



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



September 2014

Dear Handbell Directors and Ringers,

The 15th Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival (WPA) will be held **Saturday, April 18, 2015!** Our location is the campus of **Robert Morris University (RMU)** 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 of 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!

You will love the music for this year's WPA Festival! Please listen to all of the selections using the provided links, and do not hesitate to ask us questions about the repertoire. **All festival music will be available at Musik Innovations.** As usual, the music list has been designed to take your choir through the church year. There are two original compositions by Fred Gramann and Michael Mazzatenta that can be used anytime you need an upbeat addition to worship. Traditional hymn tune *Lobe den Herren (Praise to the Lord, the almighty)* and the Spanish hymn (*Come Christians, join to sing*) are joined by the popular contemporary classic, *You are mine*, from the pen of David Hass and arranged by Lloyd Larson. The 1966 carol by Kathleen Thomerson, *I want to walk as a child of the light*, will provide a particularly lovely start to your Advent season. You will want to consider adding the optional C instrument.

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 **David L. Weck**, Music Editor for Hope Publishing and Director of The Agape Ringers. We are thrilled that David is coming to Pittsburgh! As many of you know, David has directed numerous national and international handbell events, including several International Handbell Symposiums (Toronto, Canada; Orlando, Florida; Osaka, Japan), Distinctly Bronze, an event for advanced ringers, (2012), and the Hong Kong

Handbell Festival (2013). He has served on the national board of The Handbell Musicians of America and was given the Midwest States' Area 8 Outstanding Service Award. In 2011, AGEHR (now Handbell Musicians of America) named him an Honorary Life Member, their highest honor.

Are you a new Director? Are you thinking about starting a new handbell ensemble? Do you need conducting tips and score study? 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. Each seminar is offered for a fee of \$25. Details are contained in the accompanying Director's Seminar letter.

Speaking of directors, we would 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. David L. Weck, Elisabeth H. Charles, and Nancy Lutz, 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, 412-571-0273). Information about the festival is also at www.handbellmusicians.org and at www.threeriversringers.org/wpa/

Please send your registration form and fees by **January 31, 2015** 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 13, 2015**.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the festival!

Karen Hecht Brown, WPA Festival Manager
WPA/Three Rivers Ringers
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.

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

15th 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 **David L. Weck**, 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 John Jay Center Gymnasium 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. **Classes are filled on a first-come first-served basis, so register early!**

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:

- 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 Cafe conveniently located in the Nicholson Center. Both dining options offer a wide variety of items on their menu. 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.

BEGINNING DIRECTORS SEMINAR/CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

September 2014

To beginning handbell directors and potential handbell directors:

On Saturday, April 18, 2015, 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.

In the morning we 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 having a roundtable discussion while the festival rehearsal is taking place.

In the afternoon, during the third scheduled mass rehearsal we will adjourn to the Nicholson Center Conference Room for a workshop on conducting techniques. We hope all of you can stay for the entire day to observe rehearsals, attend the Director's Luncheon, and participate in the afternoon classes. The festival concert is at 5:30 P.M.

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?

Topics to be covered in the afternoon workshop may include conducting do's and don'ts, basic conducting patterns, tips for teaching rhythms, emphasizing musicality in your rehearsals and all your questions answered.

The morning seminar clinician will be Nancy Lutz. She is the Artistic Director of 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 at both the Area 2 and national levels of Handbell Musicians of America.

The afternoon Conducting Workshop will be led by Elisabeth Heath Charles. She is a former member of 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 for the Southminster Presbyterian Church of 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 Beginning Director's Seminar/Conducting Workshop. The cost for each seminar is \$25. You may register by email or by writing to Cynthia Donahoe, event registrar. Checks should be made to Western PA Directors' Group.

Western PA Handbell Festival
Cynthia Donahoe, Festival Registrar
108 Halsey Court
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-779-6703 wpa@threeriversringers.org

15th 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 18, 2015

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 A.M.	Registration and Set – Up
9:00 – 10:30	First Rehearsal Optional Beginning Directors Class (9:00 – 12:00)
10:30 – 10:45	Break – Travel to Classrooms – Solo Rehearsals
10:45 – 11:30	Morning Class Session
11:30 – 11:45	Travel to John Jay Gym, Second Rehearsal
11:45 – 12:30 P.M.	Second Rehearsal
12:30 – 1:45	Lunch, Nicholson Center Food Court Director’s Luncheon-Solo Rehearsals Travel to John Jay Gym, Third Rehearsal
1:45 – 2:45	Third Rehearsal Conducting Workshop (1:45 – 3:00)
2:45 – 3:00	Break – Travel to Classrooms – Solo Rehearsals
3:00 – 3:45	Afternoon Class Session
3:45 – 4:00	Break – Return to Rehearsal Space – Solo Rehearsals
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

15th Annual WPA Festival Music List
Saturday, April 18th, 2015
Robert Morris University
David Weck, Clinician

Links to listen and/or view are included below, if available. Catalog numbers typically refer to publisher catalogs. Music packets or single pieces available at Musik Innovations (1-800-677-8863, www.musikinnovations.com, 9795 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090), the WPA Festival's Official Sponsor. **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.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Kevin McChesney Level 3- 2-5 Octaves (optional SATB)
Agape /Hope Publishing HP 1499 (2-3 oct) OR HP 2180 (3-5 oct); C5654 (SATB edition) (*Hymn Tune*)
Listen: <http://bit.ly/1nmfMgO>

Both the 3-5 octave and 2-3 octave settings for handbells can be used as optional accompaniments to the voices. The energetic forces, created by the rhythmic use of mallets accompanying this powerful tune, make this a dynamic worship choice for many occasions. This selection was used at the 2001 and 2008 WPA Festivals and was written before level designations were assigned to music.

