, with tips and tricks from the instructor's lengthy bass bell career. Topics include ringing options, stopped sounds, mallets, table layout, bell assignment, and how to cheat a few notes without getting caught.

From Clunky to Clear: the Art of Beautiful Chimes

Kathryn Jurado & William Murphy

Do you remember when you first played a handchime? Was it in elementary school when it was good enough that you could make it sound? Or was it later in life and you were told it was just like playing a handbell? This hands-on class will teach participants how to achieve the best sound on hand chimes through the proper technique and performance of music with chimes, and their maintenance. We will also learn how to troubleshoot common issues with chimes. This class is good for both beginners and experienced ringers.

Handbell Science

Karen Van Wert

Harnessing the knowledge of handbell science opens the door to experimenting in sound production. The simple movement of a sustained note or the perfect execution of a technique can add drama and interest to a performance. Ringing the final chord with a deliberate style will close the piece in keeping with the overall mood. Abrupt or slowly fading into the distance, contemplative or exciting, joyous or sorrow-filled – help the music tell the story you wish to convey. Come into my laboratory and experiment with purpose.

Mallets in Motion

Jack Burdwood

Malleting is hard. But it doesn't have to be! Effortless motion comes down to three key components that you can practice anywhere, any time. In this hands-on class, we'll break down the methods of movement used by real orchestral percussionists to improve your mallet playing using simple, effective malleting exercises for solo or ensemble practice.

Mastering Handbell Tone and Style through Laban's 8 Efforts

Phoebe Yeung

Want to add more style and expression to your handbell ringing? In this fun and practical class, we'll explore how Laban Movement's 8 Efforts can help you create different tone colors and musical styles using your physical ringing techniques. You'll learn how movements like Dab, Glide, Punch, and Press can completely change the way your handbells sound whether you're playing soft, lyrical melodies or exciting, upbeat pieces. We'll practice movements that make ringing feel natural and musical, helping you control your sound and express emotions through physical motion. Through hands-on exercises and real musical examples, this class gives you simple tools to connect your movement with your music, making it easier and more fun to bring out the artistry in every piece you ring or lead. Perfect for ringers and conductors at any level!

Ring with Confidence: from Notation to Motion

Marie Loeffler

Whether you are new to handbells or looking to strengthen your foundation, this session offers a hands-on exploration of the fundamental techniques every ringer should know. Together we will walk through basic ringing motions and special techniques, learning not only how to execute each one but also how to recognize the notation that represents it. Using materials from the *Back to Bells Workshop Curriculum* and the *Handbell and Handchime Notation Guide*, you will increase your confidence through guided exercises, demonstrations, and plenty of opportunities to ring. Designed to be interactive and encouraging, this class provides practical tools and clear explanations that help transform notation on the page into confident, musical sound.

Six-in-Hand Methods

Nikki Evans

For treble bell hogs and soloists! Learn a variety of six-in-hand techniques, and applications for each one.

Techniques: A-Z

Kathleen Wissinger

Our beautiful, sparkling bells can make music in so many ways! We'll explore myriad techniques – the popular ones and the obscure ones – and learn the symbol attached to each. You'll learn how to echo, sing, roll, shake, gyro, vibrate, shimmer, twinkle – and much more. Copy the handout and bring to class with your binders, mallets, singing sticks and gloves!

Weave Me Alone

Nikki Evans

Looking for a way to handle all those bell changes? Want to try ringing a solo? Start with weaving! Recommended for bell hogs.

When the Bell You Need Is Not in Your Hand – Creative Solutions from C(3) to Shining C(8)

Erin Gerecke

We've all been there. The bell you need next is lying on the table, not in your hand where you need it! In this class, we will explore various techniques to help keep the music (and your confidence) moving along smoothly when bell changes are required. From picking up accidentals, to weaving, four-in-hand, bell shifts, and much more, there are many ways to solve your choreography challenges. (Some might even involve your neighbor!) The importance of marking your music will be discussed. Grace notes of specific advice for bass and upper treble ringers will be sprinkled throughout the session. Individual trouble spots may be used as examples, so bring your music if desired. This class features hands-on opportunities to try out different ideas, so grab your gloves and get ready for problem-solving fun!

Technology

Crash Course in Audio and Video Recording for Handbells

Matt Gender

A crash course on everything one needs to know to successfully record their handbell ensembles, including different types of microphones, audio recorders, interfaces, editing, video systems, lenses, and video editing.

Dorico Music Notation Program for Handbell Composers

Paul Kinney

(Must attend both sessions) Music notation program Finale is no longer supported. It's designated successor is Dorico and is quite different. This two-part class will discuss those differences and demonstrate how a handbell composer could use Dorico. Topics to include Dorico's names for things; screen layout and major program components; entry of notes and all the other symbols; preparing how the music looks on the page; symbols and notation specific to handbells; bells used chart; handbell templates; where to go for help; an overview of the manual; ringing compositions from Finale into Dorico. The class will also cover why a person should switch to Dorico and when not to.

Marking your Digital Music: ForScore for Handbells

Susie Amos

There's no point in using technology if it makes things harder. By the end of this session you will be able to use your tablet as an organizational, practice, and performance tool to work with digital copies of your music. Using the iPad app ForScore, you will learn how to add music to your tablet, how to organize it, annotate it, add links, buttons, and other features using the ForScore app. Most importantly, you will unlock the power of how handbell musicians can use ForScore features specific to our practice, including tips and tricks on making the iPad do what handbell musicians want it to do.

Ringing Sessions

National Seminar attendees are not required to participate in a ringing track; however, those who choose to do so must attend all sessions of their selected track. Music must be purchased and learned in advance of the event. Participants will be informed of positions in advance and must bring their own music, pair of mallets, singing bell dowl, gloves, split-back music binder, music riser (if desired), and pencils.

All-Star Choir

Brenda Austin, Conductor (Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 14, 16)

Selected participants will rehearse advanced music and perform in a public concert on the final day of National Seminar. Auditions for All-Star Choir took place online prior to the event.

Repertoire

Exultate – Krug / GIA Publishing / G-8546 / L.4+
We Three Kings – Raney / Hope Publishing / 2482 / L.3+
Vivace – Austin / GIA Publishing / G-9019 / L.3+
In the Hall of the Mountain King – Thompson / Fred Bock Music Co / FBBG 0915
Be Still, My Soul – Guebert / Jeffers / JHS9570 / L.5
Golden – Hanson / Hope Publishing / L.4

Beginning Ringing Track

Kimberlee Strepka, Conductor (Sessions 1, 3, 7, 11, 15)

This ringing track provides hands-on experience with basic to intermediate ringing techniques in a learning-focused, stress-free environment.

Repertoire

Joy and Celebration – Afdahl / AGEHR / MAG35297 / L.2
Within the Darkest Night – Hakes / AGEHR / MAG36028 / L.2
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus – Moglebust / Choristers Guild / MCGB266/569 / L.2
O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus – Lamb / Hope Publishing / MHP2701 / L.1+
Morning Has Broken – Sherman / Choristers Guild / MCGB421/422 / L.1

Intermediate Ringing Track

Joe Galyon, Conductor (Sessions 2, 4, 9, 12, 15)

Stretch your ringing skills with a challenging, diverse, and engaging selection of repertoire. Multiple treble bell techniques, weaving, bass bell techniques, malleting, chime techniques, assignment strategies, stage presence, and other skills will be employed.

Repertoire

Allegro con moto – Krug / GIA Publishing / G-8073 / L.3+
Calypso Celebration – Austin / Hope Publishing / 3106 / L.3-
Rejoice and Be Glad – Galyon / From the Top Publishing / 20698 / L.3+
Soul Search – Gramann / From the Top Publishing / 20884 / L.3
Spires – Compton / Beckenhorst Press / HB647 / L.3

Advanced Ringing Track A

Dr. Celia Chan Valerio, Conductor (Sessions 5, 6, 8, 13, 15)

This year, we are offering two Advanced Ringing Tracks with separate repertoire. Read and work on four pieces that incorporate various styles and challenges. Sessions will challenge each ringer to think conceptually about how to make their ringing even more musical. This track is appropriate for the advanced ringer or a ringer desiring assistance to move to a new level.

Repertoire

Rhapsody in B Flat Minor – Erdman & Compton / Choristers Guild / MCGB1065 / L.4+
Vivacio (Spirited Praise) – Moglebust / Beckenhorst Press / MBEHB785 / L.4
Majesty – Cerna / The Golden Dance / L.5
After Silence – Krug / Choristers Guild / MCGB1288 / L.4

Advanced Ringing Track B

Stephanie Rhoades, Conductor (Sessions 5, 6, 8, 13, 15)

Repertoire

What a Wonderful World – Eithun / Hope Publishing / HP2702 / L.3+
Solace – Glasgow / Choristers Guild / CGB1393 / L.4
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Compton / Choristers Guild / CGB1355 / L.4
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People – Krug / Beckenhorst Press / BEHB812 / L.4
Psalms 42 – Buckwalter / Beckenhorst Press / BEHB251 / L.5



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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:00 pm - Doors open 6:30 pm
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
3510 72nd St | Urbandale, IA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

3:00 pm - Doors open 2:30 pm
Plymouth United Church of Christ
4126 Ingersoll Ave | Des Moines, IA

CONDUCTORS

Patrick Gagnon, Julie Murphy,
and Beth Ann Edwards

ADMITTANCE

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<https://www.desmoinesring.com>

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Des Moines Concert Handbells

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WINTER CELEBRATION

2026 Winter Concert

Handbell Musicians of America *Sustaining Partner*

Sustaining Partners play an important role in ensuring the future of Handbell Musicians of America.

We are very grateful to our
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The Legacy Society comprises people who make estate-planned commitments of support to Handbell Musicians of America.

We are very grateful to the following members of the Legacy Society:

Lee Afdahl	Leslie Lewis
Marlene Anderson	Lynne G. Marks*
Brenda E. Austin	J. Michael McCrary
John & Christine Behnke	Monica S. McGowan
Douglas J. Benton	D. Linda McKechnie
Lynn Bogovich	Micki Mennet-Martin
Barbara Brocker	Rob Meyer-Kukan
Linda Bronstein	Linda Minnotte
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Cynthia D. Curtis	Susan C. Newman
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Mary V. Kettelhut *	David Weck
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*Indicates member is deceased

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Faculty



SUSIE AMOS'S love for handbells began in her youth at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, Kansas. Years later, she returned to ringing with her church choir in Massachusetts and then with the community ensemble New England Ringers. She is especially proud of the success of Oktobellfest, an annual festival sponsored by New England Ringers that is now in its sixth year. She has worked in corporate services at Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, in higher education, and is currently teaching English to new arrivals to the United States. She loves her iPad and is happy to never have to turn a page again.



An active church musician for most of his life, **MARK ARNOLD** currently serves as Director of Handbell Ministries at First Baptist Church of Keller, Texas, where he also plays bass in the worship band and horn in the orchestra. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas, holding bachelor's degrees in music education and music theory, with additional study in computer science.

Mark's professional experience includes directing handbell ensembles, teaching school orchestras, leading adult and children's choirs, and performing in community ensembles. In addition, he is an active composer and arranger with several published works for handbell choir and serves as a board member for Area 9 of Handbell Musicians of America. Mark and his wife, Robin, have three grown children and reside in Fort Worth, Texas.



DR. LYNN GARY ATKINS, JR. is an active conductor, educator, and advocate for the handbell art form whose career spans classrooms, concert halls, and community ensembles. A native of the Jersey Shore, he began his musical journey through the handbell training program at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where he studied with Kathleen Ebling Shaw and performed with the Westminster Concert Bell Choir.

He earned a Bachelor of Music in music education from Westminster and later completed the dual Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in choral conducting performance, pedagogy, and literature at James Madison University, where he was inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda and Mu Phi Epsilon.

Lynn currently serves on the National Board of Directors for Handbell Musicians of America and is the Artistic Director of L.A. Bronze Handbell Ensemble, leading dynamic

performances that highlight the artistry and versatility of handbells. His leadership has also included directing the James River Ringers in Richmond, Virginia, and the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, where he fostered creativity and collaboration.

Beyond his handbell work, Dr. Atkins is Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities, and Associate Chair of the Department of Music at California State University, Dominguez Hills. He also directs the South Coast Chorale, the LGBTQ+ chorus of Long Beach, and performs with the Long Beach Camerata Singers and Catalyst Chamber Ensemble. Lynn's work celebrates connection, creativity, and the belief that music has the power to inspire and transform.



BRENDA AUSTIN is in demand internationally as a conductor and clinician because of her dynamic and energetic approach to connecting musicians through handbells. In 2019, Brenda joined the team at Hope Publishing Company in Carol Stream, Illinois, as an editor. In 2023, she was named music director for Embellish Handbells. Embellish was one of the premier ensembles to perform at Handbell Musicians of America's Pinnacle in 2025.

Before joining Embellish, she served as artistic director of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble beginning in 2016. Under her baton, the ensemble was honored to open the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in 2018 and to be the featured concert at Handbell Musicians of America's Area 2 Festival in 2019 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In addition, she has served First United Methodist Church in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, as director of music since 2003. Brenda earned degrees in vocal performance from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She studied with Craig Arnold, Steve Zegree, and Eph Ehly.

Brenda is sought after as a handbell clinician throughout the year and has served as conductor and clinician at numerous festivals and workshops, including Handbell Musicians of America's Distinctly Bronze West, National Seminar, and many Area festivals. She has also had more than 115 titles published for handbells and sacred choral music since 2015. For more information about Brenda, please visit her website at www.BrendaEAustin.com.



LAURA BLAUCH discovered a passion for the art of bell tree ringing after taking classes at past National Seminars, which led her to study privately with Barbara Brocker. She has performed in worship services at local churches and, in 2023, played in the closing concert for Into the Forest, a bell-tree-focused event.

In addition to bell trees, Laura has been conducting handbell choirs for more than 20 years. She studied with Dr. William Payn through the Handbell Musicians of America Masterclass Series and attained the highest level of the Handbell Musicians of America Conducting Certification Program. She has conducted festivals in North Carolina and Virginia, was a finalist in the 2019 Distinctly Bronze Associate Conductor Program, and conducted solo pieces with an ad hoc choir at the International Handbell Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee.

