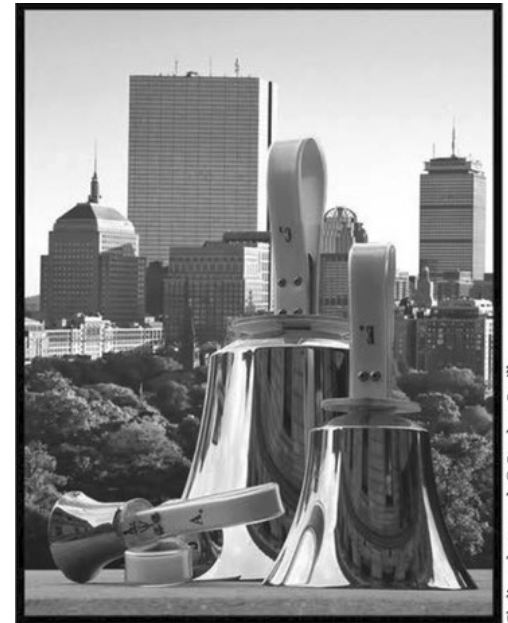


18th Annual Boston Handbell Festival


Featuring:


Back Bay Ringers New England Ringers
Merrimack Valley Ringers Old South Ringers
Shoreline Ringers



Skylines photograph © Stephen Orsillo

Event co-sponsored by:

 Back Bay Ringers
www.backbayringers.org

 Old South Church
www.oldsouth.org

Tuesday May 19th, 2026
7:30 pm

Old South Church
Boston, Massachusetts

Boston Handbell Festival

The Back Bay Ringers and Old South Church are delighted to welcome you to the eighteenth 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 seventy-five handbell ringers ready to fill it with sublime music.

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 ensuring that this tradition continues well into the future. For your convenience, you can also donate by simply scanning the QR code below. 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 and to Sally Meredith for graciously agreeing to serve as our master of ceremonies.

Thank you for your attendance and support.



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 Thursday Night Church 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

Guest Ensemble

Shoreline Ringers

Shoreline Ringers, a Community Handbell Ensemble based in southeastern Connecticut, awes and inspires audiences with their ringing. Their dynamic and energetic handbell ensemble is dedicated to musical excellence and handbell education through their exciting and uplifting performances. The repertoire performed by this inspirational group is secular and popular in nature. Their mission is to support the continued development of the art of handbell ringing while educating audiences and increasing their knowledge and appreciation of handbell music through their concert performances.

Andrew Wallace - Director

Sam Beschta
Marilyn Brandyberry
Jean Degan
Susan Ewing
Cheryl Harger

Lauren Larson
Pete Larson
Heather Milligan-Day
Vicki Moroski

Heidi Prior
Kristen Russo
Lorrie Simons
Emilie Steinnagel
Laura Waite

Mark your calendars for the
19th Annual Boston Handbell
Festival Tuesday, May 18th, 2027!

Boston Handbell Festival

*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*



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

The poster features a background of a waving American flag. In the top left corner, there is a logo for Shoreline Ringers, which includes a stylized 'SR' and the text 'SHORELINE RINGERS'. The title 'Spacious SKIES' is written in a large, elegant, cursive font. Below the title, the text 'CELEBRATING AMERICAN MUSIC & HANDBELLS' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. The bottom section of the poster contains the following text: 'JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING CONCERT', 'MAY 27 7:00PM CENTERBROOK, CT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH', 'JUNE 7 4:00PM ENFIELD, CT ENFIELD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST', and 'SHORELINERINGERS.ORG' in the bottom right corner.

SHORELINE RINGERS

Spacious
SKIES

CELEBRATING
AMERICAN MUSIC
& HANDBELLS

JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING CONCERT

MAY 27 7:00PM CENTERBROOK, CT
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 7 4:00PM ENFIELD, CT
ENFIELD UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SHORELINERINGERS.ORG

Back Bay Ringers

Back Bay Ringers (BBR) is an advanced, auditioned handbell ensemble based in Boston, Massachusetts. It was founded in 2004 as the nation's first open and affirming handbell ensemble dedicated to friends and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. BBR has quickly developed a reputation for excellence with performances at the Shalin Liu Performance Center, Symphony Hall, the Boston Children's Museum, and the Prudential Center, and has collaborated with renowned local arts organizations including Boston Lyric Opera, The Handel and Haydn Society, The Boston Pops, Coro Allegro, and the Boston Children's Chorus. BBR is excited to partner with organist Cathy Meyer this season for a celebration handbells and organ.

Griff Gall - Director

Simon Dutton	Emlee Kohler	Susan Schultz
Marissa Gamache	Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield	Erica Shaw
Peter Grossmann	Emily Linquist	Casey Spring
Sarah Hayes-Skelton	Megan Mendenhall	Greg Urban
Ashley Hedberg	Anna Poplawski	Ashley Wilhelm
Jeff Johnson	Emily Raman	Trevor Williams

2026 Choirchime™ Recipient

Sara Santos

Sara Santos has been teaching General Music and Chorus since 2009 and currently works with students in grades PreK-8 in the Somerville Public Schools in Massachusetts. In addition to her school work, she is the Associate Conductor of the National Children's Chorus for the Prelude and Minuet levels. Mrs. Santos holds both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from Gordon College.

