



Piedmont Festival

April 16-17, 2027

Mechanicsville Baptist Church

Mechanicsville, VA

Mitchell Eithun, Guest Conductor

Massed Repertoire

Music must be purchased & learned in advance.

Massed

Adoro Te Devote

arr. Jason Krug | Grassy Meadow GMH350031

| 3-6 octaves | L3-

GMH350031T | instrumental part

GMH350031F | Full Score

Celebrate and Remember

Michael Helman | Beckenhorst HB745

3-6 octaves | L3

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

arr. Mitchell Eithun | Ring Out Press RO3378

3-5 octaves | L2

Come, Christians, Join To Sing

arr. Matthew Compton | Evergreen EGM116

3-6 octaves | L3-

Morning Light

arr. Stephanie Berryman | From the Top

203473 | 3-4 octaves | L3

20347 | 5 octaves | L3

Challenge Piece

Festivo in G Minor

David Kent | AGEHR | AG35233

3-5 octaves | L3+

Tentative Schedule

Friday:

4:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Registration & Set-up
6:15 pm - 6:30 pm	Welcome/Announcements
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Opening Concert
7:30 pm - 7:40 pm	Break
7:40 pm - 8:30 pm	Massed Rehearsal
8:30 pm - 8:35 pm	Break
8:35 pm - 9:00 pm	Challenge Piece Rehearsal

Saturday:

9:00 am - 10:00 am	Massed Rehearsal
10:10 am - 11:00 am	Classes for All
11:10 am - 12:00 am	Massed Rehearsal
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:50 pm - 1:20 pm	Challenge Piece Rehearsal/ Group Activity
1:30 pm - 2:20 pm	Massed Rehearsal
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm	Classes for All
3:30 pm - 4:15 pm	Massed Rehearsal
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Break
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Final Concert

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

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: \$85 per person (if postmarked /entered online by October 31, 2026)
- Registration: \$95 per person (if postmarked/entered online by January 15, 2027)
- Registration: \$120 per person (if postmarked/entered online after January 15, 2027)
- **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.

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellations may be made through **January 15, 2027**. For cancellations received by this date, a partial refund of the registration fee will be issued, less a \$25 administration fee. No refunds will be issued for registrations cancelled after January 15, 2027.
- Please note that any processing fees charged by TicketSignUp for online registrations are non-refundable and online registrations are subject to the full \$25 administration fee.

Email Information

- Event Information Packets will be available online at www.area3.handbellmusicians.org and also 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

Tables

- Your organization will **NEED TO BRING** your own tables.
- On the registration form, please indicate how much table footage your organization needs.
- **Table footage will be based on the number registered and the number of octaves that you are bringing - 2 octave - 21', 3 octave - 24', 4 octave - 30', 5 octave - 36', 6 octave - 42'.**
- 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

- There are plenty of restaurants near the two hotels for dinner.
- Both hotels offer a complimentary breakfast if you stay at one of the suggested hotels.

- Lunch on Saturday IS included in the registration fee. Lunch will be catered by Chick-fil-a. You will have a choice of a chicken sandwich or 10 chicken nuggets along with a bag of chips, a cookie and a bottle of water OR a market salad or a Cobb salad and a bottle of water.

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, 2027**.

Silent Auction

- In order to further Area 3's goal of promoting handbell ringing, we are holding Silent Auctions at Area 3 events in order to raise monies for events such as Blast Off to Bells. So, we ask you to bring something to place in the Silent Auction at the monetary value of at least \$30 - CDs, gift certificates, a gift basket from your choir, sealed food items, etc. Please let Debbie Henning know prior to the festival what you are bringing. Your donation will help Area 3 be a leader in handbells into the future!

Classes

- Registrants will have the opportunity of taking two classes during the event - Saturday morning and 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. Here are some suggestions:
- **Hampton Inn & Suites (Richmond/Mechanicsville)**
7433 Bell Creek Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23111 | 804-559-0559
- **Holiday Inn Express (Richmond/Mechanicsville)**
7441 Bell Creek Rd., Mechanicsville, VA 23111 | 804-559-0022

Photography Policy

- By registering for an Area 3 event, you give permission to use pictures from the event on the Area 3 website, on the Area 3 Social Media, 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.

