

**2009 Scranton University  
Area II Festival  
Conference**



**FC Class Descriptions - Tracks**

**Beginning Ensemble Track**

Duet, trio and quartet ringing present a challenge? Who rings which bell? Having problems with position assignments? We will work through this hands on topic, all the while maintaining the musicality of the piece. Please bring gloves.

**Beginning Solo Track**

From a simple hymn accompaniment to mastering a tricky passage to knowing whether or not to memorize and what to do when you get lost, this class will help get you started as a solo ringer and give you the confidence to be successful from the outset. Please bring gloves.

**Intermediate Ensemble Track**

Using some exercise and some repertoire, we will focus on ways to polish our ensemble playing. We will consider visual aspects but will pay particular attention to the elements of musicality.

**Intermediate Solo Track**

Learn how to make solo ringing expressive. We will focus on interpretation and elements of musicality (tone, phrasing, dynamics) that will help us take our soloing ringing to the next level.

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**Individual Classes**

**Achieving Musicality**

Why do some choirs sound so good and others seem less exciting? Come learn the “tricks” of musicality. It isn’t just playing the right notes, it’s playing the music.

**Advanced Ensemble Techniques**

Displacing bells, travelling 4-in-hand, and memorization are some of the topics that will be presented in this class. We will look at some tricky passages. Bring any tricks you’ve learned or share a passage that you’re still trying to figure out.



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### **Arranging for Handbells**

A hymn tune circles in your brain - oh, how I wish there was a bell arrangement for my choir!! Arrange it! Play it! And celebrate! We'll cover basic arranging strategies: identifying chordal structure, applying basic accompaniment patterns, handbell range limitations, difficulty level targets, and more. Come and ring in the demo choir or simply participate in the discussion. Please bring music folder and mallets.

### **Assessing Your Ringers (Offered only 1 time!)**

How do you know where to assign a ringer? What skills and techniques does your group need help with? Where do you begin? This class will help a director assess the skills of their ringers without "testing", and have fun in the process. Although this class is designed for directors, ringers and prospective directors are also welcome to come.

### **Basic Ensemble Techniques**

Discover bell sharing, passing, travelling 4-in-hand. Learn problem solving solutions to master those tricky passages. Bring along a particular selection that may be giving you a problem.

### **Bass Bell Techniques**

Learn the proper techniques to handle the big bells without injury and how to play them effectively.

### **Bell Assignments**

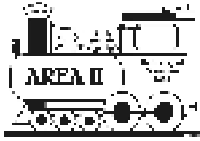
What do you do when a piece of music doesn't work with traditional bell assignments? Come learn traditional and creative ways of getting all the bells into your ringer's hands so all your pieces can be rung musically.

### **Bell Changes/Weaving 101 & 202**

- 101 – This will cover the basics of bell changes and weaving
- 202 – Now that you learned how to weave, this class will apply the technique to a variety of music.

### **Bell Trees**

From stunningly beautiful to electrifying, the art of using bell trees is something special. In this class, we will try different bell tree set-ups and discuss the unique features and appropriate use of each one. Please bring mallets for 5's & 6's.



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### **Bells in Contemporary Worship**

Handbells can become an integral part of contemporary worship! Let's explore how to use bells as a choir, to use to accompany the praise team, use of bells with visuals, and blending contemporary pieces with traditional music. Your church is missing out if you aren't using your bells in contemporary worship! Bring your gloves; this is a hands on workshop.

### **Bells in Traditional Worship**

Resources and creative ways of including handbells and handchimes in worship. Be ready to share what experiences have worked well for you as well as receiving information on where to go for resources.

### **Boomwackers**

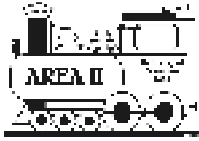
This class aims to encourage the use of Boomwhackers as both rhythm aides and musical instruments. Materials for games, performance, and rhythm will be presented. This is definitely a hands on class, so be ready to move around the room, stand up, sit down, and whack whatever you can (except your classmates!)

### **Conducting 101 & 202**

- 101- This class is intended for any handbell director (or ringer) who wants to learn the basics of directing: preparatory beats, metrical patterns, cues, what to do with your left hand and even the proper use of the baton (please bring one to class). We will explore these fundamental conducting techniques to help you communicate with your ringers and look good at the same time! There will even be some tips on how to get your ringers to watch and follow their wonderful director.
- 202 – Ready for a little more than the basics? Are you giving your ringers *too much information*”, then wonder why they are not watching? We'll “tune-up” those basic directing patterns, dive into some compound meters, and explore score preparation.

### **Copyright Law**

This class will provide information about where the copyright law comes from, how long a copyright lasts, the exclusive rights of the copyright holder, infringement, fair use, religious exemption, out-of-print status, public domain and other useful information about copyrights and how they apply to your programs.



