



Thank you for your interest in the 2020 National Honors Handbell Ensemble (NHHE20), a performance event for superior youth handbell ringers sponsored by The Stafford Regional Handbell Society and directed by Kevin McChesney. NHHE20 takes place in historic Fredericksburg, Virginia June 23-25, 2020.

The 2020 National Honors Handbell Ensemble is comprised of 30 superior young handbell musicians. To qualify, a musician must be:

- 1) Actively ringing in an ensemble, choir, or performing as a soloist. The choir or ensemble may be intergenerational.
- 2) Enrolled in a middle school or high school, or completing a home course of study.
- 3) Be between the ages of 13 and 19 at the time of the event.
- 4) Skilled at handbell musicianship and able to consistently and successfully ring extremely advanced repertoire (level 4 or higher)

Participants in NHHE20 will be expected to purchase and learn music ahead of time. All event attendees are expected to arrive fully familiar with their part and their music and prepared for intensive rehearsals. Participants who fail to meet these criteria may be asked to sit out for some, or all, pieces during the event and appropriate substitutes will fill their positions. Throughout the course of the event, the selection committee will evaluate each participant for technique, preparedness, rehearsal etiquette, and skill. Participants will receive final recognition based on their success. The participant chosen as the Youth Handbell Musician of the Year during the event will be invited to participate in the 2021 National Honors Handbell Ensemble as a distinguished alumni.

NHHE20 will begin on Tuesday evening, June 23, 2020 at 5 PM and conclude Thursday evening, June 25, 2020. The final concert will begin at 7:00 pm in University Hall of the University of Mary Washington Stafford Campus. Tickets will be available through the event committee and at the door for a nominal fee. ALL participants must attend all rehearsals and the final concert.

The registration fee for the event is \$185. Registration fee includes rehearsals & performance with Kevin McChesney on Tuesday - Thursday; 6 meals (Tuesday dinner and ice cream social, Wednesday lunch & dinner, Thursday lunch and dinner); performance shirt, and all transportation to and from the rehearsal and performance venue (including airport/train station transfers from Washington National Airport, Richmond International Airport, Union Station in Washington, DC, and Amtrak Station in Fredericksburg) if staying at the event hotel.

Registrants will be responsible for providing their own transportation to Virginia, hotel room (if needed), music binder, music, black gloves and formal black concert attire (see description under parent contract) for the final concert.

Registrants are NOT required to stay at the hotel, but breakfast, transportation to rehearsals, meals and performance is only provided to registrants who stay at the Comfort Suites. Block rates are available. All rooms are non-smoking. Registrants who choose not to stay at the Comfort Suites are responsible for their own transportation.

Participants will be chosen through an application process. The two-page application form includes a ringing position preference form. You may mail, or email the application. Applicants who provide a recommendation from their director and a performance video showing the applicant performing level 3 or higher music DO NOT need to submit video of the audition exercises. Applicants who cannot submit a director's recommendation and a performance video will need to record themselves performing the audition exercises. Videos may be mailed as DVDs or sent as a link via google drive/dropbox showing the applicant performing the audition exercises OR ringing in performance or worship within the last two years. If no performance video is available, applicant may provide a video showing himself/herself ringing with a recording of a performance piece.

Please identify which ringer you are within the group on the video (use any distinguishing characteristics like hair color, clothing, position, etc) and make sure you can clearly be seen ringing, preferably in a setting with no more than 3 rows of ringers. In addition, high school students must provide a minimum of two ringer recommendations. Middle school students must provide a minimum of 3 ringer recommendations. The ringer recommendation form attached to this application must be used. Please provide recommendations from at least one adult not related to you who has observed or directed you ringing in the past two years. The other recommendations can be from adults not related to you who are familiar with either your ringing experience/skill or musical abilities. Forms can be mailed, or emailed directly to the application committee after they are completed. You must also include a \$50 deposit check with your application. Checks will not be cashed unless you are accepted into the honors ensemble. Applicants who are not accepted will have their check returned.

Applications will not be considered complete until all the required parts have been received, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this. Completed application deadline is March 1, 2020.

