Village Ringers Audition Packet for the 2027-2028 Year

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 the ***Village Ringers*** are to:

- Attract and challenge intermediate to advanced handbell ringers through the rehearsal and performance of quality music.
- Encourage public appreciation of and interest in handbell music through engaging performances and other activities.
- Provide education to the greater community on the art of handbell ringing.
- Have fun!

Your audition for the 2027 Spring season will take place at 10:00 am on Monday, January 4th 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. You are encouraged to park in the back of the church (East parking lot). Enter the door at the far right side (there are picnic benches and tables under a roof). This door will take you directly into the choir room, where rehearsals are held.

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.

Other areas on which you will be judged include your ability to sight-read; control of your bell/circular motion; knowledge and use of special

techniques such as mart, echo, and mallets; performance presence – looking up, smiling, confidence, etc.

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 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 hold two main concerts – a Christmas Concert – this year on Tuesday, December 8, 2026 at 7:00 pm - and a Spring Concert on Tuesday, April 13, 2027 at 7:00 pm. 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. You are expected to attend <u>all</u> 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 or 614-565-0953.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Fisher
Director, ***Village Ringers***

VILLAGE RINGERS
Audition Requirements and Member Contract

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

- **Auditions to become a Village Ringer will take place (usually) the 2nd Monday of January and the 2nd Monday of September of each calendar year. At least 6 weeks of advance notice will be published via email, Facebook, and the Village Ringers website of the audition date and time.**

- **Every candidate is required to audition each time. However, if a candidate is absolutely unable to make the audition, and is a previous ringer with Village Ringers, then the results from their last audition will be considered in making final selections. Permission from the Music Director must be received in order to qualify for this exemption.**

All new candidates are required to audition.

Please <u>initial each</u> <u>item</u> below to indicate your agreement to the following membership rules as set forth by the Village Ringers, Inc. By-Laws, Article 3:

_____ 1. Members will be selected by the Music Director, along with a majority vote of the handbell ringer members of the Board, based on auditions. 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 in January and September of each calendar year for membership.

_____ 3. Members must be Village Residents and shall 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 or second 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 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. 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). Make checks payable to “Village Ringers, Inc.” and give to Music Director or Treasurer, Judi Higbee. Fees may change from year to year, and will be due the first two weeks of September and the first two weeks of January. *NOTE: Substitutes are not required to pay Membership Dues.*

_____ ___/___/___
Applicant Name **Date**

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

*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)

Category	Score	Comments
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 _____