



Thank you for your interest in the 2019 National Honors Handbell Ensemble (NHHE19), a performance event for superior youth handbell ringers sponsored by The Stafford Regional Handbell Society and directed by Kevin McChesney. NHHE16 takes place in historic Fredericksburg, Virginia April 26-28, 2019.

The 2019 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 12 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 NHHE19 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 2020 National Honors Handbell Ensemble as a distinguished alumni. That honoree's nominating director will receive a 3-octave set of Stafford Signature Series mallets.

NHHE19 will begin on Friday evening, April 26, 2019 at 5 PM and conclude Sunday evening, April 28, 2019. The final concert will begin at 4:30 pm on April 28 and is open to the public. 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 Friday, Saturday & Sunday; 5 meals (Friday dinner and ice cream social, Saturday lunch & dinner, Sunday lunch); event t-shirt, and all transportation to and from the rehearsal 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 concert black formal attire

BOYS:

1. black dress pants
2. tuxedo shirt
3. bowtie or banded collar
4. black shoes and socks
5. jackets are optional.

GIRLS

1. Ankle length or longer black formal dress OR
2. Ankle length or longer black formal skirt with formal black top
OR
3. Ankle length or longer black formal pants with formal black top
4. Tops and dresses must have sleeves or be worn with a jacket. No sleeveless attire. And no beading, sequins or embellishments that will cause the bells to 'zing' when damped.
5. Black shoes

Registrants are NOT required to stay at the hotel, but breakfast, transportation to rehearsals, meals and the performance is only provided to registrants who stay at the Conference Hotel. We are in negotiations with the hotel now for room rates. Historically, we have been able to keep the room rate below \$100/night and feel confident we will be able to do so again. Information on the hotel will be available mid-December. Registrants who choose not to stay at the Wingate 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. You may mail two DVDs or send a link to a video or via google drive/dropbox showing the applicant ringing in rehearsal, 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. Applicants who provide a director recommendation and two references, or NHHE alumni, do not need to perform the audition exercises. Applicants who cannot provide a director recommendation must record the audition exercises and provide

video via link or DVD. This demonstration can be separate or included with the performance video.

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 recommendations. Middle school students must provide a minimum of 3 recommendations. The 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 and/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. Email address for applications is NHHEApplications@gmail.com

Applications will not be considered complete until all the required components have been received, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this. Completed application deadline is February 1, 2019.

Participants will be notified of selection by February 15, 2019, and given their position assignment upon acceptance. If selected for the event, the full registration fee will be due by **March 1, 2019** 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. 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. You may provide your own copies of you prefer, but please check with the event organizer to ensure your copy is the most current edition.

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



2019 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 2019 National Honors Handbell Ensemble:

5

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

P6: F5, G5

P7: A5, B5

P8: C6, D6/7/8

P9: E6/7, F6/7/8

P10: G6/7, A6/7/8

P11: B6/7, 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)
3. If no director recommendation is available, provide a link or dvd video of the applicant ringing the audition 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).

4. 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 **February 1, 2019**. You may email the forms to staffordhandbells@gmail.com, or mail to:

Stafford Handbell Society
2016 National Honors Handbell Ensemble Application
33 Ruffian Drive
Stafford, VA 22556

Questions? Contact Neesa Hart at 540-850-3700 or staffordhandbells@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 **February 28, 2019**.

- Ensemble member agrees to be present for the duration of the entire event, which begins at **5 PM on Friday, April 26 and concludes at the completion of the concert, approximately 6 PM on Sunday, April 28.**
- Ensemble member and parent/guardian agree to pay the full event fee no later than **February 28, 2019**. 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 NHHEapplications@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 conference hotel, the performance venue, 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 without permission of the event organizers.

- 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 performance attire:

BOYS:

6. black dress pants
7. tuxedo shirt
8. bowtie or banded collar
9. black shoes and socks
10. jackets are optional.

GIRLS

6. Ankle length or longer black formal dress OR
7. Ankle length or longer black formal skirt with formal black top
OR
8. Ankle length or longer black formal pants with formal black top
9. Tops and dresses must have sleeves or be worn with a jacket. No sleeveless attire. And no beading, sequins or embellishments that will cause the bells to 'zing' when damped.
10. Black shoes

If 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 performance 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 NHHEApplications@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:

Handbell Symbols and Articulations:

With a 1-2 word explanation, please define the following Symbols and Articulations. You may be asked to demonstrate these techniques also.

BD	
CD	
HB	
HC	
HD	
LV	
PL	
R	
RT	
TD	
TLD	
TPI	
<i>vib.</i>	
Sk	
<i>Tr</i>	

Rhythmic Skills

The following 10 exercises are designed to give us an idea of your current rhythmic skills. It is important to get through as many as possible - even if there are errors. They get progressively more difficult.

At the audition, you will have 10 mins. to work these rhythmic clips before the audition with the correct bells. No 4-in-hand will be allowed on these exercises so prepare as much as possible before arrival. Tempo should be approximately quarter note = 90.

Please break between each exercise. They are not contiguous.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

Musical notation for exercise 7, consisting of two staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The first staff contains measures 1 and 2, and the second staff contains measures 3 and 4. The music consists of eighth-note patterns.

8.

Musical notation for exercise 8, consisting of two staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The first staff contains measures 1 and 2, and the second staff contains measures 3 and 4. The music features eighth-note patterns with rests.

(♩=♩)

9.

Musical notation for exercise 9, consisting of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff contains measures 1, 2, and 3, and the second staff contains measures 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. The music features eighth-note patterns with various time signatures.

(♩=♩)

10.

Musical notation for exercise 10, consisting of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff contains measures 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the second staff contains measures 5, 6, 7, and 8. The music features eighth-note patterns with various time signatures.

Individual and Group Playing Skills

Choose any one of these positions: CD3, EF3, AB3, CD4, EF4, GA4, B4C3, DE5, AB5, EF6, B6C7.

For the first two exercises, we will play the exercise twice through 1st time as written then add the following instructions:

Line 1: Pluck all notes starting at measure 1. Stop plucking at measure 3

Musical notation for Line 1 exercise in 4/4 time. The exercise consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. The notes are grouped into chords. The bass staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. The notes are grouped into chords. The exercise is written in 4/4 time.

Line 2: Mallet all notes starting at measure 1. Stop malleting at measure 3.

Musical notation for Line 2 exercise in 3/4 time. The exercise consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. The notes are grouped into chords. The bass staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. The notes are grouped into chords. The exercise is written in 3/4 time.

Line 3

Musical notation for Line 3 exercise in 4/4 time. The exercise consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. The notes are grouped into chords. The bass staff contains four measures of music, each starting with a measure number (1, 2, 3, 4) above the first note. The notes are grouped into chords. The exercise is written in 4/4 time.

Exercise 4 – Play through 3 times each time increasing in tempo

Musical score for Exercise 4, a 4-measure rhythmic exercise in 4/4 time. The score consists of 17 numbered measures, each with a corresponding measure number in both the treble and bass staves. The exercise is divided into four groups of four measures each, with the final group containing only three measures (13, 14, 15). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a final chord in measure 17.

4 in hand exercise

Musical score for a 4 in hand exercise in 4/4 time. The score consists of a single line of music with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together.