

Back Bay Ringers Workshop with Michael Joy

Class Descriptions

SESSION 1 – MASSED CLASS

WYSIWYG

Michael Joy

WYSIWYG is an acronym for “What you see is what you get.” David Davidson said that audiences and congregations often hear what they see. This hands on class examines the visual impact of various musical elements of a handbell performance. How can you look like a melody or any accompaniment? What does a crescendo look like? Come and explore some strategies for a more visually compelling performance.

SESSION 2 – You may choose to attend one of two classes:

Qigong and Handbells

Michael Joy

Freedom of movement in ringing is often overlooked. Too many ringers are so hyper focused on the notes and rhythms that they play with stilted, jerky motions. This blocks the energy, inhibits a more fluid ringing style, and leads to unmusical performances. Ringers will be introduced to qigong, an ancient Chinese practice, and experience some new possibilities for developing their musicianship and handbell technique.

or

Building a Better Ensemble: Better Ringing Through Teambuilding

Greg Urban

We will explore how using adventure and teambuilding activities can help your ensemble think as one ringer. You will learn to step outside your comfort zone as it relates to ringing in a healthy way, you'll discover the importance of setting boundaries and clarifying expectations within the group, and you will take away activities that your group can do to implement these learnings.

SESSION 3 – You may choose to attend one of two classes:

Developing Rhythmic Feeling

Michael Joy

Many ringers and directors spend too much time trying to decipher notation. Instead, as author Stanley Schleuter suggests, they need to be developing rhythmic feeling. This session will explore several ways in which one can develop rhythmic feeling so that both directors and ringers can bring a new understanding and a more polished musicianship to performances.

or

Treble Trouble

Norah Piehl

Whether you're an experienced treble ringer or you're still marveling at just how they do those things they do, you'll learn something new in this overview of treble bell techniques. We'll do some basic warmup exercises and stretches together, review treble-specific healthy ringing techniques, and provide an introduction to both basic and advanced treble bell techniques, from shelley to six-in-hand. We'll also talk as a group about how to handle treble challenges, from reading all those ledger lines to avoiding becoming the dreaded bell hog. Bring your questions and challenges, and we'll tackle them together! This session will be led by Back Bay Ringers' treble section leader, Norah Piehl, assisted by other BBR treble ringers.

SESSION 4 – MASSED RINGING

Repertoire Reading

Led by Michael Joy