



Director's Track at the Beach Festival

March 6-7, 2026

Rehoboth Beach Convention Center
229 Rehoboth Ave., Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Whether you bring a choir/ensemble to the Beach Festival or not, the Area 3 Board is offering a Director's Track at the Beach Festival. On Friday night after the Area 3 Forum, the directors will have a Read and Ring session featuring the repertoire for the 2027 Spring Festivals as well as other new repertoire. On Saturday, the directors will be divided into two groups - one group for beginning/new directors and the other group for the seasoned directors.

Foundations for New Handbell Directors will experience: This practical, hands-on course is designed for handbell directors with two years or less of experience. Whether you're forming a new group or stepping into leadership of an established ensemble, this course equips you with the essential tools to build a successful, sustainable program. Topics that will be covered: Ensemble Organization, Repertoire Selection, Bell Assignments, Building a Cohesive Ensemble and Practice Aids & Skill Development. Directors will leave this course with practical rehearsal tools, organizational strategies, and the confidence to lead an engaging and effective handbell program.

The Seasoned Directors will experience: During the morning session, you will experience a quick refresher on how to teach proper handbell techniques and then you will embark on a journey from the selection of a handbell piece to the performance of the handbell piece. During the afternoon session, you will be guided through multiple bell techniques such as weaving and four-in-hand which will lead into ringing repertoire with fewer ringers. Finally you will practice your conducting skills as we play a friendly game of incorrect rhythms and notes in *Who Wants To Be A Conductor?* Or *Who Is Smarter Than the Conductor?*

Tentative Schedule

Friday:

6:30 pm - 6:45 pm | Welcome/Announcements

6:45 pm - 7:15 pm | Area 3 Forum

7:30 pm - 8:25 pm | Read & Ring (all directors)

Saturday:

9:00 am - 11:30 am | Session I (Beginning & Seasoned)

11:30 am - 1:30 pm | Lunch (on your own)

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Session II (Beginning & Seasoned)

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Break

4:40 pm - 5:00 pm | Beach Festival Concert

Meet the Clinicians

Larry Henning - Clinician The Seasoned Director



Larry, Music Director of Westminster Ringers, is a retired seventh grade mathematics teacher. Early in his teaching career, he established the Carrolltowne Ringers – a children's handbell program for grades third through fifth. Under his direction, they received the National Exemplary School Award from Handbell Musicians of America. He has also directed the Agape Ringers from the Westminster Church of the Brethren and Wesley Carillon from the Westminster UMC. Larry has been a clinician with Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 for their Bronze Conference Choir, Read & Ring Workshops and the Ocean City & Hampton Festivals. He studied conducting under William Payn. Larry and his wife, Debbie, are the co-founders of the Westminster Ringers, Inc.

Alan Payne - Clinician Foundations for New Handbell Directors



Alan started his handbell journey about 18 years ago when his kids were playing handbells at Fairfax United Methodist Church. Church policy required a 2nd adult present for all youth-related activities and Alan became bell-dad. Since he had played instruments before, the director often asked him to fill in when a ringer was absent and that was all he needed to get hooked. Alan soon began ringing with the adult choir at the church and slinging the low bass bells. After his 3rd child left for college, Alan auditioned for a community group in Northern Virginia. He rang with them for 4 seasons and also served as Vice President and President.

In September of 2020 Alan formed Music To Free, a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to teach handbells at low/fixed income senior living centers. These programs are provided at no cost to the residents or the facilities. In 2022, to help fund these programs, Alan formed Bronze Unlimited, a new community ensemble for advanced ringers. In addition to doing public concerts, Bronze Unlimited does private events and community outreach events. Bronze Unlimited's May concerts, Hope & Remembrance – a concert for those affected by cancer, will help raise money for Music To Free as well as local cancer support groups.



MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORM 2026 Director's Track at the Beach Festival

Please fill out one form for each handbell director attending the Director's Track.
You may make additional copies of this form as needed.

Director's Name: _____

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.)

Organization: _____

Choir's Name: _____ City, State: _____

I am registering for:

_____ Foundations for the New Director Track _____ The Seasoned Director Track

Registration Fees (per director)

Director _____ x \$ 65 = \$ _____

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.

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:

**Christine Fox-Roberts - 202 Pinebrook Ct., Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971
dr_fox77@hotmail.com**

Online Registration Information AND Payment

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/DirectorSTrackAtTheBeachFestival>

