

CLASSES AND CLINICIANS

Workshops / Culture Classes

※Information for the MIRAI Choir is listed on the bottom of the page

A Session A: Tuesday, August 13 13:40- or 14:55-

Each class will be offered twice, back to back. Time slots will be listed when you receive your symposium packet on the first day.

A-1	Traditional Chinese Paper Cutting
<p>Paper-cutting is a traditional art form that uses paper as a medium to capture cultural themes through cutting and carving with scissors or knives. The art of paper-cutting encompasses a wide range of themes, such as home decoration, wishes, New Year blessings, weddings, birthdays, and prayers. In this workshop, each participant will create two paper-cutting pieces: one using the traditional cutting style that represents luck, happiness, and peace, and another using the Bell cutting style, which will be designed by the presenter.</p>	
<p>Alice Lee Oi Shan (Hong Kong)</p> <p>Alice received her Bachelor of Education and Master of Arts in Music in Hong Kong. She has been ringing handbells with Ms Emily Li since 2002 and was a member of HKHA Bell Allure Ensemble. Alice conducts her primary school's handchime and belleplate ensembles since their establishment in 2005. She has participated in the International Handbell Symposiums since 2008, and serves as the cultural workshop clinician. Additionally, Alice is passionate about choral singing and handcrafting.</p>	

A-2	Phrasing and Articulation for Handbells
<p>Are you ready to dive into the art of phrasing and articulation? Discover the secrets of efficient body control to enhance your bell performance with us! Join our workshop, where we'll showcase various strategies and practices to bring musical expressions to life through your bells. Get ready for a sprinkle of performance magic that will elevate your skills to new heights!</p>	
<p>Seiichi Takasu (Japan)</p> <p>Seiichi Takasu is a music teacher at Kanto Gakuin Junior and Senior High School. He is also the conductor of the Kanto Gakuin Handbell Choir, and board member of the Handbell Ringers of Japan.</p>	

A-3	Reading for Korean Handbell Music
<p>This is time to play well-known Korean songs on handbells. You will have a new experience playing a variety of songs with handbells, including Hymn, folk songs and more.</p>	
<p>Jeong Soon Park (Korea)</p> <p>Jeong-soon Park currently serves as the vice president of the Korea Handbell Association and as a lecturer in the association and holds Master's degree in performing arts and opera conducting. She teaches handbells in elementary, middle, and high schools, and is a handbell instructor at Jeju Multicultural Arts School.</p> <p>She conducted massed ringing at 2012 International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool, UK, and served as the Preparations Committee Chairman for the 16th International Handbell Symposium in Jeju, South Korea.</p>	

A-4	Experience SINGAPORE
<p>SINGAPORE, City-State-Country. PASSION MADE POSSIBLE. 42km E-W, 34km N-S, and island packed with 5.5 million people. It is a melting pot of cultures, races, cuisines and religions.</p> <p>Hear about the annual Foreign Guest Ringers Project... Hear about the Asia Pacific Handbell Festival 2025... Be prepared for 2028 eventually...</p> <p>Experience the people, the cultures, the music, the food, its sights and sounds, and of course, its handbells, in this EXPERIENCE SINGAPORE presentation. With the future symposium coming to Singapore in the "blink of an eye", this session will showcase our little red dot island of Singapore, thru slides, videos and oral descriptions. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS NOT REQUIRED.</p>	

Lyn Yap & Damien Lim (Singapore)

LYN YAP is the President of the Handbell Ringers of Singapore (HRSG). Fact: Lyn was the 1st school teacher in Singapore, to start up Singapore's 1st handbell team in schools, back in the mid-1980s. She was a ringer with Singapore's 1st handbell group: Singapore Handbell Choir.

