



SOUNDINGS

Music of Our Lands and Our Lives

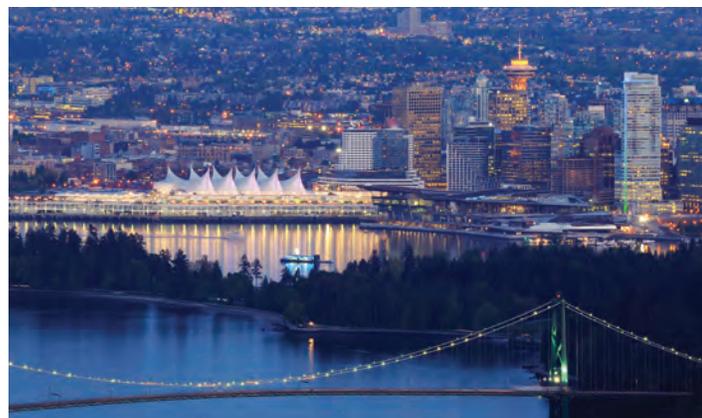
17TH INTERNATIONAL
HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM
JULY 26–30, 2016
VANCOUVER, CANADA

AN INVITATION FROM CANADA TO THE WORLD!

In July 2016, hundreds of handbell musicians from around the world will travel to beautiful Vancouver, Canada for the 17th International Handbell Symposium. We want you to be among them!

OUR LOCATION Vancouver is one of the world's most beautiful cities and a prime tourist destination for people the world over. It is superbly situated for travel from Pacific Rim countries as well as easily accessible to all North American ringers. British Columbia also has strong ties to its British and European forebears. We look forward to welcoming handbell musicians from all around the world to this "Jewel on the Pacific" that has so much to offer.

Our venue is the Vancouver Convention Centre. Surrounded by the mountains and located on the waterfront at Canada Place in the heart of beautiful downtown Vancouver, the VCC (www.vancouverconventioncentre.com) is an award-winning facility. It opened in July 1987 after originally serving as the Canada Pavilion at Expo '86. Since its inception, the facility has demonstrated a constant commitment to service excellence, technical capabilities, and creative, high-quality banqueting.



OUR THEME Canada's rich aboriginal history and culture, combined with Vancouver's reputation for leadership in sustainability and environmentalism, has provided the ideal focus for this event. Honouring the ancestors of this land, including the aboriginal ways of knowing and being within an environment, has encouraged us to explore the many complementary ways that First Peoples cultures and environmental sustainability intertwine and connect within

community. We plan on a high level of involvement of Canada's First Peoples and integration of Canadian aboriginal history and culture throughout the event. We look forward to other nations sharing the sounds of their lands and lives of their peoples at IHS2016.

Our title, "Soundings," has many faceted, rich associations. The musical association is clear, but the word also evokes thoughts of depth, fullness, resonance (all of which relate nicely to the handbell idiom), as well as observations of the environment and/or water. It evokes the Aboriginal peoples' connection to the natural world, as well as connecting to meaningful ideas in terms of musical depth and the fullness of musical sound of many ringers playing together—a sense of world community. Its relevance to both music and envi-



ronment gives a great deal of scope for composition and will come into play in many other ways during the event as well.

OUR LOGO Coast Salish artist Chris Paul designed the SOUNDINGS logo. It is rich in imagery and captures so well the many facets of our theme: music, community, the environment. Blue for water and sky, the bell and its reflection representing earth and sea, musical sound and echo (reverberation), the present and our history. The eagle — a symbol of grace,



power and great intellect (all important for handbell ringers!) — enwraps the bell, as the handbell community reaches around the globe. And in one further image emphasizing “community”, the upper eagle shares the ‘clapper’ of the bell with its reflection.

Chris Paul is gaining international acclaim for his limited edition giclee prints, cedar panels, and glass sculptures, and has also gained exposure through the hit television series “Grey’s Anatomy,” in which a number of his prints have been featured. Learn more about him at www.chrispaul.ca.

THE IHS ROTATION

Since 1984, the location of the International Handbell Symposium has rotated among the six members of the International Handbell Committee (America, Japan, Great Britain, Korea, Canada, Australasia). In 2010, Hong Kong was admitted to membership in the IHC; its place in the rotation will be added at the end of the current cycle. Other countries are requesting admission to the IHC so it may be at least 2022 before the IHS is again on North American soil and so easy to get to. You don’t want to miss this opportunity! For 2016 we extend a particular invitation to handbell musicians from many other countries not represented by a national guild—all are welcome!

ON-LINE In keeping with the focus on environmental stewardship, our aim is to make this event as “Green” as possible. Wherever possible, communication will be by electronic means rather than by mailed hard copy. Our website, www.ihs2016vancouver.ca, is now live. Check out our promotional video on the front page! We also have an active Facebook presence: www.facebook.com/IHS2016Vancouver. Please “Like” and “Share” our page!

REGISTRATION Registration will open on our website in the spring of 2015, and you will be able to book accommodations at that point, as well. We will offer a good selection of hotels at a variety of price points. Registration will be handled on-line (subject to the instructions of your national guild), and if you so choose, you will be able to pay with your credit card. A big advantage if you have a card with a loyalty program!

Early-Bird registration is \$1085 CDN. The Canadian dollar is low right now in comparison to many other major currencies. At the time of writing, the USD equivalent is approx. \$950.

We all agree that handbell events are fantastic opportunities to meet with old and new musical friends and share our passion for ringing. An international symposium takes that connection to new heights. How exciting to make friends from around the world, and know that you can meet them again in two years in another corner of the world! Canadian handbell musicians are so excited to host these world-travelling musicians and to share our beautiful country with them.



“Haven’t you just been waiting for an invitation to come here?” Consider yourself invited — See you in 2016!



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