

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 2023/2024 season will take place at 1:00 on Monday, April 17, 2023 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.

Your judges will be Mr. Gary Powell – Music Director for the Sharon Performing Arts Center and the Tierra del Sol Theatre, current Board Members and ringers, Amy Cornwall Robinson and Emily Spann, and me. We will determine the audition results, as required by our By-Laws.

Attached please find the following documents for your review (these can be found on our website, www.VillageRingers.com on the membership Page).

- 1) The **Village Ringers** Member Contract – **If you are accepted as a Village Ringer, you will be required to agree to this contract.**
- 2) The **Village Ringers** Audition Sheet. This is strictly for your information. It gives you an idea of what the judges will be assessing you on.

Here's 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 2 pieces. Initially, I'll try to place you in your preferred position, or close as you can get. You'll play one of the pieces in at least 2 different positions – perhaps even reading both bass and treble clef. Please 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.

Once the auditions are complete, and the judges have deliberated, you will be notified the next day of the results.

Village Ringers has two main concerts – a Christmas Concert (usually early December) and a Spring Concert (usually early April). 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 our judges, once again, 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***

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 Villages 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, from 1:00-3:00 pm. Our winter/Christmas “segment” is from the last Monday in August 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 spring (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.

VILLAGE RINGERS

Audition Sheet

Name of Auditor _____
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>
-----------------	--------------	-----------------

Sight-reading	_____	
----------------------	-------	--

Sight-reading in another position	_____	
--	-------	--

Control of Bell Damping, Circular Motion	_____	
---	-------	--

Knowledge and Use of Special Techniques - Mallets, Echo, Mart, etc.	_____	
--	-------	--

Performance Presence – Looking Up, Confidence, Smiling, etc.	_____	
---	-------	--

Other General Comments

TOTAL SCORE _____

I RECOMMEND THIS CANDIDATE ___ Yes ___ No

IF YES, RECOMMENDED POSITION _____