DAMIEN LIM is the Executive Director of the HRSG. Fact: Born into a family of musicians. His training is in percussion and Yamaha Electone. If he wasn't a musician, he had wanted always to be a tour leader/guide. He loves to eat (esp: Yakimiku), travel, and working with youths. www.damienlim.weebly.com

A-5 Folk Dances and Singing Games Across America

These dances and a little background on the dances will inform the participants about different places, early music, and a bit of culture. The class involves singing and dancing.

Kaethe Grabenhofer (USA)

Kaethe Grabenhofer has been playing handbells for over 35 years. She rang with the Alleluia Ringers at Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin, USA under the direction of Dr. Behnke. Later, she rang under Dr. Behnke for 16 years with the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble. (MHE) Grabenhofer continued as the artistic director of MHE for 4 years. She has taken the master conducting class with Dr. Payne, and attended 2 other International Handbell Symposiums (Australia, and Orlando). In Wisconsin she taught (K-8) general music for the past 25 years using the Orff-Schulwerk approach and directed a children's handbell ensemble. As a presenter she has presented at the Illinois Music Education Conference, National Orff Conference, Area 7 Handbell Festival Conferences, and National Handbell Seminar. For many years she performed traditional folk dances with the Pommersche Tanzdeel Friestadt, a German dance group in Wisconsin. Her educational background includes an MA in Music Education from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota and a BA in education and music from Concordia University in Wisconsin. She holds a master teacher's license in Wisconsin, Orff Master's certificate, Kodaly levels and is a National Board-Certified teacher. Her desire of life-long learning has taken her to Estonia, Switzerland, Austria, Africa, and China.

A-6 THE TECHNIQUE OF ENGLISH OFF TABLE RINGING

This is a practical opportunity to learn about the traditional 'Off Table' English ringing technique. Participants will see how weaving, passing, damping and other techniques are used with this method of 'backringing'.

Sandra Winter (UK)

Sandra graduated from Trinity College of Music, London and has taught all age groups from pre-school and nursery through to adult, and been involved in school, church and community handbell ringing for fifty years. She has directed The Wandle Ringers for thirty eight years, and is the joint conductor of the South East Region Bell Orchestra. She gives concerts, demonstrations and talks to many groups and societies as a solo and duet ringer. She is a published composer and arranger of handbell music, and regularly takes classes and conducts, both in the UK and at International Symposia, where she has been the HRGB massed ringing conductor on four occasions. Sandra was honoured to conduct Festival choirs at both the 30th and 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Handbell Ringers of Japan. Sandra was the National Secretary of HRGB for sixteen years and was conferred Honorary Life Member in 2011. She is a past Chair and current Secretary of the South East Region. Her 'day job' is with Bells of Whitechapel Ltd.

A-7 Orihana

In Japan, there is a long-standing tradition of origami and kirigami, reflecting a delicate appreciation for "paper." Combining the art of folding, cutting, and shaping a single sheet of paper, you can create beautiful paper flower diffusers, known as Orihana. In this workshop, you will craft your own flower cards and chopstick rests using pre-cut paper. Discover new possibilities through the art of paper and create something uniquely beautiful. Join us and immerse yourself in the enchanting world of Orihana!

Toshiko Koumura (Japan)

At an event led by Orihana founder Motoki Mitani, she encountered the mesmerizing world of Orihana. Captivated by the stunning, three-dimensional paper flowers, she immediately sought to become his apprentice. Through dedicated participation in Mitani's workshops, she earned the "Orihana Beginner Instructor" certification. Now, she collaborates with two other instructors to host monthly workshops in Tokyo. She also brings the beauty of Orihana to welfare facilities and intimate gatherings, passionately working to spread this unique art form.

