

Area 1 Festival Conference 2019 Bronze Ensemble Audition Information

If your ensemble would like to ring as part of the Bronze Division at the 2019 Area 1 Festival Conference (FC19), this article is for you!!! The Bronze division is composed of advanced ringers and is typically the smallest ringing division. Cathy Moklebusst will be directing this division which is represented by ringers with many years of experience, extended sets of bells and chimes, and a desire to ring bronze-level music, which is rated by Handbell Musicians of America as levels 4-6. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a positive experience for all choirs in the Bronze division at FC19 by confirming that all Bronze choirs and individuals share the same desire and ability to achieve the level of musicianship required by the repertoire and the director. The process for FC19 is BRAND NEW, and we hope you are as excited by the changes as we are. Please send any questions you have to chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org.

The first change to the audition requirements is: We recognize that ensembles work very hard to maintain their level of musicianship over the course of their existence, and we believe that if you were good enough in 2017, we trust that you will maintain the same level of preparedness as before. Choirs that attended Festival/Conference 2017 in the Bronze Division will not need to re-audition, unless:

- Your ensemble has a new director since Festival/Conference 2017 OR
- 50% or more of your ensemble has turned over OR
- The Festival/Conference 2017 Clinician recommended that you re-audition

All ensembles wishing to be a part of the FC19 Bronze Division Fill out the *Intent to Submit* form located at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZJV6KN> any time before midnight, January 15, 2019.

In addition, for ensembles that do not meet the above requirements, in order to continue the high level of musicianship while fostering the learning environment that Area 1 is known for, the following criteria for Bronze division choirs will be applied:

1. Each Bronze Ensemble needing to audition must submit a YouTube video of two songs.
 - a. It is preferable to submit at least one piece from the FC19 Bronze repertoire, although not required.
 - b. Audition pieces that are not FC19 repertoire must be Level 4+ or higher.
2. The recording can be either a rehearsal or a performance, but should be of the highest available audio and video quality.
 - a. The recording shall contain both sound and images in which the choir and director are clearly visible. If multiple cameras are not available, the videographer should position the camera to capture both the choir and director at the same time. Different camera angles for each piece are recommended.
 - b. Submitted video will be reviewed by an impartial anonymous committee that will evaluate the performance based on the rubric below. You may wish to review and discuss this rubric with your choir before recording and submitting your audition video.
3. The ringers on the recording **MUST** include all of the ringers who will be registered for FC19, and **MAY** include substitute ringers. When you submit your video, please indicate any substitute ringers featured in the video who will **NOT** be attending FC19.
4. **Substitute ringers or orphan ringers ARE permitted** in this application process and at the Festival. Any ringer not in the video who is planning to attend FC19 should submit an application to be a Bronze Orphan. They can request to be assigned to your ensemble.

5. Audition videos must be uploaded to YouTube. (More information regarding uploading to YouTube will be available online at <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference/>). Videos should be uploaded as soon as you are prepared, but no later than **January 15, 2019**.
6. All choirs and directors will receive emailed feedback from the committee chair no later than **January 31, 2019**. Content will include an overall performance evaluation along with the score breakdown of each rubric category.
7. The lowest score is 4; the highest is 16. A choir must score a minimum of 12 to be recommended for the Bronze division.
8. Should the reviewing committee deem that the submitting choir is not prepared to participate in the Bronze division, the choir may:
 - a. Choose to ring in the Coppers division.
 - b. Be asked to work on specific issues with an Area 1 mentor, and then submit a new video within 4 weeks of notification.

The Bronze repertoire selections for FC17 are:

- *Impressions on Veni Emmanuel* (Cathy Moglebust) handbell score [CGB1001](#)
- *Fly Me to the Moon* (Joel Raney) [MHP2822](#) or [DHP2822](#) digital direct handbell scores
- *Overture to the Barber of Seville* (Rossini/Thompson) [JHS9229](#) Jeffers
- *Four Resonances* (William Payn) MAG46008J AGEHR Publishing

If you *or someone you know* would like to apply to attend FC19 as a Bronze Orphan, please follow these steps as soon as possible:

1. Complete and submit an on-line Bronze Orphan Application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DKSXMCS>. You can also access the application from the FC19 website at: <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference/>.

AND:

2. If you have attended Distinctly Bronze or similar event (Virtuoso, Bay View, etc.) you may submit a copy of the letter of evaluation you received from your most recent conference to chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org

OR

3. Contact two references that have observed you ringing within the past year and ask them to complete the [on-line First-time Attendee Recommendation](#) which can also be accessed from the FC19 website at: <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference/>.

Please note that no applications will be considered until ALL OF THE ABOVE FORMS & RECOMMENDATIONS are received by the bronze orphan coordinator.

FC 2017 Bronze Division Audition Rubric

| <i>Pts</i> | Musicianship | Tempo | Contact | Assignments |
|------------|--|--|---|--|
| 4 | Pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression are all correct throughout both pieces. | The repertoire is performed at the tempo marking indicated by the composer | The choir and the conductor have a high degree of contact. The choir is responsive to the conductor's gestures with the intended musical results. | All ringers are playing bell assignments that enable musical success. |
| 3 | Some errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression. Only a few ringers make errors. | The repertoire is performed at a slightly different tempo marking than indicated by the composer. | The choir & conductor have a moderate amount of contact. The choir is somewhat responsive to the conductor's gestures. | Most ringers are playing bell assignments that enable musical success. |
| 2 | Many errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression. Several ringers make errors. | The repertoire is performed at a substantially different tempo marking than indicated by the composer. | The choir seldom responds to the conductor's gestures. | Several ringers are playing inappropriate bell assignments and appear unable to resolve some passages. |
| 1 | Errors in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression are pervasive in the presentation. | The repertoire is performed with no regard to the tempo markings indicated by the composer. | The choir never responds to the conductor's gestures. | The assignment of bells impedes a successful and musical performance |