

GDHA 2024 Fall Workshop

Class Descriptions

Demystifying Challenging Rhythms – Stephanie Rhoades

Do you ever look at the notes on the page and find yourself asking, "How do I count this rhythm?" Or, think "There are too many beams, dots, rests, or _____!"

In this class we will break down rhythms into basic units and learn strategies to help us figure out complicated rhythms. Mastering challenging rhythms will also improve your sight-reading skills.

Conducting--More show, less tell – Stephanie Rhoades

Conductors are not merely metronomes. They need to be able to communicate their musical interpretation without speaking. How does a conductor convey legato, marcato, or staccato? Come explore movements that will help you show what you want without having to explain to your ringers. No matter where you are in your directing journey you can always improve your conducting gesture.

Creating More Effective Rehearsals – Stephanie Rhoades

It can be frustrating when you want to start rehearsal but three ringers are missing. It can be challenging when we have newer ringers joining an experienced ensemble. And it can be demoralizing when you once had 13 ringers but now struggle to get 8. We will discuss these issues and more and learn some techniques that will make our rehearsals more productive and enjoyable. While this class is mostly for directors, ringers can learn how to become their director's favorite ringer by learning some of these strategies.

Four-in-Hand Fun and Fundamentals - Josh Fitzgerald

When two is just not enough, try four! This class is designed for the treble bell ringer who wants to learn the basics of multiple-in-hand bells, or for growing solo/ensemble ringers needing to cover more notes competently. This class will explore up to 7 methods of 4-in-hand, and focus on building proficiency in clean ringing and damping of those notes. This class assumes you have limited ability and knowledge in these skills.

Youth Bell Choirs From A to Z - Josh Fitzgerald

The idea of starting or maintaining a youth bell choir can be overwhelming when we consider all the competing demands on their time and for their attention. In this round-table style class, we'll discuss ways to build and maintain such groups, ideas for rehearsal plans, repertoire suggestions, and lots of other nuggets of wisdom.

Nothing But the Solo & Ensemble Skills - Josh Fitzgerald

Wanting to challenge yourself with a small ensemble piece or a solo? This is the class for you! We will work on just the primary skills necessary to transition from choir ringer to solo & ensemble guru. Topics covered include: weaving, hand choices, bell positioning, passing, kick-offs, ring-hooks, scoop grips, parallel motion, and more!

Bass bell basics and beyond – Thomas Williams

Have you ever wanted to ring bass bells but didn't know where to begin? This class is perfect for you! We'll cover everything you need to know, from proper technique to handling those larger bells. Discover whether you need special gloves, straps, or mallets and learn the best ways to lift and ring these powerful instruments. We'll also explore chromatic setups and alternating options to make your ringing smoother and more efficient. Join us and get ready to make some low-end music!

Recharging Your Battery! – Mark Pope

The battery bells are the heart of the ensemble. We'll be learning and perfecting fun techniques and sensitive playing. You'll be playing like a pro in no time! We'll start at the basics of ringing and journey through to advanced techniques. From legato to martellato, we'll practice ringing styles that will have you playing musically and confidently!

Rookie Ringers Classes - Dana Lobaugh

Are you a beginning or less experienced ringer, or director looking for a crash course in teaching handbell ringing? This fast-moving three-part class will explore "Basic Training for Handbells" by Venita and Erin MacGorman. We'll cover music reading along with fun ringing skills. Each ringer needs their own copy of the book for the class. Books may be reserved through the registration form, paid for and picked up before the first class, or brought to class if already owned.