Laura currently serves as director of Queen City Ringers, an auditioned community ensemble in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she is always looking for opportunities to add bell trees to the program. She has more than 30 years of experience as a ringer, participating in multiple Distinctly Bronze and Virtuoso events, and has taught a variety of classes at Area festivals and in private workshops. She has served as historian, membership chair, and scholarship chair for Area 3, as well as certification program coordinator for Handbell Musicians of America.

Laura holds a Bachelor of Arts in sacred music with a concentration in voice from Lebanon Valley College. Now retired, she enjoys exploring hiking trails and riding her horse, Shadow, when not making music. Laura lives in Mooresville, North Carolina, with her husband, Dave (also a ringer), and their three cats, Tigger, Missy, and Remy.



CHRISTOPHER BOILESEN serves as Director of Handbells at First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, the same church where he grew up and first picked up a handbell at the age of twelve. Just three years later, he joined the adult ensemble, the Plymouth Ringers. Over the years, he became an accomplished bass handbell ringer and went on to ring in the "Deep Pit" at the Bay View Week of Handbells for fifteen years, an event that holds a special place in his heart.

The handbell ministry at First-Plymouth includes four choirs, ranging from a kindergarten through second-grade chime group to the bronze-level Plymouth Ringers. In addition to sharing their talents in worship throughout the year, the Plymouth Ringers collaborate regularly with Abendmusik@First-Plymouth, a concert series the church has hosted for more than fifty years. Christopher recently began directing

at nearby Westminster Presbyterian Church and also rings with the Lincoln community handbell ensemble, Bell-issimo.

During his time as director, Christopher has worked to increase collaboration by incorporating handbells beyond a single anthem each month. He arranges bell parts for hymns and choir anthems, as well as simple chime and bell arrangements for his kindergarten through sixth-grade ringers. He has also introduced handbells to First-Plymouth's Anybody, Everybody service for individuals with developmental challenges and their allies, including forming a dedicated handbell choir for their Christmas program.

The opportunity for collaboration and the teamwork required to ring at a high level are what draw Christopher to handbells, and he recognizes the importance of continuing to introduce the art form to the next generation of ringers.

Ringling handbells is truly a family affair, as rehearsals or performances may include parents Jane and Gene, wife Deanne, daughters Kathryn and Kieran, and son Aaron.



WILLIAM (BILLY) BRANDT is a music educator currently serving as Director of Choirs at Freedom High School, where he leads the vocal ensembles and handbell ensemble. In addition, Brandt serves as Director of Choirs for the United Church of Christ in New London, Wisconsin, where

he leads the handbell program, including directing the Spirit Bells handbell ensemble. He is also the instructor of music literacy and instrumentalist coordinator for the Badger State Girl Choir.

As an educator, Brandt has twice been nominated for the GRAMMY Award in the Music Educator category. Ensembles under his direction have performed on high-profile stages around the world, including the Festival of Three in 2023, where Brandt made his international debut conducting concerts in Finland, Latvia, and Estonia. His ensembles have also premiered works by notable composers, produced recordings for television, and are regularly invited to perform at festivals. Brandt will make his Carnegie Hall debut in 2027. In 2023, he launched the Small School, Big Song Festival, which invites rural schools from across Wisconsin to come together in song with international performers.

As a composer, Brandt has works performed on both national and international concert stages. His music is published by MorningStar Music Publishers, From the Top Publishing, Paraboloid Press, and Meadowlark Melodies, and has appeared on curated lists such as J.W. Pepper's Editor's Choice. He has also been honored to receive commissions for a variety of ensembles and events.

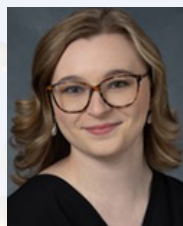
An avid writer and presenter, Brandt has authored articles for organizations including the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association for Music Education, and Handbell Musicians of America. He published his first book, *Let's Talk: Music*, in 2021 and his second book, *A Director's Guide to Choral Warmups*, in 2024, both with Barnes & Noble. An active clinician, Brandt has led sessions at conferences across the United States, with recent invitations including events in Ohio, Kansas, New York, Georgia, Washington, District of Columbia, and Wisconsin. Notable national conference invitations include the 2026 Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar and the 2024 National Association for Music Education Biennial Research Conference.

Brandt holds a Master of Music in music education from Boston University and a Bachelor of Music in music education from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh, with certification in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve choral and general music. He maintains membership in several professional organizations, including the American Choral Directors Association, the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association, the Wisconsin Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, and Handbell Musicians of America.



JACK BURDWOOD is a New Jersey-based handbell musician, percussionist, and music educator with more than twenty years of experience in the percussive arts. She began ringing with the Wittenberg University Handbell Choir in 2012 and continued performing with the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble and the Austin Handbell Ensemble after graduating with a degree in percussion performance.

A versatile musician, Jack performs throughout the East Coast with a wide variety of ensembles, including handbell ensembles, pit orchestras, wind ensembles, rock bands, and even a Revolutionary War fife and drum company. She is known for her high-energy clinics and maintains a private studio for percussion and handbell students, providing instruction that sparks enthusiasm and curiosity in the percussive arts. In addition to her performance and teaching work, she instructs the drumline for the William Tennent Marching Panther Band, where she develops foundational technique, ensemble precision, and musical confidence in young musicians. When not engaged in musical activities, Jack enjoys reading fantasy novels, making overly ambitious desserts, and petting cats.



MADELINE S. CAREY has been ringing handbells for more than ten years, including three years with her college ensemble. She earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Cairn University in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, in 2024, with double bass as her primary instrument. A bronze-level handbell musician, she has enjoyed ringing for a wide variety of audiences over the past decade, including performances at hospitals, prisons, churches, and before an audience of 20,000 at Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida.

She was a guest artist with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for its Holiday Pops tours in 2017 and 2019 and performed before a cast of Hallmark actors at the inaugural Hallmark ChristmasCon convention in Edison, New Jersey. She also enjoyed participating in Handbell Musicians of America's Distinctly Teen events throughout her high school year.

Maddy has directed elementary, middle school, high school, and college-level handbell choirs. In the spring of 2025, she led the Concert Band and Jazz Band at North Country Union High School in Newport, Vermont, and she currently serves as the elementary music teacher at Mid Vermont Christian School in Quechee, Vermont. She taught music aesthetics and score study classes at the 2025 Area 1 Festival Conference, where they were very well received. Maddy is passionate about handbells, music aesthetics, and the intersection of music and culture.



TARYN DAVIS has been performing music since the age of four with a variety of instruments and ensembles. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in music with a bassoon emphasis and a Master of Arts in special education with a moderate/severe focus. Taryn has taught kindergarten through grade twelve music and special education classes in both public and private schools and has directed several church and homeschool handbell choirs since 2012. Her areas of specialization include handbells and orchestral studies, as well as private music instruction in piano, violin, and bassoon.

Taryn began her handbell studies under the tutelage of Charles (Chip) Spier in Southern California, where she learned solo ringing and directing. She then spent two years under Jared Ogier's baton with the Columbus Rings ensemble before joining the Houston Chamber Ringers, led by Stevie Berryman. Personal performance highlights include appearances at Carnegie Hall, Disney Concert Hall, the San Diego Zoo's Jungle Bells, Columbus Blue Jays national anthem features, and the Magical Advanced Ensemble at Disney Coronado Springs with Kevin McChesney.

Through the Houston Chamber Ringers, Taryn has had the

opportunity to lead Strikepoint, an educational outreach program within Tomball Independent School District that currently includes five handbell clubs, with more planned in the future. In 2025, she presented on neurodivergence in the music classroom at the Texas Music Educators Association Conference. Taryn firmly believes that anyone—adults and children alike, regardless of background or ability—can find success ringing handbells.



MITCHELL EITHUN is a church musician, composer, and mathematician with more than eighty published pieces of handbell music, including commissioned works for prominent community and church handbell ensembles. He is interested in developing innovative handbell rehearsal techniques and writing about the history of church music

Mitchell currently serves as handbell editor for Beckenhorst Press, is a carillonneur at Duke University Chapel, and is the founding director of Bell Durham, a community handbell ensemble in Durham, North Carolina. He recently completed a Master of Divinity with a focus in theology and the arts from Duke Divinity School

Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and computer science, with a minor in music, from Ripon College, as well as a Master of Science in computational mathematics from Michigan State University. Earlier in his career, he was a high school mathematics teacher. He is an associate member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and a seminar instructor for Handbell Musicians of America. In his spare time, Mitchell enjoys trying new foods and traveling to new places.



SANDRA EITHUN, Master of Music Education, is a graduate of Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, with an emphasis in the Kodály teaching method, keyboard, and flute. She is director of Fox Valley Bronze and currently serves on the faculty of Valley Troubadours, both based in Appleton, Wisconsin. She served as director of music ministry, handbell director, children's choir director, organist, and choral accompanist at First Congregational United Church of Christ in New London, Wisconsin, from 1992 to 2021. She directed the Silver Lake College Handbell Ensemble from 2009 to 2020 and led the handbell program at Holy Family Conservatory of Music in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, from 2021 to 2025. Sandra is an active member of Handbell Musicians of America and has served on its Area VII Board of Directors.

Sandra has been commissioned to write music for many events and for numerous individual handbell ensembles. Most recently, she received the esteemed Donald E.

Allured Original Composition Award for the 2020 Week of Handbells in Bay View, Michigan. She has more than 650 published works for handbells, as well as several sacred keyboard collections and teaching resources designed to incorporate handbells into the music classroom. In 2013, she had the honor of collaborating with Doc Severinsen and the Fox Valley Symphony to include handbells in his holiday show, Jingle Bell Doc, at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Sandra's compositions have been featured on the PBS Christmas special Holiday Handbells and performed in concerts by noted ensembles across the country, including The Raleigh Ringers and The Bells on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. She continues to work as a handbell clinician and conductor at festivals and workshops throughout the United States. Sandra is married to Scott, has four grown children and four grandchildren, and currently resides in Appleton, Wisconsin.



Born in Texas and later relocating to Colorado, **NIKKI EVANS** has played a variety of instruments, including piano, guitar, and even learning what the little buttons do on an accordion, but she found her passion when she discovered the art of handbell music. She jumped in with both feet, immersing herself in the handbell world in every way she could.

To date, she has performed in 19 states, two Canadian provinces, and Brazil, and was honored to perform at National Seminar in 2021. Nikki has coached handbell soloists and taught workshops for church and community handbell ensembles throughout the United States and British Columbia. She has also taught at National Seminar for several years.



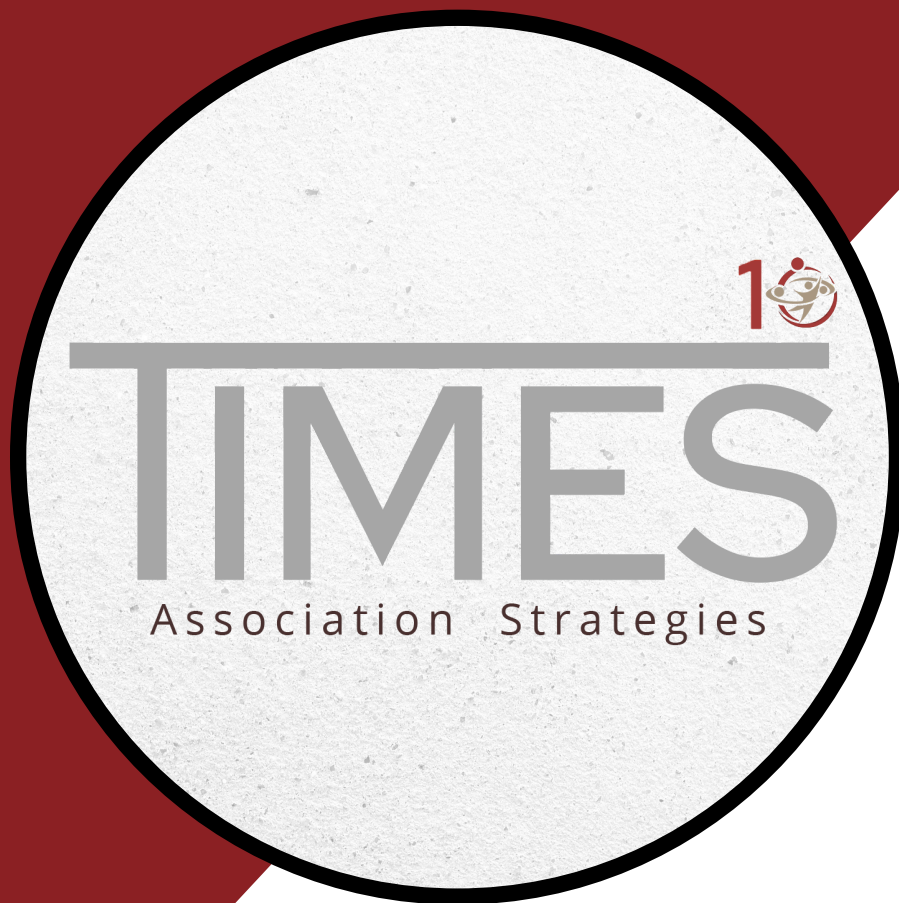
JOE GALYON engages people from all walks of life in music ministry at Church of the Saviour United Methodist. With a passion for developing church musicians of any age, he oversees a comprehensive program of choral, handbell, and instrumental ensembles. As a handbell conductor, Joe serves as music director for Queen City Bronze, Cincinnati's premier handbell ensemble

Joe is a recognized leader of festivals, masterclasses, and training sessions for large-scale events, smaller festivals, and individual congregations. His handbell compositions are published by most of the major publishers of handbell music. His most recent composition, The Rhythm of Flight, is set for release next year.

Joe holds degrees in piano from Samford University, the University of Missouri–Kansas City, and the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati.

