

T H R E E R I V E R S R I N G E R S



January 18, 2013

Dear Handbell Directors and Ringers,

Happy New Year! The Early Bird Registration Discount is expiring soon! Registration forms must be post-marked by January 31, 2013 in order to be eligible for the early bird discount (\$15 off).

The Thirteenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival will be held **Saturday, April 13th, 2013**. 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 this year after last year's successful event. 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. The event is endorsed by the Handbell Musicians of America so send your registration forms in now; this is one festival you don't want to miss!

You will love the music for this year's WPA Festival! At level 1+, Cynthia Dobrinski's *Time for Joy* is one your group can learn in just a few rehearsals. *Savior of the Nations Come* was used a few years ago so it is our Golden Oldie this year. Cathy Moglebust's setting is ethereal, using suspended bells played with mallets. Haven't used the singing bell technique yet? *Amazing Grace* is your chance to learn! This gorgeous arrangement will thrill all who hear. Please take advantage of the links on the music list, found by accessing the festival website (www.threeriversringers.org/wpa) to listen to all of the selections. Do not hesitate to ask us questions about the repertoire. 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 a new goal as they develop their ringing skills over the course of the year.

Our clinician this year, **internationally acclaimed conductor, composer, and performance arts educator Timothy H. Waugh** is well known in many performance mediums, including handbell, choral, church music and musical theatre. In the fall of 2011, Tim accepted the position of Assistant to the Director of Music Ministries at First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte NC. He is the Director of Handbell Musicians for the church, where he directs multiple choirs including the Ivey Handbell Ensemble. Additionally, he is the Artistic Director and Conductor of one of the newest community bell choirs, Charlotte Bronze

Handbell Ensemble, also based in Charlotte, NC, and is serving as Interim Director of the Rejoice Ringers at Beck's Baptist Church in Winston-Salem NC.

Tim still has time to pursue other facets of music-making. He conducts or teaches at over 20 festivals and workshops each year. He is also an active published composer and author. We are excited to have such an accomplished musician direct our festival this year.

Mr. Waugh will also conduct two sectional rehearsals on the Ringing Floor during this year's festival. Tim will focus on the more challenging passages in the festival repertoire, as well as incorporating some small movement exercises into each session. **Treble ringers, F5 through upper treble, will participate in the morning sectional (participants can then select one class held in the afternoon) and the Bass ringers, those ringing low bass through E5, will participate in the afternoon sectional (participants can then select one class held in the morning). Be sure to indicate the number of Treble/Bass ringers on the Registration Form!**

Are you a new Director? Are you thinking about starting a new handbell ensemble? Would you like help with conducting? The festival will offer **two seminars for directors** to address these issues led by Nancy Lutz, Artistic Director of Three Rivers Ringers, and Elisabeth H. Charles, Director of Bands at Robert Morris University. **Directors will have the option of selecting one or both of these two separate class sessions for only \$25!** Details can be found in the Director's Seminar letter by accessing the WPA Festival website (www.threeriversringers.org/wpa) and clicking on the WPA Festival Registration Packet link.

Speaking of directors, we'd like to extend an invitation to all those directors registering for the festival to attend a Director's Luncheon held in a special reserved area of RMU's Nicholson Center Food Court. Timothy H. Waugh, 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 me (wpa@threeriversringers.org, 412-571-0273). Information about the festival can also be found at www.threeriversringers.org/wpa/ or www.handbellmusicians.org.

Please send your registration form and fees by **January 31st, 2013** to take advantage of the early bird discount (\$15 off). The final registration deadline is **March 15th, 2013**. **We had nearly a full house last spring...don't delay!**

I am looking forward to seeing you at the festival!

Cynthia Donahoe
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P.S. Remember, choirs that are not Handbell Musicians of America members may attend one festival before becoming a member.