



THREE RIVERS  
RINGERS



### Fourteenth Annual Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival

**September 2013**

**Dear Handbell Directors and Ringers,**

The Fourteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival will be held **Saturday, April 5, 2014!** Our location is the campus of **Robert Morris University in Moon Township, PA**, near the Pittsburgh International Airport. This is a wonderful venue for our rehearsals, classes, and concert, and we are ecstatic to return to RMU again this year. The WPA Festival is co-sponsored by **Three Rivers Ringers**, Pittsburgh's premier handbell ensemble, the **Robert Morris University Band Program**, and **Musik Innovations**. Members of Three Rivers Ringers will be teaching and performing at the festival, as well as planning the event. The Robert Morris Band program, under the direction of Elisabeth H. Charles, has been vital in helping us secure space at the RMU campus. They will be working with Three Rivers Ringers to handle all the behind-the-scenes work to make this year's event a success. The event is endorsed by the Handbell Musicians of America. Send your registration forms in now; this is one festival you don't want to miss!

Our clinician this year, acclaimed conductor **Ron Bellamy**, began ringing handbells in 1979, and has been a performer and clinician for Handbell Exploration, Handbell Musicians of America, and Solo/Ensemble Extravaganza. A former member of the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble, he is also a solo handbell artist, and was a featured soloist at the 2013 Handbell Musicians of America Area 2 Festival in Oswego, NY. Ron is presently directing five handbell choirs at four Lancaster area churches. He has conducted several massed ringing events including the Nittany Valley Handbell Festival, and he has directed the Bucknell University Rooke Chapel Ringers on several occasions in Dr. William Payn's absence. Ron was the conductor for the 2011 Area 2 Young Ringers Handbell Festival in Kutztown, PA, and was co-director of the 2011 Ring-Fest, a youth handbell festival in Toledo, OH. A graduate of the University of Scranton and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, his full-time employment is in the field of accounting and finance.

**You will love the music for this year's WPA Festival!** Please take advantage of the links on the music list to listen to all of the selections, and do not hesitate to ask us questions about the repertoire. The six level 1+ thru level 2+ selections will take your choir through the church year since we have chosen music that will provide repertoire for Christmas, Lent and Easter and the general church year. Our 'golden oldie', *I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger*, is a repeat from the 2011 festival. Our sponsor, **Musik Innovations**, will have this year's repertoire in stock and will be happy to provide music packets for your choir—please consider purchasing your music from them, as it helps support the festival. You can contact Gretchen Wilmouth, or another Musik Innovations staff member, at 800-667-TUNE (8863).

Also, consider showing off your choir by playing a solo at the festival concert! Solo numbers are always great additions to a concert program and can give your ringers something to shoot for as they develop their ringing skills over the course of the year.

Are you a new Director? Are you thinking about starting a new handbell ensemble? Would you like some new conducting tips? The festival will offer **two seminars for directors: a seminar for new directors** led by Nancy Lutz, Artistic Director of Three Rivers Ringers, and a seminar in conducting techniques with Elisabeth H. Charles, Director of Bands at Robert Morris University. Each seminar is being offered for a fee of \$25. Details are contained in the accompanying Director's Seminar letter.

Speaking of directors, we'd like to extend an invitation to all directors to attend a Director's Luncheon held in a special reserved area of RMU's Nicholson Center Food Court. Ron Bellamy, Elisabeth H. Charles, Nancy Lutz, Brian Blackall (Schulmerich), and Andy Seay (Three Rivers Ringers) look forward to greeting you and discussing topics of interest during the lunch break.

If you have any questions, check out our Frequently Asked Questions page in the registration packet, or contact Cynthia Donahoe, WPA Festival Registrar ([wpa@threeriversringers.org](mailto:wpa@threeriversringers.org), 412-571-0273). Information about the festival is also at [www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org) and at [www.threeriversringers.org/wpa/](http://www.threeriversringers.org/wpa/)

Please send your registration form and fees by **January 31, 2014** to take advantage of the early bird discount (\$15 off). The final registration deadline is **March 7, 2014**.

I look forward to seeing you at the festival!

Karen Hecht Brown, WPA Festival Manager  
WPA/Three Rivers Ringers  
[wpa@threeriversringers.org](mailto:wpa@threeriversringers.org)

P.S. Remember, choirs that are not Handbell Musicians of America members may attend one festival before becoming a member. Returning attendees will need to provide their membership number.

