



Opus
Handbell Ensemble Inc.
www.opushandbell.org

*Add a Touch
of Bronze
to your
Special Event!*



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Dear Ringer;

Thank you for your interest in ringing with the *Opus Handbell Ensemble*. This packet is designed to help you prepare for the audition as well as give you an introduction to the goals and purposes of this group.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- 1. Application:** This will help us to get to know you and give us an idea of your abilities prior to the audition. *Please bring it to the individual audition.*
- 2. Calendar:** Our current rehearsal and performance schedules are attached or on our website.
- 3. Responsibilities of Membership:** All members of the ensemble are required to sign and return this form to the director.
- 4. Sight-reading and coordination example exam:** This will give you an idea of the sight reading test which will be a part of the individual audition. Although there will be two exercises added at the audition for sight-reading purposes, please learn the enclosed as your coordination exam.

As a prospective ringer, your handbell skills and your musicianship will be important. Also of importance will be your attitude as reflected by your manner in rehearsal, attendance and preparation.

Individual Audition: You will be asked to identify handbell notation and to explain the process of performing certain handbell effects (martellato, pluck, echo, etc). Next we will assess musicianship, technical ability, and flexibility. One of our main focal points will be on ability to read and execute rhythm correctly. Enclosed you will find an example of the format we will use to test sight-reading and coordination. We will use the enclosed for the musicianship and coordination test, and then add two new exercises to test sight reading ability.

Group Audition: In this audition we will observe each individual as they relate to the total ensemble. In this audition, the focus will be on the ringer's ability to play the individual part correctly while interacting with the director and listening to the overall group for a "musical" performance. Matching dynamics, bringing out melodic parts, and correcting mistakes in subsequent runs of the music will all be factors.

Note: It is important to mention that all of us make mistakes and are imperfect as ringers. Although we want to achieve the highest level of musicianship, it is also one of our stated goals to help each other learn and grow through the process of preparing for our concerts. As a result, we place a high priority on a positive and nurturing atmosphere.

Contact me for an audition time, bring your calendar and be prepared to discuss schedules during the audition process. We look forward to seeing you. Please call me or one of the board members if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Colla, Artistic Director