



Handbell Workshop

September 9-10, 2023

Church in the Wildwood

Green Mountain Falls, CO

Greetings!

On behalf of The Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the Church in the Wildwood Music Ministry, and the Forté Handbell Quartet, we invite you to our second annual Weekend Workshop and Concert!

Join us on Saturday, Sep 9 and Sunday Sep 10 at Church in the Wildwood in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado for an exciting weekend of musicianship, skill building, performance practice, and connecting with other handbell ringers from around the state.

This year, we are offering 3 tracks for participants: Beginner (brand new ringers), Early - Mid Intermediate and Late Intermediate - Advanced.

The classes will be facilitated by Forté, a professional handbell quartet marked by artistry, energy, and dedication to their craft. The musicians of Forté are continually expanding their musical horizons by adding original compositions and arrangements that challenge audiences' perceptions of what handbells can really do. Since forming in 2007, the members of Forté have been featured performers and faculty at Handbell Musicians of America events, toured across the country, and released three CDs and a DVD. Visit their website at: fortehandbells.org.

Below is all of the information you need to plan for the workshop, including the Schedule of classes and events, Track Descriptions, Course Details, and Frequently Asked Questions.

Register online at wildwooducc.org/handbell from July 6 - August 30. Space is limited. Please contact our Music Director teresa@wildwooducc.org with any questions. We are so excited to see you here!

Workshop Schedule

Saturday September 9 - Sunday September 10, 2023

Saturday September 9					
Start	End	Session	Track A: Laying the Foundation	Track B: Strengthening the Skillset	Track C: Delving Deeper
7:30 AM	8:00 AM	Check-in			
8:00 AM	9:05 AM	Session 1	With Mind and Body: Warm-Ups		
9:15 AM	10:20 AM	Session 2	Welcome to Handbells: Basic Ringing and Damping	How Firm a Foundation: Ringing and Stance	Doing It Well: Stance and Techniques
10:30 AM	11:35 AM	Session 3	Making Music Together: L1 Music Reading Session	A Tangled Web: Weaving	Rocking Heavy Metal: Bass and Mallets
11:35 AM	12:35 PM	Lunch			
12:35 PM	1:40 PM	Session 4	Changing It Up: Bell Switches, Passes, and Basic Weaves	What's That Mean Again? Mallets and Other Techniques	The Heartland: Battery and Weaving
1:50 PM	2:55 PM	Session 5	The Wide World of Sounds: Intro to Other Techniques	Approaching Music Confidently: L2 Music Reading Session	On Top of the World: Treble and Four-in-Hand
2:55 PM	3:10 PM	Break			
3:10 PM	4:15 PM	Session 6	Making Music Together II: L1+/ 2- Music Reading Session	More Than Just a Smile (But That Too): Visual Presentation	
4:25 PM	5:30 PM	Session 7	Putting It All Together: Massed Ring and Review		
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Dinner			
6:30 PM	7:35 PM	Rehearse	Practice for ringers who register to participate in Sunday morning services		
Sunday September 10					
9:00AM	10:00AM	Rehearse	Practice for ringers who register to participate in Sunday morning services		
10:30AM	11:30AM	Church	Sunday worship service (optional)		
3:00 PM	3:30 PM	Panel	Backstage Pass: Panel Discussion		
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	Concert	Public Forté Concert		

Track Descriptions

Participants will choose one track to participate in for the workshop. We will try to accommodate individual preferences as class-sizes permit.

Track A: Laying the Foundation

How do handbells work? Where do I start if I want to become a ringer? Designed for novice ringers, this track will introduce new handbell musicians to the instrument, beginning with plenty of practice with the most basic actions, then adding other techniques and relevant music-reading skills. By the end of the day, we will be playing published handbell music together!

Note: This is a Beginner's option for both Adults and Youth (5th grade and up).

Track includes the following classes:

- With Mind and Body: Warm Ups *[shared with all tracks]*
- Welcome to Handbells: Basic Ringing and Damping
- Making Music Together: L1 Music Reading Session
- Changing It Up: Bell Switches, Passes, and Basic Weaves
- The Wide World of Sounds: Intro to Other Techniques
- Making Music Together II: L1+/2- Music Reading Session
- Putting It All Together: Massed Ring and Review *[shared with all tracks]*

Track B: Strengthening the Skillset

For current ringers who want to refresh their skills and round out their toolkits, this track will focus on expanding the foundational skills of amateur to intermediate ringers. The courses will introduce a broad range of techniques and method, with an aim to help ringers feel more comfortable with anything a piece of music may throw at them! This track will provide effective yet straightforward instruction on solidifying your existing ringing ability, to create the solid base and open doors for more advanced ringing skills down the road.

Track includes the following classes:

- With Mind and Body: Warm Ups *[shared with all tracks]*
- How Firm a Foundation: Ringing and Stance
- A Tangled Web: Weaving
- What's That Mean Again? Mallets and Other Techniques

- Approaching Music Confidently: L2 Music Reading Session
- More Than Just a Smile (But That Too): Visual Presentation *[shared with track C]*
- Putting It All Together: Massed Ring and Review *[shared with all tracks]*

Track C: Delving Deeper

How can I start to push my skills? How do I approach ringing differently for different areas of the table? This track is designed for those who are comfortable reading different positions, know the basic techniques, and want to take the next step in their handbell musicianship. Classes will focus on different regions and some of the main techniques that are common difficulties for each region.

