



**WELCOME** to this evening's program! We hope you enjoy this inaugural concert of **Village Ringers**. Auditions for participation in this ensemble were held at the end of August, and our first rehearsal was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have been working very hard to bring you tonight's program.

Village Ringers is a handbell organization dedicated to attracting and challenging intermediate to advanced handbell ringers through the rehearsal and performance of quality music. It is our desire to expand the public appreciation of, and interest in handbell music through engaging performances.

Many thanks to Elan Buena Vista for allowing us to use their beautiful facility for our rehearsals. What a unique and wonderful partnership!

## ***Ringling Christmas Loud and Clear!***

**Bonnie Fisher, Director**

**Sat., December 8, 7:00 pm – SeaBreeze Rec. Center**



**Joy to the World** - arr. Valerie Stephenson

**Carol of the Bells** - Mykola Leontovich; arr. Douglas Wagner

**Sleigh Ride** - W.A. Mozart; arr. Joy Toll-Chandler; Judi Higbee, sleigh bells

**Glad Tidings of Joy** - arr. Lloyd Larson; Cary Robinson, handdrum

**Christmas Carol Fest II** - arr. Douglas Wagner

**Nutcracker Sweets** - Tchaikovsky; arr. Michael Ryan

**Make Me An Instrument** - Kevin McChesney; Joyce Lundeen, Piano; Sue Ann Baker, Narrator

**Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas** - Martin/Blane; arr. Joel Raney

**Away in a Manger** - arr. Robert Ivey; Donna Kagan, Recorder

**Silent Night** - arr. Bonnie Fisher; Amy Cornwall-Robinson, Soloist

***Following this evening's performance, the ringers will be at the tables. You are invited to meet them, look at the music, and even hold and ring a bell!***

**THANK YOU** for attending this evening's program. May you be blessed with an extra measure of peace and love during this season. Merry Christmas!

**A bit about handbells:** Handbells have been traced back as far as 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC in China, although bells of various kinds and shapes have been found all over the world. Handbells were established in England as a way for bell tower ringers to practice and not disturb the entire community. Eventually this type of ringing became an art in itself. English handbells were thought to be introduced to America by the Peake Family Ringers in the 1830's, and in the 1840's by P.T. Barnum. By the 1950's and 60's, hundreds of groups were springing up across the US in churches, schools, and other organizations.

Practices are very important as few "ringers" have their own bells, and they are quite expensive. The choir members divide the bells for ringing. It is important that each person (or their substitute) be at practice since an entire tonal section would be missing.

English handbells come in various sizes. The bells are made of copper and tin, cast and pitched in a factory (Schulmerich Factory in Hatfield, PA, in our case). The handles were once made of hard leather, but are now made of vinyl. The clappers will only move up and down, and employ special springs to prevent the clapper from resting on the bell. Each bell handle is marked with the musical note it plays.



**Village Ringers** – Marcia Barber, Carol Bonebrake, Martha Ecker, Lisa French, Becki Hadaway, Judi Hgbee, Jean Hood, Donna Kagan, Lana McKinzie, Melanie O'Donnell, Amy Cornwall-Robinson, Cary Robinson, Dan Southworth, Emily Spann, and Kathy Wolf

**Swing Ringers** – Sue Ann Baker, Margaret Lacy, and Diane Jones

**Substitutes** – Sue Davis, Tish Hruska, Joyce Lundeen, and Robin Mead

**Village Ringers Board of Directors** - Bonnie Fisher, President; Amy Cornwall-Robinson, Treasurer; Ron Drozd, Vice President; Emily Spann, Secretary; John Higbee, Member-at-Large

### **Future Performances**

Mon., Dec. 10 - Noon-1pm – Brownbag Lunch Concert at The Sharon  
Mon., Dec. 17 - 6:00-6:50 – The Sharon Lobby prior to "A Christmas Carol"  
Tue., Dec. 18 - 6:00-6:50 – The Sharon Lobby prior to "A Christmas Carol"

**Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm – Laurel Manor Rec. Center  
Spring Concert – "Travelogue"**

**As a 501c3 Organization, all gifts to "Village Ringers"  
are welcome and are tax deductible.**

**Follow us on Facebook, "Village Ringers".**

**To contact Village Ringers, email Bonnie Fisher at [bonniefisher53@gmail.com](mailto:bonniefisher53@gmail.com)**