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### **Crafts – Iris folding/Button Making/Hat decorating**

Take a break from all the ringing and come make a unique “bell” gift for your director or for yourself. Iris folding is a technique that originated in Holland. It uses color coordinated strips of folded paper that are taped into place over a pattern (in this case, a bell), creating a spiraling design that resembles the iris of an eye of a camera lens. Button making and hat decorating will also be available. This is a hands-on class for creativity and fun.

### **Cup Speed Stacking - Beyond The Cup Game**

Like everything else in life that requires fine motor skills, handbells require the use of excellent hand eye coordination. So besides video games, how do you develop good hand eye coordination? Cup Stacking!! This “sport” uses twelve cups to encourage both hand and eye to work together. Quick thinking, great reflexes, and some pretty cool moves are waiting to be practiced in this fast paced game.

### **Directing from Behind the Table**

How many times have you had to lead the rehearsal while filling in for a missing ringer? Some of us choose to lead all of our rehearsals this way. We will discuss ways to make a “conductorless” ensemble successful and the benefits of this style. Some topics included will be ringing assignments, managing tempo changes and other musical elements and team-building.

### **Folk Dancing**

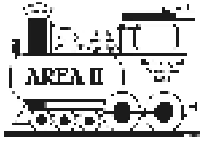
This session is designed as a fun break from rigors of handbell ringing. We will learn some simple American and English folk dances. The dances are easy enough so that no previous experience is necessary. Folk dancing offers a wonderful opportunity for building community. It also offers an opportunity to move to the beat, fine tune listening skills, work on phrasing and ensemble and communicate with others. Sound familiar?

### **Handchime – They’re Not Just Like Handbells!**

Come learn the basics of handchime ringing and how these special instruments can be incorporated into your music program worship, community, public or private organization. Gloves not necessary!!

### **Handchimes in the Classroom**

This class will be a hands-on experience for using handchimes to teach musical skills in the classroom or youth chime choirs. Emphasis on teaching rhythm, harmony, melody and composition.



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### **Help, I'm a New Director!**

Be hungry to learn about his new chapter in your life! Receive a check list of things to do, to know, and where to go for more information.

### **Leadership for Directors**

Becoming the handbell director means you instantly know how to lead people towards success, teach people all about music, organize and run productive rehearsals, and build support for the program throughout your organization!! Want help in some of these areas? Come and learn the basics of good leadership and how they can work for you.

### **Maintenance Classes**

Representatives from Malmark and Schulmerich will be on hand to show you how to maintain your bells.

### **Mixed Meter Mystery**

Anyone with a pulse can play mixed meter. That includes you! With some simple exercises and visual aids, we will discover the secret of "pulse" in mixed meter music. 5/4 to 6/4? 4/4 to 12/8? 5/8 to 3/4 to 7/8? No problem!!

### **Add Bells and Stir! (Processionals)**

Surround sound for the audience! A flash of bronze and ribbons! We'll explore a few ways to ring bells away from the tables with easy patterns, chords, pentatonic clusters, and even published scores. No experience necessary!! Just wear your walking shoes.

### **Reading Sessions by Level**

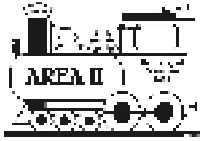
Reading sessions of Level 1&2, Level 2/3, AGEHR music Level 2/3, Level 3&4 and Level 4/5 will be offered.

### **Rhythm Challenges**

Become part of a challenge team. Test your rhythmic accuracy, try new patterns and step up to challenge others. This class will include ringing, laughter and prizes.

### **Can You Keep a Steady Beat?? (Rhythm & Movement)**

A low-impact movement class that will challenge your sense of steady beat. We will begin with simple group activities, move to internal pulse challenges and end with a basic line dance challenge. No bells, no books, just what's in your head.



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### **Score Study**

We all want to feel some success, not frustration, when first reading a new piece of music. Learn how to succeed by preparing the music before you give it to your ringers. Class will show you what to look for to make the most musical performance possible.

### **Syncopation Anxiety**

We've trained so diligently to stay ON the beat, that when the music calls for off-beat syncopation, we freeze. What to do? Learn to anticipate syncopated patterns before you get to them, prepare to ring the jump beat, feel the jazz that lives in your soul. We will practice methods of playing various forms of syncopation. Take two dotted notes and call me in the morning!

### **Techniques A-Z**

This class covers every one-bell technique we know of, starting with the proper ringing stroke and including the new "singing bell" technique.

### **Treble Techniques – 101 & 202**

- 101 - Come learn the "how to" for handling more than one bell in each hand, including the basics for Shelley ringing and 4-in-hand.
- 202 - Now that you know how to execute the technique, it's time to learn to apply them to musical situations.

### **Unpublished Manuscripts Reading Session**

Here is an opportunity to read through some pieces that have not seen publication. Composers and arrangers, known and perhaps unknown, have submitted manuscripts to be played at this session. Constructive criticism and suggestions are welcome. The ability to sight read music at a level 3 or higher is required, but all ringers are welcome to come listen. Please bring your gloves and binder.