



Promoting musical excellence through the medium of handbells

Dear Ringer,

Thank you for your interest in ringing with Bells of the Lakes. This letter will give you some information about the audition process and schedule.

You will find the following information online at www.bellsofthelakes.org on our Auditions page:

1. **Application:** This will help us to get to know you and give us an idea of your ringing abilities prior to the audition.
2. **Calendar:** Our current rehearsal and performances.
3. **Responsibilities of Membership:** All members of the ensemble will be required to sign and return this form to the manager of Bells of the Lakes at the start of each ringing year.

As a prospective ringer, your handbells skills and your musicianship will be important. Also important are your attitude, attendance and preparation.

There will be 2 parts to the audition process.

Individual Audition: **A)** Musicianship, technical ability and flexibility will be assessed. You will be asked to demonstrate sight reading ability, perform bell Techniques (weaving, four in hand (optional), etc.), read and execute rhythmic passages, etc. **B)** You will meet with the Bells of the Lakes Chair and Manager to discuss Ringer Responsibilities, calendar, etc. Please bring your calendar to this meeting and be prepared to discuss schedules.

Group Audition: You will be observed as you relate to the entire ensemble. Focus will be on your ability to play individual parts correctly while interacting with the director and listening to the overall group for a “musical” performance. Dynamics, bringing out melody, phrasing will all be included.

We all want to achieve the highest goals but acknowledge that we all make mistakes as ringers. We help each other to learn and grow through the process of getting ready for concerts, etc.

For more information or to arrange an audition, please contact the director, Bill Mathis at (612) 435-1319 or send us an email at info@bellsofthelakes.org

Sincerely,

Bells of the Lakes