



# Southern Festival

April 17-18, 2026

**Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church**

**3543 Robinhood Rd.**

**Winston-Salem, NC 27106**

**Brenda Austin, Guest Conductor**

## Massed Repertoire

*Music must be purchased and learned in advance.*

### Massed

*The First Noel* | arr. Brenda Austin  
Beckenhorst HB503 | 3-5 oct. | L3-

*Thank We All Our God* | arr. Jason Krug  
Grassy Meadow | L3-  
GMH230034 | 2-3 oct.  
GMH350055 | 3-6 oct.

*You Raise Me Up* | arr. Sandra Eithun  
Alfred 31743 | 3-6 oct. | L3

*Contemplation on Beautiful Savior*  
arr. Matthew Compton | Agape 2856  
3-5 oct. | L2+

### Rondo Giubilo

Robert W Gardner | unpublished  
2-3 oct or 3-5 oct. | L3  
Will be sent to you after you register.  
See page 2.

### Challenge Piece

*Campanae Celebrare* | Cathy Moglebust  
Agape 2626 | 3-5 oct. | L3

## Tentative Schedule

### Friday:

4:00 pm-6:30 pm | Registration & Set-up  
6:30 pm-6:45 pm | Opening/Announcements  
6:45 pm-7:30 pm | Massed Rehearsal  
7:30 pm-7:40 pm | Break  
7:40 pm-8:25 pm | Massed Rehearsal  
8:25 pm-8:35 pm | Break  
8:35 pm-9:00 pm | Challenge Piece Rehearsal

### Saturday:

9:00 am - 9:50 am | Massed Rehearsal  
10:00 am-10:50 am | Red Classes/Blues Rehearsal  
11:00 am-11:50 am | Blues Classes/Red Rehearsal  
12:00 am- 1:00 pm | Lunch (provided)  
1:00 pm- 1:30 pm | Challenge Piece Rehearsal/  
Group Activity  
1:40 pm - 2:30 pm | Reds Classes/Blue Rehearsal  
2:40 pm - 3:30 pm | Blues Classes/Red Rehearsal  
3:40 pm - 4:10 pm | Massed Rehearsal  
4:10 pm - 4:30 pm | Break  
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm | Festival Concert  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Pack-Up/Clean-Up

Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 supports the copyright laws, and no photocopies of music will be allowed. Unauthorized recording of the sounds and images of the musical performances is a violation of the Copyright Act(17USC~1101).

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Why Should I Attend????

- ♦ To ring with other handbell ensembles who love handbell ringing too
- ♦ To make some unforgettable moments
- ♦ To have fun while ringing handbells
- ♦ To learn under a wonderful Guest Conductor

## Who May Attend

- ♦ This festival is designed for full or partial handbell ensembles as well as individual handbell ringers of high school age and adults.
- ♦ **Handbell ensembles must learn the festival music prior to coming.**

## Registration

- ♦ Significant discounts are offered for early registrations.
- ♦ Registration: \$75 (if postmarked /entered online by October 31, 2025)
- ♦ Registration: \$80 (if postmarked/entered online by January 15, 2026)
- ♦ Registration: \$110 (if postmarked/entered online after January 15, 2026)
- ♦ **Registration fee includes Saturday lunch.**
- ♦ HMA membership is NOT required. If you are currently not a member and would like to join, you will have that option as part of registration. HMA Membership – add \$95 (optional).
- ♦ You have a choice of registering & paying online or registering and paying by check through the mail.
- ♦ **When sending in your registration form, please include only one (1) check from your organization with full payment - partial payments will not be accepted.**
- ♦ **Make your check payable to *Handbell Musicians of America Area 3* and mail to Gail Williams, Registrar - 7903 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814.**
- ♦ The Registrar will acknowledge registration within two weeks of receipt.