A-8	Canadian Folk Songs
<p>This workshop will allow participants a first glance, and sight read, at a collection of Canadian Folk Songs arranged for handbells/handchimes by Canadian arranger and composer, Craig Cassils. This collection was published in the Fall of 2021 by From the Top Music Publishing Co. and features Level 2-3, 3 octaves arrangements of Canadian Folk Songs from all over Canada. Come on a journey to Canada, complete with pictures, history, geography and music!</p>	
<p>Patsy Andrews-Vert (Canada)</p> <p>Patsy Andrews-Vert, received a Bachelor of Music Education from Brandon University (Brandon MB) in 1984. She also holds an Associate in Flute Performance from the Western Board of Music (1986). Patsy has taught students of all instrumental music levels in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba. She recently retired from teaching in South-Central Manitoba. She is an active clinician, adjudicator and conductor in handbells and band. Patsy is a Past-Chair of the Handbell Musicians of Canada, and President of the Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers. She directs the Trinity Lutheran Handbells in Starbuck MB and plays with the quartet Ring Out! and the community ensemble Rochester Ringers based in Winnipeg MB.</p>	

A-9	Teaching Handbells to Individuals with Hearing Loss
<p>Handbell and handbell ringing is a very visual art form. In this session, Wendy Cheng will do a brief presentation on how to teach ringing skills to hard of hearing and deaf individuals. The outline of the session is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Characteristics of hearing loss b) The limitations of hearing devices in ensemble music making and the use of assistive listening devices c) Discuss tips to overcome some of the limitations 	
<p>Wendy Cheng (USA)</p> <p>Wendy Cheng is a fervent advocate for people with hearing loss and is an avid amateur musician. She started piano at the age of 7, picked up the violin during her second year of college and currently plays viola. She was introduced to handbells in 2014 and started a handbell choir at the federal agency where she currently works. When not ringing or directing her handbell choir, she enjoys taking music theory lessons at a nearby community music school. She is also the founder of a charity/online community called Association of Adult Musicians with Hearing Loss.</p>	

A-10	Experiencing the beauty of wearing a YUKATA
<p>Join to learn about the culture and history of Japanese clothing, and then have the chance to try on a yukata yourself. We'll guide you through the process of selecting and preparing a yukata, as well as the basics of proper dressing. Our instructor will carefully explain each step, and you'll receive hands-on support as you put on a yukata over your normal clothes. Please wear light clothing for comfort. By dressing in a yukata, you'll appreciate the charm of Japanese culture and enjoy the fun of styling. Let's learn and have fun together and open the door to a new world of Japanese tradition!</p>	
<p>Mayumi Suzuki (Japan)</p> <p>Japanese culture. This time, she will be providing instruction on how to wear a yukata, a traditional Japanese dress, alongside her daughter, who is an active participant as a traditional Japanese dressmaker in Kyoto.</p>	

B Session B : Wednesday, August 14 13 : 40- or 14 : 55-

Each class will be offered twice, back to back. Time slots will be listed when you receive your symposium packet on the first day.

B-1	Finger Weaving ~ Learning a Traditional Canadian Artform
<p>Finger weaving or "tissage aux doigts" is an art form used mostly to create belts, sashes, straps, and other similar items through a non-loom weaving process. Many Indigenous cultures worldwide have developed their own variations. In Canada and specifically in Québec, it is known as "ceinture fléchée" and is easily recognizable by its signature diagonal lines or arrowhead patterns. With deep roots from the First Nations Peoples across our country literally woven with the influence of French Voyageurs of the fur trade, the ceinture fléchée is a special part of our Canadian heritage. This cultural workshop proposes to present a brief history of the artform and to invite participants to learn the basic concepts of finger weaving by creating a friendship bracelet or bookmark.</p>	

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin (Canada)

Although born in Osaka, Japan, Emmy immigrated to Canada at a young age and grew up near Toronto. After high school, she moved to Québec City to immerse herself in French. She not only became trilingual within a few months, she also studied the ceinture fléchée with Master Weaver, the late Mme Véronique Hamelin. Emmy has spent most of her professional life as a francophone and has also embraced many cultural aspects such as French-Canadian giguing and raising two bilingual sons. A classically-trained pianist, Emmy is always fascinated in activities that involve digital dexterity (such as handbell ringing) and looks forward to sharing her passion for finger weaving with all.