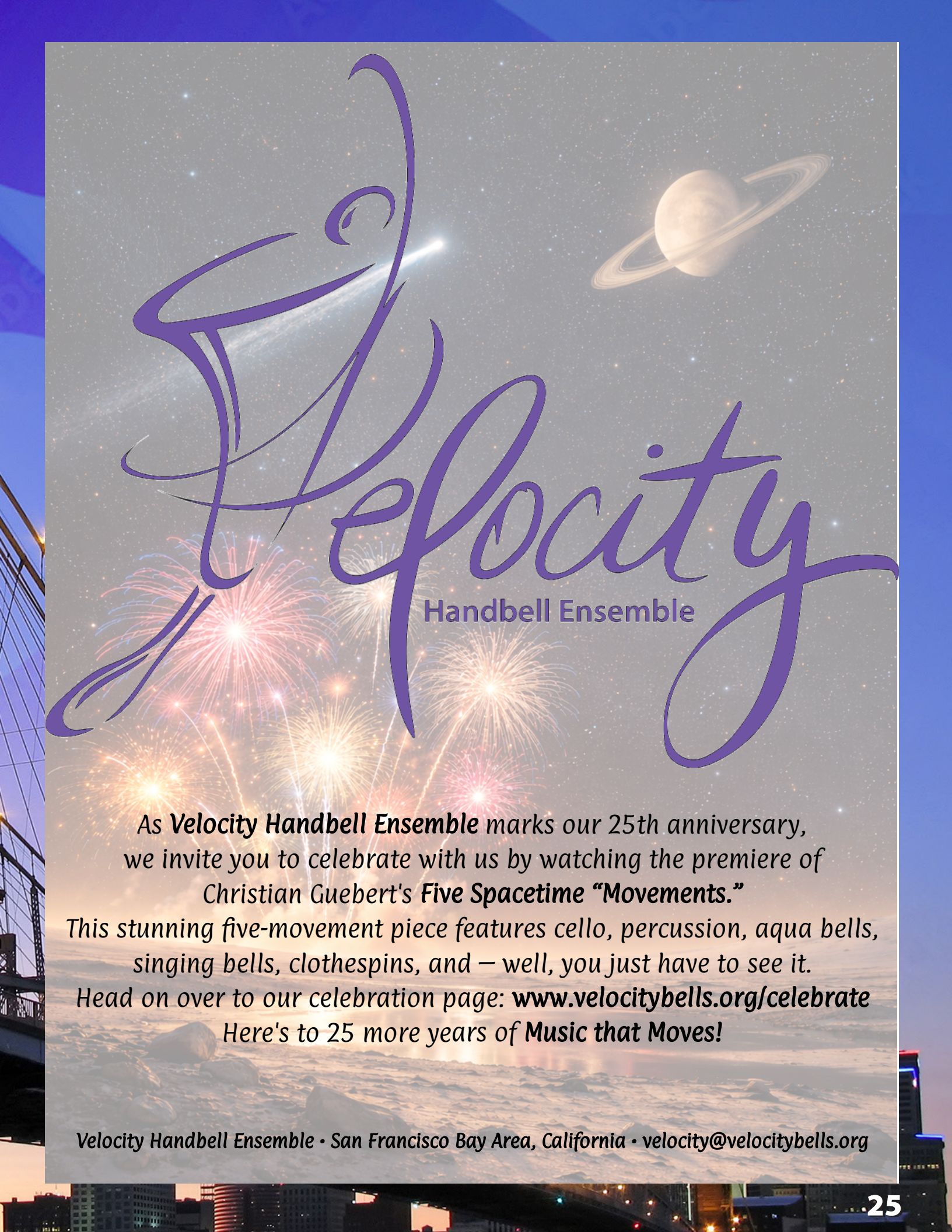
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MATT GENDER, Doctor of Musical Arts, is a concert organist and church musician currently serving as Director of Worship Arts at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minnesota. He holds degrees in organ performance from the University of Florida and the University of Kansas, where

he studied with Laura Ellis, James Higdon, and Michael Bauer. Matt is an award-winning improviser specializing in silent films and has received prizes in the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation (2016) and the University of Michigan Organ Improvisation Competition (2017).

Matt is an active recitalist and has performed throughout the United States, specializing in improvisation, particularly for silent films. He is a specialist in modernist organ repertoire and French organ literature of the post-nineteenth century. In addition to his work as an organist, Matt is a professional choral musician and conductor, as well as an accomplished electroacoustic composer, sound engineer, videographer, and photographer. He operates his own production studio based in Rochester. When he is not playing the organ or making music, Matt is a pilot and avidly enjoys flying airplanes.



ERIN GERECKE is excited to serve as a first-time faculty member for National Seminar. Erin has more than 40 years of experience in handbells beginning in her youth, including performing as a handbell musician, directing, and serving in

leadership roles. She has performed solos, four-in-hand and off-the-table duets, and small-ensemble pieces. Erin has also played in many church, school, and community choirs. She is accomplished in four-in-hand ringing and treble techniques but is not-so-secretly a big fan of bass bells and chimes.

Erin is a member of Joyful Sound, a nonprofit community handbell choir in Indianapolis, Indiana, where she most recently served as board secretary. She is passionate about handbell education and broadening participation. Erin currently volunteers on the Handbell Musicians of America Area 5 Scholarship Committee and previously directed her college handbell choir and started an after-school chime program at a local school. She is an alumna of Distinctly Bronze and Bay View Week of Handbells, where she enjoys meeting other handbell musicians and conductors and learning from them.

When not playing handbells, Erin has pursued a wide-ranging career in science and science education. She currently works in life science writing and editing and enjoys supporting science, the arts, and natural areas across Indiana. In her spare time, she cares for her family, cats, and plants and enjoys travel, books, chocolate, and sunny days.



MICHAEL GLASGOW is likely creating, performing, or listening to music right now (unless he is talking to someone or lost in a game of 2048, which he will win one day). If he is not actively making music, he is probably teaching others about it or seeking to learn from them.

A dedicated freelance composer and conductor-clinician, Michael offers his clientele a full-service experience without the distractions of a church or school position. He strives to provide “what you need, when you need it” and believes strongly in modeling effective communication.

Heralded for his “abundant melodic gift” (New York Concert Review), Michael is an award-winning composer of organ, handbell, and choral works and will soon complete his 70th commission. He has been named a Distinguished Composer and Conductor by MidAmerica Productions in New York City and will make his third appearance on the podium at Carnegie Hall in June 2026, conducting his riveting “Gloria” for chorus and orchestra.

Michael made his Carnegie Hall debut in June 2017, conducting his “Requiem,” and led its European premiere in Vienna in June 2019. More than 180 engagements have taken him to three dozen states, as well as to England, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, and even a cruise ship in the Eastern Caribbean. In December 2024, his “Concerto for Castings” was premiered in Toronto, with Emily Li performing the virtuosic solo.

Michael serves as bass section leader of the North Carolina Master Chorale, chorus conductor of the Tar River Orchestra and Chorus in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and a principal guest conductor of Singapore’s Ministry of Bellz. “The more people I meet through music,” he says, “the smaller the world becomes.”

While he maintains a low profile on social media, more information and samples of his work may be found at www.MichaelJGlasgow.com and on YouTube at [@MichaelJGlasgow](https://www.youtube.com/@MichaelJGlasgow).



After earning a Bachelor of Arts in music, with a concentration in handbell performance, from Concordia University in Irvine, California, **NICK HANSON** has taught at The Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, for the past 25 years. At Potomac, he teaches private handbell lessons and

handbell classes to students in fourth through twelfth grades across six handbell ensembles. He has also served as handbell director at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, for more than 15 years.

Nick is a sought-after faculty member, clinician, and conductor for workshops and events around the world.

He has served in these roles nationally in more than 25 states, as well as Washington, District of Columbia, and internationally in England, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, and Singapore. He was co-conductor for the Handbell Musicians of America All-Star Choir in 2018, led Handbell Musicians of America's Distinctly Teen ensemble in 2015 and 2023, and most recently conducted the esteemed Distinctly Bronze event in 2025.

In 2022, The Potomac School recognized Nick with the Bill Cook Excellence in Teaching Award, and he was featured in the Arlington Magazine article "Teachers We Love" in 2023. He is a published writer for the national handbell magazine *Overtones*, serves on Handbell Musicians of America's Bells in Schools Committee, has composed and arranged more than 100 pieces of handbell music, and is co-host of the podcast *Two Tacos High: A Handbell Podcast*.



KERRY JOHNSTON serves as Director of Music Ministry at First Cary United Methodist Church in Cary, North Carolina, where he directs a graded handbell program in addition to vocal and instrumental ensembles

Kerry earned a Bachelor of Music in organ performance from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, and a Master of Sacred Music from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He served churches in Texas and Arkansas before relocating to North Carolina.

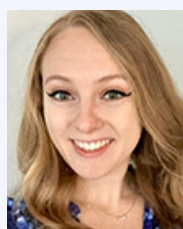
Kerry's relationship with handbells began with a borrowed two-octave set of Petit and Fritsen bells and has grown into more than 50 years as a handbell musician, director, composer, and clinician. He has served as Arkansas State Chair for Area 6 and, more recently, as North Carolina State Chair and as chair for Area 3 of Handbell Musicians of America.

Kerry is also an active composer, with original works and arrangements published by Beckenhurst Press, Lorenz Publishing, and Choristers Guild. A musician with more than 30 years of performance experience, 20 years of nonprofit volunteer service, and a lifelong commitment to church music ministry, Kathryn Jurado has quickly gained prominence in the handbell community as a handbell musician and director. She currently serves as Director of Handbells at Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, where she leads students in grades five through 12, following more than a decade of teaching in Hillsborough County Public Schools in Florida. Kathryn also serves as president-elect on the national board of Handbell Musicians of America and is the handbell and instrumental editor for *Alfred Handbell*, a division of Jubilate Music Group.



Originally from Puerto Rico, **KATHRYN JURADO** holds both a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. As a freelance oboist and private teacher, she has performed with ensembles such as Opera Tampa, the Venice Symphony, The Tampa Bay Symphony, The Villages Philharmonic, and in performances of *La La Land Live*. She has also performed with Ray Charles, The Irish Tenors, and pop superstars Hanson.

In 2022, Kathryn had the privilege of serving as clinician for Reaching for Bronze (now known as Crescendo) in New Bern, North Carolina. Most recently, she served as handbell clinician for the Florida Chapter of the Fellowship of Worship Artists' Worship Arts Week in Fruitland Park, Florida, in 2024 and 2025; Handbell Musicians of America Area 4's Bells of the Caribbean in 2024; Handbell Musicians of America's 2025 College Ring-In; the 2025 Utah Spring Ring; and as a faculty member at Handbell Musicians of America's 2025 Pinnacle event in Wichita, Kansas. Kathryn looks forward to leading handbell festivals in Delaware, Florida, Montana, Nebraska, and North Carolina throughout 2026.



ANNE KELLEY is an enthusiastic handbell director, educator, and handbell musician who is passionate about the art of handbell ringing. She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music from Northern Arizona University. During her undergraduate career, Anne served as President of the Harold M. Harter Memorial Handbell Choir and was appointed Bellmaster in her senior year.

Anne currently resides in Apache Junction, Arizona, where she teaches K–six General Music, three–six Choir, and two fourth–sixth Grade Advanced and Beginning Handbell Choirs at Greenfield Elementary School in Gilbert, Arizona. She also serves as the Handbell Director at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Mesa, Arizona, where she directs the Bells of Joy Handbell Choir. Anne is often invited as a guest conductor to work with secular and sacred handbell choirs throughout the East Valley. She is also an on-call substitute for handbell choirs of various denominations and has served as a clinician for both youth and adult handbell festivals.

In July 2021, Anne participated in the Handbell Musicians of America Conducting Master Class under the direction of Dr. William Payne. She has taught handbell workshops at various conferences, including AzMEA, AzACDA, Area 11 Festival, and Pinnacle. Anne was the recipient of the Carl Wiltse Scholarship for the 2025 Bay View Week of Handbells and currently serves as Chair for Area 11.

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AUGUST 30

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Handbell Festival
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NOVEMBER 8

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NOVEMBER 14

West Columbia, SC

NOVEMBER 15

Albemarle, NC

DECEMBER 4

Wilson, NC

DECEMBER 5

Concert Open Date

DECEMBER 6

Winston-Salem, NC

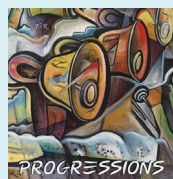
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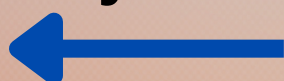
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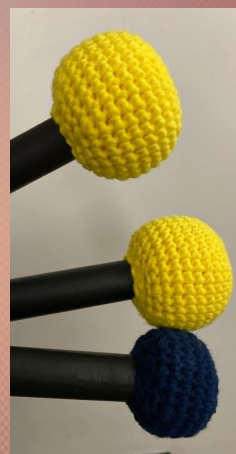


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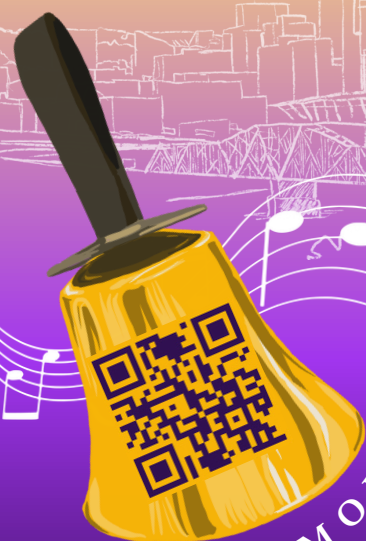
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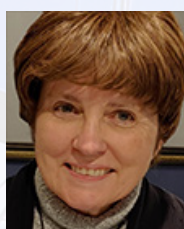
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PAUL KINNEY followed older brothers into the church bell choir and has now been a handbell ringer for 50 years. He has performed in choirs and ensembles and played solos and on bell trees. He has been a church bell director for 44 years, currently serving at Redford Aldersgate

United Methodist Church near Detroit. He has been a member of Detroit Handbell Ensemble for 30. For DHE he taught classes in special techniques. He has lost count of his attendance at bell festivals, National Seminars, and International Symposiums. Paul taught music theory at Marygrove College in Detroit for 5 years. His first handbell arrangement was published in 2000 and he now has 17 works for full choir, ensemble, solo, and bell tree in print. He used the Finale notation program for 23 years and has used Dorico for almost two years. He worked in the auto industry as a computer programmer in Computer Aided Engineering for 27 years, including two years in Cologne, Germany where he introduced chimes to music students to play at their annual concert at the Cologne Philharmonie. That venture became an Overtones article in 1992. Paul holds a Bachelor of Arts from Albion College majoring in both Computational Mathematics and Music and a Master of Music in Composition from Wayne State University. In his spare time he does genealogy research.



