

Class Descriptions

Handbell Musicians of America – Area 8

Updated 4/4/18

50 Shades of Damping (Michele Sharik)

8-Bell Music (Larry & Carla Sue)

Find out about making music with just eight bells! We'll discuss the types of music available and how to choose the right pieces for you and your group (or duet partner). We'll talk about how to assign bells, the techniques used, and ideas for how you can use eight-bell music in your performances or as part of a worship service. You'll be able to look through some printed copies of our music, ask questions, and have fun playing through a couple of our eight-bell pieces.

Class Session: H

Ask a Composer (Lauran Delancy)

Do you have an idea for a handbell composition or arrangement, but aren't quite sure where to start? Are you wondering how to go about submitting a work for publication? Maybe you have always wondered WHY do they do it THAT way in a handbell score? This session will be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the art of composing and arranging for our instrument.

Class Session: B

Assignments/Levels: Does One Affect the Others? (Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal) Have you ever wondered what is the difference between L.2 and L.3 music or do you want different ways of assigning bells? Come to review & discuss the Guild system for assigning difficulty levels to handbell music as well as how handbell assignment methods factor in. Bring your piece specific questions if you have them!

Class Session: I

Basics Revisited: Your 100,000 Measure Tune Up (Brienne)

Bass Layout/Teamwork (Larry Sue)

Enhance or refresh your bass ringing. We'll cover the basic skills of lifting, ringing, damping, and tabling. In addition, there will be an opportunity to address topics of special interest to the participants. This is a hands-on class.

Class Sessions: C, K

Bass Techniques (Larry Sue)

Learn concepts to make your bass ringing more efficient, both as an individual ringer and as a bass team. This is a hands-on class where you get to apply those ideas immediately.

Class Sessions: B, G

The Best and Not-So-Good Fundraising Ideas (Kipp Willnauer) Choirs are busy raising money to cover expenses to attend various Festivals and/or purchasing addition equipment. We will discuss ideas that yield high profit for the hours invested. Car wash for a concert or an auction or Avon? Which will it be?

Class Sessions: A, H

Beyond the Basics (Mary)

Boomwhackers: A Music Maker For All! (Kipp Willnauer)

Making harmonious music with these simple tubes. Boomwhackers can be used by children, youth and adult choirs and groups. These music makers are for rhythm games and song presentations.

Class Sessions: J, K

British 4-in-Hand (Carla Sue)

An opportunity to try the traditional British style of 4-in-hand ringing. Learn how to hold the bells, and have a go at playing some simple music. No previous 4-in-hand experience is required for this informal, low-stress class. Bring an English accent if you have one!

Class Sessions: B, D, K

The Camera Doesn't Lie (KatRyn Howell)

Change Ringing (Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal)

How fun would it be to ring tower bells in England? Come learn how to "practice" with handbells. We'll cover the history of the tower bells and potential performance uses. Finally, put on some gloves and we'll ring the changes together.

Class Sessions: C, J

Chat with the Chair (Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal)

Interested in being more involved in serving our Area? Have some great ideas for future festivals? What about other Area 8 events? Stop by to chat with Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal (Chair) with your ideas. Please arrive within the first 15 minutes, or else your Chair will be given another task outside of the assigned room.

Class Session: F

Communications (Laura Kopff)

Community Groups Roundtable (Linda Ashley)

Conducting (Tessique)

Dream Weaving (Carol)

Extra-Ordinary Ringers (Nancy Youngman)

Is your choir outside of the norm i.e. a variety of ages, skills, a very young or an elderly group, or an unusual number of ringers? This class will help you adapt to these special challenges. Special ways to develop music or to work with existing music will be explored, as well as ideas to work with a variety of personalities within your group.

Class Sessions: E, H

Follow the Money (Michele Sharik)

Four-in-Hand: Use It or Lose It (Beth)

Handbell Olympics (Linda Ashley & Laura Kopff)

I've Got Rhythm, How About You? (KC Congdon)

On beats vs off beats...treble vs bass...boys vs girls...short vs tall. All of these things may cause the lack of rhythmic integrity. But hey, who wants to spend time practicing to overcome the problem? Let's play some games to fix it instead!

Class Sessions: C, D

If Bells Grew on Trees (Beth)

In-Depth Score Study (Alex)

KatSigning: Doing More with Less (KatRyn Howell)

Let's Chime In! (Nancy Youngman)

A class to help you make the most of your set of chimes, whether in the classroom or at church. Learn special techniques, tips on care, and ways to use and enhance music through the use of chimes.

Class Sessions: B, C

Line Dancing

Making the Most of Your Guild Membership

Malmark Maintenance

Maori Stick Games (Janet Carter)

A fun set of rhythm games from New Zealand that help with coordination, partnering and feeling the beat. Best played by sitting on the floors, but chair play is permitted!

Class I covers the basics.

Class Sessions: D, E

Class II moves quickly to variations on the basics.

