

Handbell Workshop



Ella Saltonstall, Guest Conductor

Ella Saltonstall began ringing as a youth in Kodiak over 30 years ago. She travelled as a youth and performed in Moscow, Russia in the early 1990s with her childhood church handbell group at St. James Church in Kodiak. She graduated from Colgate University in 1998 and the following year was a founding member of the San Diego Harmony Ringers, an advanced community handbell group. Inspired by her experience in the Harmony Ringers, in 2008 she co-founded the Penobscot Bay Ringers in Rockport, Maine, the only community handbell choir of its kind in the state. In 2011 she co-founded and became the director of Isle Bells in Kodiak, Alaska's only community handbell choir. Ella has been on the Board of the Kodiak Arts Council for two years. As well, she has helped lead multiple handbell trainings tailored specifically for youth. She attends local, national, and international handbell events to deepen her understanding of practice and performance for the instrument, and has repeatedly brought an internationally renown handbell clinician to the state to increase skills for ringers statewide. As well, over the past five years, she has received individualized conducting instruction from leading handbell clinicians out of state to further her skills. Ella served as the Alaska State Chair of the Handbell Musicians of America for two terms since 2012. In 2015 Isle Bells premiered the handbell commission, "Kodiak", written by the leading handbell composer, Jason Krug. She lives with her two sons in Kodiak and is currently pursuing her Masters in Speech and Language Pathology.

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Participants will have the opportunity to take part in the workshop for handbells. The workshop is designed for both new and experienced ringers, as well as conductors. Covered techniques will include:

- Increasing musicality
- Tips for strengthening your ensemble
- Basic ringing techniques for handbells and handchimes
- Importance and overview of damping
- Increasing precision
- Practicing what type of stroke to use for what type of note
- Improving team communication for ringers and conductors
- Tips for marking/preparing music
- Bass bell techniques
- Stopped techniques
- Increasing dramatic effects for performance
- Steps for moving *out* of your comfort zone as a conductor or ringer - you can do it!

Monday, June 19, 2017
St. Mark Lutheran Church
3230 Lake Otis Pkwy
Anchorage, AK 99508
time 5.59 pm – 8:30pm

Registration
Early \$20 per person June 1
Regular \$30 per person June 8
Late \$40 per person June 9

call Linda at 907.310.3468 for registration and payment