LINDA LAMB has been involved with handbells since 1992, as director, ringer, and composer. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Carson-Newman College (now University) with a minor in music, and a Master of Church Music with handbell emphasis from

Concordia University Wisconsin. Presently at her church, she directs a multi-generational choir. As handbell groups ebb and flow, she has directed beginning groups, youth groups, a high school girls' quartet, and during covid, three small groups at her home. She has numerous handbell publications to her credit. She is married with two grown children and two grandchildren.



LESLIE LEWIS has been a handbell musician since 1979, when she was introduced to handbells at the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. She has rung in the bass section for Distinctly Bronze East since the event began in 1999 and participated in the Distinctly Bronze

European Tour in 2007. She later added Distinctly Bronze West in 2019, 2021, and 2025. Leslie has rung low bass in many Area and national All-Star Choirs and rang low bass at Virtuoso 2017, 2019, and 2022, sharing the stage with the Raleigh Ringers for the final concert. In 2022, Leslie crossed Bay View Week of Handbells off her bucket list and plans to continue participating when the International Handbell

Symposium does not conflict with the dates. Leslie had the honor of traveling to Singapore in 2023 and 2026 as a Foreign Guest Musician with the Ministry of Bells (MOB) and rang with MOB at the 21st International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan, in 2024.

Leslie enjoys substituting for choirs in the Gastonia–Charlotte and Wilmington–Myrtle Beach areas, assisting the Raleigh Ringers with demo recordings, and dabbling in solo ringing. Having added the lower sixth- and seventh-octave chimes to her growing set of handbell “toys,” she hopes to offer her services to provide lower chimes for groups that do not have them available.

After graduating from North Carolina State University with a degree in computer science, Leslie worked for IBM and First Union National Bank for a combined 15 years before turning a part-time role preparing income taxes into a career. She has clients from across the United States for whom she prepares all types of tax returns and, as an Enrolled Agent, represents clients during Internal Revenue Service tax audits and appeals.

Outside of bells, Leslie enjoys playing golf and walking on the beach as a precursor to life after retirement in Lockwood Folly Country Club near Holden Beach, North Carolina. As she settles into the Lockwood community, she will be starting a community handbell group with her neighbors to perform for special events and the 2026 Christmas tree lighting carol sing.



MARIE M. LOEFFLER has been immersed in the performing arts her entire life—as a dancer, choreographer, studio owner, arts administrator, solo handbell artist, and handbell clinician.

Drawing on her professional dance training and the techniques taught by the Guild's Master Teachers, Marie developed a ringing style that earned her the nickname “Belldancer.” As a soloist, she performs regularly in worship services, memorials, full concerts, and special events. Her workshops, covering a wide range of technique and performance topics, are known for their creativity, clarity, and inviting teaching style, making her a sought-after instructor for handbell festivals, individual choirs, and aspiring solo handbell musicians.

An active member of Handbell Musicians of America, Marie has served on the boards of both Area 1 and Area 4, contributed to Overtones, and teaches at Area Festivals and National Seminars. She also custom-designs workshops for individual choirs and coaches individual handbell musicians toward performance excellence, including two Bahamian soloists who achieved Top Honors in their National Arts Competition.

Beyond her musical work, Marie holds a degree in Behavioral Sciences and is a Certified Life Purpose

and Career Coach, helping women reconnect with their creative dreams and bring them to life. As an accomplished public speaker, she often incorporates handbells into her presentations, adding a layer of intrigue while introducing new audiences to this unique art form. Marie is especially honored that she, along with her handbells, will be a featured speaker in February 2026 on the nationally recognized TEDx stage. Connect with Marie at belldancer@aol.com or visit www.belldancer.net.



BRUNA MARINHO is an energetic handbell musician, pianist, and music therapist based in São Paulo, Brazil. She is the founder of Handbells Brasil, an organization dedicated to promoting the art of handbell ringing in Brazil through performance and education, and, with her team, recently produced the very first Brazilian handbell festival.

In 2019, Bruna served for six months in the music ministry of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, Iowa, where she rang handbells, conducted the children's handbell choir, and studied liturgical music. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the Catholic University of Santos and a post-baccalaureate certificate in Music Therapy from Santa Marcelina College. Through her music therapy training, she began working with older adults, developing therapeutic sessions using handbells and handchimes.

Bruna has recently completed a Master's degree in Gerontology at the University of São Paulo, investigating the Yura Rhythm, a Japanese music-based method for older adults. Currently, Bruna works as a music therapist in senior living and retirement centers, as a piano teacher, and continues to actively promote the art of bells throughout Brazil.



HILLARY MAROTTA first became a musician through piano and flute but fell in love with handbells at Bucknell University under the direction of Dr. William Payn while playing with the Rooke Chapel Ringers. Since then, she has reprised her role at her alma mater as both a handbell musician and a conductor and has played in church groups in Pennsylvania and Virginia. She has rung with the Hershey Handbell Ensemble and is a regular Distinctly Bronze attendee. She was a 2022 Virtuoso handbell musician with the Raleigh Ringers. She has studied conducting under the direction of William Payn both privately and through master classes.

Hillary is the director of the "Bells' Angels" bell choir at Zion Lutheran Church in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, and coordinates both Distinctly Teen at National Seminar and the College Ring-In for Handbell Musicians of America. She obtained a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in adult education, and has taught and trained adults in various settings. She is thrilled to be teaching at National Seminar.



DIANA MONTGOMERY has been actively involved with handbells for the last 25 years. She is the assistant organist and handbell director for children, youth, and adults at Chapelwood United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas. For the last seven years, she has been blessed to lead the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble, an ensemble of adults with special needs and talented handbell musicians at the Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Texas. This community has inspired her to share its vision "to change the way the world sees adults with disabilities" and to bring the world of adaptive notation to others.

Diana holds a degree in music education from Bowling Green State University and has balanced her professional life as a certified public accountant with lifelong service to church music ministry. She recently served two terms as Treasurer for Area 9 and rings with the Houston Bronze Ensemble.



WILLIAM J. MURPHY has several decades of experience as a handbell musician and director. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree with a concentration in Music Education from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where he rang in the Westminster Concert Bell Choir, and he is currently serving as Past Chair for Area 4. Previously, William was one of the music directors for Magic of Bronze in Orlando, Florida, leading both the concert and intermediate choirs. He has also worked with the Suncoast Bronze Ringers in the Tampa Bay area and with several churches throughout Central Florida.



SUZANNE NEAFUS discovered her love of handbells as a teenager at her home church on Long Island, New York. She is deeply grateful for this early foundation, which paired strong musical training with a commitment to continuous learning. That introduction sparked a lifelong passion for the instrument and instilled in her the belief that there is always more to explore, refine, and understand.

After settling in Connecticut, Suzanne reconnected with the handbell community, performing with several church ensembles as well as the community groups Hockanum Valley Ringers and New England Ringers. She also served for five years on the Area 1 Board as both the Connecticut and Rhode Island State Chair and continues to support Area 1 by helping plan educational events. Today, her musical life centers on her home church, where she is an active member, regularly performs as a soloist, and rings with the church's bell choir.

Professionally, Suzanne has spent the past 12 years working within the training divisions of two State of Connecticut agencies. Her work with both the Department of Children

and Families and the Department of Revenue Services includes developing and delivering soft-skills and computer-application training, managing the learning management system, and creating e-learning content. These experiences have deepened her interest in group dynamics and ensemble cohesion, and she strives to model a welcoming, encouraging presence in every setting.

Suzanne has been married to her wonderfully supportive husband for 17 years, and together they look forward to their next adventure, a move to western Kentucky by the fall of 2026.



DR. JOEL PLAAG is the choir director at Cypress Creek Christian Church in Spring, Texas. He conducts the Cypress Creek Community Chorale, two handbell choirs, a children's choir, and the Chancel Choir. After rediscovering a love of writing, he authored *I'm a Choir Director, Singing in the Moment*, and *Caring for Your Choir*, and is currently working on a fourth book, *Singing Together*, which explores the effects of choral singing in combating loneliness.

Throughout his career, Dr. Plaag has served as choral director at multiple colleges in Texas and Arkansas and as music director at First Christian Church of Grand Prairie, Texas; Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Houston, Texas; and First Methodist Church of Brenham, Texas. He also served as a soloist at Temple Emanu-El of Livingston, New Jersey, and Temple Emanu-El of Fort Worth, Texas. In addition, he founded the Batesville Choral Society and restarted the Brenham Chorale. Currently, he serves as cantor-pianist at Temple Israel in Schulenburg, Texas.

His academic background includes degrees from Texas Christian University, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Houston, where his primary research area was conducting pedagogy. Dr. Plaag lives in Spring, Texas, with his husband, Michael, and their three dogs—Teddy, Freckles, and Simon. On many weekends, he can be found working in the yard, fixing projects in the garage, or writing.



CORBIN RASMUSSEN was first introduced to handbells 12 years ago, when he discovered a three-octave set in his office at Rigby High School in Rigby, Idaho. He now leads the largest handbell program in the state of Idaho and possibly the largest program at any public school in Area 10.

Corbin serves on the Idaho ACDA board and on the Area 10 Executive Board as Chair-Elect.

At Rigby High School, Corbin teaches both choir and handbells and oversees a program of more than 175 students annually, directing five choral ensembles and two handbell ensembles. He is also the artistic director of the Eastern Idaho Chorale, an adult community choir of approximately 75 singers. In addition, he and his wife recently founded and

direct the East Idaho Youth Chorus, a children's choir for ages eight–14.

Corbin is a regular attendee at national and international handbell events, having attended all National Seminars since 2021 and serving as a Foreign Guest Handbell Musician with the Ministry of Bellz in Singapore in January 2025. His high school handbell ensemble, the Trojan Ringers, performed at the Idaho Music Educators Conference in February of this year. Corbin is a graduate of Brigham Young University–Idaho and resides in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with his wife, Jenna, and their four children.



STEPHANIE RHOADES is Director of Worship and Music at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. In addition to overseeing the planning and implementation of all worship services, she directs the handbell choirs. Ms. Rhoades also serves as Conductor and Artistic Director of Concert Bells of Fort Worth, an auditioned community ensemble established in 1998. The ensemble was honored to perform the opening-night concert at Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar in Irving, Texas, in 2023.

A second-generation handbell director, Ms. Rhoades learned to ring handbells as a child and attended annual handbell conferences with her church choir, which was directed by her mother. She has been a guest director for many local and Area festivals and has taught classes on a variety of subjects. As a conductor, she is known for her clear and expressive style and for being "easy to follow." As a teacher, she is patient and thorough, with the ability to explain and demonstrate material in a variety of ways.

Ms. Rhoades holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Yale University and a Master of Sacred Music degree with a concentration in choral conducting from Southern Methodist University. She lives in Dallas, Texas, with her wife and two rescue dogs.



DEBBIE RICE divides her time between the United States and Canada, where she currently serves as Artistic Director for the Handbell Society of Edmonton. She has been a university professor in a school of music and has faithfully served in music ministry across multiple denominations.

Drawing on her extensive experience as a professional singer, choral conductor, and dedicated educator, she encourages high standards for the handbell and handchime instruments.

Debbie's travels as a clinician, adjudicator, and mass conductor have included assignments in 25 countries across Australasia, Taiwan, Asia, North America, Europe, and Scandinavia.

With Handbell Musicians of America, she has held elected offices on the National Board, including Area III Chair,

National Secretary, and National President. In 2014, she was awarded Honorary Life Membership. Debbie has also served as Executive Director of the International Handbell Committee. In 2024, she received the International Handbell Laureate Award in Japan for her outstanding service to the development and performance of ringing.

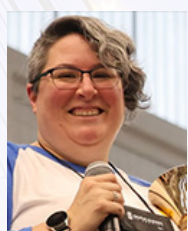
Handbells and handchimes remain a lifelong passion as Debbie continues to bring these instruments into new international communities, most recently in Croatia, Slovenia, and Hungary. Her next journey in 2027 will include Poland and the Czech Republic.



BRIAN SEEMANN is the Production Manager for the Children's Chorus of Washington and the Music Director of Virginia Bronze. He has previously served as Music Director of the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble and the New England Ringers and has performed with Sonos Handbell

Ensemble, Back Bay Ringers, and the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble. Brian is also a published composer and has served as faculty, clinician, and conductor throughout the United States, as well as at several International Handbell Symposia.

His ensembles have been invited to perform at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar three times—in 2016, 2019, and 2024. In addition to being a performing handbell musician, he also serves on the board of Sonos Handbell Ensemble. Along with Nick Hanson, Brian is the co-host of "Two Tacos High," a handbell podcast.



JENNIFER STACK is the current Area 1 Past Chair and also serves on the Community Choir Committee of the Handbell Musicians of America Board. She began ringing handbells in 2013 at the invitation of a work colleague and "fell in deep" when she joined Merrimack Valley Ringers in 2018.

Jennifer currently directs an adult handbell choir and a children's chime and vocal choir for the Holy Rood Collaborative. She has recently started Verdigris—a community choir for church choir handbell musicians who want to ring secular music and develop additional skills—and hopes to expand that offering into a small-group ensemble as well.

Her passion is handbell education and spreading the word that handbells are an amazing instrument for music education. Her overarching philosophy is that if you are not having fun, you are not doing it right.



for handbells.

JACKIE STEPHENSON is a native Texan and a graduate of Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Curriculum and Instruction. She has taught piano, flute, twirling, and math in public schools. Her passion for teaching is best expressed in conjunction with her passion

for handbells. Jackie has been the handbell coordinator at First Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas, for 41 years. In 1984, the music minister at First Baptist Church started a handbell group, and Jackie joined as a handbell musician. After one semester, the music minister appointed her as the new director of this fledgling group. The class she is presenting this year grew out of being thrown into the deep end and learning how to swim.

She now directs three of the five bell choirs in the church's handbell program, which exist solely to praise, worship, and glorify Jesus Christ. The bell choirs ring for worship services, special programs, and an annual handbell showcase. They also perform for community events, in hospitals and retirement centers, and have gone on mission trips to Romania and Estonia.