Class Sessions: F, G

Meditation (Johannah)

Metal and Muscle (KatRyn Howell)

Music Literacy 1: Notes (Alex)

Music Literacy 2: Rhythms (KatRyn Howell)

Music Style Wars (KC Congdon)

Blues, Boogie, Ragtime, Swing, Big Band, Jazz are now coming alive in bell music. How do you get your choir started ringing those types of rhythms? How do you incorporate it into a church service or concert? How do you teach it? How does one learn how to swing? Come find out!

Class Session: I

Orchestration for Bells: Using Chimes and Other Instruments in Your Music (Michele Sharik)

Reading Session: Christmas (Janet Carter)

Come ring through dynamic literature for your ensembles in the Christmas season.

Class Sessions: C, Fri. 7:00pm

Reading Session: Concert Music (KC Congdon)

What makes a great concert program? Classical, gospel, big band, spirituals, Broadway, movie themes? Come ring through some famous pieces that have yet to take the bell world by storm!

Class Sessions: Fri. 8:15pm, J

Reading Session: Lent and Easter (Kipp Willnauer)

Come ring through a variety of handbell music to set the tone for your ensembles in Lent and Easter.

Class Sessions: Thurs. 8:30am, C

Remedies for the Sightreading Blues (Barbara Meinke)

Does the thought of ringing through a new piece of music give you the heebie-jeebies? Join us to learn some techniques to improve your sight-reading mojo. Part discussion, part hand-on, we'll unveil the mystique and find the joy in that first read-through.

Class Sessions: B, F, H

Rhythms 2 Ringing™ (Tim Waugh)

Join Tim for this challenging and fun class exploring and experiencing ways to improve your rhythmic acuity! This class, a favorite of handbell workshop participants for over three decades, works with concepts that "Your Body is the (First) Music Instrument" and that music and movement are intertwined! Come ready to move, laugh and have fun! No two sessions are exactly alike.

Class Sessions: A, I

Ringin' in One Accord (Michele Sharik)

Schulmerich Maintenance

Small Ensemble Resources (Lauran Delancy)

Come explore some of the many resources available for small ensembles. Whether your choir has a limited number of ringers, or you have a small group looking for more of a challenge, there are handbell resources available to meet your needs! This hands-on class will offer an overview of several different types of music available as well as other helpful techniques and resources.

Class Session: F

STEAM Rolling Bells in the Classroom (Cathy Brenner and Sara Mulford)

Learn ways to identify how you can partner with schools using handbells and chimes to promote STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) learning activities beyond the music classroom. An example lesson plan for third grade is provided for participants to run through. A roundtable discussion will be included to explore modifications for use with other grade levels and ideas for additional lesson plans.

Class Sessions: B, C

Stem Direction Does Count! (Sharon Schmidt)

How do you figure out who does what in handbell music?
How do you study a piece of music away from the table?
We'll walk through several pieces of music to explore the mysteries of stem direction. On the way, we'll review all the information presented in the music, including the bells used chard, brackets and parentheses, plus tricks for finding the melody.

Class Sessions: I, J

Stopped Sounds 1: The Basics (Pat Latshaw)

Mart, pluck, mallet and more! You'll have the opportunity to practice them all in this hands-on class that will familiarize you with the various stopped sound notations and focus on proper technique. Class exercises will emphasize the skills needed to perform them all effortlessly and musically.

Class Sessions: C, E

Stopped Sounds 2: Combinations (Pat Latshaw)

Once you've mastered the basics, you'll find that stopped sounds are often used in combination with each other. This class will teach you the art of playing multiple techniques in a piece and will emphasize the preparation needed to achieve the ultimate goal of fine musicality. Hands-on exercises will demonstrate various combinations found in handbell literature.

Class Sessions: D, H, I

There Ain't No Such Thing as Solo/Ensemble Techniques
(Beth)

There's More than One Way to Peel a Banana (Michele Sharik)

Unpublished Music Reading Session (Lauran Delancy) This session is a unique opportunity to sight-read unpublished music in the presence of the composer! Dynamic and eminent handbell composers Larry Sue and Tim Waugh will be in attendance to offer written and verbal commentary to attending composers. Information about this class, submitting compositions, and procedures can be found on the Area 8 website.

Class Session: Fri. 9:30pm

We Damp Through the Air with the Greatest of Ease

(Barbara Meinke) As beginning bell ringers, most of us learned that damping is just as important as ringing. Now let's explore and practice damping in a new way that enhances our visual and musical result. This class will include instruction and plenty of examples and time to practice what you learn.

Class Sessions: E, G, I

With Mallets Aforethought (Alex)

Working with Young Ringers (Lauran Delancy)

This class will focus on making the art of handbell ringing more accessible to young children. When we encourage their natural enthusiasm and desire to learn and couple it with the beginnings of technique and rhythm instruction, we plant the seeds of love for music that will grow with them. I will share my experiences and strategies for working with children as young as 4 years old and we will have an opportunity to try some of the various techniques and share ideas.

Class Session: G, K

XYZ: Perpendicular 6-in-Hand (Mary)