Attachments: Registration Form, Music List, Beginning Handbell Director Seminar/Conducting Workshop Flyer, Festival Schedule, FAQ Sheet.

# **Fourteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **WHY SHOULD I BRING MY CHOIR TO A HANDBELL FESTIVAL?**

Coming to a handbell festival is a wonderful way to play with other handbell musicians, work with **Ron Bellamy**, our Handbell Clinician, and learn more about the music and techniques that enhance our ability to create wonderful handbell experiences for both ringers and listeners. Plus, you will have lots of fun!

### **WHY SHOULD I REGISTER MY CHOIR FOR THE WPA HANDBELL FESTIVAL BY JANUARY 31, 2014?**

You should register early to take advantage of the \$85/choir Early-Bird discounted Registration Fee (a \$15 savings) and to ensure that your choir is able to attend the 2013 WPA Festival. Space in RMU's John Jay Center Gymnasium is limited; last year's registration was close to the gym's capacity. You don't want to miss out! We will accept registrations until the March deadline, as long as we have space available.

### **WHAT IF MY WHOLE CHOIR CANNOT COME?**

You can register for the festival as a partial choir or as an individual (\$15 per person). If attending as a partial choir, let our Festival Registrar, Cynthia Donahoe, know the number of feet required by your group on the ringing floor. Additionally, let Cynthia know if you will have unassigned bell positions during the festival; these may be filled by those registering as individuals or by members of the Three Rivers Ringers. Individuals may pool together and register as a partial choir or opt to be assigned a spot with another choir.

### **WILL WE NEED TO BRING TABLES AND PADS?**

Once again, we are offering to provide tables **free of charge** to those groups opting not to transport their own tables. Just indicate the total number of feet needed on the WPA Registration Form. Please request only the amount of table length needed to accommodate your ringers. If your needs should change subsequent to Registration, please contact Cynthia Donahoe, WPA Festival Registrar. **You will need to provide your own pads and table covers.**

## **ARE THERE HOTELS CLOSE TO THE FESTIVAL VENUE?**

Robert Morris University is located near the Pittsburgh International Airport so there are many options! Those closest to the university are:

- Yorktown Inn **Formerly known as the Holiday Inn Pgh. Airport**  
8256 University Boulevard  
Moon Township, PA 15108 412-262-3600  
**This hotel is owned by RMU.**
- DoubleTree by Hilton, Pittsburgh Airport 8402 University Boulevard  
Coraopolis, PA 15108 412-329-1400
- Hampton Inn, Pittsburgh Airport  
8514 University Boulevard Coraopolis, PA 15108 412-264-0020

## **WILL THERE BE FOOD PROVIDED?**

Lunch will be available for purchase at RMU's Food Court or Romo's café, both conveniently located in the Nicholson Center. Both dining options offer a wide selection. The Food Court is the larger dining area and has multiple food stations serving items such as pizza, sandwiches, salads and crepes! This year we are also offering the option for individuals and/or groups to bring a packed lunch. Those doing so may dine in either of the dining areas in the Nicholson Center or, if the weather is nice, at tables located on the Nicholson Center's patio. In addition, the RMU Marching Band will have snacks and beverages available for purchase at a stand adjacent to the ringing floor both in the morning and afternoon.

## **WILL THERE BE A HANDBELL COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE AT THE FESTIVAL?**

Brian Blackall, Regional Independent Sales Representative for Schulmerich Bells, will be attending the WPA Handbell Festival again this year! Brian will be available for consultation and repair of Schulmerich handbells and MelodyChimes. Additionally, Brian has offered to run Schulmerich Handbell Maintenance Clinic open to directors during one of the massed rehearsals.

# Fourteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival

## Robert Morris University

John Jay Center  
6001 University Blvd.  
Moon Township, PA 15108

For directions and campus map go to:  
<http://www.rmu.edu/about-rmu/moon>

### Saturday, April 5, 2014

## Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.	Registration and Set – Up
9:00 – 10:00	First Rehearsal
9:00 – 12:00	Optional Beginning Directors Class - \$25 fee
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:15	Second Rehearsal
11:00 – 11:15	Break – Travel to Classrooms – Solo Rehearsals
11:15 – 12:00 P.M.	Morning Class Session
12:00 – 12:15	Travel to Lunch – Nicholson Center, Food Court
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch-Director's Luncheon-Solo Rehearsals
1:15 – 2:30	Third Rehearsal/Conducting Workshop - \$25 fee
2:30 – 2:45	Break – Travel to Classrooms – Solo Rehearsals
2:45 – 3:30	Afternoon Class Session
3:30 – 3:45	Break – Return to Rehearsal Space
4:00 – 5:00	Final Rehearsal
5:00 – 5:30	Dress for Concert
5:30	Concert – Public Welcome, Goodwill Offering