B-2 | **Ghibli Festival**

From beloved animations to the latest Academy Award-winning masterpiece! Embark on an enchanting journey into the world of Studio Ghibli with us, as we play the iconic music from “My Neighbor Totoro”, “Whisper of the Heart”, “Princess Mononoke”, “Spirited Away”, “Howl’s Moving Castle,”, “The Wind Rises”, and “Ponyo” together! Calling all Ghibli fans who adore handbells – let’s immerse ourselves in the magical realm of Ghibli movies through the beauty of bells!

Kazuko Okamoto (Japan)

Kazuko Okamoto, born in Kobe, graduated from Kyoto City University of Arts with a degree in composition. She has published numerous compositions and arrangements for handbells, with her adaptations ranging from famous classical pieces to original compositions, earning admiration from handbell ringers all over the world. Currently, she is the conductor for Bellringers Sara. Also as a conductor for several teams, she organizes concerts and events, wholeheartedly enjoying handbells with fellow bellringers.

B-3 | **RINGING FROM NUMBER NOTATIONS**

In the UK a variety of ways of writing handbell music developed, including several different number notations. These notations are just a different form of musical code. In this class we will explore some of the number notations through hands-on ringing of a range of traditional and modern pieces.

Martin Winter (UK)

Martin was introduced to Handbells in 1980 and his role in the early years was as an all purpose ringer in a variety of positions. In 2000 the purchase of a 5 octave set of bells allowed him to discover and develop his real ringing passion as a bass ringer. He rings with The Wandle Ringers and HRGB South East Region Bell Orchestra. He has directed Sanderstead All Saints Ringers, his church handbell team, since 1997. Martin has been a member of HRGB South East region committee for over 25 years and is a past Chair. He was a member of the HRGB National Executive Committee for 16 years, and is Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2026 Symposium.

B-4 | **Beautiful Island, Formosa Lovely Country, Taiwan**

Enjoy the beauty of of Formosa and Taiwan. A short trip to experience the culture and scenery of Taiwan.

Bank Wu (Taiwan)

President of the Taiwan Handbell Association

B-5 | **Traveling Bells**

Ready to dive into the captivating world of “Change-ringing” techniques? Join us for a thrilling workshop where we’ll explore this unique technique and your assigned note changes constantly while playing a single piece of music! Picture the bell you ring as it sets off on a whimsical journey, and its musical path unfolding in the hands of fellow participants. Who knows where it’ll end up? It’s an exhilarating adventure of melodies and surprises, and we’d love for you to be part of it!

Tomoko Tanimoto (Japan)

Since owning a personal 5 octave set in 1992, Tomoko Tanimoto has been active as a ringer, instructor, and arranger. Tomoko has hosted workshops and online courses at events such as the Asia Pacific Handbell Festival, International Handbell Symposium, HMA National Seminar, and the HRJ Online Seminar. She was invited to adjudicate in Hong Kong. Additionally, she has been invited by the Taiwan Handbell Association to perform with her family, cherishing her “originality” in all her activities.

B-6	Communicating Through Sounds
<p>Join us for a delightful rhythm and sound workshop where we'll enhance our sight-reading skills and strengthen our bond as a group! Handbells are renowned for fostering teamwork, with "communication" being a vital component as ringers engage with each other through playing bells. We warmly welcome participants from diverse backgrounds to join us for this enriching experience!</p>	
<p>Yasuko Okada (Japan)</p> <p>Yasuko Okada graduated from Aichi University of the Arts, majoring in piano. She received the Gifu City Arts and Culture Encouragement Award (Handbell) in 2013. Currently, she is a professor at the Department of Early Childhood Education at Chubu Gakuin University. It marks the 30th anniversary since she first encountered handbells. She has participated two International Handbell Symposiums in Japan. Additionally, she published research papers titled "Self-transformation in Handbell Performance Experience" in 2014, "The Influence of Handbell Performance Experience on Adult Life" in 2016, and "Educational Considerations in the Practice Environment for Handbell Performance Instructors" in 2018.</p>	

