

Rendezvous on the Spokane! Classes for 2023

All About that BASS: Ringing the Low Bass: B3 and below requires special techniques to safely ring those large bells. This class teaches the basic techniques needed to successfully ring the 'buckets' in a safe and healthy manner. Emphasis will be on protecting both the bells and the ringers while ringing the low bass bells.

Instructor: Corbin Rasmussen

Bell Tree Basics: Have you seen a bell tree in action? Fascinated?? Want to learn more??? Or maybe you just need a refresher. We will cover the bell set up, mallets used, where to find music, and learn the nuances of playing bells on the bell tree. Lots of hands-on experience. **Instructor: Julie Hunziker**

Best Practices in Handbell Ringing Part I—Basic Stroke It is easy to produce a sound from your bell **BUT** we want to produce a Beautiful Sound. Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ringer, you will learn techniques and best practices to produce a beautiful sound from your bells. We will cover the "Three S's": Stance, Seat and Stroke and will apply Laban Movement Theory to ringing styles that will help us control our bells and produce the desired musical effect. **Instructor: Diane Barnes**

Best Practices in Handbell Ringing Part II—Stopped Techniques (*Part II stands alone, Part I not required*) Whether you are a beginner or a veteran ringer, you will learn techniques and best practices to produce a beautiful sound through Stopped Techniques. Applying Laban Movement Theory to producing a stopped sound we will learn what is needed to apply stopped techniques to their best musical effect.

Instructor: Diane Barnes

Body, Brain and Bells: Bells are out, gloves are on, music is set and mallets are close by. Ready to ring? Wait a minute! Come to this class to learn warm-ups for the body and brain. Do these before anyone rings a bell. Your musicians will ring with warmed muscles and their brains will be wide awake. Bring paper and pencil. Be ready to move! **Instructor: Shelly Giaier**

Christmas on the Bell Tree: What a great way to cover the Salvation Army Red Kettles during the holiday season! We'll tackle simple music using familiar carols. Once we know the starting note, we can make a go of it! **Prerequisite: previous experience with a bell tree or a basic bell tree class.** **Instructor: Julie Hunziker**

Conducting: It's more than Flapping Your Arms!! Conducting is about much more than memorizing which direction to flap your hand! Conducting is communication and requires a connection between the conductor *and* the musicians. Class reviews basic beat patterns, complex meters and challenges, gesture from dynamics to tempo changes and cues for nuance and skills (formerly known as "tricks" of the trade). Also, tips for inspiring your ensemble to actually watch and interpret your intentions.

This class is designed to give you tools that indicate clearly what you want from your musicians. Time allowing, we will discuss how to make technique issues useful to everyone in the choir wherever you need to address them in rehearsal. We'll also, talk about language that inspires clarity to your musicians. And, especially for musicians, tips to form questions that will allow your director to give you the help you need---even if the question is "I have no idea what to ask, but" Suitable for both conductors and musicians. **Instructor: Ellie Hodder**

Count Me In! Every day is a good day for counting and practicing rhythms. Come join this session of games and activities refreshing rhythms and introducing new tips for keeping that steady beat! **Instructor: Robin Ethridge**

De-Mystifying Meters/Rhythms 2/2; 3/4; 4/4; 8/8—6/8; 9/8 —10/8; 8/8; 7/8: It is so confusing! We will look at simple, compound, and complex meters and learn how to figure out when, in a measure, to play our notes. Come ready to clap, stomp, and move to the beat. **Instructor: Phyllis Tincher**

Decoding the Score—Not just for Directors: What does it all mean? Now that music for handbells has moved beyond block chords with the melody line on the “top” it is important to know where your position fits into the whole. Knowing if you are playing in the melody line, harmony, rhythm section or something else dictates how you will ring your bells. Massed pieces will be “Decoded”. **Instructor: Diane Barnes**

Handbell Maintenance: learn how to keep your Malmark or Schulmerich bells in tip-top ringing condition, or ask about specific problems you are encountering with your sets. **Instructor:**

Marking your Score for Success as a Director OR Musician: Markings are different for directors and ringers. There are some marks that cross over and some unique markings. Yes, directors should be marking their score for success, too. Have you ever: zipped by dynamic markings? Passed over a ritard or accelerando? Missed Mallet markings? Forgot to turn back to the correct measure on a repeat? Been a “soloist” on a caesura? Guilty of playing a ritard not marked in the score? Caught all the accidentals ALL the time? Does your table layout/set-up change each rehearsal? If you answered yes to any of these questions—you will probably benefit from this class. **Instructor: Ellie Hodder**

Round Table—Starting up a Bell Choir: Come share your experiences starting up a bell choir or ask questions about starting a bell choir. Together we will come together to inform each other. **Facilitated by: Joann Wallenburn**

Round Table—Dealing with the ever-fluctuating size of a bell choir— Over the past few years handbell choirs have been dealing with a rotating roster of personnel. Come and share you experiences with your personnel situation and pick your colleagues brains about how they dealt with their situations. **Facilitated by: Shosh Meyer**

So Many Bells—Not Enough Hands HELP! When needing to ring more than 2 bells at the same time or change bells faster than the speed of sound what are you to do? In this class you will learn to handle these situations with aplomb. These skills will improve your handbell choir ringing experiences and could lead to ensemble or solo ringing. This class will cover weaving, basic 4-in-hand and ensemble hints. After practicing many different patterns, we will look at the massed music and see what works in various situations: **Instructor: Phyllis Tincher**