

# THREERIVERS RINGERS



October 2015

Dear Handbell Directors and Ringers,

The Sixteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival will be held Saturday, April 9, 2016! We have a new location this year, Yorktown Hall of the Robert Morris University in Moon Township, PA. The WPA Festival is co-sponsored by Three Rivers Ringers, Pittsburgh's premier handbell ensemble and the Robert Morris University Band Program. Members of Three Rivers Ringers will be teaching and performing at the festival as well as planning the event. We will once again be working with and assisted by the Robert Morris Band Program, under the direction of Elisabeth H. Charles.

We have some terrific music for this year's festival. There are two original compositions from our clinician, Fred Gramann. Both the holiday selections (Christmas and Easter) have the option for a Bb or C instrument. We are especially excited about this year's addition of a challenge piece; William Bradbury's Calypso on "He Leadeth Me". Please listen to the selections on the provided links.

In addition to registering as a full choir, you can also register for the festival as a partial choir or as an individual. If so, please contact our Festival registrar, Cynthia Donahoe. Additionally, please let Cynthia know if you will have unassigned bell positions during the festival as these may be filled by those registering as individuals. 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.

Our clinician this year is Fred Gramann. Fred's love affair with handbells began in 1977 when a touring American handbell choir played at the American Church in Paris where he is Director of Music. Fred directs three adult handbell choirs at the American Church. He is also the adult choral director and organist, and organizes a weekly classical concert series at the church.

Yet another love affair began in the early 90's when Fred heard the Raleigh Ringers perform in Scottsdale, AZ. "Having an ensemble of that caliber ring a composition of mine was truly inspiring. They captured every nuance I had intended." Thanks to the RRs, Fred was invited to conduct his first handbell festival, the Capital Area Festival.

And the handbell festival-conducting journey began. Oh yes, Fred did study music before being introduced to handbells! He earned a Bachelors degree in organ performance at Syracuse University, a Masters degree in organ performance at the University of Michigan, and studied privately with Marie-Claire Alain and Maurice Duruflé in Paris. This June Fred celebrates his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Director of Music at the American Church in Paris. He and his wife Nancy have been married for 43 years, and are grandparents of two magnificent young boys.

We hope you will consider stretching your choir with our challenge piece. There will be a morning and afternoon rehearsal for this piece. We'd like you to let us know if you are interested in participating. We are developing some new class offerings this year and will make that information available ASAP.

If you have any questions, check out our Frequently Asked Questions page in the 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.threeriversringers.org/wpa](http://www.threeriversringers.org/wpa).

Please send your registration form and fees by January 31, 2016 to take advantage of the \$15 early bird discount. Eight-foot tables will be available to rent for a fee of \$5 per table; choirs must provide their own pads. The final registration deadline is March 11, 2016. We will finalize class choices and information soon.

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!

Lisa Falcione, 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 member number.

## SIXTEENTH 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 **Fred Gramann**, 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 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HANDBELL FESTIVAL (WPA) BY JANUARY 31, 2015?

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 2015 WPA Festival. Space in RMU's Yorktown Hall is limited. You don't want to miss out! We will of course 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, just 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 to those groups opting not to transport their own tables. **Due to rising costs, we have had to include a \$5/table charge to offset the expense of providing tables.** Just indicate the total number of feet needed on the WPA Registration Form. **You will need to provide your own pads and table covers (if you use them).**

## **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:

- 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 Yorktown Hall Cafe. This year we are also offering the option for individuals and/or groups to bring a packed lunch. Those doing so may dine at tables available at the venue or if the weather is nice, at tables outside the cafe. 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.

**WPA 2016 FESTIVAL MUSIC FRED GRAMANN**  
**ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY**  
**YORKTOWN HALL**

**A Joyous Fanfare**

Level 2+/3- 3, 4 or 5 octaves

Fred Gramann  
Choristers Guild CG926

Visual preview and ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1LpBb4E>

*Establish a festive mood in concert or worship with this original work.*

**Creator of the stars of night**

Level 1+ 2 or 3 octaves

arr. Cathy Moglebust  
Choristers Guild CG268

Audio, score preview and ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1Q1P6o3>

*"Ethereal, sparkling and mystical" describe the mood of this Christmas arrangement based on the plainsong "Conditor Alme Siderum."*

**Passacaglia in C minor (Built on the Sure Foundation-alternate title)**

Fred Gramann

Level 2 3, 4 or 5 octaves Choristers Guild CG875

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1WQbKBL>

*This original work by Fred Gramann explores a variety of handbell textures and techniques, building from simple to more complex patterns.*

**Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing**

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Level 2 2-3 octaves Choristers Guild CG876

Level 2 3-5 octaves Choristers Guild CG877

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1VHQyLz>

*This latest publication in the "Flexible Favorites" series is usable throughout the Easter season as well as for Palm Sunday or Advent, using the alternate title Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates.*

**While Shepherds watched their flocks**

arr. Sandra Eithun

Level 2 2-3 octaves Choristers Guild CG849

Level 2 3-5 octaves Choristers Guild CG850

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1OoXdKi>

Optional Bb or C instrument

*The memorable carol "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" is intermingled with hints of other carols provided by the optional instrumental line to create a fun and accessible setting in two compatible versions.*

**Glorious things of Thee are spoken**

arr. Sandra Eithun

Level 2 3-6 octaves SoundForth SF286583

Audio preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1ZiyNXS>

*Scored for 3 to 6 octaves of handbells and optional 3 to 5 octaves of handchimes this arrangement fits many different church and concert settings.*

**Calypso on "He leadeth me"**

William Bradbury/arr. Tammy Waldrop

Level 3- 3-6 octaves

Hope Publishing HP2609

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/1jh0csu>

Optional Percussion Parts

***Challenge piece-optional for participating ensembles.***

*The syncopated melody, colorful accompaniment and optional Latin percussion all combines to give the impression of a Caribbean beachside service.*

**Registration**  
**2016 Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival**  
**Saturday, April 9, 2016**

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

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

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Ringers Under 18** \_\_\_\_\_

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

HMOA/AGEHR Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (First time attendees do not have to be members.)\*

**Tables: Bring your own or rent from RMU \$5 per 8-Foot Table**

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 03/11/16**)

      Name of piece \_\_\_\_\_

      Composer \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Choir will participate in challenge piece. This will be an AM and PM rehearsal.

**Costs: Please make check out to Western PA Directors' Group**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$85 Early Bird Registration/Choir (deadline 1/31/16)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$100 Regular Registration/Choir (deadline 3/11/16)**

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Table Rental (\$5 per 8-Foot Table)**

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

**Return this form with check made out to Western PA Directors' Group as follows:**  
**\$85 per choir by January 31, 2016 (Early Bird Registration)**  
**\$100/ per choir by March 11, 2016 (Regular Registration)**  
**\$15 per individual ringer**  
**Table Rental (\$5 per 8-Foot Table)**

**Please send completed registration forms and applicable fees to:**  
Western PA Handbell Festival  
Cynthia Donahoe  
108 Halsey Court  
Pittsburgh, PA 15228 412-779-6703 [wpa@threeriversringers.org](mailto:wpa@threeriversringers.org)

**\* Handbell Musicians Of America membership is mandatory for returning attendees.**

Class choices will will be available soon.