

The Westminster Ringers, Inc., a Maryland Community Handbell Organization

Mission: The Westminster Ringers Inc., a Maryland Community handbell Organization, promotes the musical art of handbell ringing.

Objectives:

- (1) to attract, organize, educate and rehearse handbell ringers in all aspects of handbell music;
- (2) to encourage the public appreciation of and interest in handbell music through performances and educational workshops;
- (3) to function as a non-profit organization with charitable and civic endeavors.

About Westminster Ringers, Inc.: The Corporation was formed in September of 1997 to provide gifted area musicians the opportunity to play advanced handbell repertoire at the highest possible level of musical sensitivity and technical clarity. In addition, the corporation seeks to advance the knowledge, awareness and viability of the art of handbell ringing beyond that normally available to members of volunteer church and school groups. In 2010, The Corporation expanded the number of ringing ensembles to include an intermediate ensemble and smaller ensembles. Westminster Ringers, Inc. owns 85 Malmark handbells (spanning 7 octaves) and 7 octaves of Malmark Choirchimes, 2 octaves of Malmark Cymbells and assorted percussion instruments – making for one of the largest collections of bell and chime instruments in the Mid-Atlantic area.

About Westminster Ringers: The Westminster Ringers is the advanced ensemble of Westminster Ringers, Inc. Membership in this ensemble is by audition every June. The Music Director accepts between 15 & 18 members each year. The Westminster Ringers usually ring level 3 through 6 repertoire. Besides performing on the sponsored Winter & Spring concerts, this ensemble performs many more concerts throughout the East Coast and presents many of the workshops for Westminster Ringers, Inc. In 2010, the ensemble was honored to be selected to perform a **Showcase Concert at the Handbell Musicians of America's Pinnacle event** in Nashville, TN. In 2016, the ensemble was selected to perform the closing concert at the Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar.

About Accelerando: Accelerando is the intermediate ensemble of Westminster Ringers, Inc. Membership in this ensemble is by audition every June. The Music Director accepts between 11 & 15 members each year. Accelerando usually ring level 2 through 4 repertoire. Besides performing on the sponsored Winter & Spring concerts, this ensemble performs at least one other concert per semester around the mid-atlantic region.

About Small Ensembles: Intermezzo and 4-tissimo are the small ensembles of Westminster Ringers, Inc. These groups consist of 4 to 6 ringers playing on a small range of our handbells. Membership in these groups is limited to current ringing members of Westminster Ringers, Inc. These groups perform concerts when the full ensembles are not available or that the venue cannot accommodate the full ensemble.

About Non-Ringing Members: For those individuals who would like to support Westminster Ringers, Inc. and for some reason cannot be a ringing member, you may join Westminster Ringers, Inc. as a Non-Ringing Member giving you the opportunity to support the musical art of handbell ringing through your time and funds.

Handbell Education: A **major characteristic** that distinguishes Westminster Ringers, Inc. from a number of other high level performance ensembles is the importance placed on Handbell Education. Each year, the organization offers workshops or festivals for all levels of handbell ringers. We will even come to your location.

Community/Professional Groups: Westminster Ringers, Inc is designated as a Community/Professional Group by the Handbell Musicians of America – a classification held by less than 1% of the member choirs/ensembles on the Guild's current roster.

Affiliations and/or Funding:

Handbell Musicians of America
Carroll County Arts Alliance (CCAA)
Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC)



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