

Eastern Ontario Roundtable of Handbell Directors

OCTOBER 22, 2022 – Rideau Park U.C.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Session 1

S1-1: So...Now You're a Director! - Lisa Kyriakides

***This workshop is designed with the new Director in mind; however the tips and tricks will serve well as refreshers for more experienced Directors.*

What do you do when you suddenly find yourself, with little to no experience, directing? How do you approach this task? How do you assign your ringers? How do you choose music appropriate for your choir? Where do I start?

S1-2: Weaving – Ruth Pettis

What do you do when you don't have enough hands? You WEAVE! Learn the basic 4 weaving techniques that will make those difficult measures easy as pie, through moving your body and/or passing bells. Please bring your gloves.

S1-3: Bass Bells: The BIG Buckets – Dom Moreau

They give great depth to our music, but they are heavier and slower to ring. Learn how to hold and ring the bells from A4 and lower. Learn what they can do and what they can't do. Please bring your gloves.

S1-4: The Magical MALLET – Jeanette Caton

Are you holding your mallet like a hammer? Learn what mallets to use, how to hold it correctly, where and how to strike the bell on the table or suspended, how to mallet effectively and transition from ringing to malleting and back again smoothly. Practice exercises you can take home. At the end, mallet through a piece and notice the difference in sound. Please bring your gloves.



S1-5: Before You Ring A Note! - Janet McDonald

Learn to decipher the 8 mysteries on the page of music before you, from the bell/chime chart, Key signature, first two notes rung, key changes, accidentals (including where the weaves are), time signature and changes, rhythmic challenges, and musical markings through to the end. Then, when you begin to ring, there are no surprises!

S1-6 & S1-7: Basic Bell Maintenance

S1-6 Malmark Bells – Ann Frederking

S1-7 Schulmerich Bells – Grace Armstrong

***This is provided in separate workshop rooms to provide the basics for the bells your choir rings.*

Our bells give us the best sound when they are clean and in good repair, and, occasionally, a hand guard cracks, or a rocker spring breaks. Our fingers leave smudges, and our bells begin to look tired. It's always good to have at least one member of your choir who can guide the other ringers on maintaining the bells in good shape.

Session 2

S2-1 Battery Bells – Rosaline Lees

When do I have the melody? When am I the accompaniment? How do I switch between the two? Ringers often find themselves participating in both a melody and accompaniment line (sometimes simultaneously) and must work with their fellow ringers to create consistent musical lines that pass quickly between several performers. This workshop is designed to take some of the mystery out of the Battery Bells.

S2-2 Bell Hieroglyphics – Jan Haskin

OR "How to learn a new language in 45 Minutes"

Those pesky little letters & symbols that seem to clutter up the music page, turn the notes into music. Learn all about echoes, gyros, hand damps, martellatos, mallets, plucks, ring touches, rolled chords, shakes, singing bells, swings, thumb damps, trills, vibrato & leading voice lines with all their letters & symbols, and how to ring each one. Please bring your gloves.



S2-3 before you ring a Note! - Janet McDonald

Learn to decipher the 8 mysteries on the page of music before you, from the bell/chime chart, Key signature, first two notes rung, key changes, accidentals (including where the weaves are), time signature and changes, rhythmic challenges, and musical markings through to the end. Then, when you begin to ring, there are no surprises!

S2-4 Seeing Double: 4-in-H and Shelley – Ruth Pettis

Master basic 4-in-H and Shelley, learn how to damp the secondary bell, while ringing with the primary, travelling 4-in-H, and interlocked bells. You will be ringing bells C6 and up. Please bring your gloves.

S2-5: Handchimes: The Celestial Sound – Jeanette Caton

Learn how to handle these unique instruments, what they can and cannot do, proper technique for ringing, how to make the chimes vibrate, how to adjust them and where to place them on your bell table to ring with ease.

S2-6 I've Got Rhythm – Dom Moreau

Music is more than just playing notes. The rhythm adds a whole new dimension and can change a piece from a 4-square hymn to a blues hymn! Explore the different rhythms of ragtime, swing, triplets, rock, big band, blues & spirituals as you work through combination rhythms. Practice different drills to improve your problem-solving skills and confidence. Please bring your gloves.

S2-7 Getting Ready for a Performance – Lisa Kyriakides

***This is relevant for both Directors and Ringers.*

Ringers need to know what to expect from their Directors and Directors need to know how to get their Ringers ready for a performance. Join Lisa as she walks you through the essentials of getting ready to perform.

Session 3

S3-1 Small Choirs 8-12 Bells – Ann McMahon

Not every choir has enough ringers to ring 2- or 3-octave music, and this Read and Ring introduces to you music specifically arranged for 4 or 6 ringers. Having fewer ringers does not mean the music must be simple. Jason Krug has arranged a good selection of pieces to allow the small choir to flourish. This R & R will introduce you to some of those selections.

S3-2 Festival Music – David Chin

We are excited that OGEHR (Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers) is bringing their Handbell Festival to Kingston in the spring of 2023. It has been quite a while since it was in Eastern Ontario, and this Read and Ring will introduce you to some of the pieces selected for the Festival. Festival music that was purchased for the R & R will be offered for sale following the workshop.