Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA | Area 4

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico, the Bahamas and Virgin Islands

2027
Florida Handbell Festival

Brian Childers, Clinician

2027 Florida HANDBELL FESTIVAL

March 12 - 13, 2027
Tampa, FL

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church
6100 Memorial Hwy, Tampa, FL 33615

Registration Open for HMA Members
$85 per person before 1/1/27
$95 per person after 1/1/27

Registration Opens December 1, 2026 for Non-Members
$110 per person

All registrations will be accepted through March 1, 2027, as space allows.

Space is limited at this venue - register early!

Tentative Schedule

Friday

10:00am	Bronze Choir Rehearsal
11:00am	Check-in Opens
12:00pm	Lunch on your own/ Preordered lunch*
1:00pm	Opening Bell
1:15pm	Mass Rehearsal
2:30pm	Session 1
	Tins - Rehearsal
	Coppers - Workshops
3:30pm	Session 2
	Tins - Workshops
	Coppers - Rehearsal
4:30pm	Mass Rehearsal
5:30pm	Bronze Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm	Dinner on your own

(we have recommendations for social hour!)

Saturday

8:00am	Bronze Choir Rehearsal
9:00am	Announcements
9:10am	Mass Rehearsal
10:20am	Session 3
	Tins - Workshops
	Coppers - Rehearsal
11:20am	Session 4
	Tins - Rehearsal
	Coppers - Workshops
12:20pm	Lunch (included)/ Shopping
1:30pm	Mass Rehearsal
3:00pm	Showcase Concert
4:00pm	Depart and Safe Travels

* Prepay lunch option available for $12 per person

Repertoire

You must purchase these before attending, **no photocopies allowed**. Please come with the music fully prepared so that the conductor can focus on the musicality of the pieces instead of notes and rhythms.

Tin

Morning Song
Arr. Matthew Prins
L2, From the Top Music

Rise Up, O Saints of God
Arr. Mark Longfield
L2, Jubilate Music Group

Copper

Low In the Grave He Lay
Arr. Brian Childers
L3+, Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

What a Wonderful World
Arr. Brian Childers
L3-, From the Top Music

Mass

Praise to the Lord
Arr. John A. Behnke
L2, AGEHR Publishing

From All That Dwell Below the Skies
Arr. Matthew Compton
L3, AGEHR Publishing

Jerusalem My Happy Home
Arr. Cathy Moklebust
L3, Choristers Guild

Light & Peace**
Arr. Brian Childers
L3, Bellissimo Publications
***Single copies available on Brian Childers' website*

Bronze

In Celebration
Brian Childers
L4, Ringing Word Publications

Streams of Life
Jason W. Krug
L4, Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Brian Childers, Clinician



Brian Childers is an accomplished composer, conductor, and clinician. His choral, instrumental, and handbell works are performed throughout the world. He is in demand as a featured clinician at music conferences and festivals across the nation. Brian's compositions and arrangements are available through a variety of publishers.

Brian has earned degrees from Appalachian State University and the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. He has conducted church and community groups and served churches throughout the Southeast US, building vibrant programs for choirs, handbells and instrumentalists at each.

In 2019, Brian accepted the role of Music Editor with Handbell Musicians of America where he oversees and promotes the AGEHR music catalogue. He serves as Director of Handbells and Children and Youth Music at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC where he has built a comprehensive handbell ministry for children, youth, and adults. In the spring of 2024, Brian was named Artistic Director of the Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble. He regularly shares his insights through "Cued In," a blog on sacred music in worship sponsored by JW Pepper.

Brian is married to Keely Childers, a professional counselor, and has two adult children, Hannah and Spencer, both of whom served as drum majors in their respective high school and college marching bands. Brian is an avid runner, reader, and a rabid fan of the San Antonio Spurs. You can learn more about Brian, his compositions, handbell devotional book "Ringing Deeply", and children's book, "Boo and His Amazing Bells" at BrianChilders.org.

