

Dear **Village Ringer** Audition Candidate,

I'm so pleased of your interest in **Village Ringers**. We strive to be an EXCELLENT group of handbell professionals. We work hard at our rehearsals, but have fun at the same time.

Our by-laws state our purpose as follows:

The objectives of **Village Ringers** are to:

- Attract and challenge intermediate to advanced handbell ringers through the rehearsal and performance of quality music.
- To expand the public appreciation of and interest in handbell music through engaging performances.
- To provide education to the greater community on the art of handbell ringing.
- To encourage public appreciation of and interest in handbell music.
- To have fun!

Your audition for the 2026 Spring season will take place at 10:00 on Monday, January 5 at New Covenant United Methodist Church (3470 Woodridge Dr.) This is the same location where our weekly rehearsals are held – each Monday from 1:00-3:00 pm. When you enter the church, please look for the playground and enter in the door beside the playground. Walk straight down the hall and you will find us!

Please understand that EVERY person – both current members, and those auditioning for a position – are “on trial.” Prior membership does not guarantee a position.

This is what you can expect on your audition day: There will be some simple warmup exercises, then you'll be asked to sight-read at least 3 pieces. The selections will be portions of actual pieces we'll be performing in our Christmas concert. Initially, I'll try to place you in your preferred position, or as close as I can get. You'll play one of the pieces in at least 2 different positions – perhaps even reading both bass and treble clef. Remember that, occasionally, you are called on to play in different positions in **Village Ringers**, and it's important that you're willing to challenge yourself in this way.

The audition will last about 45 minutes. You will then be dismissed. You will be notified by email, prior to 12:00 noon, of your status. The first rehearsal will then begin at 1:00 on the same day.

I strongly encourage you to check the box in the Village Ringer's Contract that you are willing to serve as a substitute. We find ourselves regularly in need of subs, and this helps to give you an "in-road" of experience and exposure for the Village Ringers. Occasionally, we also lose a player due to illness or some other circumstance, at which time you may be called to be a permanent sub.

Village Ringers has two main concerts – a Christmas Concert and a Spring Concert. Specific dates to be determined. There are occasional ringing opportunities that present themselves, but agreed on by the entire group prior to acceptance. Rehearsals take place each Monday from 1:00-3:00 at New Covenant United Methodist Church. Rehearsals begin the second Monday in September through the December concert, and January through the April concert. You are expected to be at all rehearsals.

I'm excited for the audition process, and I look forward to putting together a terrific team of musicians! In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at bonniefisher53@gmail.com or 614-565-0953.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Fisher
Director, **Village Ringers**

If you are accepted as a Village Ringer, you will be required to agree to the Village Ringers Member Contract. I will have copies of this contract at the audition for you to complete.

VILLAGE RINGERS

Member Contract

I, _____, am auditioning for a position in the ***Village Ringers*** handbell ensemble.

Please initial each item below to indicate your agreement to the following membership rules as set forth by the Village Ringers, Inc. By-Laws, Section 5:

- _____ 1. Members will be selected by an impartial judge(s), along with a majority vote of the handbell ringer members of the Board, based on auditions, which will be held at least once per year. Board decisions on membership are final and not subject to any appeal authority.
- _____ 2. Membership is open to all qualified handbell ringers. All prospective members are required to audition annually for membership.
- _____ 3. Members are to be Village Residents however, up to five (5) members may be non-residents. You must be able to faithfully attend rehearsals currently being held each Monday at New Covenant United Methodist Church located at 3470 Woodridge Dr., from 1:00-3:00 pm. Our winter/Christmas "segment" is from the 2nd Monday in September through the 2nd week in December. The spring "segment" is from the first Monday in January through the 2nd or 3rd week in April.
- _____ 4. Persons will be admitted to membership if they meet the criteria established by the Music Director and/or Executive Committee. Failure to continue to demonstrate an adequate skill level shall be grounds for dismissal. New members will be accepted after auditions are held each concert period (dates to be determined) or when positions become available.
- _____ 5. The Secretary of Village Ringers will keep a record of attendance. Attendance for all rehearsals and performances is mandatory unless prior agreement has been approved by the Music Director. Excessive absences during the season will be grounds for dismissal. The Music Director must be notified of anticipated absences. Substitutes for performances or rehearsals may be made at the discretion of the Music Director and/or Board.
- _____ 6. All members are expected to arrive early to rehearsals and performances in order to assist in setup and to be in position to ring at the scheduled start time. Excessive tardiness shall be grounds for dismissal.

_____ 7. Membership Dues will be determined by the Board of Directors and collected within the first 2 weeks of each performance segment (winter and spring). Members will be required to purchase performance attire. Costs will be kept reasonable. Currently our dues are \$35.00 per performance segment (Winter – dues collected the first two weeks of September; Spring – dues collected the first two weeks of January).

_____ 8. If, for any reason, a Ringer must take a leave of absence for one of the performance segments (winter or spring), it is understood that, when he/she is able to return, he/she may or may not play, depending on part availability.

_____ 9. Each member will abide by the bylaws and other regulations and policies adopted by the organization. The President of the organization will ensure that various duties required by the organization are equally divided among the membership.

___ **Yes** ___ **No**

I am willing to serve as a substitute ringer, if not selected as a Ringer for the Village Ringers.

___ **Yes** ___ **No**

If I am selected Village Ringers member, I will pay Membership Dues in the amount of \$35.00 per performance segment (Winter and Spring - all to be used for the purchase of music). Checks made payable to "Village Ringers" and given to Treasurer, Amy Cornwall Robinson. Fees may change from year to year, and will be due the first two weeks of September and the first two weeks of January. Checks may be made out to "Village Ringers, Inc". *NOTE: Substitutes are not required to pay Membership Dues.*

_____ **Applicant Name** ____/____/____
Date

_____ **Bonnie Fisher, Music Director** ____/____/____
Date

Do not write below this line. This section for Administrative Board use only.

_____ Applicant Accepted
_____ Applicant Denied

*The **Village Ringers** Audition Sheet. This is strictly for your information. It gives you an idea of what you will be assessed on.*

VILLAGE RINGERS

Audition Sheet

Name of Auditionee _____
Date/Time ____/____/____
Preferred Ringing Position _____

Score on a Scale of 1-10 (10 being excellent/skilled)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Comments</u>
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Sight-reading	_____	
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Sight-reading in another position	_____	
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Control of Bell Damping, Circular Motion	_____	
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Knowledge and Use of Special Techniques - Mallets, Echo, Mart, etc.	_____	
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Performance Presence – Looking Up, Confidence, Smiling, etc.	_____	
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Other General Comments

TOTAL SCORE _____

I RECOMMEND THIS CANDIDATE ____ Yes ____ No

IF YES, RECOMMENDED POSITION _____