

15th Annual **BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL**

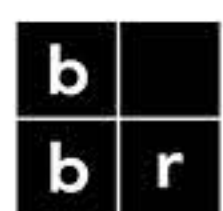
FEATURING:

BACK BAY RINGERS NEW ENGLAND RINGERS
MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS OLD SOUTH RINGERS
HIGHLANDS CHIMES



Skyline photograph © Stephen Orsillo

Event co-sponsored by:



Back Bay Ringers
www.backbayringers.org



Old South Church
www.oldsouth.org

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

7:30 PM

**OLD SOUTH CHURCH
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston Handbell Festival

Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church are delighted to welcome you to the fifteenth annual Boston Handbell Festival! We thank you for choosing to spend your evening with us and hope that you have as much fun tonight as we do. We are blessed to be in such a beautiful space and even more blessed to have over eighty handbell and handchime ringers ready to fill it with sublime music. You are in for a rare and wonderful musical treat!

The Boston Handbell Festival is the continuation of a musical tradition of handbell performance at Old South Church that stretches back almost a century, and it has always been supported by the goodwill and generous financial gifts of the community. A free-will donation will be collected at the exits this evening, the proceeds of which will go toward making sure that this tradition continues well into the future. For your convenience, you can also donate by simply scanning the QR code below with your smartphone, or by texting the word HANDBELL to 44-321. Your gift tonight will support the arts and education by helping to keep a low-cost, high quality, live musical experience a vital part of our city's culture.

We are grateful to the many individuals whose time and talent made this event possible. Special thanks are extended to the ensembles and their directors for making the effort to be here tonight.

Thank you for your attendance and your support.



Help keep BHF going! Scan the QR code above, or text HANDBELL to 44-321 to make a donation.

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



2023 Choirchime Recipient

Laura Brophy is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, where she studied music education and vocal performance. She received her Masters from Bridgewater State University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Musical Arts from Boston University. Laura is the Choral Director at Mansfield High School and the Assistant Music Director of the Southeastern Massachusetts Festival Chorus. She lives in Taunton, Massachusetts with her family.

Mansfield High School is a suburban high school in Southeastern Massachusetts. MHS Performing Arts is proud to be an inviting and inclusive environment that offers vibrant offerings geared toward all learners. The addition of Choirchimes will be an exciting addition for our Project Teammate musicians. Project Teammate partners special education students with music student mentors. We are excited to create unique performance opportunities for students of all abilities to perform, connect and thrive through music.

Past Choirchime Recipients

2007	Rafael Hernandez Bilingual School	Boston
2008	A.C. Whelan Elementary School	Revere
2009	Alexander Hamilton Elementary School	Brighton
2011	Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School	Dorchester
2012	East Somerville Community School	Somerville
2013	J.F. Condon Elementary School	South Boston
2014	Wood End and Birch Meadow Elementary Schools	Reading
2015	John F. Kennedy and South Schools	Holbrook
2016	Donald McKay K-8 School	East Boston
2016	Watertown Middle School	Watertown
2017	Willis E. Thorpe Elementary School	Danvers
2018	McAvinnue Elementary School	Lowell
2019	Oakdale Elementary School	Dedham
2020	Mather Elementary School	Dorchester
2021	Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School	East Boston
2022	Haley Pilot School	Roslindale

Guest Conductor:
Daniel K. Moore

Daniel K. Moore, of Rumford, RI is the current music director of the New England Ringers. He retired from teaching and directing the Concert Handbell Ringers of the Wheeler School in Providence, RI after 37 years of service to the school. His auditioned high school ensemble toured annually throughout the US, Canada, and Bermuda, appeared frequently on television, and performed with the Rhode Island Philharmonic and in opening concerts at both national and regional handbell festivals.

Mr. Moore is one of four recipients of the prestigious Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award, presented for effective teaching, promoting healthy handbell ringing, organizing and promoting Area 1 handbell events, and mentoring ringers and directors new to the art of handbell ringing. He has been a valued production consultant for CD recordings for several of New England's most notable community handbell ensembles. He also continues as a frequent clinician, organizer and conductor at handbell ringing events. His comprehensive handbell textbook, *Ringin' RIGHT! From the Beginning*, a resource for ringers and directors alike, was published by HMA/AGEHR.

**Would your school like to receive
Choirchimes?**

Back Bay Ringers will donate a set of Choirchimes at the next Boston Handbell Festival. Any music educator who teaches at a Boston-area school may apply on behalf of their school.

Donation Includes:

- A two-octave set of Malmark Choirchimes
- A collection of beginners' chime music
- A consultation session with Back Bay Ringers
Artistic Director Griff Gall

Applications and More Information:

<https://backbayringers.org/chime-donation-program/>

Guest Ensemble:
Highlands Chimes

Founded by Griff Gall in 2003, the **Highlands Chimes** has been one of three performing ensembles at the Highlands Elementary School in Danvers, Massachusetts. Composed of fourth and fifth grade musicians, the ensemble is actually a double choir, performing on one four-octave and one three-octave set of Malmark Choirchimes. The ensemble, which rehearses once a week before school, typically performs for the school’s annual Winter and Spring concerts. We are grateful for the support of our Parents Advisory Council, which has consistently been the primary funding source for the purchase of the chimes. We are excited to have the opportunity to perform as part of the 2023 Boston Handbell Festival. We would like to thank all of the families who make it possible for our musicians to participate in this ensemble, and for the continued support of our principal, Mr. Obremski, as well as the entire Danvers Public Schools community.

Griff Gall - *Director*

Maggie Andrews	Zachary Kaplan	Cameron Schieding
Carli Anzelmo	Avery Leighton	Ethan Senn
Teddy Blake	Maddie Mahoney	Camden Sillars
Emilie Despres	Ella Nadeau	Brielle Tavella
Quinn Doyle	Gabriella Nolan	Rafaella Teles
Addison Hamel	Lilah Pierce	Gia Travaglione
Summer Horgan	Odin Prudente	Jacob Williams
	Jake Romsavich	

Summer Events Hosted by the Back Bay Ringers

Summer Ring **August 21, 2023**
Handbell musicians of all levels are invited to join us for a fun evening of ringing at Old South Church in Boston.

Auditions **August 28, 2023**
Visit backbayringers.org/contact/audition for more information.

Program Order

Welcome

Peter Coulombe, director, Old South Ringers

Massed ensemble

Daniel K. Moore, conductor

Divenire

Matthew Compton

Old South Ringers

Peter Coulombe, conductor

Serve the Lord with Gladness
based on themes from *Canarios*

Gaspar Sanz
arr. Kevin McChesney

Prayer

Arnold Sherman

Merrimack Valley Ringers

Karen E. Leonard, conductor

Roslyn Castle *premiere performance*
Sue Chamberlin, harp
Susan Capestro, conductor

Susan Capestro

Bugler's Holiday

Leroy Anderson
arr. Hart Morris

Highlands Chimes

Griff Gall, conductor

Hava Nagila

Traditional Hebrew
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Celebration

Jason Krug

Fanfare with Back Bay Ringers

C. Gervaise
arr. Kevin McChesney

Presentation of Choirchimes

Griff Gall, artistic director, Back Bay Ringers
Cade Murray, executive director, Back Bay Ringers
Laura Brophy, Mansfield High School

Back Bay Ringers

Griff Gall, conductor

Waltz No. 2

Dmitri Shostakovich
arr. Gina Marie Williams

Toccata Ritmica

Michael Joy

New England Ringers

Daniel K. Moore, conductor

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Samba

premiere performance
Greg Urban, percussion

Owen Hartford
arr. Daniel K. Moore

Canticle

Arnold Sherman

Thank you

Cade Murray, executive director, Back Bay Ringers

Massed ensemble

Daniel K. Moore, conductor

Jubilation

Mary Kay Parrish

*Mark your calendars for the
Sixteenth Annual Boston Handbell Festival
Tuesday, May 21, 2024!*

**BOSTON
HANDBELL
FESTIVAL**

Back Bay Ringers

Back Bay Ringers (BBR) is an advanced, auditioned, handbell ensemble that was founded in 2004 as the nation's first handbell ensemble dedicated to members and friends of the LGBT community. It remains open and affirming for membership, board, and community. Under the direction of Griff Gall, BBR quickly developed a reputation for excellence, regularly performing at Boston-area landmarks such as Faneuil Hall, Symphony Hall, the Boston Children's Museum, and the Prudential Center. Back Bay Ringers has also performed in festivities associated with the Democratic National Convention as well as the Boston Marathon. In 2016, BBR was honored to perform at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in Rochester, NY, and also made debuts with the Boston Pops and at the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport, MA.

Griff Gall - *Artistic Director*

Peter Grossmann
Sarah Hayes-Skelton
Ashley Hedberg
Emlee Kohler
Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield
Donna Matson

Austin McCredie
Sally Meredith
Rachel Moore
Cade Murray
Anna Poplawski

Emily Schlosnagle
Susan Schultz
Erica Shaw
Casey Spring
Greg Urban
Adrianne Weir

The Art of Ringing

Spring Concert Series

A Season of Giving Back

Saturday June 3rd

2:00pm | Amazing Things Arts Center
Framlingham, MA

7:00pm | South Church
Andover, MA

Sunday June 4th

3:00pm | Old South Church
Boston, MA

information and tickets available at
backbayringers.org

Merrimack Valley Ringers

Currently in their twenty-first season, the Merrimack Valley Ringers are an auditioned community handbell ensemble devoted to sharing the art of handbells and handchimes with everyone. MVR's members delight audiences with their passion for performing, and make it their goal to capture their audience from the first note. Considered partners in each performance, audiences are drawn in by the ensemble's personality and indomitable spirit.

MVR is back with their "Mosaic" concert tour in early June. We can be seen and heard at four different sites in NH, CT and MA, capped off by a performance at the Area 1 Festival Conference at Worcester State University in Worcester, MA at the end of June. To learn more about the group, visit their website at www.mvringers.org.

Karen E. Leonard - *Director*

Lisa Arnold
Diane Burke
Susan Capestro
Sue Chamberlin
Adam Jenkins

Molly Lamson
Laura Langord
Sue Lee
Diana Parton
Carlene Ruesenberg
Cathy Seiler

Evie Sessions
Jenn Stack
BJ Stratton
Jim Stratton
Kim Whitehead

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 7:30 pm

Boston Handbell Festival
Old South Church, Boston, MA

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 7:00 pm

Joint Program w/Shoreline Ringers
Village Congregational Church
Whitinsville, MA

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 3:00 pm

South Congregational Church
Concord, NH

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 7:30 pm

Music at the Meetinghouse Series
First Church of Christ, Glastonbury, CT

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 3:00 pm

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church,
Acton, MA

JUNE 23-25, 2023

Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America
Festival/Conference
Worcester State University, Worcester, MA

mvringers.org



*Merrimack Valley
Ringers*

New England Ringers

New England Ringers, founded in 2000, is a community handbell ensemble of highly energetic musicians playing the most advanced level of handbell literature. Offering exciting performances, NER amazes listeners and receives enthusiastic reviews from audience members of all ages. NER performances are a blend of lively and diverse musical moods and styles. Repertoire includes classical transcriptions, familiar favorites, and original compositions. The outstanding music is matched by touches of entertaining humor and the artful visual presentation of the ensemble playing this unique instrument. One of the major goals of the ensemble is to introduce audiences to the incredible music that can be made on this impressive instrument. The group strives to achieve a level of musicianship that is bringing handbells greater recognition and acceptance in the world of musical performance.

Daniel K. Moore - *Director*

Elizabeth Almstrom
Susie Amos
Samantha Beschta
Farrell Brown
Linn Clark

Carol Elmore
Elizabeth Hansen
Timothy Jenkins
Megan Mendenhall
Katherine Murcko
Todd Sauter

Cathy Shires
Dawn Stitham
Cheryl Townsend
Amelia Wiggins
Gina Marie Williams

Old South Ringers

Handbell ringing at Old South Church dates back to 1929, when the church acquired a set of handbells from Whitechapel Foundry in England. This was only the third set of handbells imported into the United States and the first to be acquired by a church. Today, the handbell ministry at Old South embodies the “open door” spirit of the church – they are a non-auditioned choir, and everyone has a place at their table. Some of the ringers have been playing since childhood; others are brand new to this musical art. The Old South Ringers rehearse on a weekly basis and contribute to the Sunday worship service once a month from September through June. For more information, visit their page on the church website at www.oldsouth.org or email them at handbells@oldsouth.org.

Peter Coulombe - *Director*

Jennifer Dalrymple
Annie Dobroth
Kerry Gaj
Allie Klump
Anastasia Klump

Barbara King
Carly Kinney
Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield
Addi Linebaugh
Evelyn Manning

Erica Shaw
Casey Spring
Lisa Spring
Debbie Wiess
Katie Yammine



The New England Ringers
announce new
Music Director

Cheryl Townsend



Cheryl Townsend has been a ringer-member of The New England Ringers since 2014 and is excited to be NER's next Music Director.

In 2006 she was introduced to handbells at a music conference, which prompted her to start a handbell choir, the Faith Ringers, at The Union Congregational Church in Groton, MA where she has directed for the past 17 years. Cheryl will continue to serve as their Handbell Director.

NER is thrilled that Cheryl is committed to continue the work of the directors before her. She creates a welcoming culture based on trust and inclusion in everything she does.

Congratulations, Cheryl!

Old South Church

Old South Church in Boston is a congregation of the United Church of Christ (Congregational). Gathered in 1669, Old South is one of the oldest religious communities in the United States. Samuel Adams and the Sons of Liberty ignited the Boston Tea Party from a meeting held at the congregation's former home, the Old South Meeting House. We continue to embrace that legacy of free speech and dissent and remain committed to the causes of freedom and justice. Worship services are held each Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 am. A Jazz Worship Service is held Thursdays at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to this house of God for many nations where members embrace a progressive Christianity that is deeply engaged in the world around us.

The present building, at the corner of Dartmouth and Boylston streets, in Copley Square, was built in 1875, in a style inspired by the architecture of medieval Venice (Ruskinian Italian Gothic). The interior is of plaster with Italian cherry woodwork. The architects were Cummings and Sears of Boston. The sanctuary was completely renovated in 1985.



Gathered in 1669