



Brian J. Schwanz, National Chairperson 🎵 12535 Rock Lake Rd. 🎵 Trevor, WI 53179 🎵 www.welsbells.com
605.868.9410 🎵 watermusik@gmail.com

August 2013

Dear Handbell Directors,

You and your ringers are invited to participate in the 35th Annual WELS Handbell Festival. This year there will be a national festival. The festival includes Saturday as a day of rehearsing and a festival concert on Sunday at 2:00 P.M.

Date: April 26-27, 2014
Site: Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Site Coordinator: Dr. John Nolte

The Music Selection Committee for the WELS Handbell Festivals has met and has selected music for the 2014 national festival. Mary Huismann, Cheryl Diener, Kris Eggers and I attended the Music Selection Committee meeting. "God We Praise You, God We Bless You" was chosen as the theme for the 2014 national festival. In choosing the music we tried to respond to comments that were offered during the directors' meetings. The music spans the church year. Some include organ, instrumental parts, handchimes and vocal choir. There are a total of five repeated selections for our upcoming festival. You will find the music list on the website, www.welsbells.com.

If you are new to festivals, do not let the long list of music discourage you. Your first step should be to choose which choir—Jubilate, Laudate or Exaltate—is best for your choir. We will continue the Jubilate choir this year in order to encourage more beginning choirs or those with only 2 octaves to participate in the festival. This music is somewhat easier and written for those choirs that have 2-3 octaves. Laudate music is somewhat moderate. Exaltate music is more challenging. If you direct a beginning choir, or are participating in a handbell festival for the first time, the Jubilate or Laudate Choir music is recommended. Learn all three pieces assigned to the choir you choose. Then learn as many of the mass numbers that your choir can handle. You do not have to learn all of the mass numbers. Limit yourself to those that you can prepare well. Some churches bring two or three choirs to festival and they divide the music between the choirs. If you have only one choir you are welcome to ring all 15 pieces, but it is not required.

You may obtain your music from several sources:

- *Northwestern Publishing House: Use a NPH order blank or call 1-800-662-6022. Indicate you are ordering festival music and you will receive a 10% discount off of the list price.
- *Heitz Handbells and Music, Norman Heitz, 1-877-426-3235; normheitz@usfamily.net
- *Jeffers Handbell Supply, 1-800-JHS-BELL, www.handbellworld.com
- *Wisconsin National Music Sales, 1-414-327-7336, fax 414-327-7357, wnms@sbcglobal.net

If you would like to see a copy before you purchase, several businesses will send out one copy on approval. Please ask your supplier.

Please remember that it is illegal to copy music. If you do copy music, for a legitimate reason, you must have the same number of originals on site. If you do not, you will not be allowed to participate in the festival; the liability for such illegal activity is shared by all of us. More information about copying music may be found at www.mpa.org/copyright_resource_center/copying. Copyright Agreement: I will comply with the copyright laws of the United States of America as they pertain to printed music or the downloading of music off the internet.

Northeast Region	Southeast Region	Western Region	Treasurer
Debi Traeder 2706 Pleasant View Dr. Schofield, WI 54476 715.551.0966 traeders@charter.net	Janeen Roska 1236 E. Seeley St. Milwaukee, WI 53207 414.745.6385 janeenroska@att.net	Mary Huismann 6305 161 st St. W Rosemount, MN 55068 612.968.4646 huism002@umn.edu	Kim Pilz 701 Landmann St. Tomah, WI 54660 608.343.0308 kim.pilz@gmail.com

(Compliance with these laws is also a condition of participation by clinicians and performing ensembles that appear on any sponsored event or convention.) Recording the sounds, or sounds and images, of the musical performances is not permitted. Any such recording is in violation of the Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. §1101).

On the music list you will find a source to use to hear the piece. You will also find a link on our website to listen to the music. Directors' notes and hotel information will be placed on our website, www.welsbells.com as soon as they are available. Schedules, maps, posters, etc. will also be placed there when available.

