

Class Descriptions

Ringling Basics

I have been assigned two bells. Now what do I do with them? Learn the basics from how to hold, ring, and damp a bell to how to perform special techniques on handbells.

Low Bass Techniques (C3-B3)

Low bass handbells are heavy and they require additional skills to ring them. Learn how to safely pick up and ring bass bells, how to manage multiple bells, and how to assign bells to allow the bass section to work smoothly and efficiently.

Battery Techniques (C4-B5)

Those bells in the middle of the ensemble are often the unsung heroes of the bell group. Learn the techniques needed to play these positions well. We will cover understanding stem direction, malleting and stop sound techniques, and bell changes for accidentals.

Treble Techniques (C6-C8)

There are many ways to ring those little bells in four-in-hand and Shelley style. Learn those different options to find the ones that work best for you. Don't know what 4-i-H and S+ mean? Come find out!

Chimes/Bells in the Classroom

Bells and chimes are great teaching tools, especially when combined with singing, movement, games, and even other instruments. Come experience ways to develop improvisation, music literacy, and performance skills through incorporating ringing into your general music classroom. Taught by our own Alice Real, a Fairfax County music teacher and the Handbell Musicians of America, Area 3 Education Liaison.

Weaving and Problem Solving

You have to ring three different bells in a row or you have to mallet, mart, and ring all in the same measure! Learn how to strategize and manage your bells to successfully ring those difficult passages.

How it Works—Sound and Maintenance

Experience some of our physics lesson as you learn about the physics of sound and handbells. Also learn the care and feeding (repair) of handbells and what tools and equipment you need on-hand for quick repairs.

Virginia Bronze Ask Me Anything

A round-table discussion about anything Virginia Bronze or handbells!