Participants will be notified of selection by April 1, 2020, and given their position assignment upon acceptance. If selected for the event, the full registration fee will be due by **April 20, 2020** along with a signed contract of ringer requirements and parental consent for the event. If registration payment and ringer/parental contract are not received on or before the deadline, alternates will be notified and offered positions. Participants will be given access to a monitored and closed Google group in order to communicate with their stand partner. Each participant must purchase his/her own copy of the music for home rehearsal prior to the event, but music will be shared for all rehearsals as well as the performance. The music will be available through the Stafford Handbell Society at a 20% off list price discount as a complete pack and may be purchased when you submit your event contract for an additional fee.

A copy of the ringer/parental consent contract is attached to this application.



2020 National Honors Handbell Ensemble Application

NAME:

EMAIL:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

HOME PHONE:

STUDENT CELL #:

With what group(s) do you rehearse regularly? (at least once every four weeks)

On average, how many hours a week (based on the last two years) do you ring?

How many times have you performed in worship or in concert(s) in the last 2 years?

Number of years ringing experience:

Current Director's Name:

Email:

Current Director's Phone #:

List any handbell events you've attended (such as Distinctly Teen, Area Youth Festivals, Denominational Festivals, Ringing Seminars, etc...):

List three of the most advanced pieces you have performed within the last three years:

Please describe the reason(s) you are interested in participating in The 2020 National Honors Handbell Ensemble:

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Summarize your music and handbell background. Include other instruments you play, if any, and any musical training:

Rank your skills in the following categories.

Use the scale: 1=little experience through 5 = extremely experienced

Four-in-Hand Octaves:

Shelley Octaves:

Four-in-Hand Chromatics:

Weaving:

Mallet work:

Bass Bells: (C3-B3)

Bass Bells: (below C3)

Ringling Position Preferences

Rank your ringing position preference from 1 (most preferred) to 14 (least preferred) below. If you're not willing or able to play a position, put "No"

P000: below C3 (includes LB Chimes)

P00: C3-F3

P0: G3-B3

P1: C4, D4

P2: E4, F4

P3: G4, A4

P4: B4, C5

P5: D5, E5

P7: F5, G5

P7: A5, B5

P8: C6, D6/7/8

P9: E6/7/8, F6/7/8

P10: G6/7/8, A6/7/8

P11: B6/7/8, C7/8/9

Checklist for completed Application packet:

1. Application & Ringing Position Preference (two pages before competed)
2. Two copies of a DVD or a link to a video or via google drive/dropbox showing the applicant ringing in rehearsal, performance or worship within the last two years (or ringing in accompaniment to a musical track) and video of the applicant ringing the required exercises.

(Please identify which ringer you are within the group, using any distinguishing characteristics like hair color, clothing, position, etc. and make sure you can clearly be seen ringing, preferably in a setting with no more than 3 rows of ringers).

3. Two (or more) adult recommendation forms for High School students. Three or more adult recommendation forms for Middle School Students (One should be preferably done by someone who has directed you or observed your ringing within the past five years. The others can be anyone who can speak to your musical abilities/potential such as a band or choral director, private music teacher, etc...) The form is included as a separate MSWord Macro-enabled document and can be printed or emailed to your recommenders. If the form is provided to them as a MSword Macro-enabled document, they will be able to complete it using MSWord and return it as an email attachment to you or to us. The form is also available online. You can send your recommenders a link to www.nationalhonorshandbellensemble.com/recommend.html It can be completed online and returned to us from the website. If necessary, the form may be printed and mailed to us as hard copy. Some formatting may be lost when the form is printed. Please do your best to make sure your recommendations are readable and present you in the best possible light.

Completed application packet **MUST BE RECEIVED by March 1, 2020**. You may email the forms to nhheapplications@gmail.com, or mail to:

Stafford Handbell Society
2020 National Honors Handbell Ensemble Application
33 Ruffian Drive
Stafford, VA 22556

Questions? Contact Neesa Hart at 540-850-3700 or nhheapplications@gmail.com.