West Somerville Neighborhood School

West Somerville Neighborhood School is a diverse K-8 community in the heart of the city that still holds onto the feel of a small neighborhood school. There's a strong sense of connection here, and music is a big part of that. Each quarter, students come together to share music they've created, building confidence, collaboration, and pride in their work. Students have opportunities to explore music in many ways, including band, strings, chorus, general music, and world percussion, so every child can find something that clicks and feel like they belong.

Recent Past Recipients

- 2025 Hill View Montessori Charter Public School
- 2024 Great Oak Elementary School, Danvers
- 2023 Mansfield High School, Mansfield
- 2022 Haley Pilot School, Roslindale
- 2021 Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School, East Boston
- 2020 Mather Elementary School, Dorchester
- 2019 Oakdale Elementary School, Dedham
- 2018 McAvinnue Elementary School, Lowell
- 2017 Willis E. Thorpe Elementary School, Danvers
- 2016 Watertown Middle School, Watertown
- 2016 Donald McKay K-8 School, East Boston
- 2015 John F. Kennedy and South Schools, Holbrook

Back Bay Ringers Present:
**A Celebration of
Handbells and Organ**
Featuring Organist Cathy Meyer

Saturday June 13 2:00pm
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Wellesley, MA

Sunday June 14 3:00pm
Methuen Memorial Music Hall
Methuen, MA

7:30pm
First Baptist Church in Worcester
Worcester, MA

back bay
ringers
backbayringers.org

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:

backbayringers.org/chime-donation-program



Merrimack Valley Ringers

Currently in their twenty-fourth 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 currently preparing for their spring concert tour in May and June 2026. They can be seen and heard in Wilbraham, Andover, and Bedford MA and in Concord, NH. To learn more about the group, visit their website at www.mvringers.org.

Karen E. Leonard – Director

Lisa Arnold
Chuck Arnold
Diane Burke
Susan Capestro
Colette Daniels

Daryl Markey
Diana Parton
Steve Prevost
Angela Quatrini
Carlene Ruesenberg

Cathy Seiler
Evie Sessions
Jenn Stack
Jim Stratton
Michaela Weinbeck



Tuesday, May 19, 2026 – 7:30 pm
Boston Handbell Festival
Old South Church, Boston, MA

Saturday, May 30, 2026
Workshop – 12 noon–4:15 pm
Concert – 7:00 pm
Wilbraham United Church
Wilbraham, MA

Sunday, May 31, 2026 – 3:00 pm
Faith Lutheran Church, Andover, MA

Saturday, June 6, 2026 – 3:00 pm
First Church of Christ Congregational
Bedford, MA

Sunday, June 7, 2026 – 3:00 pm
South Congregational Church
Concord, NH

LET FREEDOM RING!
*Celebrating 250 Years
Of Our Nation*

*Merrimack
Valley Ringers*
MVR

New England Ringers

New England Ringers (NER) is a community handbell ensemble of highly energetic musicians playing advanced levels of handbell literature. Offering exciting performances, we delight listeners and receive enthusiastic reviews from audience members of all ages. Our performances offer a blend of lively and diverse musical moods and styles with repertoire spanning classical transcriptions, familiar favorites and original compositions. We are looking forward to our Spring Concerts on 5/30-31 and invite you to attend. The New England Ringers are dedicated to the craft of handbell artistry year-round. This summer, some of our members will represent the group at the National Seminar in Ohio and the Bay View Week of Handbells in Michigan. We invite you to join us this September in Westerly, RI, as we host the 6th annual Oktobellfest, a one of a kind weekend event for the handbell community. Learn more about NER and upcoming events at newenglandringers.org.

Cheryl Townsend - Director

Susie Amos
Anne Barnard
Samantha Beschta
Ashton Brennecke
Carol Elmore

Cathy Freamon
Elizabeth Hansen
Emlee Kohler
Jacqueline Koo
Kathy Murko

Todd Sauter
Ellen Thibodeau
Heather Topolski
Amelia Wiggins
Gina Marie Williams

Guest Organist
Cathy Meyer



Cathy Meyer is originally from Seattle, where she was raised in a very musical family; by the time she was 16, not only did she have her first church music position but also played trumpet in a professional big band. She earned her Bachelors of Music in Organ Performance from the University of North Texas and Masters of Sacred Music from Boston University. She is the Minister of Music and organist for South Church (UCC) in Andover, Massachusetts, where she directs a large music ministry of choral and instrumental music. She has also spent more than three decades ringing and directing handbells!

Cathy is an active recitalist, and has recently performed organ and piano recitals on both coasts, including the organ dedication recital at Faith Lutheran Church in Seattle, at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Old West and Church of the Advent in downtown Boston, Adolphus Busch Hall at Harvard University, Trinity Church in Copley Square, St. Alban's in Cape Elizabeth Maine, First Night Boston at the First Church of Christ, Scientist. She has been featured on the nationally-syndicated Pipedreams radio show and has recorded for the Beauport Classical Record Label. Cathy sings alto with the New Hampshire-based choir Capella Nova Mundi. She is also a fully certified teacher in the Orff-Schulwerk pedagogy for children.