*This event is endorsed by Handbell Musicians of America, dedicated to uniting people through the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing. [www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org)*

## **Fourteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival Director's Seminars**

On Saturday, April 5, 2014, the Western PA Handbell Festival will be held at Robert Morris University in Moon Township. This one-day festival is designed for handbell choirs that play level 1 and 2 music; selections that are on the easier side of the difficulty scale. You are invited and encouraged to participate in two learning experiences for beginning handbell/handchime directors and those who are considering assuming this position: New Director's Forum and Conducting Basics. These workshops are open to all directors, not just those bringing choirs to the festival. The cost is \$25 per session.

### **New Director's Forum      9 AM to 12 noon    Campus Chapel**

Designed to provide a forum for the discussion of issues facing the new handbell director or persons considering becoming a handbell director. In the morning, participants will spend the first 30 minutes of the seminar, from 9- 9:30 A.M., observing the festival conductor, then spend the next 2.5 hours in a roundtable discussion while the festival rehearsal is taking place. Discussion can continue over lunch!

Topics to be covered in the morning seminar include:

- Equipment:    What do I need and how do I take care of it?
- Ringers:        How many ringers do I need?  
                    What skills do new ringers need?
- Music:          How do I know what music I should buy?  
                    How do I "prepare" the music I have selected?
- Rehearsal:    How do I prepare myself for the first rehearsal?  
                    How do I teach my ringers the music?  
                    How do I run an effective rehearsal?
- Techniques:   What exactly are handbell/handchime techniques?  
                    How can I learn them? How do I teach them?
- Conducting:   How do I communicate with my ringers?
- Education:    Where can I learn more?  
                    Are there books that can help me?

A comprehensive set of notes will be provided, outlining all of these items and more and including a bibliography of handbell resources.

**Conducting Basics**

1:15 p.m.

**Campus Chapel**

In the afternoon following lunch, we will adjourn to the campus chapel for a workshop on conducting techniques. Topics to be covered in the afternoon workshop include conducting do's and don'ts, basic conducting patterns, tips for teaching rhythms, emphasizing musicality in your rehearsals. Bring your baton if you have one plus all your conducting questions. If you have a specific conducting conundrum, bring along your music for some one-on-one help.

We hope all of you can stay for the entire day to observe rehearsals and participate in the afternoon classes. The festival concert is at 5:30 pm.

The morning seminar clinician will be Nancy Lutz. She is the Artistic Director of the Three Rivers Ringers, Pittsburgh's premier handbell ensemble. Nancy is also director of handbells at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh where she has two adult ensembles. Nancy is active in both the Area 2 and National Handbell Musicians of America.

Elisabeth Heath Charles will lead the afternoon Conducting Workshop. She is a former ringer and board member of the Three Rivers Ringers and also rings with The Chapel Bells at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. From 2001–2005 she rang with the Ladies Handbell Team and also served as the Conductor of Ringers II Handbell Team at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon. Mrs. Charles is the Director of Bands at Robert Morris University and was previously the Conductor and Music Director of the Butler County Symphony Orchestra.

If you are in need of help and suggestions or even if you just want some new ideas, please consider registering for the New Directors Forum and/or the Conducting Basics Workshop. The cost for each session is \$25. You may register by email or by writing to Cynthia Donahoe, Festival Registrar. Checks should be made to the Western PA Directors' Group.

