



Handbell Workshop & Concert

October 12-13, 2024

Church in the Wildwood

Green Mountain Falls, CO

Greetings!

On behalf of The Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the Church in the Wildwood Music Ministry, and the Forté Handbell Quartet, we invite you to our third annual Handbell Workshop and Concert in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado.

Join us on Saturday, October 12 and Sunday October 13 at Church in the Wildwood for an exciting weekend of musicianship, skill building, performance practice, and connecting with other handbell ringers from around the state.

We are offering three tracks for participants: Beginner (brand new ringers), Early - Mid Intermediate, and Late Intermediate - Advanced.

The classes will be facilitated by Forté, a professional handbell quartet marked by artistry, energy, and dedication to their craft. The musicians of Forté are continually expanding their musical horizons by adding original compositions and arrangements that challenge audiences' perceptions of what handbells can really do. Since forming in 2007, the members of Forté have been featured performers and faculty at Handbell Musicians of America events, toured across the country, and released three CDs and a DVD. Visit their website at: fortehandbells.org.

Below is all of the information you need to plan for the workshop, including the schedule of classes and events, track descriptions, and Frequently Asked Questions.

Register online at wildwooducc.org/handbell or drop off your registration at the church. Space is limited. Registration closes when the workshop is full.

Contact our Music Director teresa@wildwooducc.org with any questions.

We are so excited to see you here!

Workshop Schedule

Saturday Oct 12 - Sunday Oct 13, 2024

Start	End	Session	Track A: Laying the Foundation	Track B: Strengthening the Skillset	Track C: Delving Deeper
Saturday, October 12, 2024					
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	Check-in			
8:10 AM	8:55 AM	Session 0	Basic Music Reading Review - optional session, open to all tracks		
9:00 AM	10:05 AM	Session 1	Warm Ups		
10:15 AM	11:20 AM	Session 2	Basic Ringing and Damping	Ringing and Stance	Stance and Techniques
11:30 AM	12:35 PM	Session 3	L1 Music Reading Session	Weaving	Bass and Mallets
12:35 PM	1:20 PM	Lunch			
1:20 PM	2:25 PM	Session 4	Bell Switches, Passes, and Basic Weaves	Mallets and Other Techniques	Battery and Weaving
2:35 PM	3:40 PM	Session 5	Intro to Other Techniques	L2 Music Reading Session	Treble and 4ih
3:40 PM	3:55 PM	Break			
3:55 PM	5:00 PM	Session 6	L1+/2- Music Reading Session	Visual Presentation	
5:10 PM	6:15 PM	Session 7	Massed Ring and Review		
6:15 PM	7:15 PM	Dinner			
Sunday, October 13, 2024					
3:00 PM	4:30 PM	Concert	Public Forté Concert		

Track Descriptions

Participants will choose one track to participate in for the workshop. We will try to accommodate individual preferences as class-sizes permit.

Session 0: Basic Music Reading Review (optional for all tracks)

Haven't read music in a while? This pre-workshop refresher session will briefly cover the basics of music reading like the staff, clefs, barlines, time signatures, key signatures, beats, note values, pitches, accidentals, and rests. This foundation prepares participants for the tracks, which will focus on building handbell-specific skills.

Track A: Laying the Foundation

How do handbells work? Where do I start if I want to become a ringer? Designed for novice ringers, this track will introduce new handbell musicians to the instrument, beginning with plenty of practice with the most basic actions, then adding other techniques and handbell-specific music-reading skills. By the end of the day, we will be playing published handbell music together.

Session 1: Warm-Ups (with Track B and Track C)

Getting ready to ring any instrument involves getting the body and mind activated and prepared. Warming up also allows us to practice the building blocks of technique (often in an exaggerated way) before we have to call upon them in a piece of music. Whether a veteran or a newbie, everyone can benefit from thoughtful preparation. In this first class of the day, we'll go through some stretches, motions, and coordination games to show some ways to get both the mind and the body prepared for a day of ringing!

Session 2: Basic Ringing and Damping

Description: Approaching handbells can be intimidating! Where do you hold them? How do they work? What's with all the foam on the tables? In this class we'll take a look at the basic equipment and motions for playing this unique instrument. We will also explore how printed music shows us what to do.

Session 3: Level 1 Music Reading Session

You've learned how to ring a bell! What next? In this class, we'll put those basic ringing and music reading skills to use as we learn how to play Level 1 handbell music together.