Festival Information

On-Site Check-in & Set-up

Set-up and check-in are between 11:00am and 1:00pm on Friday. If you have your own tables, you are encouraged to bring them. Table rental fees are on the registration form. You should also bring foam, covers and any equipment needed for ringing. Food and drinks are not allowed on the tables. Drinks should be capped, spill-proof, and kept beneath the tables.

Independents & Independent Hosts

We will try to place independents (formerly known as 'orphans') in your desired ringing position or as close as possible in a 'host' choir. Please mark independent on the registration form. Please do not opt out of bringing your own equipment for convenience as independent placement is limited. Choirs who are bringing equipment and have some positions open for independents, please indicate those positions on the registration page.

Youth

Youth choirs are welcome to participate in the festival at the proper level of their ability. Underage participants (17 years of age and younger) must be chaperoned (one adult, 21 years and older, per 6 ringers ages 17 and younger). Non-ringing chaperones may register as a guest for $35. Ringing chaperones must register as a ringer. A notarized medical release form is required for underage participants (see page 10).

Bronze Choir

This group is for individuals or groups who would like to ring additional advanced music. Participating requires you to purchase additional music and prepare it ***before*** arriving at the festival. There will be additional rehearsals and **you must attend all rehearsals** to participate in the Bronze Choir. Fill out the Bronze Choir registration form on page 9 and complete your registration by January 17, 2027. This choir will require a minimum number of ringers. We will try to have all assignments out within the following week which will give the ringer several weeks to rehearse the music and their assigned part.

Refunds

There is a non-refundable $25 administration fee charged on all refunds requested before March 1, 2027. No refunds will be given after March 1, 2027, but you may transfer the registration to another ringer.

Classes

A description of classes with instructors will be available on our website in February, 2027. If there is a class you would like to see, or if you would like to be considered as an instructor, please email the Florida Chair at fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org. We greatly appreciate your feedback!

Dress

Dress casual, wear comfortable shoes and layer for AC. Please no cologne/perfumes as your neighbor may have allergies (but wear deodorant!). No special dress is required for the concert but matching shirts or outfits are encouraged.

Festival Information Continued

Meals

We are pleased to offer the following meal options during the festival:

Friday Lunch: Optional preordered lunch available for $12 per person.
Friday Dinner: On your own.
Saturday Lunch: Included with registration.
Snacks and Beverages: Available throughout the festival.

Please note: Due to rising costs, we have made the decision to eliminate the included Friday dinner rather than increase registration fees. This allows us to keep registration costs the same for our attendees.

Vegetarian and gluten-free meal requests must be submitted in advance.

Lodging

A hotel list will be made available soon. You will be emailed the hotel block details in January.

Lighting

The lighting in the ringing room may not be the same in all areas. Please feel free to bring a music light if you prefer.

Music

You must purchase and prepare the music before attending. The clinician will focus on the musicality of the pieces instead of notes and rhythms.

No photocopies of the music allowed. If you use an electronic device you must have written permission from the publisher per the Handbell Musicians of America guidelines (Click here for electronic music guidelines).

Payment and Registration Options

If you are attending as a group, please send registration money in a single payment. Registration fees can be paid by check (made payable to “Handbell Musicians of America—Area 4”), via PayPal (paypal.me/Area4Handbells), or through Zelle (treasurer.area4@handbellmusicians.org). Please add a transaction fee of $5 per person if paying through PayPal.

Registration forms may be mailed to Katherine Lamb Chico, Area 4 Florida Chair, 9695 SW Meridian Way, Stuart, Florida 34997 or emailed (fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org). Please email Katherine and let her know if you have a registration form on the way!

You may also (and are encouraged to) complete the registration process through Google Forms: CLICK HERE or scan the QR code with your phone.

Deadline

The early-bird deadline for members to register for the festival is January 1, 2027. Non-members can begin registering on December 1, 2026. The deadline for registrations is March 1, 2027 as space allows.