## Refund Policy

- ♦ \$25 per registrant is nonrefundable when requested prior to January 15, 2026. After that date, there will be no refunds regardless of reason including medical issues and family emergencies.
- ♦ **\*\*ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESSING FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE\*\***

## E-mail Information

- ♦ Event Information Packets will be sent to your provided email address.
- ♦ So that information does not go to your junk mailbox, please add the following email addresses to your contact list: Debbie Henning - chair.area3@handbellmusicians.org; Registrar: Gail Williams - gailwilltoo@verizon.net; Event Chair: Ednamae Fisher - ntune@emfkf.com

## Information Packet & Class Pre-Registration Packet

- ♦ Once you are registered for the festival, the Information Packet and Class Pre-Registration Packet will be emailed to you.
- ♦ The Information Packet will include: what to bring, directions, what to wear, copyright information, special needs, insurance coverage information, unloading equipment, on-site registration, rehearsal notes, and a copy of *Rondo Giubilo*.
- ♦ The Class Pre-Registration Packet will include: the class titles, class descriptions, faculty bios and the class pre-registration form for classes. By pre-registering for classes, we can make sure that the Equipment Manager gets enough equipment for the classes.

## Repertoire

- ♦ Purchase the repertoire from your favorite handbell music supplier.
- ♦ Photocopied music is NOT permitted.
- ♦ Learn the repertoire in advance. Rehearsal notes will be included in the Information Packet that will be sent to you after you register.
- ♦ On the registration form, please check the box if your choir will be ringing the Challenge Piece - *Campanae Celebrare*.
- ♦ Area 3 had a winner in the 2025 Composition Contest. This piece, *Rondo Giubilo*, is included in this year's repertoire. This piece will NOT be published until after the event. You will receive one copy in the Information Packet that you will receive after you register. You will be responsible for making copies for your choir. These copies will only be for the festival. After the festival, you will need to destroy your copies and purchase the piece from your favorite music supplier.

## Tables

- ♦ All choirs will need to **BRING their tables**.
- ♦ All choirs/ensembles will ring a straight line.
- ♦ On the registration form, please note the amount of table footage that you need.
- ♦ Choirs must bring pads, notebooks or music racks, bells, chimes, mallets, gloves. Table covers and skirts are optional. All equipment must be clearly marked!

## Meals

- ♦ A list of restaurants will be provided in your registration packet for Friday dinner.
- ♦ Lunch on Saturday IS included in the registration fee. Lunch will be catered by Mt. Tabor UMC or Chick-fil-a. You will have a choice of a sandwich bar along with chips, dessert and a drink OR a market salad or a Cobb salad and a drink.

## Individuals without a choir

- ♦ An opportunity will be provided for directors or individuals who wish to ring in the festival by filling vacancies offered by other choirs, on an available basis, or by bringing bells and pads.
- ♦ Individuals will ring the same repertoire as the massed choirs and participate in the festival concert.
- ♦ If you are a director with vacant positions, please indicate the positions available on the Registration Form.

## Solo Performance Opportunity

- ♦ Ensembles will be given the opportunity to perform a solo of their choice during the final concert.
- ♦ This opportunity is limited to the first five (5) ensembles that register.
- ♦ If your ensemble is interested in performing, please check the box on the registration form.
- ♦ The title, composer and arranger will be due by **January 31, 2026**.

## Classes

- ♦ Registrants will have the opportunity of taking several educational classes during the event - one on Saturday morning and one on Saturday afternoon.
- ♦ The Class Pre-Registration Packet will be emailed to you after you register for this festival.

## Lodging

- ♦ There is not an official festival hotel.
- ♦ There are many different hotels within a 20 minute drive of the church - several that offer a complimentary breakfast.

## Photography Policy

- ♦ By registering for an Area 3 event, you give permission to use pictures from the event on the Area 3 website, in the Area Historian's Photo Album, and in future publications. Individuals will NOT be identified or pictured in potentially embarrassing situations. Parents who do NOT wish to have their minor child(ren) included in pictures must complete the Area 3 Photography Form for Minors and return it with their registration. This form is available below.

# About the Clinician - Brenda Austin



## **Brenda Austin**

Brenda Austin is in demand nationally and internationally as a conductor and clinician because of her dynamic and energetic approach to connecting musicians through handbells. In 2019, Brenda joined the team at Hope Publishing Company in Carol Stream, IL as Editor. In 2023, she was named Music Director for Embellish handbell ensemble. Embellish was one of the premier ensembles to perform at Handbell Musicians of America's Pinnacle in 2025. Before joining Embellish, she served as the Artistic Director for the Detroit Handbell Ensemble since 2016. Under her baton, DHE was honored to open the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in 2018 and be the featured concert for HMA's Area 2 2019 Festival in Lancaster, PA.

Additionally, she has served First UMC in Eaton Rapids, MI, as Director of Music since 2003. She is also active in the community directing Children's musical theatre.

