

**AREA 3  
COMPOSITION CONTEST**

**2026 ADULT HANDBELL FESTIVAL COMPOSITION**

- An original composition, not based on any other tune, whether public domain or not.
- Suitable for massed ringing for Handbell Festivals (premiered in **March 2026**).
- Two compatible handbell scores of a single piece in 2-3 and 3-5+ octave versions.
- Level 2 to 3 for 2-3 octave versions **and** Level 3 for 3-5+ octave versions.
- Optional solo brass instrument and/or 2-5+ octaves of chimes.
- Performance time between two (2) to four (4) minutes.
- Upbeat in nature.

**Deadline: March 28, 2025**  
**Prize: \$1500**

**CONTEST ENTRIES**

ONLY ORIGINAL, UNPUBLISHED WORKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Entries may not be under consideration for any other contest or publisher while being considered by Area 3. **Failure to observe this clause will result in immediate forfeiture of any prizes awarded.**

1. Please use the HMA/AGEHR Handbell Notation and Grading System as a reference guide for all compositional notations.
2. Composers may enter as many manuscripts as they wish, but each is to be sent under a separate cover.
3. To enter, send a PDF file and MP3 Audio of the piece. The manuscript of the piece should include title, level, bells/chimes used chart(s), optional instrument, and duration. **DO NOT INCLUDE THE COMPOSER'S NAME ON ANY PAGE OF THE MANUSCRIPT.** Prepare a cover letter, separate from the manuscript, containing **title, intended playing time, composer's name, postal service mail address, email address, and a telephone number.** (If the composition is intended as a sacred work, include an alternate secular title.)
4. Decision of the judges is final. Area 3 reserves the right to select entries that, in its sole judgment, are suitable for its festival purposes. **Area 3 reserves the right not to award a prize if entries are not deemed suitable for our purposes.**
5. Area 3 reserves first performance rights. A winning composition may not be used in any service, concert, or festival, prior to the premier at the Area 3 Adult Spring Handbell Festival in March of 2026.
6. Area 3 will request a suitable dedication line if the composition is published. Area 3 reserves the right to be the sole dedicatee.
7. Area 3 adheres to copyright laws. Copyright obligations and adherence to copyright laws is expected of all composers.
- 8. ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED / EMAIL- STAMPED BY 11:59 p.m., MARCH 28, 2025.**

Send to: Kevin Quick, 1901 Ridge Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607 or email to [kevin@highlandumc.org](mailto:kevin@highlandumc.org)

Questions? Contact Kevin Quick at (919) 787-4240 or [kevin@highlandumc.org](mailto:kevin@highlandumc.org)