

Spring into Bells 2018

Class Descriptions

Handbells 101 – Ringing Basics (Session 1)

Learn how to properly stand and hold, ring, and damp a handbell. We will cover basic ringing skills such as legato ringing, LV, and thumb damp using level 1 music. We will also learn about the instrument itself, a little history, and the anatomy of a bell.

Low Bass Techniques (C3-B3) (Session 1 or Session 3)

Ringing on the low bass handbells (2s and 3s) requires very specific approaches in regards to physical health, proper ringing technique, the execution of other techniques, and assignments and setups. This class will focus primarily on beginning bass handbell ringing, safety and assignment ideas.

Weaving and Conundrums (Session 1 or Session 3)

Do you ever feel like you have two left hands? You need to learn the art of weaving — playing three or more bells in a row. This session also looks at the coordination conundrums ringers face when the music asks for two techniques at once. Build confidence and problem-solving skills so you can tackle whatever comes your way. We will look at and practice ringing in one hand while malleting in the other, four-in-hand bells and chimes, ringing in one hand with mart rhythms in the other

Handbells 102 – More Ringing Basics (Session 2)

Now you know how to ring a handbell. What next? In this session we cover basic special techniques including changing bells, malleting, martellato, ring touch and more.

Treble Techniques (C6-C9) (Session 2 or Session 4)

You will learn the various methods of ringing two bells in each hand including Shelley and Four in Hand, how to decide which to use when, and how to do them safely and musically. We also briefly cover how to Shelley three octaves at once.

Ring and Sing the Seasons (Session 2 or Session 4)

Some of the most joyful moments in handbell ministry are when we combine ringing and singing. Even if our ringers are afraid to ring and sing at the same time, there are ways to add soloists and small ensembles. Come ring and sing selected music from a variety of worship seasons — a great way to “grow” your handbell ministry!

The Physics of Handbells (Sessions 3 and 4)

Have you ever wondered how a handbell makes sound and how the sound waves work? This hands-on session will cover the physics of handbells using two exciting experiments.

Lunch Round Table Discussions – Sit with Virginia Bronze members and ask your burning questions on:

- How to recruit ringers
- How to keep higher level ringers engaged
- Handbells in the public/private education setting
- Information about Virginia Bronze