

Joyful Sound Community Handbell Choir

Position: Music Director

Reports to: Joyful Sound Board of Directors

Location: Indianapolis, Indiana

Status: Part-time/Contract (rehearsal-based, with concert and preparation duties)

About Joyful Sound

Joyful Sound is an advanced, auditioned community handbell ensemble with over 25 years of music-making and camaraderie. We are a dedicated group of volunteer handbell musicians committed to musical excellence, teamwork, and bringing the art of handbell ringing to a wider audience. As we enter a new chapter, we seek a Music Director who will build on our strong foundation while inspiring fresh creativity and growth.

Our Mission: To promote the art of English handbell ringing through performance, education and community outreach.

Position Summary

The **Music Director** provides artistic and musical leadership for Joyful Sound. This individual plans and directs rehearsals and performances, selects repertoire, and fosters a supportive, collaborative, and musically challenging environment for all ringers. The Director should have a deep knowledge of handbells, effective conducting and rehearsal skills, and the ability to motivate and inspire.

Key Responsibilities

Artistic and Musical Leadership

- Plan and conduct weekly rehearsals that are organized, productive, and engaging
- Select concert repertoire that is musically diverse, appropriately challenging, and artistically cohesive
- Plan concert programs and themes, reflecting both tradition and creative innovation
- Assign ringing positions based on individual strengths and support membership through an audition process
- Prepare thoroughly for rehearsals, including detailed score study and attention to musical expression, technique, and ensemble cohesion
- Maintain high musical standards while creating an encouraging and respectful atmosphere

Musician Development

- Provide constructive feedback to ringers with respect and clarity
- Help ringers grow in their individual and ensemble skills through targeted rehearsal strategies
- Support opportunities for ringers to take leadership roles (e.g., section leaders, concert speakers, logistics)

Community Engagement

- Represent Joyful Sound in the broader handbell and local music community
- Explore opportunities to introduce handbells to new audiences through outreach, concerts, and collaborations
- Work with the Board on recruitment initiatives to maintain and expand membership

Collaboration and Administration

- Communicate effectively and respectfully with the Board and ringers
- Incorporate feedback from the group to enhance rehearsals and performances
- Attend Board meetings as requested to coordinate concert planning and ensemble operations
- Participate as part of the team in setup, teardown, and group logistics when possible

Qualifications

Required:

- Strong musicianship and conducting ability, with experience leading or performing in handbell ensembles
- Deep understanding of handbell techniques, musical interpretation, and notation
- Demonstrated ability to prepare and lead effective rehearsals
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work with a range of personalities and skill levels, with a focus on relationship-building and fostering open lines of communication and constructive feedback with ringers
- Commitment to collaboration, mutual respect, and community-building

Preferred:

- Experience directing community choirs or volunteer ensembles
- Familiarity with a broad range of handbell repertoire and arranging styles
- Involvement in the local, national and global handbell community and interest in outreach or education
- Creativity in concert programming and presentation
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and confident stage presence to ensure courteous, professional, and engaging interactions with audiences, the media, and community members

Personal Qualities

The ideal candidate will be:

- **Prepared and organized** – arrives ready to make the most of rehearsal time
- **Encouraging and positive** – motivates through support and positive critique
- **Musically insightful** – brings fresh ideas while honoring the group's legacy
- **Collaborative** – values the voices and experience of the ringers
- **Visionary** – helps Joyful Sound continue to grow artistically and reach new audiences

Time Commitment

- Weekly rehearsals (currently Monday evenings, late August–May/June)
- Currently about 10 concerts per year (with potential for change)
- Preparation time outside rehearsal hours
- Occasional board meetings and community events

Compensation

Compensation is a stipend commensurate with experience and includes rehearsal, concert, and preparation activities as determined by the Board.

To Apply

Please submit:

- A letter of interest describing your background and approach to directing a community handbell ensemble
- A résumé highlighting relevant musical and directing experience
- (Optional) Links to video recordings of rehearsals or performances you have directed

Send materials to **applications@joyfulsound.info** by **January 19, 2026**.