

# THREE RIVERS RINGERS



August 2016

Dear Handbell Directors and Ringers,

The Seventeenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival will be held Saturday, April 1 2017! We return to last year's location, 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 hope you enjoy the music for this year's festival. There are several pieces that are available for both 2-3 and 3-5 octaves of bells, as well as optional chimes and additional instruments. This year's challenge piece is Brian Childers' *Exodus*. 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 Debbie Rice. Debbie draws on her vast experience as a professional singer, choral conductor and passion for teaching to encourage high standards for the handbell and handchime instrument to be musical and worshipful. Her degrees are in music education, opera and musical theater. She has also studied early music and conducting. Debbie maintains a demanding travel schedule as clinician, adjudicator and conductor. Her international assignments have included Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan. In June she conducts an international festival tour including the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland.

Her professional experience has included Director of Handbell Ministries: Becks Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC; Artistic Director: New River Ringers, Independence, VA; Adjunct Professor: Concordia University of Edmonton, Alberta, CA.

With the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (rebranded as Handbell Musicians of America in 2011), she chaired numerous committees and held elected offices on the National Board as Area Chair, National Secretary and National President. In 2014 she was awarded Honorary Life, the Guilds highest honor. Debbie is Past Executive Director of the International Handbell Committee.

We hope you will consider stretching your choir with our challenge piece. There will be a morning and afternoon rehearsal for this piece, scheduled during the class sessions.

If you have any questions, check out our Frequently Asked Questions page in the packet, or contact Cynthia Donahoe, WPA Festival Registrar ([donahoecfc@me.com](mailto:donahoecfc@me.com), 412-779-6703). 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 14, 2017 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 4, 2017.

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!

Lisa Falcione, WPA Festival Manager  
WPA/Three Rivers Ringers  
[andysquidget@gmail.com](mailto:andysquidget@gmail.com)

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.

## SEVENTEENTH 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 **Debbie Rice**, 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 14, 2017?

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 2017 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. There is a boxed lunch option available with the order form in this packet. Participants are welcome to bring a bagged lunch and there are numerous fast food restaurants near the venue. 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.

**WPA 2017 FESTIVAL MUSIC    DEBBIE RICE**  
**ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY**  
**YORKTOWN HALL**

**Many and Great**

Level 1        2-3 octaves

Level 1        3-5 octaves

Audio, score preview and ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2bchAve>

Cathy Moklebust  
Choristers Guild CGB971  
Choristers Guild CGB972

**Reflections from Iona**

Level 2+       3-5 octaves

Optional 3-5 octave chimes

Audio, score preview and ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2bqMulh>

Bell/Thompson  
GIA Publications GIA8947

**Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head**

Level 1        2-3 octaves

Level 1        3-5 octaves

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2aYBKka>

(This title is also available in a collection of 7 reproducible pieces of Advent/Christmas music cost of \$39.95 - *Come and Adore* CGB975 for 2-3 oct and CGB976 for 3-5 oct)

arr. Cathy Moklebust  
Choristers Guild CGB240  
Choristers Guild CGB444

**Celebrate With Ringing**

Level 2+       3-5 octaves

Optional 3 octave chimes

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2bgkLpZ>

Michael Mazzatenta  
AGEHR Pub. AG35326

**Recollection**

Level 2+       3-5 octaves

Optional chimes, violin and cello, flute

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2aUGz8I>

Tim Waugh  
Choristers Guild CGB974

**Ah Holy Jesus**

L2        2-4 octaves

Audio preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2b6TODI>

Dean Wagner  
Jeffers Pub. JHS9294

**Exodus**

Level 3        3-5 octaves

Optional 3 octave chimes

Audio, score preview & ordering link: <http://bit.ly/2btdtvM>

Challenge piece-optional for participating ensembles.

Brian Childers  
Beckenhorst Press BEHB528

# Seventeenth Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival

Yorktown Hall  
Robert Morris University  
8256 University Blvd, Moon, PA 15108

Saturday, April 1, 2017

## Classes

Each ringer can select 1 or 2 classes, one A.M. and one P.M. session. If your choir is doing the challenge piece, you will rehearse during the class session times.

Shelly and Four in Hand Ringing      A.M. \_\_\_\_\_      P.M. \_\_\_\_\_

Learn the proper techniques and everything else you need to know to amaze your bell friends!

Rhythms and Things      A.M. \_\_\_\_\_      P.M. \_\_\_\_\_

All the challenges...triples, duples, syncopated rhythms. You will learn to swing!

Bell Basics      A.M. only \_\_\_\_\_

The very basics...marking music, good holding, ringing and damping techniques...great for new ringers.

Problem Solving      A.M. only \_\_\_\_\_

Bring your music, your bells and your questions to work one on one with TRR ringers. Get those pesky bells problems solved!

Beyond Basics      P.M. only \_\_\_\_\_

The next steps...mallets, marts, plucks swings, gyros and anything else we can think of.

Bell Changes      P.M. only \_\_\_\_\_

Transitioning between bells and techniques throughout a song...you'll weave and travel!

WPA HANDBELL FESTIVAL SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017

BOXED LUNCH \$6.00

OPTIONS: Turkey and Cheddar  
Ham and Provolone  
Grilled Vegetables  
(Lettuce and Tomato included)

Includes: Chips  
Apple  
Cookie  
Water

NAME	TURKEY/CHE DDAR	HAM/PROVOL ONE	GRILLED VEGGIES

Please include \$6.00 per each boxed lunch order with your registration form. This will alleviate the long lines in the cafe! Additional cafe items will be available for on-site purchase.

Total amount to include in registration \_\_\_\_\_ (orders x \$6.00)

**Registration**  
**2017 Western Pennsylvania Handbell Festival**  
**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

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 (03/4/2017)**)

      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 1/14/17)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Regular Registration/Choir (deadline 3/4/17)

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

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

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Boxed Lunches (\$6 per order, please include order form)

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



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

**\$85 per choir by January 14, 2017 (Early Bird Registration)**

**\$100/ per choir by March 04, 2017 (Regular Registration)**

**\$15 per individual ringer**

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

**\$6/each boxed lunch order**

**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@threeiversringers.org](mailto:wpa@threeiversringers.org)

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