Track includes the following classes:

- With Mind and Body: Warm Ups *[shared with all tracks]*
- Doing It Well: Stance and Techniques
- Rocking Heavy Metal: Bass and Mallets
- The Heartland: Battery and Weaving
- On Top of the World: Treble and Four-in-Hand
- More Than Just a Smile (But That Too): Visual Presentation *[shared with track B]*
- Putting It All Together: Massed Ring and Review *[shared with all tracks]*

Course Details

(Note: Participants will not sign up for individual courses. Instead, they will sign up for an entire track. See the Track Descriptions above for a list of courses included in each track.)

Session 1 (all tracks combined): With Mind and Body: Warm-Ups

Getting ready to ring any instrument involves getting the body and mind activated and prepared. Warming up also allows us to practice the building blocks of technique (often in an exaggerated way) before we have to call upon them in a piece of music. Whether a veteran or a newbie, everyone can benefit from thoughtful preparation. In this first class of the day, we'll go through some stretches, motions, and coordination games to show some ways to get both the mind and the body prepared for a day of ringing!

Session 2a (track A): Welcome to Handbells: Basic Ringing and Damping

Approaching handbells can be intimidating! Where do you hold them? How do they work? What's with all the foam on the tables? In this class we'll take a look at the basic equipment and motions for playing this unique instrument. We will also explore how printed music shows us what to do.

Session 2b (track B): How Firm a Foundation: Ringing and Stance

Just as literary greatness requires a solid grasp of grammar, the ability of a ringer must be rooted in core fundamentals of playing the instrument. This course aims to prepare ringers for greatness by providing an unwavering set of core skills and understanding of proper ringing form, as a stepping-off point for whatever proficiency level you may wish to pursue.

Session 2c (track C): Doing It Well: Stance and Techniques

Handbells are a surprisingly intricate instrument, and there is always something new to learn! From head to hands to feet, hone your knowledge of the basics and the many techniques used in handbell music as we explore the marks on the page and how to truly master them.

Session 3a (track A): Making Music Together: L1 Music Reading Session

You've learned how to ring a bell! What next? In this class, we'll put those basic ringing and music reading skills to use as we learn how to play Level 1 handbell music together.

Session 3b (track B): A Tangled Web: Weaving

Your accidentals are fast approaching, and you still haven't grown a third arm/hand. What hope is there? Weaving! Come learn about the not-so-mystical art of weaving. This technique is one which any ringer can conquer and allows you greater mastery of multiple bells.

Session 3c (track C): Rocking Heavy Metal: Bass and Mallets

Whether you're a bass-table veteran, or you're venturing into the big bells for the first time, we'll show you what you need to enjoy it to the fullest! A confident, competent, and knowledgeable bass bell ringer can be critical to strong bell choirs, and this course will aim to make you all three. You'll learn key techniques for making the bells work for you, reducing strain with proper ringing habits, malleting methods, part arrangement and more.

Session 4a (track A): Changing It Up: Bell Switches, Passes, and Basic Weaves

What is a flat? What is a sharp? Why is everything “accidental”? Most importantly, what do I do when I need to change from one bell to a different one? In this class we'll enter the world of bell changes, both the mechanics of making them happen and the notations telling us we need to make a switch.

Session 4b (track B): What's That Mean Again? Mallets and Other Techniques

When facing handbell music, the sheer number of techniques can be overwhelming, but it is also one of the beautiful aspects of the instrument! This class will go through techniques and examine how they are notated and executed, using musical excerpts to help solidify those techniques in ringers' minds.

Session 4c (track C): The Heartland: Battery and Weaving

The bells in the middle of the table don't always get as much attention as the smaller bells played 4-in-hand or the larger, flashy bass bells, but playing in this region demands rhythm, attention, problem-solving, and endurance! In this class we'll look at some of the difficult situations that can crop up and how to approach them, and we will also look at how the techniques common to all positions apply to this range.

Session 5a (track A): The Wide World of Sounds: Intro to Other Techniques

One of the greatest features of handbells is the vast array of different sounds we can create with the instrument: short, long, loud, soft, harsh – handbells can do it all! In this class, we'll review and learn the basic techniques, and then we will look into various ways to make other sounds with the instrument.

Session 5b (track B): Approaching Music Confidently: L2 Music Reading Session

Aggravating page-turns, complicated transitions, convoluted rhythms – there's never a dull moment as you learn new music! Don't fear: there are ways to overcome challenges like these in your music. In this class we'll explore some how to approach new music and apply our best ringing stance and technique as we read music together!

Session 5c (track C): On Top of the World: Treble and Four-in-Hand

Thrilling melody lines and fun rhythms await any ringer with a desire to play the treble bells! Come learn to navigate the treble table with confidence as we take you through the ins and outs of ringing the little bells cleanly and easily, and teach you to four-in-hand like a pro (yes, you can do it!).

