

# Bell Blitz



## *Greetings!*

*We hope that this newsletter finds you well and safe. This has been a difficult few months trying to self isolate or social distance. Although many places are opening up, there are still risks.*

*It is unfortunate that events in British Columbia, New Brunswick and now Alberta have all been cancelled. Bells have not rung much in Canada or around the world since March.*

*Many of you are working on plans for the fall and trying to make decisions on what will be best for your groups. Handbell Musicians of America, along with bell ringer Dr Linette Rodriguez-Rigueroa have put together ideas that will help you. Linette is currently a professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology of the University of Puerto Rico. Both of us have rung with Linette and know her well. She is well respected in the handbell communities around the world.*

*Click on the link to get some ideas!*

- [Handbells During COVID 19](#)
- [Quick Guide](#)

*Stay safe!*

*Camille Ream*

*Susan Galloway*

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## Schools and Handbells! How Can We Make It Work?

We give a quiet sigh of relief that the end of school is almost here. Many of us are already planning for the fall and wondering what to do in music class, especially with handbells. We want to be able to run an effective and safe handbell music program but not sure what we need to do to make this happen. Most of us have missed hearing handbells and are already looking forward to having them start in the fall.

Schools and Districts are looking at ways to cope with their music programs in different ways. Teachers must first abide by those guidelines.

Handbells etc is currently seeking out ways to make bells ring this fall and have come up with a few ideas that we think might work.

- Students can sit on the floor with physical distance rather than standing close at tables. Students can be assigned only two bells. If there are accidentals in the music, then place the foam on the floor in front of those ringers to use.
- Choose reproducible music that allows the teacher to print as many copies as needed so that students don't have to share. Find pieces with no bell changes so that students do not need the foam and can stand around the room with a focus towards the smartboard or use music stands.
- All students need to have their own gloves. We recommend that gloves are washed after each rehearsal. If the teacher has a set of one dozen gloves of a different colour than the children, then they can lend them out and it is obvious which gloves were borrowed. The teacher then only has to wash a few pairs of gloves. Handbells has been working hard to find cost effective solution for gloves. Call or text us to find out more!

Handbells etc doesn't have all the answers and look forward to hearing from you about what you are doing to ensure that handbells are being rung and that your students are staying safe.



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May 29, 2020

Greetings to all Canadian handbell colleagues,

While the wheels of progress sometime turn more slowly than we would like, and HMC (Handbell Musicians of Canada) — the new national handbell body that you have been hearing about — is still in the birthing process, step by step that progress is being made and eventually we will “arrive.” We are getting so close. Currently, our new website is being created, and we plan to invite members to join by this summer!

Because HMC is structured differently than the former HGC (Handbell Guilds of Canada), in that individuals, rather than the provincial guilds will join as members, *it is important for us to reach every Canadian handbell musician we possibly can*, especially those who are not affiliated with a provincial guild. To that end, we are endeavouring to collect names and contact information for those musicians from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and as far north as ringers can be found.

We ask your assistance in building this contact list. Would you be willing to send us:

- Registration lists from any workshop, festival, or handbell event for which you have been an organizer
- Current and/or archival membership lists from your provincial guild
- Personnel lists from any choir with which you are personally associated that is not affiliated with a provincial guild
- Contact information for your handbell friends who are not covered by the above.

We are very keenly aware of the necessity to honour and follow all applicable Canadian privacy and anti-spam laws. The interim board, and all committees and consultants doing this work are committed 100% to following the letter and the spirit of the law, and we give you our assurance that any information you share with us will be used **ONLY** in accordance with CASL (Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation) regulations.

An individual who has interacted (in person, by mail or electronically) with any provincial handbell body or event has given their “implied consent” to be contacted. They will be contacted and given the opportunity to “opt in,” or give their “explicit consent” to remain on a contact list and receive future mailings. Anyone who opts out or does not respond is removed from the records and will receive no further communication and their contact information will not be shared or kept. This is the law, it is best practice, and it is what we commit to doing.

You can send information at any time, but we ask for a hard deadline of June 12, 2020. Please send all information to Annie Hergott, Chair, Policies and Operational Procedures Committee, HMC Interim Board, at [hergott@shaw.ca](mailto:hergott@shaw.ca). Please also pass this request on to anyone who might be interested in helping us to build a brand new and strong national body. We are committed to a model of open communication and responsible governance — so feel free to share any questions or concerns. Thank you.

*Patsy Andrews-Vert*

Patsy Andrews-Vert, Chair  
 Handbell Musicians of Canada Interim Board

*Annie Hergott*

Annie Hergott, Chair  
 HMC POPS Committee



Handbells



*Handbells etc is excited to announce that we have expanded our services to our Canadian customers in Eastern Canada and now in addition to providing you with handbell music, gloves and mallets, we can now provide you with Malmark Handbells and Choirchimes.*

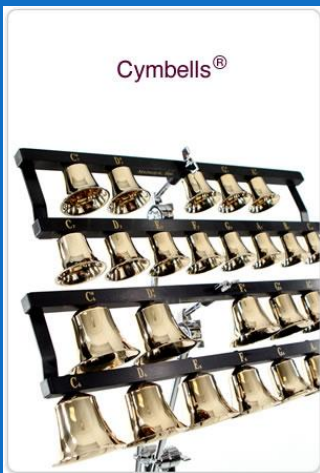
*We have been selling Malmark Handbells and Choirchimes for over 25 years and look forward to helping you from British Columbia to Newfoundland with your handbell and Choirchime needs.*

*You can now reach out to us via email at [susan@handbellsetc.ab.ca](mailto:susan@handbellsetc.ab.ca) or phone call or text at 780-437-9096 from anywhere in Canada when you are seeking information about Malmark Handbells and Choirchimes.*

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