

Dear HV Festival Directors,

Welcome to the 44th Annual Hudson Valley Handbell Festival to be held on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Iona Preparatory School, 255 Wilmot Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804. We have fourteen choirs registered and several orphan ringers coming to the event. Rehearsals at my church are going very well, and we all are looking forward working together on the 27th. Our directors Barbara Fowler Meinke (guest director) and Alice Bennett (local director) are ready to work with our choirs and prepare us to play musically for the evening concert at 7PM. Attached below are conductor's notes from Barbara. Notes for *Sakura* will be ready later this week.

This year, we will be raising funds from the free will offering to purchase a set of hand chimes for residents of the Lutheran Care Center at Concord Village. The Nursing Home located in Poughkeepsie NY recently hired a music therapist who has experience working with chimes, but the facility does not own a set. Thus far, \$400 has been raised by friends of L.C.C. and we hope to raise the remainder of the money, an additional \$1600, to help them purchase instruments.

Ringers need to dress comfortably for rehearsals during the day. The school and gym are air conditioned and depending on the weather that day, a light jacket or sweater is a good idea. Remind your ringers to wear comfortable shoes. Don't forget that choirs dress for the evening concert. The restrooms and locker rooms will be available to us for changing into performance attire.

Food and drinks are not allowed on the ringing floor, other than water, but there is a cafeteria for our use (tables only; no food available to purchase). Ringers should bring a sack lunch and enough food for dinner. There is a list of local restaurants being drawn up - you will receive it during the week prior to the festival along with the schedule for the day. A reminder that rehearsals begin at 10AM.

Order forms for memorabilia have been sent out. To receive the best price, and festival delivery, order by April 19 before 3PM. Order may be placed at festival, but at a higher price to include a shipping fee. A professional recording will be made during the concert and CD's may be ordered as well. All proceeds from sales of memorabilia and CD's benefit our festival, so don't forget to order, and order often! Many thanks to Sue Young for making these items available to us.

Please post flyers in your community, local schools and churches. A press release will be sent out with performance notes for *Sakura* later this week. Newspapers and radio stations in the entire Hudson Valley Area should all be notified of our concert event, and the only way that will happen is if all of the directors (this means You!) send out copies of our press release. Please help us publicize the festival concert!

If you have any questions at this point, please contact me. I look forward to working with all of you.

*Susan Guse, 2019 chair
Hudson Valley Handbell Festival Conference*