Session 4: Bell Switches, Passes, and Basic Weaves

What is a flat? What is a sharp? Why is everything "accidental"? Most importantly, what do I do when I need to change from one bell to a different one? In this class we'll enter the world of bell changes, both the mechanics of making them happen and the notations telling us we need to make a switch.

Session 5: Intro to Other Techniques

One of the greatest features of handbells is the vast array of different sounds we can create with the instrument: short, long, loud, soft, harsh – handbells can do it all! In this class, we'll review and learn the basic techniques, and then we will look into various ways to make other sounds with the instrument.

Session 6: Level 1+/2- Music Reading Session

Even after learning how to ring and use various techniques on the handbells, it can be helpful to play real music incorporating those techniques in order to solidify them in context. In this session, we will take a plunge into some slightly more advanced music to see how we can approach some of the difficulties that arise with early Level 2 music.

Session 7: Massed Ring and Review (with Track B and Track C)

In our final session for the day, we will read music together, putting all of the skills we've worked on during the day to use! We'll look at music that we can make the most of visually and technically. Some ringers may have the opportunity to observe instead of ring for particular pieces, allowing them to see the application of concepts on pieces they may not yet be ready to play themselves.

Track B: Strengthening the Skillset

For current ringers who want to refresh their skills and round out their toolkits, this track will focus on expanding the foundational skills of amateur to intermediate ringers. The courses will introduce a broad range of techniques and methods, with an aim to help ringers feel more comfortable with anything a piece of music may throw at them! This track will provide effective yet straightforward instruction on solidifying your existing ringing ability, to create the solid base and open doors for more advanced ringing skills down the road.

Session 1: Warm-Ups (with Track A and Track C)

Getting ready to ring any instrument involves getting the body and mind activated and prepared. Warming up also allows us to practice the building blocks of technique (often in an exaggerated way) before we have to call upon them in a piece of music. Whether a veteran or a newbie, everyone can benefit from thoughtful preparation. In this first class of the day, we'll go through some stretches, motions, and coordination games to show some ways to get both the mind and the body prepared for a day of ringing!

Session 2: Ringing and Stance

Just as literary greatness requires a solid grasp of grammar, the ability of a ringer must be rooted in core fundamentals of playing the instrument. This course aims to prepare ringers for greatness by providing an unwavering set of core skills and understanding of proper ringing form, as a stepping-off point for whatever proficiency level you may wish to pursue.

Session 3: Weaving

Your accidentals are fast approaching, and you still haven't grown a third arm/hand. What hope is there? Weaving! Come learn about the not-so-mystical art of weaving. This technique is one which any ringer can conquer and allows you greater mastery of multiple bells.

Session 4: Mallets and Other Techniques

When facing handbell music, the sheer number of techniques can be overwhelming, but it is also one of the beautiful aspects of the instrument! This class will go through techniques and examine how they are notated and executed, using musical excerpts to help solidify those techniques in ringers' minds.

Session 5: Level 2 Music Reading Session

Aggravating page-turns, complicated transitions, convoluted rhythms – there's never a dull moment as you learn new music! Don't fear: there are ways to overcome challenges like these in your music. In this class we'll explore some how to approach new music and apply our best ringing stance and technique as we read music together!

Session 6: Visual Presentation (with Track C)

Handbells are a distinctly visual instrument, entralling audiences through both sound and sight. Directors and ringers are encouraged to come learn how to broaden the appeal of their performances through applying a new lens of visual unity to their ringing. Whether you've been in bells for one year or fifty, you will hear new, straightforward ideas on how to help your audience connect with your music on a new level as you turn your songs into works of art.

Session 7: Massed Ring and Review (with Track A and Track C)

In our final session for the day, we will read music together, putting all of the skills we've worked on during the day to use! We'll look at music that we can make the most of visually and technically. Some ringers may have the opportunity to observe instead of ring for particular pieces, allowing them to see the application of concepts on pieces they may not yet be ready to play themselves.

Track C: Delving Deeper

How can I start to push my skills? How do I approach ringing differently for different areas of the table? This track is designed for those who are comfortable reading different positions, know the basic techniques, and want to take the next step in their handbell musicianship.

Session 1: Warm-Ups (with Track A and Track B)

Getting ready to ring any instrument involves getting the body and mind activated and prepared. Warming up also allows us to practice the building blocks of technique (often in an exaggerated way) before we have to call upon them in a piece of music. Whether a veteran or a newbie, everyone can benefit from thoughtful preparation. In this first class of the day, we'll go through some stretches, motions, and coordination games to show some ways to get both the mind and the body prepared for a day of ringing!