B-7	Mastering Mallet Technique
<p>In this course, we'll delve into the art of playing handbells with mallets. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced musician, this class will unlock the secrets to creating beautiful melodies and harmonies with mallets. By the end of this course, you'll be able to: 1: Understand the fundamentals of mallet technique. 2: Execute different grips and strokes effectively. 3: Develop precision, control, and expressiveness in your malleting. 4: Apply these techniques to various musical pieces. Registrants should bring their own mallets.</p>	
<p>Greig Ashurst (USA)</p> <p>For nearly thirty years, Greig Ashurst has developed an impressive career in many facets of music, technology, and educational philosophy across America. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, he has served as a music educator in public and private schools and universities in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas. Currently, Mr. Ashurst is Instrumental Music Director and Technology Director at Cathedral-Carmel School where he was selected as the 2016-2017 "Teacher of the Year", an honor for which he was selected twice previously in Louisiana and North Carolina. Greig also serves as Youth Music and Instrumental Director and staff arranger at Asbury UMC of Lafayette, Louisiana. Mr. Ashurst maintains a very industrious schedule as a guest conductor/clinician, performer, and consultant throughout the United States in music and technology.</p>	

B-8	Preventing Injuries from Handbell Ringing
<p>Handbells are widely enjoyed by people of all ages, from children to adults. However, they can sometimes lead to strains and injuries. Despite several preventive measures, such as avoiding holding heavy bells by hand, injuries still occur frequently. Therefore, it is crucial to learn about basic postures, such as proper standing techniques, to prevent typical injuries that can happen while playing handbells. In this workshop, we will practice stretching techniques to help prevent injuries while playing.</p>	
<p>Hidetaka Yuasa (Japan)</p> <p>Hidetaka Yuasa began ringing handbells at Kanto Gakuin Junior and Senior High School, continuing his passion at O.C.C. He graduated from the International University of Health and Welfare and obtained a license as a physical therapist. As a physical therapist, he proposes strategies for preventing injuries among high school, university, and other community handbell teams. Moreover, Hidetaka has been hosting workshops in Japan for several years, incorporating stretches for warm-up and refreshment purposes."</p>	

B-9	Explore the art of "Tsumami Zaiku"
<p>Join us for an informal craft class where we'll explore the art of "Tsumami Zaiku", a traditional Japanese craft dating back to the Edo period. Using scraps of kimono fabric, we'll learn how to fold and gather small pieces to create beautiful motifs inspired by nature throughout the seasons. No experience necessary! You'll be able to take your unique creations home to use as decorative accents or even hair accessories. Let's enjoy crafting together as we delve into the world of kimono materials and traditional culture.</p>	
<p>Mayumi Suzuki (Japan)</p> <p>Mayumi Suzuki is based in Makinohara City, Shizuoka Prefecture. She is an instructor who organizes events promoting Japanese culture, including tsumami kanzashi. For this workshop, she will be hosting an event where she instructs on how to make tsumami kanzashi, with her daughter, who is actively participating as a traditional Japanese dressmaker in Kyoto. Alongside her tsumami kanzashi activities, she occasionally holds karate classes to stay active and engaged in the community. Let's enjoy making tsumami kanzashi together!</p>	

B-10	How to Chime
A comprehensive and innovative class on how the Choirchimes should be used correctly, musically.	
Malmark	

B-11	Malmark-Maintenace
This workshop is aimed at learning how to care for handbells from Malmark. We will explain the basic structure and functions of Malmark handbells, demonstrate daily care and maintenance methods, and introduce the recommended schedule for regular maintenance.	
Malmark	

C Session C : Friday, August 16 14 : 25- or 15 : 40-

Each class will be offered twice, back to back. Time slots will be listed when you receive your symposium packet on the first day.