Brenda graduated with degrees in Vocal Performance from Western Michigan University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. She studied with Craig Arnold, Steve Zegree and Eph Ehly.

Brenda is sought after as a handbell clinician throughout the year and has been the conductor and clinician at numerous festivals and workshops including HMA National Seminar, and many of the Areas' festivals. Additionally, she has had more than 110 titles published for handbells and sacred choral since 2015.

For more information about Brenda, please visit her website at [www.BrendaEAustin.com](http://www.BrendaEAustin.com)

## **Area 3 Photography Policy for Minors Form**

By registering for an Area 3 event, you give permission to use pictures from the event on the Area 3 website, in the Area 3 Historian's Photo Album and in publicity materials in the future. Individuals will not be identified or pictured in potentially embarrassing situations. Parents who do NOT wish to have their minor child(ren) included in pictures must complete the following form and return it with their registration. **DENIAL OF CONSENT FOR MINOR(S)** I do NOT give permission for pictures of my child(ren) to be used on the Area 3 website, in the Area 3 Historian's Photo Album and in publicity materials in the future.

Name(s) of Child(ren): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent of Guardian)

Name of Child(ren) Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization/Church: \_\_\_\_\_



## MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORM 2026 Southern Festival

Please fill out one form for each handbell choir attending the Festival. You may make additional copies of this form as needed. Enter the director's name, organization, and choir's name, city and state as they should appear in the program booklet.

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Email address is to receive important information about the festival. Your email will not be shared with others.)

Director's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Choir's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

### Information:

I am registering for (check all that apply):

☐ Choir / Ensemble (# in group \_\_\_\_\_)

☐ Individual Ringer

My group will ring the Challenge Piece? Yes No

INDIVIDUAL RINGER (pick one):

My group will perform a solo? Yes No

Need a Ringing Spot? Yes No

How many octaves of bells will you bring? \_\_\_\_\_

Ringing with a Registered Choir? Yes No

Bringing my own bells? Yes No

Are you attending for the first time? Yes No

Would you like to have a mentor for the festival? Yes No

Are you willing to be a mentor for the festival? Yes No

### Table Requirements (you are responsible for your own bell pads)

You will need to bring your own tables. Linear footage needed \_\_\_\_\_

Does your choir change positions for each piece of music? Yes No

If you have any vacant positions available for Individual Ringers, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION FORM - 2026 Southern Festival (continued)

Persons registering for an Area 3 Festival who have served as Chair of Area 3, have an elected position on the current Area 3 Board or are on the event staff for THIS festival, do NOT pay the festival registration fee.

Please list the names of any persons in your group who are in this category.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Please note if special physical or food accommodations are needed for any ringer.  
Be specific so that we can meet these needs appropriately.

### Registration Fees (per ringer/director)

Ringer or Director	by 10/31	_____ x \$75 = \$ _____
Ringer or Director	by 1/15	_____ x \$80 = \$ _____
Ringer or Director	after 1/15	_____ x \$110 = \$ _____
Handbell Musicians of America Membership (optional)		\$95 = \$ _____

Total Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\$25 of your registration fee per ringer is nonrefundable for cancellations thru January 15, 2026*  
**Please note that there are no refunds after January 15, 2026 for any reason (including family emergencies and medical issues). TicketSignUp fees are NOT refundable.**

### Saturday Lunch

\_\_\_\_\_ Sandwich Bar    \_\_\_\_\_ Market Salad    \_\_\_\_\_ Cobb Salad

**PLEASE KEEP A COPY OF YOUR COMPLETED FORM(S) FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

**Write one check payable to:    *Handbell Musicians of America Area 3***

**Mail the original, completed form(s) with full payment to:**

**Gail Williams - 7903 Glenbrook Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814 | [gailwilltoo@verizon.net](mailto:gailwilltoo@verizon.net)**

### Online Registration Information AND Payment (One Registration per Choir)

We will be using TicketSignUp for online registration and payments. If you use TicketSignUp, you must pay through TicketSignUp. You will be paying the processing fees per cart, not per person - the higher the price of the cart, the LOWER the processing fee. If you need a refund, the processing fee is NOT refundable. If you need to mail a check, please use this paper form and mail to our registrar.

To register online,  
<https://www.ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/SouthernFestival>

