Alternative note-entry methods for Sibelius: scans/pdf, audio, and MIDI data
People would be shown how to take a PDF from a scan of sheet music and use Photoscore to create a digital score that can then be the basis of an arrangement for bells. They would also be shown the same process for Audioscore, which is software that analyzes audio files and turns it into notational data. And finally, I’d show how to take a raw MIDI file and run plug-ins to clean up the data from what a computer would understand into what a human can actually read.

Basics Revisited: Your 100,000 Measure Tune-Up: Whether you’re a brand new beginner or a “veteran ringer,” this class will teach (or remind) you what to do before you ever pick up a bell or chime. Learn ergonomic techniques to help you not only “survive” those long rehearsals, concerts, and day-long ringing festivals, but also do so without pain or soreness. Ringers will be introduced to the “Three S’s” Stance. Seat and Stroke, and will focus on developing a relaxed ringing style to help control the bell, ring dynamically and make beautiful music.

Beyond the Basics: So you can ring and damp. Can you martellato? Tap pluck? Thumb damp? Make it sing? Join this class to learn how to execute these special techniques and more, including shake, swing, gyro, echo, vibrato, and even a ring touch that won’t leave a mark! We’ll also learn the notation indicators for these techniques and which work (and how to modify them) for handchimes. For an added bonus, we’ll explore finger damping and the beauty it brings both aurally and visually.

The Big Box of Crayons – the many colors of handbells: A kaleidoscope of color! Though we all love the small “8 box” of handbell timbres, why not explore the “64 box (with the built in sharpener)?” Dive in to the world of tonal variety with various handbell techniques. We will also add other percussion instruments and discuss the intonation issues with adding orchestral instruments to the mix.

The Body Bellistic: This session focuses on health and wellness for handbell musicians. Participants will learn tips for avoiding injuries, recognizing symptoms when they occur, and adapting handbell techniques for your personal body mechanics. The session will include general instruction as well as hands-on activities tailored to your specific needs.

Certification Classes from Handbell Musicians of America Curriculum: Those people wishing to work towards getting Certification at the different levels, as recognized by the National Organization, will have available the following classes that are included in the Certification Curriculum. You must sign up with the national organization in order to take these classes. Get your complete information at www.handbellmusicians.org.

Handbell Techniques Level 1
Theory 1
Conducting 1

Communicating Musicality with Your ringers: Though handbells is a percussion instrument, it can be every bit as expressive as a symphony orchestra. The key is to have a vision and a plan so what you hear and see in your mind comes to life. How do we then share intangible concepts with ringers in a tangible way? How can we turn a simple scale into a lovely work of art that evokes emotion? This class will explore ways to move beyond mere notes and rhythm to expression.

Creative use of Handbells in a church setting: Want to “shake” it up a bit? What if only three ringers can come this Sunday? Keep worship fresh and vibrant by ringing from the side, the back, the balcony, even
swinging from the chandeliers! (OK, maybe not quite, but still.) This class will inspire you with new ways to make a joyful noise in praise!

**Developing Rhythmic Feeling:** Many ringers and directors spend too much time trying to decipher notation. Instead, as author Stanley Schleuter suggests, they need to be developing rhythmic feeling. Using selected examples from handbell repertoire, this hands-on class will explore several ways in which one can develop rhythmic feeling so that both directors and ringers can bring a new understanding and a more polished musicianship to performances.

**Dream Weaving:** In this hands-on class, you’ll master the “weave” technique with 3 bells, 4 bells, and more. Find out how weaving can help you wend your way through difficult musical passages without getting warped!

**Ensemble Ringing 101:** Are you interested in trying a quartet, trio, or duet? Perhaps you just want a few techniques to help you with some difficult passages in your bell choir’s repertoire. Either way, this class will help you add ensemble skills into your ringing toolkit. Easy ensemble arrangement examples will be suggested for anyone interested in putting the new skills to the test.

**Ensemble Ringing Masterclass:** You understand the basics, but you need some help putting those skills into practice. Maybe you want to tackle a more challenging ensemble arrangement. Have you taken one of Ron's excellent solo ringing classes, but get lonely ringing by yourself? Maybe you would just like to learn by watching others receive ensemble coaching. Ensembles may sign up ahead of time to play a piece and receive coaching from the instructor. Individuals who would like to try an easy ensemble arrangement but are not part of an ensemble may be placed in a group with other volunteers to form an ad hoc class ensemble. If not enough people sign up ahead of time, we can accept volunteers from the class to "come on down" and give it a try! We will have no more than five coaching segments per class session. Observers will have the opportunity to ask questions during coaching segments. **Contact Diane Dick via email at:** dmdringer@rochester.rr.com **if you or your ensemble would like to ring in this class. Please include the word "Masterclass" in the subject line of the email.**

**Event Planning:** In this session you’ll learn everything you need to know about planning a handbell event – from a one-day retreat to a regional spring ring. You’ll get all the details on logistics, paperwork, marketing, and budgeting from a local expert. If you’re ever going to do any level of event, this session is worth it just for the “tips” list.

**Flash Mob:** Learn to put together your own flash mob of handbell ringers with Cory Davis, the originator (along with the amazing folks at Improv Everywhere) of the viral You Tube video *Guerilla Handbell Strikeforce*. Participants will receive copies of the original “*Joy To The World*” that was written for the video for use with their choirs, and also will discuss how to adapt existing music to create their own flash mob events.