Cathy is the Dean for the Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is heavily involved in their Young Organist Initiative, and also maintains a private organ studio. In her free time, she is an Acutonics and Sound Healing practitioner, and a Reiki Master of Masters. resonantmusicandenergy.com

2026 CONCERTS

- 5/30 - GROTON MA 7:00PM
- 5/31 - WORCESTER MA 3:00PM
- 9/27 - OKTOBELLFEST
WESTERLY RI 1:00PM
- 11/28 - WARREN RI 2:30PM
- 11/29 - WORCESTER MA 4:00PM
- 12/5 - WEST SPRINGFIELD MA 2:00PM
- 12/6 - SANDWICH MA 4:00PM
- 12/10 - WEBSTER MA 5:00PM
- 12/12 - WESTFORD MA 7:00PM
- 12/19 - TEWKSBURY MA 7:00PM
- 12/20 - OXFORD MA 2:00PM & 5:30PM

NEW ENGLAND RINGERS

New England Ringers logo

Guest Conductors

Andrew Wallace



Andy Wallace, of North Stonington, CT, is the Music Director of Shoreline Ringers. He is also the Music and Worship Arts Director at the Dunn's Corners Community Church, Presbyterian, in Westerly, RI where he has been directing the handbell and choral programs since 1995. Andy has been ringing handbells in choirs and ensembles since 1991, is active as a solo ringer and as a clinician throughout Area 1. He is a middle school history teacher in West Greenwich, RI, and has received several outstanding teaching awards including the prestigious Milken National Educator Award, the "Oscars" of education.

Peter Coulombe

Peter Coulombe has been the director of the handbell ministry at the Old South Church in Boston since 2005 and is honored to celebrate his 20th anniversary as the guest conductor for the Boston Handbell Festival.



Peter has been ringing handbells since college and is an active member of the Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America. He has served the organization as co-chair of Director's Seminars, as a clinician. He has been a guest conductor at the Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire Spring Rings.

Peter credits his love of music and commitment to continuous improvement to his mother, who not only taught him to play piano as a child but who also once described his conducting as "looking like a chicken trying to take flight."

When not around the bell tables, Peter likes to spend his time with his husband Steve and his two cats. He's also an avid gardener, hummingbird caregiver, amateur dahlia connoisseur, and drag queen smile instructor.

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 the first set of handbells imported into the United States by a church. Today, the handbell ministry at Old South embodies the "open door" spirit of the church - we are a non-auditioned choir and everyone has a place at our table. Some of our 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 info, visit our page on the church website at www.oldsouth.org or email us at handbells@oldsouth.org.

Peter Coulombe - Director

Jennifer Dalrymple
Carly Kinney
Alexandra Klump
Anastasia Klump
Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield

Felix Rath
Emily Schlosnagle
Claire Shim

Casey Spring
Lisa Spring
Deborah Wiess
Kathryn Yammine
Libby Zobel

NEW ENGLAND
RINGERS PRESENT

REGISTRATION OPENS
MAY 20, 2026
OKTOBELLFEST.ORG

SEPT 25-27
WITH
DAVID HARRIS

A WEEKEND
HANDBELL EVENT
LIKE NO OTHER

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Program Order

Massed Ensemble

Resonances and Alleluias

Andy Wallace, Conductor

Cathy Moklebust

Welcome

Mitchell Crawford
Minister of Music, Old South Church

Old South Ringers

This Joyful Eastertide
How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Peter Coulombe, Conductor

arr. Sandra Eithun
Stuart Townsend
arr. Peggy Bettche

New England Ringers

American Carillon
Cluster of Stars

Cheryl Townsend, Conductor

James Weber
Lee Afdahl

Merrimack Valley Ringers

Dona Nobis Pacem

Karen E. Leonard, Conductor
Angela Quatrini, English Horn Soloist
Jennifer Stack, Conductor

Traditional
arr. Kevin McChesney

The Stars and Stripes Forever

Michaella Weinbeck, Piccolo Soloist
Angela Quatrini, Ocarina Soloist

John Philip Sousa
Transcribed by William H. Griffin

Presentation of Choirchimes™

Sarah Hayes-Skelton, Boston Handbell Festival Chair
Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield, Executive Director, Back Bay Ringers
Sara Santos, West Somerville Neighborhood School

Shoreline Ringers

Festival Sanctus
What a Wonderful World

Andrew Wallace, Conductor

Cathy Moklebust
George David Weiss & Bob Thiele
arr. Sandra Eithun

Back Bay Ringers

In the Hall of the Mountain King

Griff Gall, Conductor

Edvard Grieg
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Test Drive

Cathy Meyer, Organist

John Powell
arr. for organ Anna Lapwood
arr. for handbells Greg Urban

Thank You

Stephanie LaShoto-Westfield
Executive Director, Back Bay Ringers

Massed Ensemble

Enter Into His Gates with Thanksgiving

Peter Coulombe, Conductor
Cathy Meyer, Organist

Nun Danket
Old 100th
arr. Kevin McChesney