2027 Annual Florida State Handbell Festival Registration Form

Early Bird Registration Deadline: January 1, 2027
Final Registration Deadline: March 1, 2027 (or as space allows)

Contact Name: _____ Guild Membership #: _____

☐ I am registering on behalf of a group

☐ I am registering as an individual and I prefer to ring in the _____ and/or _____ position.

Church/Organization: _____

Address:_____

City: _____State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email (to be used for Area 4 events) _____

Best phone number to reach you: _____

Ringing Division (Choose one): ☐ Tin ☐ Copper

Floor Space Required: ☐ 2 octaves/12 feet ☐ 2-3 octaves/18 feet ☐ 3 octaves/24 feet
☐ 4 octaves/30 feet ☐ 5 octaves/36 feet ☐ Other: _____ feet

☐ We are willing to host independents within our choir.

We have these positions available: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

We will need ____additional feet of tables for independent ringers.

☐ Our group would like to perform the following selection in the final Showcase (We encourage full groups to perform a song in the final Showcase! With a supportive community, this is your chance to shine!) If you do not have a song chosen, please just check mark the box and then let us know by February 1, 2027 what the song will be for the program. Email fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org:

Title: _____ Catalog Number _____

Composer: _____ Performance Time ____min ____Sec

☐ I/we give consent for pictures taken at the festival to be used for promotional purposes.

☐ I/we give consent for video and/or live stream to be taken at the festival for use on social media.

2027 Annual Florida State Handbell Festival Registration Form (continued)

For ALL registrants (ringers/youth/guests/chaperones), submit the first and last names of the attendees. Please list each attendee's preferred name as it should appear on their name tag. For each person, circle ALL the applicable codes:

BC: Participating in the Bronze Choir **FL:** Friday Lunch (additional charge) **G**: Guests/Chaperones **V:** Vegetarian Meals **GF:** Gluten-free *(We are sorry we cannot yet accommodate vegan or other special diets.)*

1. _____ BC FL G V GF
2. _____ BC FL G V GF
3. _____ BC FL G V GF
4. _____ BC FL G V GF
5. _____ BC FL G V GF
6. _____ BC FL G V GF
7. _____ BC FL G V GF
8. _____ BC FL G V GF
9. _____ BC FL G V GF
10. _____ BC FL G V GF
11. _____ BC FL G V GF
12. _____ BC FL G V GF
13. _____ BC FL G V GF
14. _____ BC FL G V GF
15. _____ BC FL G V GF
16. _____ BC FL G V GF
17. _____ BC FL G V GF
18. _____ BC FL G V GF

2027 Annual Florida State Handbell Festival Registration Payment Form

Registration Costs

Rental Tables (6' tables)	*Number of Tables Needed*	_____	*x $15*	$_____
Friday Lunch (pre-order only)		_____	*x $12*	$_____
Member Registration*	*Postmarked by 1/1/2027*	_____	*x $85*	$_____
	After 1/1/2027	_____	*x $95*	$_____
Non-Member Registration		_____	*x $110*	$_____
Guest Registration (for Saturday lunch and classes)	*Number of Guests*	_____	*x $35*	$_____

Registration Total $_____

Payments can be made via check, PayPal, or Zelle.

Checks: Make checks payable to "Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4". Please submit one check if registering as a group. Checks can be mailed to Katherine Lamb Chico, Area 4 Florida Chair.

PayPal: Online payments can be made through PayPal at PayPal.me/Area4Handbells. Please add a transaction fee of $5 per person to your payment. If you have questions concerning PayPal, please contact Michael Lamb: treasurer.area4@handbellmusicians.org BEFORE submitting payment.

Zelle: Another way for online payment is through Zelle, email address treasurer.area4@handbellmusicians.org. There is no transaction fee. If you have questions concerning payment, please contact Michael Lamb: treasurer.area4@handbellmusicians.org BEFORE submitting payment.

