

## Friends and Family Handbell Camp 2016

### Workshop Descriptions

**Never EVER Rung Before?** (E. Larson, R. Mak) If you are interested in getting beyond the 'handbell observer' stage, these two introductory sessions will get you holding, ringing, and damping the handbell correctly. Very basic music reading will be included. You have to start somewhere; make it here!

**Ringing Techniques I.** (Warfield) Review and refine basic ringing and damping techniques. Strongly recommended for less-experienced ringers.

**Ringing Techniques II.** (Chamberlin) This workshop will include stopped and table-top techniques and damping.

**Ringing Techniques III.** (Chamberlin/Schultz) The Handbell Musicians of America is now promoting a unique approach to ringing technique as a part of the new national Certification Program. Come find out what all the buzz is about.

**Multiple Bell Techniques.** (Schultz) Shelley, Four-in-hand, Ring-hook-Ring? What's that all about? Come to find out, or to review and refine your skills.

**Theory/Musicianship I.** (Berdensey) How do scales and intervals work? How can I more easily identify and understand key and time signatures? Here's your opportunity!

**Theory/Musicianship II.** (Moore) Form, cadences, triads? What do *they* have to do with me? Increase your musical vocabulary and skills. Make *more* sense of the music you ring.

**Rhythm!** (Moore) Keep it steady, keep it clean, keep it musical. This workshop will help you do all that by providing easy steps to decoding simple and complex rhythms.

**Basic Conducting.** (Berdensey) Learning fundamental beat patterns and gestures, use of the baton, and what to do with that other hand are all issues for the beginning conductor. Try your hand at conducting your fellow campers.

**Intermediate/Advanced Conducting.** (Moore) Prep-beats, cut-offs, tempo and dynamic changes, and musical expression are all issues for the intermediate (and above) conductor. Everyone will get an opportunity to conduct.

**Mallets.** (Warfield) Keep 'em gentle, keep 'em accurate, keep 'em musical. It just takes a little practice!

**Speed Weaving.** (Moore) Not for the faint of heart! If you have basic knowledge of weaving techniques, come and try this class - or just sit and watch. It promises to be entertaining!

**Rehearsing Your Handbell Choir.** (E. Henderson) How do you maximize your ringers' time, AND yours? There are strategies and techniques to prepare for and effectively manage a productive rehearsal. Do you know what they are?

**A Directors' Roundtable.** (E. Henderson) One of the three 'R's (recruitment, repertoire, ringer retention) or something else on your mind? Here's an opportunity to share and learn.

**An Introduction to Ensemble Ringing** (Chamberlin) It is amazing what you can do with only three to six ringers. Come find out what skills you'll need to begin your own ensemble.

**Drumming.** (Visbaras) At recent festival conferences and other events, drumming classes have been sold out! *Please plan to attend both sessions offered*, and if you have a hand drum (from bongos to djembe's and cajons), please bring it.

**Low Bell Techniques** (E. Henderson) Safety first! Ringing bells with larger castings can put a strain on many parts of the body. Proper technique is important for musical results.

## The Conductors

Each of these individuals bring energy, experience, and a unique perspective to handbell ringing: just what camp needs! There will be additional staff to present workshops and activities for young and old - crafts, drumming, etc. Meet Robin, David, and Larry:

**Robin Martelle** began ringing in Newtown, PA at the age of twelve. She teaches general music for Groton Public Schools and works at Saint David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry. Robin received her B.S. in Music Education from the University of Hartford and has a Masters Degree in Education from Eastern Connecticut State University. She rings with the Shoreline Ringers (CT), and lives in Ledyard with her husband and 3 children

**David C. Warfield** is currently the Director of Music Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church of Newport Rhode Island. He has served churches in Connecticut, New Hampshire and California. David's first church was a small Lutheran Church in New London Connecticut at the age of 15. David has served on the board of the New London County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and as NH State Chair for the Handbell Musicians of America. He has been a clinician at many Area 1 events. David and wife Karen live in a historic home in Norwich, CT with their three dogs and two cats.

**Lawrence A. Berdensey**, currently the band director at West Side Middle School, Groton, CT, has taught band in the Groton Public Schools system since 1985, where he has served as an elementary school band director before being appointed to Fitch Middle School in 1991. Larry rings with the Shoreline Ringers, a community based handbell ensemble in southeastern Connecticut. He has been directing handbells since 2004 and has been the handbell director at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Gales Ferry, CT. In January 2012, Larry became the director of the Hockanum Valley Ringers, a five octave community handbell ensemble based in Vernon, CT. He has been a clinician/director throughout Area 1 at Festival Conferences, Director's Seminar, CT Spring Rings, and the Fall Skills Building Workshops.