Cynthia Donahoe, Festival Registrar  
Western PA Handbell Festival  
108 Halsey Court  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228  
412-571-0273    [wpa@threeriversringers.org](mailto:wpa@threeriversringers.org)

14<sup>th</sup> Annual WPA Festival Music List  
Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Robert Morris University  
Ron Bellamy Clinician

Links to listen and/or view are included below, if available. Catalog numbers typically refer to publisher catalogs. ***All choirs must purchase and prepare music prior to the festival. Music in quantity will not be available at the festival. NO photocopies are permitted.***

**Crown Him With Many Crowns** Cathy Moglebust Level 2 2-5 Octaves  
Choristers Guild CGB 771 (2-3 oct) OR CGB 772 (3-5 oct)

View/Listen to 2-3 Octave version: <http://tinyurl.com/ktu4l6a>

View/Listen to 3-5 Octave version: <http://tinyurl.com/lynkrcg>

**Wondrous Love Was There** Sandra Eithun Level 2 3-5 Octaves  
Ring Out Press MRO 3313

Listen: <http://tinyurl.com/k3un3jm>

**Fantasia on "Ebenezer"** Tammy Waldrop Level 2+ 3-5 Octaves  
Lorenz 20/1654L

View/Listen: <http://tinyurl.com/kfp28wz>

**Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella** Cathy Moglebust Level 1 2-5 Octaves  
CGB 496 (2-3 oct) OR CGB 594 (3-5 oct)

View/Listen to 2-3 Octave version: <http://tinyurl.com/mezy33r>

View/Listen to 3-5 Octave version: <http://tinyurl.com/m286aau>

**Abide with me** Jason Krug Level 2 2-5 Octaves  
Ringing Word Publications RW8228

Listen here (click on the bell icon): <http://tinyurl.com/l2k8wdo>

**I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger** Tammy Waldrop Level 2- 3-5 Octaves  
Agape /Hope Publishing HP 2343

Listen/view here: <http://tinyurl.com/lzwgru8>



**Registration**  
**Fourteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival**  
**Saturday, April 5, 2014**

Church/Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Choir Name \_\_\_\_\_ # of Octaves you are bringing \_\_\_\_\_

Director's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Handbell Musicians of America Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**\*Membership required of all but first-time attendees.**

**Tables: Bring your own or borrow from RMU**

\_\_\_\_\_ Total length of tables you are bringing \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total length of tables you will borrow for the day \_\_\_\_\_ feet. (**You must provide foam.**)

\_\_\_\_\_ Choir will present a solo piece (**Information to Festival Registrar before 03/07/14.**)

Name of piece \_\_\_\_\_

Composer \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSES (Each ringer may select 2 classes.)**

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Bell Basics**

*We will review the basics of handbell ringing. This will include basic ringing technique, proper damp techniques, and weaving. **This class is offered only during the morning session.***

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Bell Basics-The Next Level**

*A continuing basics class, covering Mallets, various Martellato techniques, table echoes, plucking, tower swings, singing bells, gyros, vibrato etc. This class will complete your knowledge of basic bell techniques.*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Bell Change Boot Camp**

*Receive hands on help to smoothly transition between different bells. In addition, learn how to mark bell changes in your music.*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Bell Changes-Level 2**

*This class will focus on weaving technique and using 4-in-hand to cover multiple bells. Surprise your director with your newly acquired skills!*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Treble Bell Techniques**

*The use of the basic Shelley and 4-in-hand techniques will be taught using a variety of illustrations, demonstrations, exercises and musical examples.*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Bass Bell Techniques**

*Come learn better ways to play with the behemoth bells (C3-B3), from how to lift them, to the proper ringing stroke, to proper damping, to protecting your hands. We'll also cover alternate ways to arrange your bass bells efficiently and to think "outside of the box."*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Maori Sticks**

*The Maori stick games will be used to perform a series of rhythmic movements with sticks made from various materials and will promote individual coordination and team cooperation.*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **The Rhythm is Gonna Get You!**

*Unlocking the key to rhythmic challenges, including triplets, syncopation, and music that "swings!"*

A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ **Schulmerich Maintenance Clinic**

*This class is only offered during the morning session.*

(Classes subject to availability)

## **Costs: Please make check out to Western PA Director's Group**

\$\_\_\_\_\_ \$85 Early Bird Registration/Choir (deadline 1/31/14)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Regular Registration/Choir (deadline 3/07/14)

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Total Number of ringers/directors attending Festival

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Individuals without a choir may register for \$15.00 each.

\$\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Director's Seminar/Workshop @ \$25.00 per session. See enclosed flyer for details.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

## **Return this form to:**

Western PA Handbell Festival  
Cynthia Donahoe, WPA Festival Registrar  
108 Halsey Court  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228 412-571-0273 [wpa@threeriversringers.org](mailto:wpa@threeriversringers.org)

**Keep a copy of registration for your records.**