Area 3 Email Mail List

- Area 3 provides a monthly electronic newsletter. Our goal is to have this available to directors as well as ringers.
- On the registration form, please include emails of your ringers who would like to receive our electronic newsletter.

Opening Concert

- This year's opening Concert will be performed by the Virginia Handbell Consort.
- Several of their members will serve as the faculty for the classes on Saturday.

About the Clinician – Mitchell Eithun



Mitchell Eithun is a handbell musician, composer and director, with over seventy published compositions. He is passionate about developing innovative handbell rehearsal techniques and sharing historical and theological perspectives on church music. As the founding director of Bell Durham, a community handbell ensemble in Durham, NC, Mitchell develops creative handbell concerts for new audiences. He holds a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School (Durham, NC), an M.S. in Computational Mathematics from Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI), and a B.A. in Mathematics and Computer Science, with a minor in Music, from Ripon College (Ripon, WI). Mitchell's previous roles include serving as a carillonneur and intern at Duke University Chapel and as handbell director at First Presbyterian Church of Holt, MI. He is an associate member of the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America and a member of Handbell Musicians of America. Outside of music, Mitchell enjoys learning the carillon and traveling to new destinations.

About the Opening Concert Performers - Virginia Handbell Consort



Formed in the fall of 1996, the Virginia Handbell Consort became the first community handbell ensemble in the Hampton Roads area. Our auditioned musicians perform on 7 octaves of handbells and chimes, 3 octaves of Petit and Fritsen bells, 3 octaves of White Chapel bells and a variety of other percussion instruments. VHC, under the direction of Al Reese, offers its audiences a stunning demonstration in the art of English handbell ringing. It is an art that is beautiful to hear as well as fascinating to watch.

Our concert repertoire is an audience pleasing mix of sacred, classic, contemporary, show tunes, and big band swing designed to showcase our unique instrument. Part of our mission is to demonstrate to audiences that while handbells are a part of the holiday season's traditions, they are not limited to holiday performances. We are a year-round source of entertainment.

Some of our notable performances in the past 30 years include Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Handbell Musicians of America's 50th Anniversary Showcase Concert, Ferguson Center's Home for the Holidays, Ft. Monroe Holiday Concert with the Army TRADOC band, Williamsburg's First Night and performing with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra.

Scholarship to the Piedmont Festival

The Area 3 Board will be offering two scholarships to the Piedmont Festival. To apply for a \$100 scholarship, all applicants:

- Must be part of an organization that is a member in good standing of Handbell Musicians of America
- Must be a resident of Area 3 at the time of the application and the event
- Must be registered for the festival

On the application, the applicant will:

- Assess how attendance will benefit the applicant, their handbell program, and the broader ringing community,
- Assess how the experience supports the mission and goals of Area 3

If chosen for a scholarship, the Scholarship winners will:

- submit a written report on their experience at the event for inclusion in Area 3 communications



You can access the form for applicants here: <https://forms.gle/zWXm88KqyaxiyKKh9>

You can access the form for references here: <https://forms.gle/e32MfcQujWmwwcr48>

Application Deadline – January 4, 2027

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, on the Area 3 Social Media, 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 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: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: Postmark date: _____ Reg. # _____ Check #: _____ Amount: _____



MAIL IN REGISTRATION FORM 2027 Piedmont 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 - 2027 Piedmont Festival (continued)

The following persons are exempt from the registration fees: current or past Area 3 Chairs, current elected Board Members, and event staff for this festival. Please list the names of anyone in your group who qualifies for an exemption.

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

Please list any ringers who would like to receive the monthly electronic Area 3 newsletter.

Registration Fees (per ringer/director)

Ringer or Director (per person)	by 10/31	_____ x \$85 = \$ _____
Ringer or Director (per person)	by 1/15	_____ x \$95 = \$ _____
Ringer or Director (per person)	after 1/15	_____ x \$120 = \$ _____
Handbell Musicians of America Membership (optional)		\$95 = \$ _____
Total Registration		\$ _____

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- Please note that any processing fees charged by TicketSignUp for online registrations are non-refundable and online registrations are subject to the full \$25 administration fee.

Saturday Lunch

_____ Chicken Sandwich _____ Chicken Nuggets _____ 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

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/PiedmontFestival>