Participant/Parent Contract

This contract does not need to be returned until student is accepted into the ensemble. It is provided here as a courtesy so you will know what will be required before you apply.

This contract confirms that you accept your part in the National Honors Handbell Ensemble and agree to the terms herein. Please read the entire contract carefully and return a signed copy by **April 20, 2020**.

- Ensemble member agrees to be present for the duration of the entire event, which begins at **5 PM on Tuesday, June 23 and concludes at the completion of the concert, approximately 8 PM on Thursday, June 25.**
- Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree to pay the full event fee no later than **April 20, 2020**. The fee may be paid by a check made payable to The Stafford Regional Handbell Society and mailed to 33 Ruffian Drive, Stafford, VA 22556. Payment may also be made by credit card. To pay by credit card, please call the Society at 540-850-3700
- Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree to arrange and pay for transportation to and from Fredericksburg, VA. Transportation arrangements will be relayed to event leadership at staffordhandbells@gmail.com as soon as they are made. Ensemble member and parent/guardian will contact event leadership immediately if transportation from either Washington National Airport, Richmond International Airport, Union Station in Washington, DC or the Fredericksburg, Virginia Amtrak station is required.
- Ensemble member agrees to abide by all the requests and guidelines provided by the director and event staff. Ensemble member also agrees to abide by the guidelines of all the venues, including but not limited to the Comfort Suites Hotel, University Hall, The University of Mary Washington, the Stafford Handbell Society's rehearsal studio, and any other venues used.

- Ensemble member agrees to be respectful and polite to the director, event organizers and event participants at all times and to conduct himself/herself in a professional and mature manner during the entire event. Ensemble member will arrive at least 10 minutes before each scheduled rehearsal and stay in the rehearsal until the director announces it is finished or releases ensemble members for breaks.
- Ensemble member and parent/guardian understand that all rehearsals are closed, and no one other than ensemble members and event staff will be allowed to attend rehearsal.
- Ensemble member agrees to turn off cell phone and other electronic devices and store them away from the ringing table. Electronic devices may be checked only during breaks during ringing hours.
- Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree to provide black gloves and formal concert black attire for the final performance. For boys, this means black dress pants, black shoes, and black socks, a tuxedo shirt with tie and cummerbund, and black vest or tuxedo jacket. For girls, this means black shoes and floor or tea length black formal dress, or skirt/trousers with a formal solid black top (short or long sleeve). No strapless, sleeveless or embellished tops. Excellent and affordable choices for young men and women are available at Southeastern Performance Apparel. Should event leadership deem that the provided attire is not appropriate, event leadership will provide the Ensemble member with necessary items and parent/guardian will be charged for the expense. If Ensemble member does not supply black performance gloves (dots or no dots), they will be provided by event leadership and the parent/guardian will be charged. Ensemble member has indicated event shirt size on the bottom of this contract.
- Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree to purchase and learn the music prior to the event. The music is available at a 20% discount off of list price from our sponsor, Frick and Frack Music. Once final payment is received, Ensemble members will receive a link to the Frick and Frack Music online store where they may purchase the music. Ensemble members agree to communicate with assigned stand partner (if applicable) and coordinate music sharing, marking, and bell sharing (if applicable) via the event's monitored Google group.
- If Ensemble member is staying at the event hotel, he/she will either provide his/her own chaperone, or agree to abide by the rules of the adult chaperones provided by the Stafford Regional Handbell Society. These rules will include curfew, lights out, visitation, electronics use, schedule and other considerations to ensure

safety and well-being for all participants. Drug, tobacco and alcohol use is prohibited at all times and Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree to abide by this policy.

Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree that if the ensemble member violates any terms in this contract he/she may be dismissed. If dismissed, the ensemble member will be sent home and parent/guardian will be charged for any additional costs the event leadership incurs in making the necessary arrangements. The decisions of event staff are final.

Please sign and return to: The Stafford Regional Handbell Society, 33 Ruffian Drive, Stafford, VA 22556 or scan all completed pages and email to staffordhandbells@gmail.com You will receive a confirmation email once the contract and fee has been received. All fees are non refundable.

AGREED:

Participant Signature

Date

Print Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name: