

MEET....



TOUR

TEACH

PERFORM

WE ARE A CHICAGO-BASED HANDBELL ENSEMBLE THAT OFFERS HIGH-ENERGY, SPELL-BINDING AND EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCES OF MUSIC INCLUDING CLASSICAL FAVORITES, JAZZ, MARCHES, SACRED SONGS, FOLK TUNES AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS.

Since our founding in 1992, we've played over 330 concerts across North America, Puerto Rico, and England. We enjoy an on-going collaboration with local pianist/composer Joel Raney and have performed with jazz trumpeter Orbert Davis of the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, the Elmhurst Symphony, Spirito!, Young Naperville Singers, the Rockford Symphony, the North Shore Choral Society, the Illinois Brass Band, the Elgin Choral Union, the West Suburban Symphony, and the West Towns Chorus. Our musicians have a collective ringing experience of over 345 years and perform on 76 bronze Malmark handbells and 73 Malmark Choirchimes®.

We are known for beautifully orchestrated presentations of entertaining and varied music, and listeners are entranced by our energy, precision and musicality. Unlike an orchestra, where a single instrument or section shapes a melody, multiple ringers share the melody in this uniquely collaborative and highly visual musical form.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

KC Congdon became our Artistic Director in January 2019. A founding member of the ensemble, KC began ringing handbells in junior high, started her conducting career as a senior in high school, and received a B.A. in Organ Performance from Northern Illinois University. She currently directs Bells In Motion, a jazz ensemble in Central Illinois, at St. Matthew United Church of Christ in Wheaton, and at First Congregational Church of Western Springs. Our founder, David L. Weck, retired in December 2018.

RECORDINGS & VIDEO

We have twelve CD recordings for sale offering holiday favorites, concert repertoire and hymns. In 2012, we released our first DVD, *Splash of Gold*, which was recorded live in-concert. Our latest CD, *Fly Me to the Moon*, was released in 2018, and includes concert favorites.

TEACHERS AND LEADERS

We have been featured as performers and teachers for events such as the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Conference for Church Musicians in Green Lake, WI, and local, regional and national gatherings of the Handbell Musicians of America. In addition, many of us serve in leadership roles at the local and national levels of that organization.

MISSION

- To inspire audiences through the art of handbell ringing
- To challenge ourselves to reach higher standards of musical accomplishment
- To encourage handbell directors and ringers through our leadership and teaching
- To foster a warm, caring community of friends