

WELS Handbell festivals



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August 2019

Dear Handbell Directors,

You and your ringers are invited to participate in the 41st Annual Handbell Festival. A National Festival will be held on **April 18 & 19, 2020** at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Saturday will be a day of rehearsing, and the Sunday concert will be at **1:30 pm**. Kristi Meyer is serving as the site coordinator.

Music

The Music Selection Committee met in July and selected music for the festivals. Thank you to Cheryl Diener, Kristi Meyer, and Carlotta Ohm for their time serving on this committee.

"Ringing Lutheran Worship" was chosen as the theme for the 2019 festivals. The music list has a piece of music for each part of our liturgy. It also spans the church year so that you can use these pieces in worship in your congregations. The enclosed music list includes details on each piece. There are several repeats this year.

If you are new to festivals, do not let the long list of music discourage you. Your first step should be to choose which sectional choir—Jubilate, Laudate, or Exaltate— best fits your choir's level. The Jubilate music is the easiest, Laudate is a little harder, and the Exaltate music is the most difficult. The difficulty level of the music is listed on the music list. Learn all the pieces of the sectional choir that you choose. Then learn as many of the pieces for Mass choir that your choir can manage well. You are not expected to ring all of the Mass choir pieces. Keep in mind that these pieces can be used in your congregation's worship throughout the school year.

If your entire choir is not able to attend, we do have the opportunity for individual ringers to attend the festival as "orphan ringers." These "orphan ringers" are added to choirs who are not able to have all of their ringers attend the festival.

Northeast Region

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Treasurer

Kristi Meyer
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You may obtain your music from several sources:

- Northwestern Publishing House: NPH is again offering a 10% discount on orders placed for the festival before August 30, 2019. Please see the directions on the included order form.
- Kremer Publications/Handbell Store – www.handbellstore.com, info@kremerpublications.com
- Heitz Handbells and Music, Carol Scheel, www.heizhandbells.com
- Jeffers Handbell Supply, www.handbellworld.com, 1-800-JHS-BELL
- Wisconsin National Music Sales, wmns@sbcglobal.net, 414-327-7336, fax 414-327-7357

These businesses may have discount policies. They also may offer a sample copy on approval. Contact each supplier for their specific policies.

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 at the festival. If you do not, you will not be allowed to participate in the festival as the liability is shared by all of us. Some publishers are now offering the purchase of digital music. Please read carefully the terms and conditions if you choose to purchase digital music.

Registration

On the website, you will find registration links for this year's festivals.

The "2020 FESTIVAL INTEREST FORM" is due by **October 15**. This registration does not commit you to festival participation, but it gives us an idea of how many will likely attend. This is important for long-range planning. Please fill out this form even if you will not be attending this year's festival. **If you do not submit this form, you will not receive any more information on the 2020 festival.** No fees are required with this form. Note: there may be a space constraint at the festival, so please submit this form in a timely fashion.

A CHOIR REGISTRATION will be due on **February 1**. This form can be submitted electronically from the website or can be downloaded and mailed to the treasurer. The fee is \$40 for the first choir, \$55 for two choirs, and \$65 for three choirs. Your registration will not be complete until the treasurer receives your check. If you register electronically, you will receive an automated email receipt which will show all the information that you submitted. This fee is only refundable if the entire choir withdraws from the festival by February 15. If the registration check or form is postmarked after February 1, a \$20 late fee will be added. If an online form is timestamped after February 1, the late fee will also be added.

If you have five or fewer ringers who would like to come as "orphan ringers" to be "adopted" by another choir, there is a choir registration fee of \$5 per individual. This is due by **February**

1. If the registration is postmarked or timestamped after this date, a \$20.00 late fee will be added.

A PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION will be due on **March 1**. The fee is \$15 per participant—ringers and directors. This fee is non-refundable. Orphan ringers also pay this fee. The site coordinators need time to plan accordingly for the number of expected participants. This form can also be submitted electronically from the website or can be downloaded and mailed to the treasurer. Again, the registration is not complete until the treasurer receives your check. If the registration is postmarked or timestamped after February 15, a \$20 late fee will be added.

Festival Business

The three regional representatives, our treasurer, and I met on July 17 to discuss festival business. Contact information for all of us can be found on the first page of this letter. The organization is financially stable. The organization has been in a financial situation where we had been able to avoid raising fees. However, as facility costs and food costs continue to rise, in order to maintain the financial well-being of the organization, the registration fees were raised this year.

National Chairperson

An election for the national chairperson will be held this spring. Nominations of individuals to serve in this role are due **October 15, 2019**. All the information, including requirements for the position and the nomination form, can be found at www.welsbells.com/NationalChair. Thank you to Cheryl Iwinski and Kristi Meyer for serving as the election committee.

If you have never rung at a handbell festival, we encourage you to join us. If it has been a number of years since you've rung at a festival, we would welcome you again with open arms. There is a special bond of Christian fellowship experienced at a festival.

If you have any questions about the festivals, please do not hesitate to contact either your regional representative, the site coordinator, or me. We will be happy to answer your questions.

In Praise to His Name,

Janeen Roska
National Chairperson