You Are Mine David Haas/Lloyd Larson Level 2+ 3-5 Octaves
Agape/Hope Publishing HP 2696 Listen: <http://bit.ly/1ouF8OI> (*Praise Chorus*)

Lloyd Larson takes this wonderful David Haas hymn and creates an inspiring handbell setting which is sure to enrich any worship gathering. The memorable melody, combined with the song's message of hope and assurance, makes this useful for general worship, discipleship, confirmation, baptism and many other occasions.

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light Kathleen Thomerson Level 2 2-5 Octaves
Choristers Guild CGB 831 (2-3 oct) OR CGB 832 (3-5 oct) (*Advent*)
Listen to 3-5 Octave version: <http://bit.ly/1o8yKNa>

A short original melody comprises the introduction, interludes, and ending. In the second stanza, the upper treble bells are played with mallets, while the hymn tune is played by the lower treble and bass. C or Bb instrument optional.

Jubilation Fred Gramann Level 2+ 3-5 Octaves
CGB 833 Listen: <http://bit.ly/1o8yYUr> (*Original Composition*)

Consider this sparkling original composition with no bell changes as your next concert opener or for a special feast day during worship. This piece features melodies in both the treble and bass and is suitable for Easter.

Celebrate with Ringing Michael Mazzatenta Level 2 3-5 Octaves (opt. handchimes)
AGEHR 35326 Listen: <http://bit.ly/1qOIKdQ> (*Original Composition*)

Award winning composer Michael Mazzatenta gives us an exciting original handbell piece with touches of jazz and syncopation. With a beautiful contrasting middle section with handchimes and malleted bells, this 104-measure piece in C major is great for church, concert, or massed ringing.

Alleluia, Amen Karen Lakey Buckwalter Level 1 3-5 Octaves
CGB 817 Listen: <http://bit.ly/1xZnVOF> (*Hymn Tune*)

Alleluia! Amen! by Karen Lakey Buckwalter is an easy, festive arrangement of the tune MADRID, known in some hymnals as "Come, Christians Join to Sing." Surrounded by sparkling, original material, Alleluia! Amen! will be a joyful addition to worship services, concerts and festivals.

Registration
15th Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival
Saturday, April 18, 2015

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 rent for the day _____ feet. (You must provide foam.)

_____ Choir will present a solo piece (**Information to Festival Registrar before 03/13/15.**)

Name of piece _____

Composer _____

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

\$_____ **\$85 Early Bird Registration/Choir (deadline 1/31/15)**

\$_____ **\$100 Regular Registration/Choir (deadline 3/13/15)**

_____/____ 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.

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

\$_____ **Total Enclosed**

CLASSES (each ringer can select **1 or 2 classes; one A.M. , one P.M.**)

A.M. ONLY _____ **Bell Basics**

We will review the basics of handbell ringing. This will include basic ringing technique, proper damp techniques, pattern ringing and weaving.

A.M. _____ P.M. _____ **Bell Basics-The Next Level**

*This popular class will cover **mallets**, various **Martellato** techniques, **table echoes**, **plucking**, **tower swings**, **singing bells**, **gyros**, **vibrato**, etc.*

A.M. _____ P.M. _____ **Bell Changes – 1-5 (C4-E5)**

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- Positions 6 – 11 (F5 and up)**

*This class will focus on weaving technique and using traveling 4-in-hand to cover multiple bells. Surprise your director with your newly acquired skills! **Attendees MUST bring their own bells to class. Please ensure that your group's handbells are clearly identified!***

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.

P.M. ONLY _____ **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 the box.

A.M. _____ P.M. _____ **Cup Game**

Festival favorite returns. Improve your dexterity while having fun with other ringers as you see how fast you can go!

A.M. _____ P.M. _____ **Sight-Reading Challenge with Chimes**

Improve your sight-reading skills as you spend a fun-filled session making music on chimes! Receive sight-reading tips as we read through music covering a variety of levels. Proper chime technique will be covered as well.

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

Unlocking the key to rhythmic challenges, including triplets, syncopation, and music that “swings!” This popular class is guaranteed to improve your rhythmic ability.

A.M. _____ P.M. _____ **Handbell Round Table**

Take a break from ringing while socializing with other ringers. Our moderator will also lead a discussion of topical handbell issues.

(Classes subject to availability. Register early as classes are filled on a first-come first-served basis!)

Return this form with check made out to Western PA Directors’ Group as follows:

\$85 per choir by January 31, 2015 (Early Bird Registration)

\$100 per choir by March 13, 2015 (Regular Registration)

\$15 per individual ringer

\$25 per session of Directors Seminar/Workshop

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

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