

Handbell Musicians of America Illinois—Workshop with The Agape Ringers

Massed Ringing Session - The day begins with a massed ringing session. If your organization is bringing bells that are used in this session, you will be hosting ringers from other groups at your table. Please welcome them and make room! If you did not bring bells, you will be assigned to a table for that session.

Class Descriptions

- **Advanced Bass Bell Techniques** In a seminar-style format, we will continue to discuss topics and questions raised in the preliminary class in round-table fashion. Everyone bring a story. Prerequisite: Bass Bell Techniques
- A **Bass Bell Techniques** Successful bass bell ringing comes from teamwork, creativity, and devotion to musicianship. We'll explore these themes by translating them into strategies and techniques for bells below C4.
- A **Be a Better Ringer** Learn to look beyond the notes on the page and play beautiful music! This class will cover some of the ways to learn and teach new music, find the melodic and harmonic lines on the page, and connect with the director and the rest of the ensemble to maximize musicality and enjoyment for both the ringers and the audience/congregation.
- **Bell Trees** Bell Trees are becoming more and more popular in the solo, small ensemble and choir part of the handbell world. Come find out how to apply this to your church service, concert and yes, even you can begin as a solo ringer. We will discuss the equipment required, the tricks of the trade and even have a short hands-on time to show you how easy it really is!
- A **Bells in Worship** With the help of Hal Hopson's "Creative Use of Handbells in Worship", we will study and try different ways to incorporate handbells in worship.
- ◆ **Beyond Beginning** Developing skills beyond the basics, such as dynamics, table damping, simple bell changes, and bell notation.
- A **Change Ringing** Do you know what Change Ringing is? Have you ever want to ring the tower bells in England? Come learn about Change Ringing and how you can do it with handbells. Learn about the history of the tower bells, different uses for performance (church or community choirs) and finally put on some gloves and ring the changes.
- A **Drumline Diversions** Hope you're ready for some fun! Need something new to do with your ringers? Want to work on rhythmic skills but need a new way to approach some bad habits? Are you wishing for something totally off the wall that might attract some new ringers but won't intimidate them? Come tryout this drumline class to see if you too can add a twist to your program.
- **Four-in-Hand** Learn the difference between Shelley ringing and 4-in-hand ringing, how to ring different set-ups of 4-in-hand, and then practice these methods using real music.
- **Intermediate: Bell Changes** Now that you have more than two bells, how do you handle the more complicated changes? We will look at problem solving and the magic of starting with the "other" hand.
- **Intermediate: Rhythms** Improve your ability to play more complex music. We'll cover exercises to help you get from one technique to the next as well as challenge you with more complex rhythms.
- ◆ **Ringin' Basics** Here's your chance to learn basic handbell techniques! We will explore basic damping of whole, half, and quarter notes. A must for beginners and those wanting to brush up on their basic ringing skills.
- **Shelley Ringing** An introductory hands-on class to playing treble bells in Shelley style (two bells in one hand that sound together with a forward ringing stroke), which will include alternate Shelley.
- A **Special Techniques** This class explores stopped sounds, mallets, and non-stopped sound techniques along with other special effects that can be used with handbells and chimes.
- A **Stem Direction Does Count!** We'll walk through several pieces of handbell music and talk about how to use all the information presented in the music, including the bells used chart, brackets & parentheses, plus tricks for finding the melody. The skill of using stem direction to determine what technique applies to which notes will be covered in-depth.
- **Weaving 101** Want to know the basics for weaving handbells? The answers to all of your questions "loom" ahead. This hands-on class will teach you all of the basic skills needed to do three and four bell changing patterns, a necessity for solo/ensemble work.

Key to Classes:

A for any ringer or group

◆ recommended or suitable for beginners

● for more experienced ringers or groups