

Brenda E. Austin is a dynamic and energetic conductor, clinician and composer connecting musicians through handbells. She has served as the Artistic Director for the Detroit Handbell Ensemble since 2016. Under her baton, DHE was honored to open the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in 2018 and be the featured concert for HMA's AREA 2 2019 Festival in Lancaster, PN. In 2019, Brenda also joined the team at Hope Publishing Company in Carol Stream, IL as Editor in charge of the Handbell Catalogue. Additionally, she has served First United Methodist Church in Eaton Rapids, MI, as Director of Music since 2003. She is also active in the community directing Children's musical theatre.

Brenda graduated with degrees in Vocal Performance from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She studied with Craig Arnold, Steve Zegree and Eph Ehly.

Brenda is in demand as a handbell clinician throughout the year and has been the conductor and clinician at numerous festivals and workshops including HMA National Seminar, AREA 5 and AREA 4 Spring Festivals. Additionally, she has had more than 60 titles published for handbells since 2015.

For more information about Brenda, please visit her website at www.BrendaEAustin.com



Marquise Usher was born and raised in Oakland, California where he learned to play handbells at a local church. By age 18, he was a member of both Sonos Handbell Ensemble and Velocity Handbell Ensemble. Marquise's love for handbells and his love for music found a common ground when he began to compose for the instrument in high school. In 2017, Marquise served as interim-director of Bell Appeal, a San Francisco based handbell ensemble that features all the instruments of a pop band, including vocalist. He currently conducts handbells at First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael and Christ Lutheran Church of El Cerrito. He continues to teach at area and National conferences, and still composes for handbells.