Mail registration forms and checks to the address below. Registration forms can be emailed to fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org if paying by PayPal or Zelle.

Katherine Lamb Chico, Area 4 Florida Chair
9695 SW Meridian Way
Stuart, FL 34997

Registrar Use Only

Payment: Check # _____ PayPal Confirmation # (last 6 digits) _____

Registration received: _____online _____mail Confirmation sent _____

2027 Annual Florida State Handbell Festival Bronze Choir Registration Form

Please fill out one form per person participating in the Bronze Choir. Registration for Bronze Choir is due by January 17, 2027.

Name: _____

Church/Organization: _____

Email: _____

Best phone number to reach you: _____

Please rank your preferred ringing locations (1-most preferred, 4-least preferred, X if you will not play in a certain area)

Low Bass (C3-B3) _____ Bass (C4-A4) _____

Battery (B4-B5) _____ Treble (C6-C8)* _____

**Treble must play 4-in-hand*

Have you ever rung with Florida Bronze/Bronze Under the Sun? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever rung at Distinctly Bronze? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please return forms to: fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org or Katherine Lamb Chico, Area 4 Florida Chair, 9695 SW Meridian Way, Stuart, FL 34997.

If you have never rung in one of the above Bronze Choirs, please provide a name and e-mail address of someone who can recommend you for this choir.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Parental Consent and Medical Authorization (For participants under 18 years old)

Name of Registrant: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____ (home) _____ (cell)

Evening Phone Number: _____ (home) _____ (cell)

As the parent (or legal guardian), I give my permission for _____ (attendee name) to participate in the 2027 Florida Handbell Festival, presented by Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4, on March 12-13, 2027 at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Tampa, FL.

_____ (Initial) I give permission for photographs and/or video recordings of my child taken during the festival to be used for promotional purposes, including social media and livestreaming.

Medical Treatment Authorization

It is my understanding that the Handbell Musicians of America, Area 4 will attempt to notify me in case of a medical emergency involving my student. If a representative from Area 4 cannot reach me, then I give authorization to the chaperone accompanying my student to hire a doctor or health-care professional, and I give my permission to the doctor or other healthcare professional, to provide the medical services he or she may deem necessary. I will pay for any medical expenses so incurred.

Allergies or other health considerations: _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy/Group #s: _____

Name of parent or guardian (please print): _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Person to contact other than parent in an emergency:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE NOTARIZED

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____day of _____, 20___,

by _____.

(NOTARY SEAL)

_____
Signature of Notary Public

_____
Name of Notary, Typed, Printed, or Stamped

☐ Personally Known OR ☐ Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced _____

Florida Festival Advertising Information
Deadline February 1, 2027

The Annual Florida State Handbell Festival is being held at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Tampa, FL this March. We hope many of you in the Handbell Industry Council and other business or concert organizations will join in supporting this event by placing an advertisement in our festival booklet. Remember that many of our participants are Florida “snowbirds” who come from all over our nation, and often carry your message, via this booklet.

All submissions for publication should be “camera-ready” images, actual business cards, or clean copies that may be scanned and resized as needed (please have in PDF, JPG, or PNG format). The Back Cover and Inside Back Cover are first come, first served and must be full pages.

Company or Group Name: _____ Date: _____

Contact Person:_____

Address:_____

City: _____State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address:_____

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Page Size:

☐ Full Page—Back Cover (Color) (4.5” x 7.5”) $150

☐ Full Page—Inside Back Cover (Color) (4.5” x 7.5”) $100

All others are within the booklet.

☐ Full Page—Color (4.5” x 7.5”) $75

☐ Full Page—B&W (4.5” x 7.5”) $60

☐ Half Page—Color (4.5” x 3.75”) $45

☐ Half Page—B&W (4.5” x 3.75”) $35

We will reach out to you with confirmation of your ad placement and an invoice.

Send JPG (preferred), png or pdf of your ad to:

fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org