

10TH ANNUAL FLORIDA STATE HANDBELL FESTIVAL



Sponsored by: Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4

Tentative Class Schedule

The following classes and times are subject to change.

Special Opportunities—Pre-Registration Required

Bronze Choir

Ring two additional advanced pieces. You must attend all rehearsals, starting with Thursday night. However, the rehearsals do not conflict with any other portion of the festival.

Ensemble Ringing (4 sessions)

Danny Lyons-Gainesville
Marie Loeffler-North Palm Beach

Have you ever wondered how just a few can play 2, 3, 4, or 5 octaves of handbells gracefully and musically? As an ensemble ringer you move to where the handbells are on the table and share notes with your neighbors. Bring your quartet as a group, or join a quartet in the class, to work on various aspects of ringing together as a small group. The class will consist of quartets all working and ringing either communally or separately.

Bell Trees (2 sessions)

Blanche Marie Lewis

Ring in a forest of bell trees. For the experienced and novice bell tree ringer, this ringing track will cover the basics of assembling bells for a bell tree as well as preparing a massed bell tree piece to be played as part of the final concert.

Participants are asked to bring 1 octave of bells with them, including accidentals. (C4-C5, C5-C6, C6-C7, or C7-C8) PLUS appropriate mallets for that octave of bells. Some bells may be available.

Multiple Treble Bells (2 sessions)

Lynne Marks

This two-session mini-track explores how to play more than 2 bells. The first session covers how to ring using Shelley and 4-in-hand methods, finding the "sweet spot", and figuring out when to add the upper octave and/or double with chimes. The second session covers various multiple bell techniques, damping basics, stopped effect techniques, and malleting. Both sessions are hands-on. Participants are asked to bring your gloves and a set of bells (C6-7/D6-7, E6-7/F6-7, G6-7/A6-7, or B6-7/C6-7) to both sessions, and 2 mallets to the second session.

General Classes—No Pre-registration Required

BASS Bells

Early Bird 1 and Sessions 3 & 4

Explore the fascinating world of bass bells. Learn healthy ringing habits and how to 'make music' while hanging out in the bucket (B3 and below) section!

But First, We Mark (New)

Early Bird 2 and Sessions 3 & 4

Not sure how to mark your music so you can read it and remember what you did last week? In this class, we will discuss how you can make notes in your music to help you play your part with ease. There will also be some group discussion for participants to share markings that other groups have used that work. At the end of this class, you will walk out with notes and tips about marking your music so you don't have to look at it again like it is for the first time.

Conundrums

Early Bird 1 and Sessions 3 & 4

This handbell exercise class, based on Valerie Stephenson's booklet *Coordination Conundrums*, is designed to free you from your "handedness" and works on right/left brain coordination skills. You will engage in fun and challenging exercises to help you develop the muscle memory needed to ring those challenging passage often found in our handbell literature. This class will open the door to a new understanding of how to ring more musically.

Do You Hear That? (New)

Early Bird 2 and Sessions 1 & 2

This session will test your ability to hear what is going on around you, whether you are playing or directing. Become aware of the sounds you are producing. You will have the opportunity to direct and be part of the lab choir.

Malleting: More than a smack and a whack.

Early bird 1

Discover how to use mallets with your bells, including hand positions, strike points, and techniques. Bring two mallets to this class.

Rebellious Ringers (New)

Sessions 1 & 2

Curious to sight-read some of the pop songs and movie tunes that would NEVER be allowed in worship? Come along and have some fun ringing through some songs that are not your average church anthems with the Rebellious Ringers class. Sight reading tips will also be given out during this class.

Schulmerich Maintenance

Sessions 1 & 2

This class is designed to teach you the proper care and maintenance of your Schulmerich bells. Discussions on protecting your investment with regular maintenance and care. If you have a “problem” bell you may bring it to class or the vendor area.

Sight-reading

Early Bird 1 & 2
Sessions 3 & 4

Spend an extra hour ringing and reading some recently released handbell music. The music will consist of mainly level 2 and 3. Music will be different between the early bird classes and regular sessions. A great time to get a head start on your fall planning! Sight-reading tips will also be shared.

Stretching is Strategic (New)

Early Bird 2 and Sessions 1 & 2

Stretching is essential for you to be successful in both rehearsals and performances. Come to class to explore the why, what, and how of stretching before during, and after ringing. Discover techniques used by dancers coupled with healthy ringing practices to start developing your personal stretching routine so you can enjoy a long healthy ringing career. Participants will be encouraged to actively participate in class. You will leave feel refreshed and reinvigorated.

Techniques: Bells can ring & sing

Early Bird 1 and Sessions 1 & 2

There are over 35 techniques and notation symbols currently in use in the handbell world. Do you know them all? Can you read them and ring them with ease? If not, you may want to take this class. Understanding and knowing how to use the various techniques are vital to becoming a better ringer. This class will be a refresher on the established handbell techniques as found in the Guild Notation booklet. This will be a demonstration and hands-on seminar. Bring your mallets, gloves and notebook stands.

Weaving

Early Bird 2 and Sessions 3 & 4

Weaving is used when you have more than two bells to ring but you still only have two hands! Successful weaving involves more than just arms for you to reach that next bell on time. This class will explore the basics of the weaving technique involving your whole body and you will leave with exercises to continue your technique development so you can play 4, 5, 6 or more bells smoothly, accurately, and gracefully.