Session 6a (track A): Making Music Together II: L1+/2- Music Reading Session

Even after learning how to ring and use various techniques on the handbells, it can be helpful to play real music incorporating those techniques in order to solidify them in context. In this session, we will take a plunge into some slightly more advanced music to see how we can approach some of the difficulties that arise with early Level 2 music.

Session 6bc (tracks B and C combined): More Than Just a Smile (But That Too): Visual Presentation

Handbells are a distinctly visual instrument, entrancing audiences through both sound and sight. Directors and ringers are encouraged to come learn how to broaden the appeal of their performances through applying a new lens of visual unity to their ringing. Whether you've been in bells for one year or fifty, you will hear new, straightforward ideas on how to help your audience connect with your music on a new level as you turn your songs into works of art.

Session 7 (all tracks combined): Putting It All Together: Massed Ring and Review

In our final session for the day, we will read music together, putting all of the skills we've worked on during the day to use! We'll look at music that we can make the most of visually and technically. Some ringers may have the opportunity to observe instead of ring for particular pieces, allowing them to see the application of concepts on pieces they may not yet be ready to play themselves.

Sunday Pre-Concert Session (open to public): Backstage Pass: Panel Discussion

This casual panel discussion with the Forté Handbell Quartet is your opportunity to ask us anything! Ask about bell techniques, studying scores, group dynamics, or anything else, and we'll do our best to come up with good answers... or at least entertain you!

Sunday Opportunity to Play for Worship at Church in the Wildwood

We will also have the opportunity for 11 ringers to choose the option to rehearse music with Handbell Director, Teresa Allen for worship at Church in The Wildwood on Sunday, September 10 at 10:30 am. The rehearsals will be September 9 at 6:30 pm and September 10 at 9:00 am. Music for the worship service will be selected based on the experience and skill level of those who choose to participate. Please select the option to participate in the worship service when registering for the workshop.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates and times of the workshop?

Dates for the 2023 Handbell Workshop are Saturday September 9th and Sunday September 10th. Sign-in is on Saturday from 7:30 - 8am. The workshop runs from 8am - 6:30pm on Saturday and includes a catered lunch and dinner. On Sunday, eleven ringers will have the opportunity to perform at church service (rehearsals will be Sat evening and Sun morning). The workshop closes with a public concert by the Forté Handbell Quartet on Sunday at 4pm.

Do I need to have Handbell experience to attend?

Participants at all levels of experience are welcome. Please contact us if you have questions about which track is best for your level of ability.

What are the age requirements for the conference?

The beginning track is open to 5th grade and above. The intermediate and advanced tracks are open to handbell ringers 16 years and older.

What do I need to bring to the workshop?

Participants need to bring a pair of handbell gloves. If you wish to explore Green Mountain Falls - known for its natural beauty and cool mountain weather - you may want to bring good walking/hiking shoes, sunscreen, warm layers, snacks and water. We advise caution as this is a high elevation environment.

Where is the workshop located?

The workshop will be held at Church in the Wildwood. We are located in Green Mountain Falls, Colorado via Highway 24 from Colorado Springs. Our address is: 10585 Ute Pass Avenue, Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819. Plenty of free parking is available near the church and around the community.

What amenities does the Church in the Wildwood offer?

Free wi-fi is available inside and outside the church. We have newly remodeled facilities including comfortable seating areas, restrooms, and meeting spaces.

Are meals and lodging available?

Lunch and dinner on Saturday are provided. Let us know of any dietary restrictions on your registration form. There are picnic tables in the parks and the town offers several restaurants. The Pantry, Mucky Duck, Tye Dye Java, Blue Moose, and Black Bear are in walking distance.

The communities of Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Chipita Park, and Woodland Park have many short-term rental and hotel options. Search online to secure a reservation.

When can family and friends join me?

You will have Sunday morning free to explore the area and/or attend services at Church in the Wildwood. Eleven ringers will have the opportunity to perform at Sunday services. On Sunday afternoon, the Forté Handbell Quartet will present a concert at 4 pm. Anyone may attend the concert, no tickets are required. A free-will offering will be collected to defer costs.

Who is sponsoring the workshop and concert?

This special event is made possible by a generous grant from The Kirkpatrick Family Fund. The Church in the Wildwood Music Ministry is providing the venue and organizing the weekend activities. The Forté Handbell Quartet is providing the instruction.

How do I register?

Register and pay online at wildwooducc.org. If you prefer a paper form, you can pick one up at Church in the Wildwood or download the form online. Enclose a check for \$75 and either drop off your registration at the church, or mail it to:

Church in the Wildwood, P.O. Box 26 Green Mountain Falls, CO 80819.

Registration opens July 6 and closes Aug 30, 2023 or when the workshop is full. Space is limited to keep the class sizes small so that everyone receives individualized attention.

Are scholarships available?

The registration fee should not be a barrier to attendance. A limited amount of scholarships are available upon request.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Email our Music Director teresa@wildwooducc.org with any questions.