C-1	Origami wreath for Hina-Dolls
"Hinamatsuri," also known as Girls' Day, is a traditional Japanese holiday where families decorate with "hina dolls" to wish for their daughters' healthy growth and happiness. The dolls symbolize protection for girls and represent parents' wishes for their daughter's well-being. During Hinamatsuri, it's customary to offer peach blossoms, hina-arare (sweet rice crackers), and hishi mochi (diamond-shaped rice cakes). Some families also hold celebratory meals or gatherings between March 2nd and 3rd, serving dishes like chirashi sushi, sweet sake, and clam soup.	
Yukiko Suzuki (Japan) Vice-chairman of HRJ. 14th International Handbell Symposium, Massed Ringing Conductor. Yukiko has been commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to serve as a welfare & children's committee member and social welfare committee member for 30 years. She introduced this class at the 14th International Handbell Symposium in Osaka and this will be the second time to offer this class.	

C-2	Let's enjoy Japanese summer dance BON-ODORI with handbell music!!
BON-ODORI is a popular summer festival dance in Japan. Simple repetitive dance moves that is easy to learn by all ages along the music creates an exciting ambience. Let's enjoy BON-ODORI, this time, with Beethoven's Ninth Symphony arranged by John Behnke! You will get to ring and dance in this 'FUN-tastic' class!!	
Miki Nakao (Japan) Miki Nakao graduated from the Yamaha Music Academy with a degree in Electronic Organ. He has extensive experience performing, conducting, and teaching in Japan and abroad. He is a member of the Japan Music Education Society. Part-time lecturer at Toyo Eiwa University. He also writes music score reviews for Seibunsha International on Facebook, and his arrangements of "Glenn Miller Classics" and other works have been published and performed in many countries.	

C-3	Handbell Cantopop
Get ready to discover the captivating world of Cantopop music, which has taken Hong Kong by storm! Experience the beauty of the unique 9-tone phonology of Cantonese, which makes Cantopop music so captivating and lyrical. Join us for an exciting workshop where you will be introduced to a series of exclusive and unpublished Cantopop music pieces arranged by the members of Bellaholics. You will get the chance to learn more about the background of each piece to fully immerse yourself in the music.	
Bellaholics HK (Hong Kong) Bellaholics was founded in 2021 by a group of young handbell enthusiasts who all carry rich performing experiences by learning in the Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble under Miss Emily Li. We regularly conduct performances and post ringing videos online to engage our audience, and the Cantopop music our members arrange are always the audience favorite.	

C-4	THE HISTORY OF BELLRINGNG IN UK
The workshop will detail the various historical stages of handbell ringing in the UK.	
Keith Rowland (UK)	
Keith was introduced to handbells in 1980. Hamilton Ringers owned a 5 octave set of Whitechapel bells that had been cast for the Exeter Symposium. He rang bass bells until he was appointed leader of the group. In 2000 he formed the Rowland Ringers ensemble using a 5 octave set of Malmark bells and chimes. He is joint conductor of the South East Region Bell Orchestra. In 2008 he was appointed massed ringing conductor for HRGB at the International Symposium in Orlando, USA. He is a past Chair of the South East Region and is now Chair of HRGB, He served on the HRGB National Executive Committee for 16 years.	

C-5	Line Dancing for FUN!
This will be a fun and light-hearted dancing class. We will learn several iconic line dances you might see at an American wedding, saloon, or other celebrations. No dance experience needed, just a smile and willingness to kick up your heels.	
Brenda Austin (USA)	
Brenda E. Austin is a dynamic and energetic conductor, clinician and composer. She is the Music Director for the Embellish handbell ensemble and First United Methodist Church of Eaton Rapids. In 2019, she joined Hope Publishing as Editor. Brenda studied Vocal Performance at Western Michigan University and has an MM in Choral Conducting from UMKC. Dance has been a long-time hobby and opportunity for FUN.	