On the website you will now find the music list and you will be able to complete the preliminary registration online. Please complete the preliminary registration by **October 15**. You will find a link on the left side of the home page to complete the preliminary registration online. Once you register, I immediately receive the information and it is placed in a database for this coming year's festival. If you are unable to do so please contact me and I will send you a paper form. This will not commit you to festival participation, but will give us an idea of how many will likely be attending. Please fill out this form whether or not you are planning to participate. **IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2014 FESTIVAL.** No fees need to be attached with this form. We will use the information on the form to update our mailing lists and files.

Prior to the national festival there will need to be an election for the national chairperson. I have served one term and I am eligible to be reelected. If there is someone that you would like to nominate to this position please send the nomination form that is available on the website to our secretary, Mary Huismann, to have the person's name placed on the list, this need to be completed by **October 15**. We are going to complete the voting for this next term of national chairperson online. Those who have attended a festival in the past, will be given a link to vote for the chairperson.

We are asking each choir to bring a banner to the festival site. This tradition has been very well received at each festival. The banner should measure five feet by three feet and be attached to a six foot pole, placed in a standard. You will need to provide the pole and standard. Most banners include the church/school name and location. This is not a requirement. If you do not have a banner, please do not let that be the deciding factor in attending a festival.

Please help us maintain a complete list of WELS and ELS congregations and schools with handbells. If you know of any congregation or school that you think is not on our mailing list, or hear of a congregation acquiring bells, please pass that information to me.

Festival Business

On Tuesday, July 16, the regional representatives and I met to discuss and plan for the national festival. You will find the contact information for the representatives on the first page of this letter. Kim Pilz has agreed to serve another year as our treasurer. Mary Huismann will serve as the secretary.

At the national festival, we will be voting on the bylaws revisions. If you have any amendments for the bylaws, please contact Cheryl Diener jdiener@charter.net with your suggestions prior to March 1, 2014.

WELS Handbell Festivals has a few videos of handbell directing and performance in our library. If you are interested in viewing one or more of these, please contact Brian Schwanz. The format of these videos has been updated from VHS to DVD.

Treasurer's report: We had a total of \$5,632.12 in expenses at the 2013 festivals. The offerings were \$2,380.50. The deposit from all of the registrations was \$7,160. The new balance, on hand, for WELS Handbell Festivals as of the day of the meeting was \$9,097.56.

Fees for the 2014 national festival are as follows:

- Registration Fee: \$35 for the first choir, \$50 for two choirs and \$65 for three choirs. It will be refunded only if the entire choir withdraws from the festival by February 15.
Note: Space may be limited to 35 choirs which was the number of choirs, at the last national festival at MLC. If this happens, it will be based on the order in which registrations were received.
- “Orphan Ringers”:
If you have 5 or fewer ringers who would like to come to the festival and be “adopted” by another choir the fee for each of those ringers is \$5. They will also pay the participant fee.
- Participant Fee: \$10.00 per participant—ringers and directors. It is non-refundable. This will be due March 1. If the registration is postmarked after this date a \$20.00 late fee will be added. Our site coordinator needs time to plan accordingly with the number of participants expected.

In December you will find the final registration forms on the website. They will not be mailed. Some directors have used a church secretary email address as a way of receiving emails from me. Please choose the address that works best for you.

If you have any questions or concerns about the 2014 festival you may contact me, your regional representative or the site coordinator, whomever you think could best answer your question.

If you have never joined us at a handbell festival, we urge you to join us this year. If it has been some years since you’ve rung at a WELS Handbell Festival, ring with us again this year. The ringers and directors experience a special bond of Christian fellowship through working together at a festival. Festivals also give ringers and directors an opportunity to discuss music and problems associated with bell ringing. Our motto is “We gather together to give our best to the Lord of our salvation and to his assembled saints.”

Yours in Christ,

Brian J. Schwanz
WELS National Handbell Festivals Chairperson