

Handbell Choir to Revisit Best Songs From Past Shows

The Village Ringers will present "Ringing Reflections" on Sunday at New Covenant United Methodist Church.

By **MICHAEL FORTUNA**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

The Village Ringers are looking back at some of the best songs they've performed through the years, dusting off the sheet music and bringing it back for an audience.

The 15-member resident handbell choir directed by Bonnie Fisher will present "Ringing Reflections" at 6 p.m. Sunday at New Covenant United Methodist Church, located at 3470 Woodridge Drive in The Villages.

Expect to hear such songs as "Around the World in 80 Measures," "Mr. Blue Sky" and "The Pink Panther," along with a medley of American tunes in honor of the country's 250th birthday, a medley of movie themes written by John Williams, and a medley of Beatles hits including "Yesterday," "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "The Long and Winding Road."

Throughout the show, the group will project numerous images on the screens featured on stage.

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*director and conductor of
The Village Ringers*

realization that bells can do so much more than what they thought they could," Fisher said. "It's more than what they might hear at church on Sunday mornings."

The Village Ringers Too, a group of 14 novice bell-ringers directed by Cathy Bullock, will play two songs: "Puff the Magic Dragon" and "Who Wants Cake?" Since the group hasn't been around

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Cathy Bullock, of the Village of St. Catherine, rings the bells during the Village Ringers' rehearsal Nov. 17 at New Covenant United Methodist Church. The group will present its spring concert, "Ringing Reflections," on Sunday at New Covenant.



Bonnie Fisher, of the Village of Piedmont, conducts the Village Ringers during rehearsal at New Covenant United Methodist Church. The resident handbell choir has grown a lot since it first formed around 2018.

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Three of the members will form a trio to play an arrangement of "Chop Sticks" using three octaves of bells.

"They do some really neat things," said Fisher, of the Village of Piedmont. "It's fun to watch them all over the place."

Bullock, who is one-third of the trio, said this group has to practice weaving between each other while playing.

"I'm putting one bell down and picking up another while ringing in another hand," Bullock said. "Two of us ring close together. One's picking up the bell I'm putting down. You have to be precise. It's a lot of fun."

The Ringers group has grown a lot since it first formed around 2018. All of the members had to audition to join the ranks.

"We're playing more challenging pieces," Bullock said. "They're really good musicians."

Bullock has been with the Ringers since 2021, not too long after moving to The Villages. She formed the Village Ringers Too about a year ago.

"I just love being a part of the music," said Bullock, of the Village of St. Catherine. "You're really an ensemble. You work together to make the music, to make it sound good. Bonnie is a great director. She makes the group fun."

Tickets for the concert are \$20, and are available online at ncumcfl.com/concerts.

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long enough to pick favorites, Bullock ended up choosing the two songs for its portion.

"Puff" is such a fun piece," Bullock said. "It's going to be one that will please the audience. They'll sing or hum along to it."

Guest musician Les Dudley will play the saxophone on "The Pink Panther," while Bullock will break out her clarinet to play on "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

"It's fun to change instruments a bit," Bullock said. "It gives you a chance to hear the bells from a different angle. Instead of being right in the middle, now I'm off to the side listening to the group as a whole."

The Ringers plan to end the concert with one of the group's favorite pieces, "Dorian Dance."

"It's a very exciting piece to listen to," Fisher said. "It has