C-6	The Art of Arranging Pop Music for Handbells
This class will explore various ways to bring popular music to the handbell medium. The class will take time to analyze different songs, discuss what pop music would or would not work on handbells, and ways to incorporate techniques and other musical ideas.	
Nick Hanson (USA)	
Nick graduated from Concordia University, Irvine, CA, and soon after began teaching handbells at The Potomac School, a private school just outside Washington, DC where he teaches six handbell classes to students aged 9-18, as well as offers private handbells lessons. Nick also conducts handbells at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Nick is a sought-after faculty, clinician, and conductor for workshops and events around the world having served in this role throughout the United States and in England, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. He was the first-ever associate conductor for the Handbell Musicians of America (HMA) event, Distinctly Bronze in 2015; was co-conductor for the HMA All-Star Choir in 2018; and has twice lead HMA's Distinctly Teen ensemble in 2015 and 2023. Nick is also excited to announce that he has been selected to conduct Distinctly Bronze East in 2025. Nick has written articles for the national handbell magazine Overtones, has composed and arranged over 100 pieces of handbell music, and is co-host of the podcast Two Tacos High: A Handbell Podcast.	

C-7	Australian Animal Rounds
Australia has a great variety of very distinctive animals - the koala, echidna, kangaroo, emu, kookaburra, currawongs etc. The sounds and actions of these animals provide the basis of this workshop - based on a book of such songs produced for the Australian bicentenary in 1988 by Australian author and musician, Patricia Beaton. Participants will be invited to learn and present these very recognizable animals by singing, movement and percussion.	
Kevinwood Bells (Australia)	
Kevinwood Bells are an ensemble of the Kevinwood Orchestra of Eastwood - a Sydney suburb. As keen members of the HSA they have travelled to most capital cities in Australia as well as various locations in New Zealand. They play in either off-table style or - at more casual functions - they play numbered music four-in-hand. They have a junior set of members who enjoy singing these rounds and audiences readily join in the rounds.	

C-8	Just 2s and 3s: Rhythms Made Easy
Complex rhythms are easier once you realize that almost all rhythm is just a grouping of either 2 or 3. That crazy syncopated 16th-note pattern? Just groups of 2s and 3s. That awkward 7/8 time signature? Just groups of 2s or 3s. Once you can identify these groupings, deciphering complex rhythms and time signatures becomes much easier. The instructor will supply music packets. Attendees should bring their own mallets.	

Brian Seemann (USA)

Brian Seemann is the director of handbell ensembles at the Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, and the music director of Virginia Bronze. He has been music director of the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble and the New England Ringers, and has performed with Sonos Handbell Ensemble, Back Bay Ringers, and the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble. Brian is also a published composer and has served as faculty, clinician, and conductor around the US as well as at several International Handbell Symposiums. His ensembles have been invited to perform at Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar three times in 2016, 2019, and 2024. In addition to being a ringing member, he also serves on the board of Sonos Handbell Ensemble. Along with Nick Hanson, Brian is the co-host of Two Tacos High, a handbell podcast.

C-9 | **JAPANESE TEA PARTY to enjoy Japanese tea**

In Japan, the term "tea" often evokes images of the esteemed Tea Ceremony, a tradition with a history spanning over 1200 years. Yet, here in Shizuoka, the heart of Japan's tea cultivation, we offer a more laid-back introduction – a one-hour seminar filled with interesting insights and fun facts about green tea, followed by a delightful afternoon tea party. We invite you to an enjoyable seminar where the pleasures of green tea can be appreciated in a leisurely atmosphere.

Keisuke Kimura (Japan)

Keisuke Kimura is a "senshoku," a master barista who blends and prepares Japanese tea. Having won the highest gold award three times in Japanese tea competitions, which showcase his finesse in tea preparation, Kimura received the Fine Product Award in the deep-steamed green tea category at the Japanese Tea Awards 2023.

C-10 | **Schulmerich-Maintenance**

This workshop is aimed at learning how to care for handbells from Schulmerich. We will explain the basic structure and functions of Schulmerich handbells, demonstrate daily care and maintenance methods, and introduce the recommended schedule for regular maintenance.

