



**2018 Area 11 Festival
June 21 – 24, 2018
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Class Titles and Descriptions**

"Rocking Heavy Metal: Techniques to conquer bass ringing"

Description: A confident, competent, and knowledgeable bass bell ringer is of high value in any group! As a critical foundation to strong bell choirs, ringing bass is not a responsibility to be taken... 'lightly!' Whether you're familiar with most spots on the table 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! You'll learn key components for making the bells work for you, from proper ringing and malleting methods to simplifying your part before ever playing a note!

"Melodies and Miniature Bells: Learning to triumph in the treble"

Description: Treble ringing provides some of the most exciting ringing you'll experience in any group! Fun melody lines and thrilling rhythms await anyone who loves the instrument! Come learn to navigate the treble table with confidence as we take you through the ins and outs of ringing and swapping bells cleanly and easily, the versatile world of 4-in-hand (yes, you can do it!), and many other techniques!

"No Foam Required: Everything you need to know for beginning bell tree"

Description: Ready to leave the tables behind and try something new? It's time to learn about the beautiful and versatile way to use your bells: the bell tree! A perfect option for supplementing a different sound alongside your full choir, or for playing solo, this is a fun variant which can be played by anyone! In addition to being taught to play bell tree, you will be shown how to set up your own strands of bells, introduced to the many ways to use trees, and much more.

"Same bells, fewer hands: Formation and structure of a small ensemble"

Description: Perhaps you and some friends are ready to explore a new level of bell ringing. Maybe you aren't able to find a full thirteen people with an interest in forming a new group! Regardless of circumstance, you've found yourself intrigued by the idea of ensemble ringing, and we'd love to send you in the right direction! We'll be covering every aspect of the topic, from music choices, assignments and planning, to the unique requirements for ringers in areas such as adapting/advancing skills, working as a unified group, and learning to work through difficulties unique to ensemble.

"Look as good as you sound: Thoughts on visual presentation"

Description: Handbells are a distinctly visual instrument, entralling 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.

"The Painless Rehearsal: Shortcuts for easy and enjoyable music-making"

Description: We all know that nearly every rehearsal and song is prone to its unique trouble spots. Aggravating page-turns, complicated transitions, convoluted rhythms - there's never a dull moment! You can easily overcome every "rehearsal speed bump," and we'd love to show you how! For both beginner and intermediate ringers and directors, this class will provide straightforward tricks and methods for smoothing rough areas of your rehearsals (and your performances), so that you can minimize frustration and enjoy playing bells with confidence!

"Bell talk with Forté: Your chance to ask questions, our chance to make up answers!"

Description: This casual round-table discussion with the Forté Handbell Quartet is the perfect environment for you to throw out your questions about any bell topic under the sun, as well as to sit back and enjoy conversation aimed to inspire you to Rethink Possible! We are always learning more about this great instrument of ours, so we encourage you to come join your fellow ringers with a desire to both share your experience and to learn from the experience of others!

"How to Become a Better Sight Reader"

Description: Do you struggle the first time through a new piece of music? Do you find yourself missing half the notes, or having the wrong bells in your hands? Perhaps a chime section comes, and you miss it altogether? In this class, you will learn some tips and tricks on what to look for the first time you open a new piece of music. We will practice some simple score study techniques, then play through the music. We will discuss how to apply these techniques to your choir at home.

"Complex Rhythms Made Easy"

Description: We will talk about how you can identify *exactly* when you ring instead of perhaps guessing. We will explore counting systems, meter (simple, compound, complex), 2 against 3, 3 against 4. This class is designed so everyone will have a very good understanding of rhythm in a very practical way.

" Malmark Maintenance Class"

Description: Learn how to properly care for your Malmark bells and make simple repairs.

“Schulmerich Maintenance Class”

Description: Learn how to properly care for your Schulmerich bells and make simple repairs.

“Getting Started”

Description: So, you want to start a handbell group. Where to begin? There are a few things to consider before you begin; resources that can help you get started. Let's talk!

“Arranging for Less”

Description: You were hoping for 11-13 ringers to play your 5 octave of bells. But, you only have 7-9 signed up. NO PROBLEM! Learn to work with what you've got. There are tricks of the trade to arranging music for a smaller group and still play the music you want

“Do Your Hands Talk?”

Description: We'll discuss and practice basic conducting techniques with your classmates and look at some ways to get the message to your ringers as to what you want them to do. Do your ringers watch you? What you can do to change that interaction (or lack thereof). Open to ringers and directors who want a better understanding about "how your hands can talk."

“Mallet Technique - Play Like a Percussionist!”

Description: Handbells are percussion instruments, so we should think like percussionists and use proper mallet technique that is ergonomic and produces the best, most musical tone. We start by building good habits with fundamentals of technique: proper grip, creating a hinge with the fingers, using gravity as leverage, proper preparatory and follow-through gestures, and more. By the end of class, you'll be playing with a sense of musicality and precision, and have all the tools needed to continue your growth as a mallet player. **(BRING YOUR OWN MALLETS)**

“Musicality Through Engaging and Connecting -- How Tennis Balls Can Make You A Better Musician”

Description: You've never had so much fun learning how to ring with musicality! First, we do a delightful little exercise with tennis balls, learning to engage and connect. (Note: for those who do not feel comfortable with this kind of physical activity, there are still ways to participate; you won't be left out.) Then, with handbells, we learn some fun warm-ups in pairs and small groups that foster that trust between ringers. Finally, we apply this to a piece we ring together -- learning to trust each other and play director-less, with a sense of real connection and musicality!

"When Left is Right"

Description: If you've ever played battery or bass bells, you know that four-in-hand is not always the answer for a tough passage in the music. After all, those bells are big! Plus, you never know when your neighbor is going to need that Eb right after you've played the D# (enharmonically speaking, of course). This class will focus on solutions for ringing sections of music that require quick changes from one bell to the next. To weave or not to weave: yes, that's the question. But there's more than one answer. Sometimes being willing and able to change just one thing can make all the difference in your ability to move quickly and smoothly from one bell to the next. It's not always as easy as 1-2-3; sometimes 213 is SO much better. Come and learn how putting the bells out of "order" can be a better solution than twisting yourself into a pretzel. Sometimes left can be right (and right should be left)!

"So you've figured out what the names of the notes are, or at least most of them! Yah! Now what? – an understanding of basic music theory"

Description: Learn more about the language of music through this basic music theory class. Topics covered will include frequently used music terms and their meanings (there's a lot right there!) and a basic understanding of major and minor keys. This class will also help anyone who needs a review or help learning how to identify the notes on the staff. So even if you haven't 'figured out what the names of the notes are', this class is for you too!

Reading Session: "What's New?"

Description: we will have fun ringing both sacred and secular pieces that are "hot off the press", Levels 2-4

Reading Session: "Grab Bag"

Description: there is something for everyone in this session, a mixture of sacred and secular appropriate for a variety of seasons and settings, Levels 2-4