

2026 BIG SKY
HANDBELL FESTIVAL



43rd Annual
Big Sky Handbell Festival
April 24-25, 2026 - Livingston, MT
Park High School, 102 View Vista Dr.

***HOSTS: First Bells - First Presbyterian Church, Bozeman,
Glory Ringers - United Methodist Church, Bozeman,
and Bells of the Bridgers***

YOUR CLINICIAN: Kathryn Jurado

A musician with over 30 years of performance experience, 20 years of non-profit volunteer work, and lifelong church music ministry service, Kathryn Jurado has quickly gained prominence in the handbell community as a ringer and director. She is starting her first year as the Director of Handbell Activities at Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, where she will lead students from grades 5 through 12. Kathryn also serves as President-Elect on the national board of Handbell Musicians of America, and is the Handbell and Instrumental Editor of Alfred Handbell, a division of Jubilate Music Group.



Born in Puerto Rico, Kathryn holds both a Bachelor and Master of Music degree from the University of South Florida in Tampa. Besides working as a freelance oboist, Kathryn has led a number of handbell ensembles that include groups at University of South Florida and Lake Magdelene Church (formerly UMC) in Tampa, the Magic of Bronze, an Orlando-based community handbell ensemble, and the Sun-coast Bronze Ringers, a community handbell ensemble in the Tampa Bay area. She has been the clinician for a number of national events, including Reaching for Bronze (now known as Crescendo), the 2025 College Ring-in, and the 2025 Utah Spring Ring. In her spare time, Kathryn, along with her husband, William J. Murphy, enjoys traveling to Disney, cruising the Caribbean, and watching movies with their clowder of cats.

***SEMINAR with Kathryn Jurado ... Open to Ringers and Directors
"From Clunky to Clear: The Art of Beautiful Chimes"***

Location: The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 415 E. Lewis St. (5 blocks from festival site)

Time: 1:30pm - 3:00pm, Friday April 24.

Cost: \$20 per person, added to registration, or payable on-site

SCHEDULE ... (full schedule available later)

FRIDAY - 1:30 - 3:00pm - Seminar (optional)

- 4:30 - 6:30pm - Move-in to Park High School Gym

- 7:00 - Opening Bell

SATURDAY - Full day of rehearsals & Concert at 7:30 pm

This event is endorsed by Handbell Musicians of America, Inc., dedicated to uniting people through the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing. www.handbellmusicians.org

CONCERT DRESS ... For the evening concert, wear your usual performance attire.

FESTIVAL MUSIC ... Each choir is responsible to purchase and bring their own music. **DO NOT COPY MUSIC!** The music list is included in this email and also posted on the Area 10 website: <http://area10.handbellmusicians.org>. Other than official recordings made by event leaders, all other audio and video recordings constitute an infringement of the U.S. copyright laws.

DIRECTOR NOTES ... Not yet available. Will be emailed to you, later.

CHOIR SOLOS ... If you would like to perform a choir solo at the afternoon mini-concert, please email the details to S Boom <yellowrayban@gmail.com> ... the title, arranger, full choir or ensemble, and any special requests.

VENDORS ... Look forward to Heitz Music for sure, and plans are underway for additional vendors. Way to go, Bozeman choirs!

LUNCH ... The optional \$10 lunch will be a poor boy sandwich, regular or as a gluten-free wrap, with meat choices - turkey, beef or ham - and white American cheese. Mustard and mayo packets will be included, and veggies for the sandwiches will be on the side, individually packaged. The vegetarian lunch is a gluten-free wrap with assorted veggies and hummus. All lunches include fruit, chips, soda or bubbly water and a side of quinoa salad.

IMPORTANT: For dairy-free or other dietary considerations, choose "Special" on the registration form and CONTACT S BOOM BY MARCH 25 to COMPLETE THE ORDER. Email: <yellowrayban@gmail.com> (Pay for this special order along with all the other lunches.)

WHAT TO BRING ... We supply the floor space and chairs; you supply the tables, foam, bells, and chimes. Again our hosts ask that we bring re-fillable water bottles.

RESTAURANTS - THIS MESSAGE FROM S BOOM:

There are not a lot of restaurants in Livingston and the ones they have are smaller. We would recommend either making a reservation, if possible, or ordering takeout if a whole choir wants to eat together. We will be giving a heads up to the bigger restaurants that there will be a good number of people in town wanting to eat dinner all at the same time.

The Explore Livingston website (<https://www.explorelivingstonmt.com/> if the hyperlink doesn't work) has a good list of restaurants with links.

REGISTRATION ... Festival Registration Forms are due by **Wednesday, March 25**. The registration fee is \$30 per person. The Form is a fillable PDF. Download the blank form to your computer. Open it on your computer to enter your information. Save the completed form, using the choir's name. (Suggested format: 2026 Festival Registration, Joyful Ringers.) Email the completed form to nrmatten@gmail.com or print and mail it with your registration payment. Placement on the ringing floor is determined by the email date or the postmark date of a mailed form.

IMPORTANT: Late registrations cannot include lunch orders.

Make checks payable to Big Sky Handbell Musicians, and mail to:
Naomi Matten
1900 Charlotte Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801

CANCELLATION/REFUND Policy

All cancellation requests must be in writing (email is acceptable). Refunds in full will be made for cancellation requests received by the registration due date. Refund requests made after the registration due date AND prior to the festival opening will be processed as follows: (1) Refund request must be made in writing from the choir director; (2) Full Registration Fee will be refunded to the individual (or to the organization, if the registration was paid by organization); (3) Lunch will only be refunded up until the time the lunch order is placed with the caterer. After order is placed, there will be no refund of lunch; (4) Director Seminar fee will be refunded up until the start of the seminar, upon written request.