Scheulmerich

MIRAI Choir (Symposium Choir)

- ※Please note that if you select to join the MIRAI Choir, you will NOT be able to attend ANY workshop classes.
- ※The MIRAI Choir will meet for six hours in total (ALL WORKSHOP Sessions)
- ※Each person will need to purchase music that will be used. Titles to be announced at a later date.
- ※Bell assignments will be decided/allocated at the first rehearsal.

S-1	MIRAIクワイア Intermediate1
Emily Li (HAHK)	
<p>Emily Li stands as a globally acclaimed handbell virtuoso hailing from Hong Kong. She is an accomplished conductor, composer, soloist, and educator with over 30 years of experience. Her fascination with handbells ignited in 1986, sparking a deep passion for this heavenly instrument. Since 2000, Emily has dedicated years to honing her handbell dexterities in the United States under the guidance of esteemed masters in the field. She is the Artistic Director of the Hong Kong Handbell Academy, Hong Kong Youth Handbell Ensemble and Gloves Handbell, Chairperson of the Handbell Association of Hong Kong, and the Principal Guest Conductor of the Ministry of Bellz in Singapore.</p>	

S-2	MIRAIクワイア Intermediate2
Carlos Rivera (HMA)	
<p>Regarded as one of Puerto Rico's foremost handbell masters, Carlos has had a fruitful career of more than thirty years as director of various handbell programs in Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Colombia. Carlos received a Bachelor of Arts with a major in education and music from the University of Puerto Rico. He later received his master's degree in music education with an emphasis on choral music at Florida State University's College of Music in Tallahassee, Florida. He is an active handbell clinician and has inspired many people to become involved in handbell ringing and musicianship. He describes himself as a handbell missionary, in his belief that "there are so many people who have not been able to be in contact with this wonderful instrument; once they do, they'll fall in love with it". He served two years as an at-large member of HMA National Board and now is the HMA Area 4 Chair-Elect which serves Georgia, South Carolina, Florida in the USA, The Bahamas, Puerto Rico and de USA Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. Carlos currently works as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, music professor and choral conductor at the University of Puerto Rico-Carolina.</p>	

S-3	MIRAIクワイア Advanced1
Toshikazu Yoshida (HRJ)	
<p>After graduating from Toho Gakuen University's Faculty of Music, Orchestra Research Student Conducting Department, he has been teaching the handbell choir at Kinjo Gakuin University since September 1987. Currently, he conducts and teaches as the music director of PRIME (Handbell Team) and the director of the Kinjo Gakuin University Orchestra and Kinjo Gakuin Handbell Choir. Director of the Handbell Ringers of Japan. He is a visiting professor at Kinjo Gakuin University. He has been selected as the Massed Ringing Conductor at the International Handbell Symposium in Edmonton (5th), Orlando (13th), Nashville (20th). He has also been invited by the HMA to conduct the Distinctly Bronze West in 2016 and the College-Ring-In 2022.</p>	

S-4	MIRAIクワイア Advanced2
Hirotaka Arai (HRJ)	
<p>Hirotaka Arai has conducted the Hakuo University Handbell Choir since 1988. The choir has regularly attended the International Handbell Symposium and has been chosen to perform at the Invitation Concert in Liverpool representing Japan as well as in Jeju. He also was selected as the Massed Ringing Director for the 9th Symposium held in Birmingham, UK. The Hakuo University Handbell Choir has been touring in many parts of the world including a tour in Hawaii every year for over 25 years and has received awards from the mayor of Honolulu and governor of Hawaii. They have multiple recordings of CDs and DVDs which are favorites to the handbell lovers all over the world. His contributions as a clinician for the HRJ workshops and also to handbell arrangements are immense. A very active musician and opera singer, he holds an opera every year in Oyama city where he resides. He also holds handbell classes and directs many community groups in the city.</p>	