## **Additional Workshop Staff**

**Daniel K. Moore**, Co-Director, retired from teaching and directing the Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School (Providence, RI) after 37 years. His auditioned ensembles appeared frequently on television, performed opening concerts at national and regional handbell festivals, recorded with the Empire Brass, Ed Sweeney, and on several solo CD's. Dan currently serves as Secretary to the Board of Directors, HMA, Area 1 and continues to be a frequent clinician and conductor at handbell ringing events. His comprehensive handbell textbook, [Ringing RIGHT! From the Beginning](#), is a resource for ringers and directors. In addition to directing the Jubilate Ringers (East Greenwich, RI), Dan also plays mandocello with the Providence Mandolin Orchestra. Dan is a regional representative for Malmark Bellcraftsmen.

**Ed Henderson**, Co-Director, began ringing handbells in 1962 and has been directing youth and adult handbell choirs for the last thirty years. He has served Area 1 of the Handbell Musicians of America as Member at Large, Area Chair-Elect, Area Chair and Area Representative to the National Board of Directors. He has served local, area, and national handbell events as an organizer, a clinician and as a massed conductor. For twenty years he was responsible for the handbell program at the Tewksbury Congregational Church, Tewksbury, MA, and for the last twelve years he has been directing the New England Ringers, a bronze level community handbell choir based in Tewksbury, MA.

**Sue Chamberlin** has been ringing handbells for over 30 years and directing handbell choirs for almost that long. Two highlights of her ringing/directing career (in addition to being a member of the Merrimack Valley Ringers) were taking her youth choir to the International Handbell Symposium in Tokyo, Japan (1998) and participating in the first International Handbell Festival in Israel (2013). A retired math teacher and technology coordinator in a K-8 school, Sue served for over 7 years as the New England sales representative for Schulmerich Bells. She now directs two handbell choirs and one chime choir at Faith Community Bible Church in Loudon, NH, and is the immediate past Area 1 treasurer. Sue is also an accredited instructor in Handbell Techniques for the new HMA Certification Program.

**Sue Henderson** has been ringing bells for many years with her church choir and in the past with the New England Ringers, where she currently serves as treasurer. Sue has served Area 1 as Treasurer, Area 1 Chair and Festival Conference Chair, and has also served as faculty at numerous Festival Conferences and Area workshops. She is Interim Director of Music at Tewksbury Congregational Church. In her “spare” time, she is an avid seamstress and innovative crafter, designing and creating bell-related items such as individual bell “totes”, table covers and banners. Look for her “crafty” side at handbell camp!

**Emily Larson** is a recent graduate of The Wheeler School where she extended her middle school ringing career by becoming a Concert Handbell Ringer - in addition to substituting in her church handbell choir. Emily will be a freshman at Vanderbilt University in the fall, majoring in engineering.

**Ronni Mak** is also a recent graduate of The Wheeler School where she balanced her high school interest in Studio Art and her love of handbells which she shared with her older sister, Carissa.

**Susan Schultz** has been ringing handbells for 13 years, and has been performing with the Back Bay Ringers of Boston since 2012. Susan serves Area 1 of the Handbell Musicians of America as both Registrar and Archivist, and has completed the Level 3 Handbell Techniques Certification as part of the new HMA Certification Program. She holds degrees in mathematics and aeronautical engineering, having worked in aerospace, robotics, fusion energy and automotive research before retiring to raise her three children.

**Kim Visbaras** has been ringing handbells since the mid 1990's, mostly with his home church in Auburn, Maine. He has also been a member of a handbell quartet for 17 years, having performed from the cold of northernmost Maine to LL Bean in Freeport in and Faneuil Hall in Boston. He has rung with other local choirs (First Parish in Brunswick, Foreside Community Church in Falmouth), and recently performed again at Merrill Auditorium with the “Christmas with Cornils” ringers. Kim has been a drummer for about 15 years (djembe, conga, bongo and tympani), having been instructed by Famadou Konate (a master African Drummer) and Annegret Baier in Portland, and has been known to squeeze his accordion from time to time.

