



Michael Joy Biography

Born and raised in Canton, OH, Michael Joy has lived in Philadelphia, PA since 1974. He has been directing handbell choirs in churches since 1978 and in schools since 1983. He studied handbells with Donald Allured and handbell composition with Arnold Sherman. Michael is currently the handbell director at The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA where he conducts middle school and high school groups. For the last 38 years he has also been the Music Director at First Presbyterian Church in Ambler, PA. Michael is the Executive Editor for the new GIA *Foundations Series*, designed specifically for developing handbell ensembles in schools. He is a published composer and has taught at Handbell Musicians of America Area festivals and National Seminars, PMEA district and state conferences, and the 2008 International Handbell Symposium. Jeffers Publishing Company named him Composer of the Year for 2004 for his composition *Dorian Dance*. Michael received the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award for 2011. The piece, *Pavane and Galliard*, received its premiere at Bay View Week of Handbells in August of 2011. Michael also served two terms as the Secretary for Area 2 of Handbell Musicians of America.