Session 2: Stance and Techniques

Handbells are a surprisingly intricate instrument, and it seems there is always something new to learn! From head to hands to feet, hone your knowledge of the basics and the many techniques used in handbell music as we explore the marks on the page and how to truly master them.

Session 3: Bass and Mallets

Whether you're a bass-table veteran, or you're venturing into the big bells for the first time, we'll show you what you need to enjoy it to the fullest! A confident, competent, and knowledgeable bass bell ringer can be critical to strong bell choirs, and this course will aim to make you all three. You'll learn key techniques for making the bells work for you, reducing strain with proper ringing habits, malleting methods, part arrangement and more.

Session 4: Battery and Weaving

The bells in the middle of the table don't always get as much attention as the smaller bells played 4-in-hand or the larger, flashy bass bells, but playing in this region demands rhythm, attention, problem-solving, and endurance! In this class we'll look at some of the difficult situations that can crop up and how to approach them, and we will also look at how the techniques common to all positions apply to this range.

Session 5: Treble and 4ih

Thrilling melody lines and fun rhythms await any ringer with a desire to play the treble bells! Come learn to navigate the treble table with confidence as we take you through the ins and outs of ringing the little bells cleanly and easily, and teach you to four-in-hand like a pro (yes, you can do it!).

Session 6: Visual Presentation (with Track B)

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an age requirement for the conference?

The beginning track is open to 5th graders and above. The intermediate and advanced tracks are open to handbell ringers 16 years and older.

Do I need to have handbell experience to attend?

No, you do not need to have any experience. Participants at all levels are welcome, from beginning to advanced. We offer a basic music reading session for those who are new to reading music or need a refresher.

Do you have opportunities for different levels of ability?

Yes! We welcome ringers of all levels. We will try to accommodate individual preferences as class-sizes permit. Refer to the Track Descriptions above. Please contact us if you have questions about which track is best for your level of ability.

Do I need to bring anything to the workshop?

Participants need to bring a pair of handbell gloves. (We will have some available for purchase).

If you wish to explore the local area, Green Mountain Falls is known for its natural beauty and cool mountain weather. You may want to bring good walking/hiking shoes, sunscreen, warm layers, snacks, and water. We advise caution as this is a high elevation environment.

Can you tell me about the location?

The workshop will be held at the historic Church in the Wildwood in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado via Highway 24 from Colorado Springs. This picturesque mountain town is located in the foothills of Pikes Peak. The address for Church in the Wildwood is: 10585 Ute Pass Avenue, Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819. Plenty of free parking is available near the church and around the community.

Does the venue offer any special amenities?

Free wi-fi is available inside and outside the church. We have newly remodeled, ADA accessible facilities including comfortable seating areas, restrooms, meeting spaces, and an outdoor courtyard and garden.

Are meals provided?

Lunch and dinner on Saturday are provided. Please let us know of any dietary restrictions on your registration form. The parks have picnic tables and the town also offers a few restaurants. The Pantry, Cantina Verde, and Blue Moose are all in walking distance. Hours vary.

Is lodging available?

The communities of Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Chipita Park, and Woodland Park have many short-term rental and hotel options. Search online to secure a reservation.

Can family and friends join me?

We invite you and your guests to explore the area outside of workshop hours and/or attend services at Church in the Wildwood. On Sunday afternoon, the Forté Handbell Quartet will present a concert that anyone may attend, no tickets required. A free-will offering will be collected.

Who sponsors this event?

This special event is made possible by a generous grant from The Kirkpatrick Family Fund. The Church in the Wildwood Music Ministry plans and promotes the event. The Forté Handbell Quartet designs and teaches the educational programs and classes.

Can I register online?

You can Register and Pay Online. If you prefer a paper form, download it online or pick up a form at Church in the Wildwood. Enclose a check for \$75 and mail it to: Church in the Wildwood (Attn: Teresa Allen), P.O. Box 26 Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819.

Are scholarships available?

The registration fee should not be a barrier to attendance. A limited amount of scholarships are available upon request via the contact information below.

Are refunds available?

You may request a full refund if you cancel prior to September 29. After this date, a partial refund of \$50 is available. No refunds will be issued after October 6.

If I have questions, is there someone I can talk to?

Email our Music Director teresa@wildwooducc.org with any questions.