Helping other directors develop their handbell programs is of special interest to Jackie. She has led various workshops and festivals throughout the state of Texas and has developed a set of top 10 tools for directors. This desire to help inexperienced directors led Jackie to apply to Handbell Musicians of America to share what works—and what does not—since she started with zero experience.

Married to Dr. Ted Stephenson for 50 years, Jackie is blessed with three daughters, two sons-in-law, and four grandchildren, who call them Doc and Belle. She enjoys traveling, reading, supporting her grandchildren in all their various activities, and has developed a few neuroses related to Texas A&M University sports teams.



KIMBERLEE STREPKA has been teaching music for 35 years and pioneering Laban movement-based handbell artistry since 2006. Her text, *Handbell Artistry from the Inside Out: Laban Movement Theory for the Handbell Musician* (GIA, 2012), has been described by college professors as a long-missing resource for handbells in academia. She enjoys teaching a wide range of handbell topics through the lens of movement at local, regional, and national handbell events.

Kim holds music education degrees from The Hartt School of Music, the University of Massachusetts, and Boston University, where ensemble handbell ringing was the subject of her doctoral dissertation. She has also studied conducting at the Choral Institute in St. Moritz, Switzerland, and Laban

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU, BILL MATHIS!

BELLS OF THE LAKES, MINNEAPOLIS, MN



After 30 years of incredible music, vision, and leadership, Bill Mathis has chosen to retire from his role as Bells of the Lakes artistic director in June. We thank and celebrate Bill for providing the artistic vision that has helped Bells of the Lakes become a premier handbell ensemble with appearances throughout the region, the United States, and Europe.

Bill founded Bells of the Lakes and has been the only artistic director in the ensemble's remarkable 30-year history.



Nearly 90 ringers have benefited from Bill's leadership and drive for musicality and excellence as ensemble members since its inception in 1996. This photo, taken on April 26, 2026, captures some alumni from Bells of the Lakes alongside our current ensemble as we celebrated our 30th season. Our celebration concert took place at Hennepin Ave United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Bill's parting comments: "After 30 years of joy, great music, and great people, I've decided to pass the baton to the next leader of Bells of the Lakes. Rehearsing, concertizing, traveling, and socializing with this amazing group of people have been one of the great joys of my life. I wish them all the best in a new era!"

If you'd like to congratulate Bill on his amazing career, send him well wishes, or share your favorite memories of working with him or ringing under his direction, please email us at manager@bellsofthelakes.org. We will compile your messages for him.

The search for a new artistic director has begun, and we hope to have an interim or permanent artistic director in place for the Bells of the Lakes Seminar for Ringers and Directors and ringer auditions in late August 2026. Bells of the Lakes will continue to pursue its mission: promoting musical excellence in performance, collaboration, and education through the medium of handbells.



bellsofthelakes.org



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Chicago Bronze

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE



Best Wishes to All Participants IN HMA'S 2026 NATIONAL SEMINAR

The members of Chicago Bronze
deeply appreciate the invitation and are excited to
perform a musical tribute to our hometown,
Chicago, at our performance on Friday at 1:00 p.m.

ChicagoBronze.org



Movement Theory at the Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies in Manhattan.

She founded the teen handbell ensemble the Bronze Ambassadors, which toured throughout the East Coast and performed at Ground Zero in New York City, the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, District of Columbia, and Camping World Stadium in Orlando, Florida. The ensemble also performed at Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar in 2009 and 2024 and served as guest artists with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra for its 2017 and 2019 Holiday Pops concert tours.

Kim formerly served as Vermont State Chair and Area 1 Education Liaison and performed with the New England Ringers during their Decade season. She is a published handbell arranger and a collaborator with Dan Goeller Music, bringing Dan Goeller's choral and orchestral music to the handbell community.



CHRISTOPHER TITKO believes in sharing his faith through the transformative power of music. Educationally, he studied handbells with Donald Allured at Westminster Choir College and also attended Indiana University and the University of Oklahoma. Christopher has served musically in various

denominations and spent five years as Church Music Editor for J. W. Pepper.

Currently, he serves as Director of Music at Monumental United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, Virginia, and as Artistic Director of the James River Ringers in Richmond, Virginia.



JOY TOLL-CHANDLER has been playing and directing handbells since 2000. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Crane School of Music and a Master of Church Music degree, with a handbell emphasis, from Concordia University. She has two pieces published by AGEHR and has

a goal of doing much more composing. She was also accredited as a faculty instructor for Level one Handbell Certification in Theory and Conducting.

Joy is currently the director of the handbell choir at the Congregational Church in Cumberland, Maine. Having retired from full-time pastoral ministry, she and her husband, Paul, are happily settled in Maine and enjoy time with family, traveling, visiting lighthouses, and doing puzzles.



A native of California, **DR. CELIA CHAN VALERIO** has served as music director of BellForza, Loma Linda University Church's advanced bell choir, for the past 15 years. During this time, she has guided BellForza to musical excellence through an emphasis on musicality, teamwork, and fun. The ensemble

especially enjoys supporting new compositions—the “hotter” off the press, the better—as well as performing “the classics.”

Loma Linda University Church established its handbell program in 1973, and Celia was a part of it during the 1980s and early 1990s. Under the direction of Cheryl Smith, the advanced handbell choir—Loma Linda University Church Handbell Choir—toured throughout the United States and participated in the AGEHR Western National Handbell Festival in July 1989 under the direction of Donald Allured, with approximately 80 handbell choirs in attendance. When asked how he wanted certain sections played, Allured would reply, “Just play it like Loma Linda,” and repeatedly invited the ensemble to demonstrate. This response became part of the legacy of the outstanding handbell program at Loma Linda University Church. In 2023, the church celebrated 50 years of handbells with a commissioned work by Matthew Compton, *Neither Angels, Nor Demons, Nor Powers*, which was premiered by two five-octave and one three-octave handbell choirs made up of former members.

When not conducting handbells, Celia is a harpist and harp instructor and a former principal harpist of the Sarasota Orchestra. She has enjoyed a diverse career as a soloist, orchestral musician, and recording artist, with studio and live performances alongside artists such as Barry Manilow and Hayley Mills. She has won top prizes in numerous national harp competitions, including the Anne Adams Awards, the American Harp Society Competition, and the American String Teachers' Association Competition, where she won both the national competition and the grand prize for the state of Indiana. Celia holds a Bachelor of Music degree from La Sierra University and Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she also studied conducting, composition, and music history. Most recently, she completed certification as a Certified Therapeutic Harp Practitioner and shares her music with patients and staff at Community Hospital of San Bernardino.

Celia strives to bring her deep love of music to the way she leads BellForza. Being involved in handbells is an absolute joy for her, and she is honored to be conducting an advanced track at the 2026 Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar.



With an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a passion for sharing what she has learned, **KAREN VAN WERT** is equally at home in the classroom or at the podium. She often says, “There is nothing more rewarding than witnessing a handbell musician grasp a concept and execute it in their music.

Building skills and instilling confidence in a handbell musician is the goal of every rehearsal, for then we can make music.”

Karen has had diverse experiences performing and directing choirs, as well as in solo, four-in-hand duet, and quartet ringing. Bell tree ringing has become a focal point of her

educational passion, as she works to lower the barrier to entry into the bell tree genre. Virtual and in-person classes, gatherings of bell tree enthusiasts to grow the art form (Into the Forest), and ringing in praise bands to explore new possibilities are just some of the steps along this remarkable journey.



Director, educator, composer, publisher, handbell musician, clinician, and handbell cheerleader **KATHLEEN WISSINGER** is all about bells and bell people. Known for her creative teaching style, clear directing, and engaging compositions, she has directed and taught at events across the United

States and in Canada and Japan. She is Artistic Director of Mosaic Handbell Ensemble and Gloria Dei, an adult church group.

Her compositions span Level Zero! through Level 5 and range from solos and small ensembles to full seven-octave concert works, including commissions, hymns, compatible scores, pedagogical works, stunning originals, and fresh arrangements. These are currently released through ringTrue Handbell Music, which she founded in 2015. Her uniquely focused resources address a wide range of needs, including Square One (a complete Level one curriculum based on 18 years of classroom handbell teaching), Get Them Ringing! (for introducing ringing to passersby at fairs and similar events), Split-Level pieces (designed to accommodate handbell musicians of differing abilities within a single piece), and, most recently, scores with large-print options for treble and bass clef (Morning Stars RE8043).

Kath currently serves on the National Board of Handbell Musicians of America, coordinates the CHIME Loan Program for Area 3, and previously served on the Area 3 Board for eight years. She frequently mentors handbell musicians, directors, composers, and new events and was an integral member of the planning team for Into the Forest, a bell tree-focused event now sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America. Her professional development sessions for her local school system have received rave reviews, including "The best I've ever taken!"

A former National Park Service ranger with a degree in geology, Kath lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with her husband, Skip—also a former park ranger. She teaches piano lessons and makes world-famous bread-and-butter pickles. She can be reached at Longwalk3@aol.com.



PHOEBE T. T. YEUNG is a handbell conductor, composer, performer, and educator based in Hong Kong. She holds a Master of Church Music degree with a handbell specialization from Concordia University Wisconsin and a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree in Music from The Education University of Hong Kong. With more than a

decade of experience, her school and community ensembles have received numerous awards at local and international handbell competitions, and she is frequently engaged as a clinician and adjudicator throughout Hong Kong.

Phoebe is deeply committed to developing the next generation of handbell musicians and directors. She conducts the EdUHK Handbell Ensemble and has served as both a guest instructor and committee member for multiple EdUHK handbell programs, with a focus on nurturing emerging handbell musicians and educators. In 2025, she founded CantoBell Hub and Handbell Musicians of Hong Kong, platforms dedicated to providing diverse handbell resources and fostering cultural exchange. She previously directed Bellprints Handbell Supply, through which she organized professional training programs and the Bellprints International Handbell Festival.

A lifelong handbell enthusiast, Phoebe began her studies with Ms. Zerlina Wong and later refined her performance and composition skills under the guidance of Dr. John Behnke. She actively participates in global handbell events such as the International Handbell Symposium and National Seminar to further develop her artistry. Her works as a handbell composer and arranger have been published in both Hong Kong and the United States, contributing new repertoire to the international handbell community.



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Handbell Commons

Exhibiting Partners, Showcase Presenters, and HMA Areas

About Handbell Commons

Handbell Commons, located in the Portune Hall, is the hub of all social activities and the place to visit our Exhibiting Partners. There will also be opportunities to visit with the concert performers and representatives of HMA's regional Areas to learn about the various handbell activities happening around the country.

Handbell Commons is also the home to the silent auction and is a place where you can win prizes from our Exhibiting Partners, spend time with fellow attendees, and eat Grab and Go breakfasts and lunches. We will also be hosting a Welcome Reception and Happy Hours.

Handbell Commons Hours

Tues., Jul 14	1:00 PM – 6:00 PM 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM Welcome Reception Sponsored by Malmark Bells, Inc.
Wed., July 15	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM Happy Hour Sponsored by Times10
Thu., July 16	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM Happy Hour Sponsored by Velocity Handbell Ensemble
Fri., July 17	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM Happy Hour Sponsored by Schulmerich Bells, LLC
Sat., July 18	8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Exhibiting Partners

8-Bit Handbell	Heitz Handbells and Music
AGEHR Publishing	Hope Publishing Company
Alfred Handbell	Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.
Beckenhorst Press Inc.	LDM Embroidery
CantoBell Hub	Malmark Bells, Inc.
Choristers Guild	Michael J. Glasgow
CIR Music Christian	National Board
Interdenominational	Schulmerich Bells, LLC
Resources, LLC	Third Bell on the Right
Grassy Meadow Music	Two Tacos High
Handbell Musicians of	Witte Performance Tours
America	
Hands of Healing Massage	
Therapy	

Exhibiting Partner Showcases

Several of our Exhibiting Partners will present showcases featuring reading sessions and product demonstrations.

Tuesday, July 14

Session 2: 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Malmark Bells, Inc.: Keeping Your Handbells and Choirchimes in Top Condition – The Dos and Don'ts of Ringing

Hyosang Park, Kathy Ebling Shaw

There are a ton of great ideas floating around on the web and social media sites and there's also some misinformation. Join us in this hands-on session as we share and demonstrate tips for using your handbells and Choirchimes that will provide you with musical results without compromising your instruments.

Wednesday, July 15

Session 3: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Beckenhorst Press: New Music from Beckenhorst Press
Mitchell Eithun

Read through new music suitable for worship, school, or the concert stage written by some of today's most exceptional handbell composers.

Session 5: 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Hope Publishing: There's Always Hope
Brenda E. Austin, Various Handbell Composers

Join editor, Brenda E. Austin, as you read and ring Hope's brand new titles. This session will be packed with great music from a variety of levels and styles. Several of their fine composers will make an appearance to conduct their music. Walk away with one copy of your three favorite pieces to peruse at your leisure.

Session 6: 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

CIR Music Publishing (Christian Interdenominational Resources)

Jefferey A. Hall, Julie Turner

All handbell ringers are invited to participate in a Read and Ring of various handbell pieces published by CIR Music.

See page 45 for a map of Exhibiting Partner displays

Thursday, July 16

Session 7, 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Choristers Guild: New From Choristers Guild

Mark Arnold, Sandra Eithun, Nick Hanson, Carol Lynn Mizell

Come and experience some of the newest music from Choristers Guild. Find your favorite bell position, and have fun ringing a variety of new music under the direction of amazing and inspiring composers. If you're lucky, you may be the winner of one of our prize drawings.

Session 8: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

CantoBell Hub: New Music From CantoBell Hub

Phoebe Yeung

Join CantoBell Hub for a showcase of brand new handbell music from Hong Kong composers and arrangers. Hear the stories behind these and other fresh compositions created specifically for school, church, and community ensembles. Participants will have the opportunity to meet the composers and sight-read through these Level 1-4 exemplary works, gaining inspiration for their own programming.

Session 9: 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

AGEHR Publishing: RingCraft & Beyond: Exploring the Future of AGEHR Publishing

Brian Childers

Join AGEHR Publishing as we reveal an exciting new series, explore our stirring, latest releases and look back at favorites from AGEHR Publishing.

Session 10: 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Grassy Meadow Music: New Music From Grassy Meadow Music

Jason Krug

Come ring some of the newest titles from Grassy Meadow Music! Whether handbell solo, duet, 8-bell or 12-bell ensemble, or full choir, there's something for all handbell musicians!