**Follow the Money:** [or… What Every Handbell Musician Needs to Know About Copyright]. Is it okay to make copies for vision-impaired ringers? Is it okay to play music from an iPad? What are performance royalties? Why should I care? Learn the answers to these questions and more in this overview of what every handbell musician needs to know about copyright and how to protect themselves and their organization from copyright litigation.
**Four-in-Hand:** Use it or Lose it: You will learn the various methods of ringing 2 bells in each hand (there are seven ways to do it!), how to decide which to use when, and how to do them safely and musically.

**Formatting Handbell Compositions for Print:** Participants will be led through the process of taking the raw notational data and applying formatting to make an easy-to-read and easy-to-play-from printed score. The standard notation principles as established in the AGEHR handbell notation guide would be discussed. An explanation on how to create these notations in the software would be presented. Particular attention will be paid to the most efficient process for adding a Handbells-Used Chart to an existing score, and formatting to create good page turns.

**Handbell is a full body sport:** Did you know that how you hold your head and where you place your feet changes the projection of sound waves from a bell? Learn how a handbell ensemble can plan a head-to-toe vision for expression. Leave all your inhibitions at the door, please!

**If Bells Grew on Trees:** Bell trees are a beautiful way to add bells to choir music, play along with the church praise bands, or stand alone as a solo instrument. This session will teach you the basics of bell trees, including how to string them up, what mallets to use, etc.

**KatSigning: Doing More with Less:** Timbre plays up to 6 octaves of bells with only seven ringers. How do we do it? KatRyn Howell leads you through her tried-and-true method of assigning that makes sure the parts are challenging, but musically playable. Not just for small ensembles, you can use this method for assigning more ringers as well, or perhaps for allowing your group to play an octave more than you – or they – thought they could!

**Maori Sticks:** Called Ti Rakau or titi toreia in Maori, stick games usually involve two or more people sitting facing each other. In time to rhythmic chants or songs, they click the sticks together and throw them to each other. The aim is to catch the flying sticks without dropping them and breaking the rhythm. Early Maori are said to have used the stick games to train young men in the art of spear handling. Please come prepared to sit on the floor and with a towel or sweatshirt to cover your legs.

**Metal and Muscle:** How many muscles does it take to ring a handbell? Bet you’ll be surprised. Learn how to engage all the muscles of your body to support and enhance good ringing.

**Moving Right Along:** Ringing handbells while moving in a processional can be a wonderful visual and musical experience. Many groups move with little regard to what is happening in the music with no uniformity of movement. This class explores a step by step approach to learning how to process so that the movement enhances the music.

**Orchestration for Bells: Using Chimes and Other instruments in Your Music:** This workshop gives advice on adding the tone color and textures of handchimes and other instruments to handbell music, even if they’re not included in the score. It also demonstrates various chime techniques.

**She Damps Through the Air with the Greatest of Ease!** Timbre uses a lot of finger damping which enhances our visual and musical result. Let Barbara Meinke guide you through exploring and practicing this alternate style of damping, including a Ring Touch that won’t bruise your chest! This class will include instruction and plenty of examples and time to practice what you learn.
Social Media for Bells: Esta-bell-ishing an Online Presence! This two part series will cover how to market your ensemble of any size to gain mass appeal, using strategies like blogging, social media outlets, YouTube, and email campaigns. Pick and choose the techniques that work best for your ensemble’s mission!

Solo Ringing I: Basic Tools for the Solo Ringing Toolbox. This hands-on class will teach the basics of solo ringing. Ringers will use several exercises to learn weaving, switching, 4-in-hand, and other techniques necessary for soloists.

Solo Ringing II: Advanced Tools for the Solo Ringing Toolbox. Now that you have the basics down, ringers will learn more advanced techniques applicable to solo ringing, including traveling 4-in-hand, bell displacement, and others. The class will use “Amazing Grace” to work through the tools in their toolbox to search for the best way to play this familiar hymn. Solo Ringing Master Class: During this class, participants will have an opportunity to play a solo piece for the class and receive coaching from the instructor. Class observers will have an opportunity to ask questions. Ringers interested in ringing for the class will need to contact the instructor at Ringinron@comcast.net to express their interest and receive instructions prior to arrival. A CD player will be provided for accompaniment if you’d like. No more than five soloists can ring per class session, so applicants will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Camera Doesn’t Lie: From public speaking to athletics, and certainly the performing arts, the mirror and the camera are important tools that allow us to critique our own performance. Take this opportunity to check your own technique.

Those Beastly Bigger Bells: Bass Bell Buff Brian will help you discover how to get physics on your side using your brain, not your brawn, to safely pick up and ring bass bells and chimes.

Using Handbells Effectively in Contemporary Christian Worship: This workshop is for directors or ringers at churches with Contemporary Praise services who want to get the bell choir involved.

Using Notation Software as an Educational Tool with Sibelius 7.5: Attendees will be shown how to create videos of their scores in playback, shown how to make flashcards and posters, and how to create exercises and worksheets etc.

With Mallets Aforethought: Do you feel like you’re on the wrong end of the stick whenever you play mallets? Life-long mallet percussionist Gretchen Rauch will teach you the safe way to hold mallets, as well as how to use them for the greatest musical effect on handbells.

Woodshedding: Do you need extra practice on the festival pieces? Michael Joy will offer sessions for extra practice and help for each of the divisions and massed pieces.

Reading Sessions: Can’t get enough of ringing? Read through both new and previous releases from publishers during these reading sessions.