



RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

The goals of Opus Handbell Ensemble Inc. include enjoyment, education, outreach, challenge and growth. It is our purpose to:

1. Provide enjoyment of beautiful music for all who listen to us as well as those who ring.
2. Educate people, entertain audiences, make music for all and promote the art of handbell ringing in the greater Modesto area.
3. Challenge ourselves to grow musically, spiritually and professionally in a creative, caring and nurturing atmosphere.

It is to be understood that joining the Opus Handbell Ensemble Inc. requires particular consideration in the areas of punctuality and attendance at performances and rehearsals. Ringers are expected to bring calendars to rehearsal and to honor the scheduling commitments made to the ensemble. The following responsibilities of members are expected.

Attendance: Attendance is based on a two-seasonal schedule: January through June, and July through December. The schedules will be determined a year in advance, in August, and will include an all-day jumpstart rehearsal at the end of the Summer, or beginning of the Fall season. Ringers should come prepared to ring their part. Each ringer will be allowed two excused absences. If a ringer has more than two absences in a calendar year, other than emergency, their status in Opus may be jeopardized.

Absences: must be arranged ahead of time, with the exception of severe or sudden illness. In the event of an emergency or sudden illness, contact the Artistic Director and Chair of the Personnel Committee.

When an absence occurs,

1. the ringer will bear the responsibility of contacting the substitute from the approved substitute list provided by the Personnel Committee, and provide the substitute with the music, and
2. the ringer will notify the Artistic Director and Chair of the Personnel Committee of his or her absence and the name of the substitute.

Performance Attendance: Active ringers of the Opus Handbell Ensemble Inc., are expected to be at all of the performances. In the event that a ringer must miss a performance, an acceptable substitute must be found, and must be able and willing to rehearse with Opus **at least once** before the performance date.

Financial:

Fees: Each ringer will be responsible for fees in the amount of \$10.00 per month.

1. Fees are to be paid on the first rehearsal of the month and will be considered delinquent if not paid by the 15th of the month.
2. Opus Handbell Ensemble Inc. will not provide scholarships or sponsors for the ringers.
3. Substitutes are not required to pay fees.
4. Any person who becomes a ringer will pay fees upon signing the Ringer's Agreement. The new ringer will pay either the monthly fees or a prorated sum based on the day the Ringer's Agreement was signed.

Uniforms and Equipment: All ringers are expected to be punctual and willing to help in the set-up of equipment, and remain until rehearsal is finished, and all equipment is put away. Exceptions to this responsibility should be discussed ahead of time.

1. Each ringer will provide his or her own gloves, (black gloves for performance).
2. Each ringer will be responsible for purchasing an Opus t-shirt for non-formal performances, and a current formal dress of wing-tipped tuxedo shirt, vest, bow tie, studs and cuff links for formal performances, prescribed by the Concert Committee. New formal dress prescribed by the Concert Committee in the future, must meet with the approval of the entire ensemble.
3. A group jacket with logo is not mandatory, but an optional purchase.

As a ringer in the Opus Handbell Ensemble Inc., I have read and fully understand the above Ringer's Responsibilities, and I understand that my status as a ringer is based on my ability to comply with the above stated requirements. I am prepared to make the above commitments for the current calendar year.