Friday, July 17

Session 11: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Schulmerich Bells LLC:

Introducing the Schulmerich Glockenspiel!

Greig Ashurst, Bethan Neely

Discover the brilliance of the new Schulmerich Glockenspiel, introduced by its designer, Greig Ashurst. Hailed as the most authentic glockenspiel on the market, this instrument features an extraordinary extended range up to C9, offering unmatched clarity, brilliance, and expressive capability. Whether showcased as a unique solo instrument or used to add color to a full handbell choir, small ensemble, band, orchestra, or choir, this glockenspiel elevates any performance. Join this session to explore its design, musical

versatility, and creative applications—and be among the first to experience how this remarkable instrument can transform your ensemble's sound.

Session 12: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

Heitz Handbells and Music: Solo, Bell Tree, Small Ensemble? No Problem!

Michèle Sharik, Karen Van Wert, Nikki Evans, Carol Scheel

New music for bell trees, solos, and small handbell ensembles have been published over the year. Listen to some of the new music and play others in class.

Session 13: 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Alfred Handbell: Fresh on the Stand: Alfred Handbell's Fall, Advent, and Christmas 2026 New Releases

Kathryn Jurado

Be among the first to hear and ring Alfred Handbell's newest Fall, Advent, and Christmas releases for 2026 in this hands-on reading session. Explore inspiring new repertoire by today's composers and arrangers designed to ring beautifully, rehearse efficiently, and support meaningful programming for ensembles of all levels.

Session 14: 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Jeffers Handbell Supply: Hot Off the Press From Jeffers Publications!

Michael J. Glasgow

Join handbell composer and arranger Michael J. Glasgow to read and ring the newest selections from Jeffers Publications. If you've ever attended this session, you know it's full of fun ringing and great music. Plus, you get to keep the packet! New music... free music... what more could you want?

Witte Performance Tours: Dzień dobry! (that's Polish for good afternoon!)

Keith Cole

Join Keith Cole of Witte Performance Tours and Debbie Rice for an introduction and overview of the 2027 International Handbell Festival to Poland and Czechia. You will be treated to highlights of the itinerary through a colorful and informative slide show as well as hear about other plans for this awesome tour. Maybe even a treat or two from the Slavic nations!

Saturday, July 18

Session 16: 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

8-Bit Handbell Publishing: Rockin' Through the Ages

Nick Hanson

8-Bit Handbell invites you to relive classic tunes from the 1960s all the way through today's hits! The variety of songs in this showcase is sure to either hit you right in the nostalgia or become a new favorite. New arrangements of pieces from The Mamas and the Papas, Billy Joel, The Alan Parsons Project, Harry Styles, and many more, will be great additions for your upcoming performances!

Introducing a new educational music series from AGEHR Publishing...

This exciting new set of teaching collections from AGEHR Publishing will help ringers develop specific ringing skills. Each collection includes instructional pages to help introduce each technique and further guidance for preparing each of the five included pieces for both learning and performance. Each collection is reproducible so that your ringers will always have fresh copies for marking.



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Exciting News! BOC's next fun-filled handbell cruise is now available for registration. We'll be sailing from Fort Lauderdale, FL on a 7-day cruise of the beautiful Eastern Caribbean.

We set sail on January 17th, 2027 with exploring ports of call in Nassau, Bahamas; Half Moon Cay; Grand Turks; and Amber Cove, Dominican Republic before returning to Fort Lauderdale.

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Cruise Clinician
Brenda Austin

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Best wishes to all participants of the 2026 National Seminar!

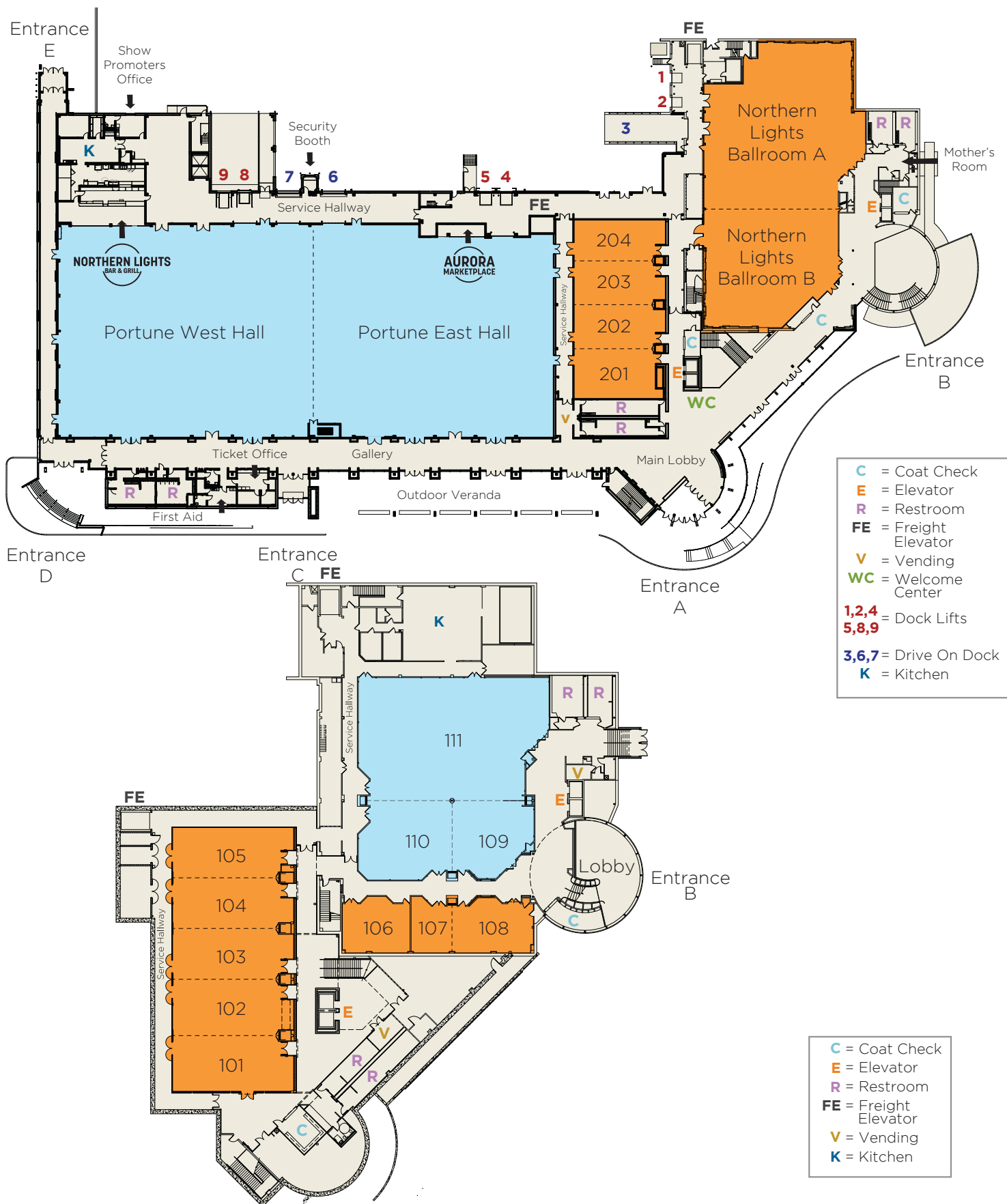


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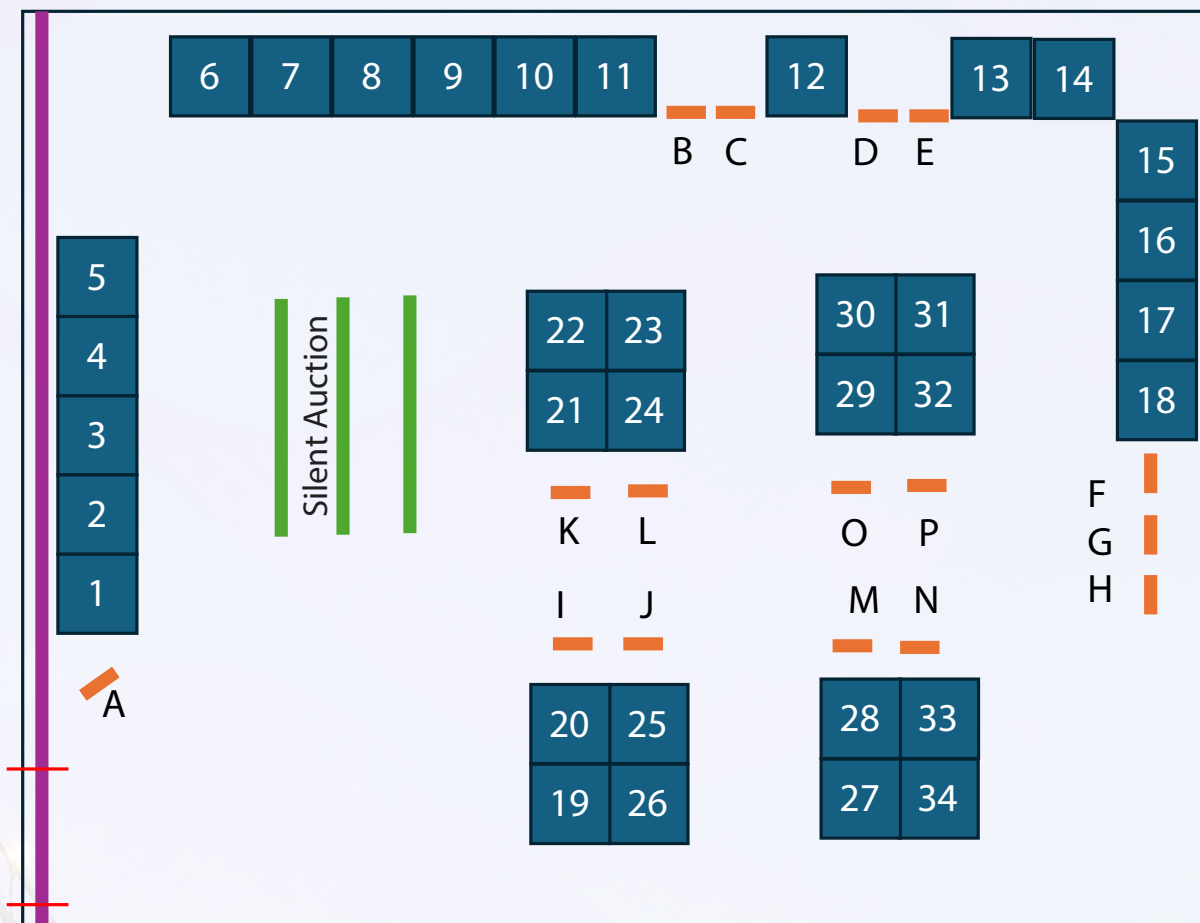
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Sharonville Convention Center



Handbell Commons

Portune East Hall



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General Event Schedule

DATE/TIME

ACTIVITY

LOCATION

TUESDAY, JULY 14

11:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Desk Open for Check-in	Main Lobby, Entrance A
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Class Session 1	Classrooms
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Class Session 2	Classrooms
4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Opening Reception, Sponsored by Malmark Bells, Inc.	Portune Hall
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Opening Concert: Queen City Bronze	Northern Lights Ballroom

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Grab & Go Breakfast Available	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Meet HMA Leadership	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Desk Open	Outside Northern Lights
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Class Session 3	Classrooms
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Class Session 4	Classrooms
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Grab & Go Lunch Available	Portune Hall
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Concert: Bronze Ringers of Floyd Central High School	Northern Lights Ballroom
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Class Session 5	Classrooms
2:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Class Session 6	Classrooms
4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Happy Hour, Sponsored by Times10	Portune Hall
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Concert: Bells in Motion	Northern Lights Ballroom
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM	Unpublished Music Reading Session	Room 101-102

THURSDAY, JULY 16

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Grab & Go Breakfast Available	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Area Leadership Meet and Greet	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Desk Open	Outside Northern Lights
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Class Session 7	Classrooms
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Class Session 8	Classrooms
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Grab & Go Lunch Available	Portune Hall
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Concert: Trinity Ringers of Trinity Lutheran Church	Northern Lights Ballroom
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Class Session 9	Classrooms
2:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Class Session 10	Classrooms
4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Happy Hour, Sponsored by Velocity Handbell Ensemble	Portune Hall
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Concert: Ring Sarasota	Northern Lights Ballroom
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM	Diversity Discussion Presented by the Handbell Opportunities Committee	Portune Hall

FRIDAY, JULY 17

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Grab & Go Breakfast Available	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Desk Open	Outside Northern Lights
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Class Session 11	Classrooms
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Class Session 12	Classrooms
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Grab & Go Lunch Available	Portune Hall
1:00 PM – 1:45 PM	Concert: Chicago Bronze	Northern Lights Ballroom
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Class Session 13	Classrooms
2:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Class Session 14	Classrooms
4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Happy Hour, Sponsored by Schulmerich Bells, LLC	Portune Hall
5:00 PM	Silent Auction Closes See page 2 for pick up and payment details.	Portune Hall
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Concert: Detroit Handbell Ensemble	Northern Lights Ballroom

SATURDAY, JULY 18

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Grab & Go Breakfast Available	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Handbell Commons Open	Portune Hall
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Registration Desk Open	Outside Northern Lights
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Class Session 15	Classrooms
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	Class Session 16	Classrooms
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Luncheon Banquet and Presentations	Portune Hall
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Concert: All-Star Choir and Distinctly Teen Sponsored by Westminster Choir College	Northern Lights Ballroom

After the Saturday concert, the event committee, staff, and volunteers will be loading out the significant amount of equipment used for this event. If you are able to assist, we would greatly appreciate the help. Please visit the registration desk for details.

Please be aware that Sharonville Convention Center is a cashless facility. Be sure to keep this in mind for Grab & Go breakfasts and lunches and at the Happy Hour bars.

Class Schedule

Tuesday, July 14

	Session 1	Session 2
Room	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
201		Exhibiting Partner Showcase Malarm Bells, Inc. Keeping Your Handbells and Choirchimes in Top Condition – The Dos and Don'ts of Ringing <i>Hyosang Park & Kathy Ebling Shaw</i>
202	Ensembles Beyond the Numbers <i>Mark Arnold</i>	Mallets in Motion <i>Jack Burdwood</i>
203	Boomer Bells - Keeping the Passion and Challenge <i>Sandra Eithun</i>	Weave Me Alone <i>Nikki Evans</i>
204	Dorico Music Notation Program for Handbell Composers Session 1 of 2 <i>Paul Kinney</i>	Discovering the Creative Musician Within <i>Joel Plaag</i>
109	All-Star Choir Rehearsal 1 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i>	All-Star Choir Rehearsal 2 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i>
101-102	Beginning Ringing Track Session 1 of 5 <i>Kimberlee Strepka</i>	Intermediate Ringing Track Session 1 of 5 <i>Joe Galyon</i>
103	Six-in-Hand Methods <i>Nikki Evans</i>	Conducting Creativity: Introduction to Conducting the Gesture <i>Billy Brandt</i>
104	From Good to Great: Stage Presence for Everyone <i>Hillary Marotta</i>	
105	8 Bells and a Bell Tree <i>Karen Van Wert</i>	
106		Basic Principles of Conducting <i>Stephanie Rhoades</i>
107	New Music, Who Dis? <i>Brian Seemann</i>	Handbells – Music or Ministry? <i>Mark Arnold</i>
108	The Art of Engraving (and the Chore of Proofing) <i>Michael Glasgow</i>	A Music Theory Primer Part 1 of 2 <i>Kath Wissinger</i>

Wednesday, July 15

	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Room	9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	10:30 AM - 11:45 AM	2:00 PM - 3:15 PM	3:30 PM - 4:45 PM
201	Exhibiting Partner Showcase New Music From Beckenhorst Press <i>Mitchell Eithun</i>		Exhibiting Partner Showcase There's Always Hope Hope Publishing <i>Brenda Austin</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase CIR Music Christian Interdenominational Resources <i>Jefferey A. Hall, Julie Turner</i>
202	Ensembles Beyond the Numbers <i>Mark Arnold</i>	Mallets in Motion <i>Jack Burdwood</i>	Ring with Confidence: from Notation to Motion <i>Marie Loeffler</i>	The Art of Arranging Pop Music for Handbells <i>Nick Hanson</i>
203	Weave Me Alone <i>Nikki Evans</i>	Boomer Bells - Keeping the Passion and Challenge <i>Sandra Eithun</i>	Advanced Ringing Track B Session 1 of 5 <i>Stephanie Rhoades</i>	Advanced Ringing Track B Session 2 of 5 <i>Stephanie Rhoades</i>
204	Conquering Copyrights <i>Nick Hanson</i>	Discovering the Creative Musician Within <i>Joel Plaag</i>	Exploring Symbolism through Music Theory <i>Madeline Carey</i>	Counting Counts! How Do I Count Thee? Let Me Love the Ways <i>Kath Wissinger</i>
109	All-Star Choir Rehearsal 3 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i>	All-Star Choir Rehearsal 4 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i>		Bass-ics and Beyond <i>Mark Arnold</i>
101-102	Beginning Ringing Track Session 2 of 5 <i>Kimberlee Strepka</i>	Intermediate Ringing Track Session 2 of 5 <i>Joe Galyon</i>	Advanced Ringing Track A Session 1 of 5 <i>Celia Chan Valerio</i>	Advanced Ringing Track A Session 2 of 5 <i>Celia Chan Valerio</i>
103	Bell Trees - Introduction to the First Branch <i>Laura Blauch</i>	Bell Trees Continued - Beyond the First Branch <i>Laura Blauch</i>	Six-in-Hand Methods <i>Nikki Evans</i>	
104	From Good to Great: Stage Presence for Everyone <i>Hillary Marotta</i>	Take It Up a Notch <i>Jennifer Stack</i>	Fear Not! Good News of Great Joy for Inexperienced Directors <i>Jackie Stephenson</i>	
105	From Clunky to Clear: the Art of Beautiful Chimes <i>Kathryn Jurado & William Murphy</i>	Enhancing Worship with Handbells <i>Karen Van Wert</i>	Techniques: A-Z <i>Kath Wissinger</i>	Worship Planning 101 <i>Mitchell Eithun</i>
106		Demystifying the Art of Programming <i>Billy Brandt</i>		Organizational Strategies: Ideas and Roundtable <i>Anne Kelley</i>
107	Marking Your Digital Music: ForScore for Handbells <i>Susie Amos</i>	Score Scanning Success <i>Anne Kelley</i>	Developing Young Choirs - Ringing for Today and Building for the Future <i>Mark Arnold</i>	The Handbell Rehearsal: Inside the Process and Best Practices <i>Billy Brandt</i>
108	A Music Theory Primer Part 2 of 2 <i>Kath Wissinger</i>	The Art of Engraving (and the Chore of Proofing) <i>Michael Glasgow</i>	BINGO - Theory is Fun! <i>Joy Toll-Chandler</i>	Ringing with the Congregation - Arranging Hymns for Handbells <i>Christopher Bolesen</i>

The Unpublished Music Reading Session will take place Wednesday from 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM in Room 101-102.

Thursday, July 16

	Session 7	Session 8	Session 9	Session 10
Room	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
201	Exhibiting Partner Showcase New From Choristers Guild <i>Mark Arnold, Sandra Eithun, Nick Hanson, Carol Lynn Mizell</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase New Music From CantoBell Hub <i>Phoebe Yeung</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase RingCraft & Beyond: Exploring the Future of AGEHR Publishing <i>Brian Childers</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase New Music From Grassy Meadow Music <i>Jason Krug</i>
202	Ring with Confidence: from Notation to Motion <i>Marie Loeffler</i>	A Pedagogical Approach to Understanding Rhythm in the Handbell Ensemble <i>Corbin Rasmussen</i>	Too Many Bells, Too Few Hands <i>Brian Seemann</i>	Mastering Handbell Tone and Style Through Laban's 8 Efforts <i>Phoebe Yeung</i>
203	Improving Sight Reading and Score Study Skills <i>Christopher Titko</i>	Advanced Ringing Track B Session 3 of 5 <i>Stephanie Rhoades</i>	Well, Look at That! Score Study for Ringers <i>Kerry Johnston</i>	Advanced Weaving <i>Nikki Evans</i>
204	Dorico Music Notation Program for Handbell Composers Session 2 of 2 <i>Paul Kinney</i>	Counting Counts! How Do I Count Thee? Let Me Love the Ways <i>Kath Wissinger</i>	Conquering Copyrights <i>Nick Hanson</i>	Tuning Your Message: Strengthening Communication Within Your Group and With Your Audience <i>Marie Loeffler</i>
109	Conducting Creativity: Introduction to Conducting the Gesture <i>Billy Brandt</i>		All-Star Choir Rehearsal 5 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i>	All About That Bass – Digging Deeper <i>Leslie Lewis</i>
101-102	Beginning Ringing Track Session 3 of 5 <i>Kimberlee Strepka</i>	Advanced Ringing Track A Session 3 of 5 <i>Celia Chan Valerio</i>	Intermediate Ringing Track Session 3 of 5 <i>Joe Galyon</i>	
103	Techniques: A-Z <i>Kath Wissinger</i>	Behind the Baton <i>Debbie Rice</i>	Bell Trees – Introduction to the First Branch <i>Laura Blauch</i>	Bell Trees Continued – Beyond the First Branch <i>Laura Blauch</i>
104	Take It Up a Notch <i>Jennifer Stack</i>	Bells, Ringers, Rehearsal Room: What Now? <i>Linda Lamb</i>		Fear Not! Good News of Great Joy for Inexperienced Directors <i>Jackie Stephenson</i>
105	8 Bells and a Bell Tree <i>Karen Van Wert</i>	Worship Planning 101 <i>Mitchell Eithun</i>	From Clunky to Clear: the Art of Beautiful Chimes <i>Kathryn Jurado & William Murphy</i>	Gamify the Basics – From Newbie to Confident in Record Time <i>Taryn Davis</i>
106			Demystifying the Art of Programming <i>Billy Brandt</i>	
107	New Music, Who Dis? <i>Brian Seemann</i>	Developing Young Choirs – Ringing for Today and Building for the Future <i>Mark Arnold</i>	Score Scanning Success <i>Anne Kelley</i>	Handbells and Pop Culture <i>Mitchell Eithun</i>
108	Ringing with the Congregation – Arranging Hymns for Handbells <i>Christopher Boilesen</i>	BINGO – Theory is Fun! <i>Joy Toll-Chandler</i>	Bell Tree and Ensemble Music <i>Karen Van Wert</i>	Crash Course in Audio and Video Recording for Handbells <i>Matt Gender</i>

Friday, July 17

	Session 11	Session 12	Session 13	Session 14
Room	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	3:30 PM – 4:45 PM
201	Exhibiting Partner Showcase Introducing the Schulmerich Glockenspiel! Schulmerich Bells, LLC <i>Greig Ashurst & Bethan Neely</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase Solo, Bell Tree, Small Ensemble? No Problem! Heitz Handbells <i>Michèle Sharik, Karen Van Wert, Nikki Evans, Carol Scheel</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase Fresh on the Stand: Alfred Handbell's Fall, Advent, and Christmas 2026 New Releases <i>Kathryn Jurado</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase Hot Off the Press From Jeffers Publications! <i>Michael J. Glasgow</i>
202	Too Many Bells, Too Few Hands <i>Brian Seemann</i>	The Art of Arranging Pop Music for Handbells <i>Nick Hanson</i>	Mastering Handbell Tone and Style Through Laban's 8 Efforts <i>Phoebe Yeung</i>	A Pedagogical Approach to Understanding Rhythm in the Handbell Ensemble <i>Corbin Rasmussen</i>
203	Advanced Weaving <i>Nikki Evans</i>	Well, Look at That! Score Study for Ringers <i>Kerry Johnston</i>	Advanced Ringing Track B Session 4 of 5 <i>Stephanie Rhoades</i>	When the Bell You Need Is Not in Your Hand – Creative Solutions From C(3) to Shining C(8) <i>Erin Gerecke</i>
204	Exploring Symbolism Through Music Theory <i>Madeline Carey</i>	Tuning Your Message: Strengthening Communication Within Your Group and With Your Audience <i>Marie Loeffler</i>	Noticed, Known, and Needed: Creating a Culture of Belonging in Your Ensemble <i>Suzanne Neafus</i>	How Do I Conduct That? <i>Joel Plaag</i>
109	All About That Bass – Digging Deeper <i>Leslie Lewis</i>		Bass-ics and Beyond <i>Mark Arnold</i>	All-Star Choir Rehearsal 6 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i>
101-102	Beginning Ringing Track Session 4 of 5 <i>Kimberlee Strepka</i>	Intermediate Ringing Track Session 4 of 5 <i>Joe Galyon</i>	Advanced Ringing Track A Session 4 of 5 <i>Celia Chan Valerio</i>	
103		Behind the Baton <i>Debbie Rice</i>	Beyond the Gesture: Conducting Past Basic Patterns <i>Billy Brandt</i>	Ready Set Ring! A Practical Guide for New Handbell Directors <i>Marie Loeffler</i>
104		Bells, Ringers, Rehearsal Room: What Now? <i>Linda Lamb</i>		
105	Gamify the Basics – From Newbie to Confident in Record Time <i>Taryn Davis</i>	Handbells are for Everyone – Music Reading Is Not Required <i>Diana Montgomery</i>	Enhancing Worship With Handbells <i>Karen Van Wert</i>	Experience a Music Therapy Session With Handbells and Handchimes <i>Bruna Marinho de Almeida</i>
106	Basic Principles of Conducting <i>Stephanie Rhoades</i>		Organizational Strategies: Ideas and Roundtable <i>Anne Kelley</i>	Exhibiting Partner Showcase Ringing Through Central Europe: Poland & Czechia Witte Performance Tours <i>Keith Cole</i>
107	Handbells – Music or Ministry? <i>Mark Arnold</i>	The Handbell Rehearsal: Inside the Process and Best Practices <i>Billy Brandt</i>	Basic Percussion Methods <i>Jack Burdwood</i>	Marking Your Digital Music: ForScore for Handbells <i>Susie Amos</i>
108	Crash Course in Audio and Video Recording for Handbells <i>Matt Gender</i>	Meters Matter <i>Michael Glasgow</i>	Organizing Your Ringing Year <i>Kath Wissinger</i>	Bell Tree and Ensemble Music <i>Karen Van Wert</i>

Saturday, July 18

	Session 15	Session 16
Room	9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
201		Exhibiting Partner Showcase Rockin' Through the Ages 8-Bit Handbell Publishing <i>Nick Hanson</i>
202	Handbell Science <i>Karen Van Wert</i>	Handbell Science <i>Karen Van Wert</i>
203	Improving Sight Reading and Score Study Skills <i>Christopher Titko</i>	When the Bell You Need Is Not in Your Hand - Creative Solutions From C(3) to Shining C(8) <i>Erin Gerecke</i>
204	How Do I Conduct That? <i>Joel Plaag</i>	Noticed, Known, and Needed: Creating a Culture of Belonging in Your Ensemble <i>Suzanne Neafus</i>
109		All-Star Choir Rehearsal 7 of 7 <i>Brenda Austin</i> (In Northern Lights Ballroom)
101-102	Ringin' Tracks Sharing	
103	Ready Set Ring! A Practical Guide for New Handbell Directors <i>Marie Loeffler</i>	Beyond the Gesture: Conducting Past Basic Patterns <i>Billy Brandt</i>
105	Experience a Music Therapy Session With Handbells and Handchimes <i>Bruna Marinho de Almeida</i>	Handbells are for Everyone - Music Reading Is Not Required <i>Diana Montgomery</i>
107	Basic Percussion Methods <i>Jack Burdwood</i>	Handbells and Pop Culture <i>Mitchell Eithun</i>
108	Meters Matter <i>Michael Glasgow</i>	Organizing Your Ringing Year <i>Kath Wissinger</i>

Concerts

Queen City Bronze

Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 PM



Queen City Bronze is a professional, community handbell ensemble based in Cincinnati, Ohio. The ensemble includes 14-17 advanced ringers dedicated to the challenges of performing music at the highest level. Under the direction of Joe Galyon, Queen City Bronze concerts offer an eclectic mix of musical styles featuring jazz, folk, classical, spiritual, and original compositions. The ensemble has commissioned four works for advanced handbell choirs including arrangements of "For Good" from *Wicked*, "Thriller," "Fly Me to the Moon," and an original work called "Queen City Portraits."

The group was founded in October of 2008 under the direction of Jennifer Cauhorn. To increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the art of handbell ringing, Queen City Bronze has performed concerts presenting full-length programs in concert venues and churches. The ensemble has also appeared with the Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Blue Ash Symphony, and Cincinnati Camerata. Performances have also been requested by Handbell Musicians of America Area 5 and Music Teachers National Association. In addition to performances, Queen City Bronze offers educational and training events throughout the tri-state for individuals and groups.

Program

Riverfront Rhythms: Queen City Portrait; Jason Krug; GMH350093

Northern Lights; Margaret Tucker; AMHB7

Let Tyrants Shake Their Iron Rod; Billings/arr. Jason Krug; GMH350039

Simple Gifts; Shaker Tune/arr. Brenda Austin; AP44245

The Entertainer; Joplin/arr. Sue Gartner/Marilyn Hines; FM1073

St. Louis Blues; Handy/arr. Susan Nelson; FM20349

No Dark Valley; Sankey/arr. Michael Glasgow; HP2665

Selections from West Side Story; Bernstein/arr. Andrea Handley; FM20909

Thriller; Temperton/arr. Nick Hanson; FM20542

Firework; Perry/arr. Michael Glasgow; HP2654

Bronze Ringers of Floyd Central High School

Wednesday, July 15, 1:00 PM



The Bronze Ringers of Floyd Central High School (Floyds Knobs, Indiana) are members of Handbell Musicians of America. As one of only a few public high school handbell programs in Indiana, Floyd Central's handbell ensembles are a unique component to our Performing Arts Department. Students in these ensembles meet daily as a credited class during the school day, performing arrangements of popular, classical and folk music, as well as original handbell compositions. The group performs on 5 octaves of Schulmerich bells, a 3-1/2 octave set of Schulmerich bells, 6th octave Malmark bells, 7 octaves of Schulmerich chimes and 2 octaves of Schulmerich Silver Melody Bells. The Bronze Ringers have recently appeared as featured performers for the HMA 2020 Area V Spring Festival in Louisville, KY and the American Choral Directors Association 2024 Southern Division Conference. Each year, several of our members are selected for the Indiana All-State Handbell Ensemble.

Program

American Carillon; James Weber; BEHB625

When Johnny Comes Marching Home; Traditional American Tune/arr. Jason Krug; BEHB603

Whispers on the Wind; Karen L. Buckwalter; BEHB807

Sparrows of Keshum; Derek Bromme; FM20872

Selections from West Side Story; Bernstein/arr. Andrea Handley; FM20909

It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing; Ellington/arr. Hart Morris; FM20424

Eye of the Tiger; Sullivan & Peterik/arr. Greg Urban; SMP

Bells in Motion

Wednesday, July 15, 6:00 PM



KC Congdon

George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Glenn Miller are composers not usually associated with handbell choirs, but then again, Bells In Motion is not your everyday, run-of-the-mill church or community handbell choir!

Bells In Motion is a progressive handbell ensemble based in Decatur, IL. Formed in 1997, the members of the group join by audition and hail from all around the Midwest. They have performed at many notable venues and festivals in the US, Canada, and Europe, continually bringing audiences to their feet.

The ensemble combines seven octaves of bronze and aluminum handbells and chimes, string bass, drums and other musical instruments. They perform music ranging from jazz to classical, big band to blues, Broadway to rock, and sacred to original compositions written especially for this thrilling group of performers and their instrument.

Program

Program to be selected from the following:

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy; Raye & Prince/arr. Hart Morris; HP1777

Dream a Little Dream of Me; Schwandt & Andre/arr. Chris Peck; SMP

Heat Miser; Laws & Bass/arr. Ron Mallory; RMHB004

Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polkadot Bikini; Pockriss & Vance/arr. Chris Peck; SMP

Mamma Mia!; Anderson, Ulvaeus & Andersson/arr. Linda Scholes; JHS9631

Mr. Sandman; Ballard/arr. Ron Mallory; RRBL5105

Prelude; Gershwin/arr. William H. Mathis; CGB440

Puttin' on the Ritz; Berlin/arr. Hart Morris; FM20593

Rock Around the Clock; Freeman, DeKnight & Edmondson/arr. Carol Lynn Mizell; CGB493

String of Pearls; Gray/arr. Chris Peck; FM20923

Trinity Ringers of Trinity

Lutheran Church Thursday, July 16, 1:00 PM



The Trinity Ringers are a volunteer, multi-generational church ensemble. We rehearse for an hour and 12 minutes each week to prepare for Sunday and special music services. The Trinity Ringers were established in 1976 and have been a continual part of Trinity's worship services. While the personnel may change from year-to-year due to graduation, job relocation, or retirement, the ensemble continues to maintain a very high level of performance. Rehearsals focus on growing and expanding skills that then translate into the ability to play harder music more quickly. Last year, the group ranged in age from 18 to 81. Trinity English is known for its excellent music program led by Robert Hobby and the reputation of the Trinity Ringers which has attracted ringers and music enthusiasts from other churches and denominations.

Program

Jubilee and Intermezzo; Jason Krug; Unpublished

Comfort, Comfort; Traditional/arr. Cathy Moglebust; CGB856

We Three Kings; Hopkins/arr. Sondra Tucker; CGB852

Fantasia on Ebenezer; Williams/arr. Matthew Compton; BEHB576

And He Never Said a Mumblin' Word; Traditional/arr. William Gross; FM20319

Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Hobby/arr. Kevin McChesney; MOMSM30404

Toccata On King's Weston; Williams/arr. Matthew Compton; HP2767

All Creatures of Our God and King; Traditional/arr. Alex Guebert; CGB962

Ring Sarasota

Thursday, July 16, 6:00 PM



Ring Sarasota was founded in 2010 as the dream of Rick Holdsworth, the Principal Conductor. After retiring from a career of performing in and directing Navy bands around the world, Rick settled in Sarasota and soon discovered a treasure trove of talented handbell musicians eager to join a community handbell ensemble.

During the 16 years of performing, it became apparent that audiences loved listening to familiar music, particularly music that reawakened fond memories. As a result, Ring Sarasota's performance style evolved from staging concerts to presenting shows. After choosing an original theme, each season Ring Sarasota selects a repertoire of engaging music, integrated by a cohesive story and visual displays. These performance elements enrich their shows to the delight and entertainment of their audiences. Ringing a versatile program evokes audience emotions ranging from joy and amusement to calm and introspection. Ring Sarasota has been rewarded with growing audiences amidst a local arts calendar packed with many other cultural options.

Ring Sarasota's members are active in the community, performing in the group's small ensemble and teaching to increase awareness around the art and joy of playing handbells. Educational opportunities are offered for ringers of all ages.

Program

Sail Away; Ryan & Enya/arr. Kevin McChesney; HP2476

All Bells on Deck; Various/arr. Nancy Haskall; BCC5

Margaritaville; Buffett/arr. Rick Holdsworth; FM20919

Bound for South Australia; Traditional Sea Shanty/arr. Alex Guebert; Distributed by The Golden Dance

Blue Tango; Anderson/arr. Cathy Moglebust; CGB936

Pirates of the Caribbean; Badelt/arr. Kevin McChesney; JHS9402

Under the Sea; Ashman & Menken/arr. Kevin McChesney; HP1674

The Girl from Ipanema; Jobim/arr. Rafael Lindemute and Mitchell Eithun; JMG1287

Moonlight Serenade; Miller/arr. Paul W. Allen; FM20294

Resounding Fury; Jason W. Krug; BEHB411

The John B. Sails; Bahamian Folk Song/arr. Rett Richards; GIG9200

The Ballad of Gilligan's Island; Schwartz & Wyle/arr. Scott Pfitzinger; SMP

Chicago Bronze

Friday, July 17, 1:00 PM



Chicago Bronze is a community English handbell ensemble of 16 advanced ringers from the Chicago area. Membership is by audition. In the past 26 years, Chicago Bronze has performed hundreds of concerts throughout the Chicago area and beyond. Our current director, Andrea Handley, has been with us for 16 years. We play seven full octaves of handbells, from C2 to C9, as well as six octaves of handchimes and two of Silver Melody bells.

Within the Chicago area, Chicago Bronze performs concerts throughout the city of Chicago and a wide range of surrounding suburbs to audiences filled with loyal followers as well as those who've never experienced a handbell concert before. We have also played collaborative concerts with the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, Jubilate Children's Chorus, West Towns Men's Chorus, and the North Shore Choral Society.

Program

Chicago!; Andrea Handley; Unpublished

Lakestorm; Michael Glasgow; CGB1005

Spiritfire; Benjamin Tucker; FM20344

Resilience; Alex Guebert; CGB1040

Winter Wonderland; Bernard/arr. Joel Raney; HP2882

Crosswind; Sondra Tucker; AU0800659880

And All that Jazz; Kander & Ebb/arr. Nick Hanson; FM20492

Dueling Banjos; Smith/arr. Andrea Handley; FM20579

Construction; Andrea Handley; Unpublished

Detroit Handbell Ensemble

Friday, July 17, 6:00 PM



The Detroit Handbell Ensemble (DHE) has delighted audiences throughout the Midwest since 1991 with intricate, artistic programs. The auditioned performers are musicians, educators, and professionals from across southern Michigan.

DHE performs two themed concert series each year and has also performed in many regional concert series and for a variety of events, including the 2024 America's Thanksgiving Day Parade (Detroit), Detroit's Noel Night, Central Michigan University's Juletide Holiday Collage Concert, handbell festivals, holiday tree-lighting ceremonies, senior centers, and more. The ensemble performed the opening concert of the 2018 Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar and has collaborated with other premier music groups including Embellish Handbell Ensemble of Grand Rapids and the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. One of DHE's educational initiatives is the annual Eaton Rapids Handbell Festival, which offers workshops and a massed-ensemble performance opportunity to a variety of handbell programs across Michigan and beyond.

DHE performs on five and a half octaves of Malmark handbells, six octaves of Malmark Choirchimes, and three octaves of Whitechapel handbells.

Program

Seasons of Love; Larson/arr. Nicholas Hanson; 8BHB-0024

HeartBeat; Brian Childers; CGB1334

Married Life from the motion picture *Up*; Giacchino/arr. Mitchell Eithun; RRBL5111

Hey Jude; Lennon & McCartney/arr. Rick Holdsworth; JMG1247

Someone to Watch Over Me; Gershwin/arr. Sandra Eithun; CGB1340

Jovano, Jovanke; Macedonian folk song/arr. Michael Joy; GIG8964

Transitions of the Heart; Matthew Compton; EGM107

Valse les adieux (Remembrance); Karen Lakey Buckwalter; AG36013

Wouldn't It Be Nice; Wilson, Asher, & Love/arr. Jantz A. Black; Unpublished

All-Star Choir & Distinctly Teen

Saturday, July 18, 2:00 PM

All-Star Choir

All-Star Choir participants are auditioned prior to the event and rehearse advanced music to perform in this concert on the final day of National Seminar. This year's All-Star Choir is under the direction of Brenda Austin.



Program

Exultate; Krug/GIA Publishing; G-8546

We Three Kings / Hope Publishing; 2482

Vivace; Austin / GIA Publishing; G-9019

Golden; Hanson / Hope Publishing; 3159

Be Still, My Soul; Guebert / Jeffers; HS9570

In the Hall of the Mountain King; Thompson / Fred Bock Music Co; FBBG 0915

Distinctly Teen

Distinctly Teen attendees play intermediate to advanced repertoire and develop skills in handbell technique and general musicianship, this year under the leadership of Dr. Lynn Atkins.

Program



Carillon; Louis Vierne/Fred Gramann; JHS920

Arirang, Jason Krug, L2+, GMH350032

A New Day; Caleb Onstead; From the Top 20856

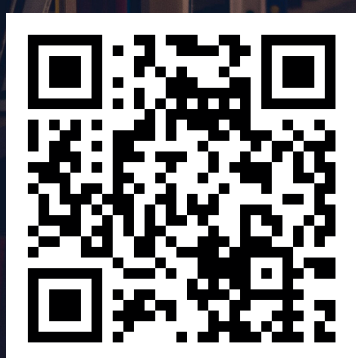
Quietude; Michael J. Glasgow; G8494

I'm Still Standing; Elton John & Bernie Taupin/
Kevin McChesney; JHS9622



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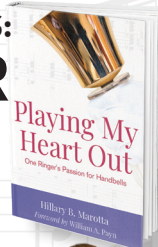
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Upcoming HMA National Events

2026

Solo Ringing Masterclass

August 17-19, Charlotte, North Carolina
Linda Krantz, Clinician

Into the Forest

August 20-22, Charlotte, North Carolina

Distinctly Bronze West

October 15-18, Vancouver, Washington
Griff Gall, Conductor

Ring-a-Thon

December 1, YouTube

For further details and continuing updates of all our national and regional events, scan the QR code. or visit bit.ly/handbellevents.



2027

Virtual Winter Workshop

January 19-23, Online

Distinctly Bronze East

February 25-28, New Bern, North Carolina
Stephanie Rhoades, Conductor

Crescendo

February 26-28, New Bern, North Carolina
Andy Wallace, Conductor

National Seminar

July 20-24, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Distinctly Teen

July 21-24, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Distinctly Bronze West

October 7-10, Vancouver, Washington
Conductor, TBD

Ring-a-Thon

December 1, YouTube



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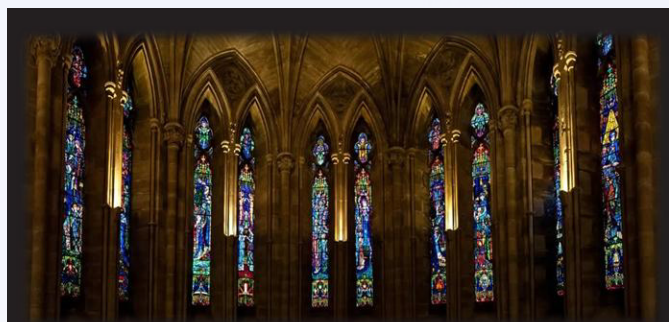


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