

Main Line Ringers

Audition Criteria

Scoring:

1. Handbell Notation Familiarity (5%)
Ringers are scored on both the recognition and demonstration of handbell notation. Both common and uncommon techniques are used.
2. Rhythm Exercises (20%)
Ringers are asked to sight read several rhythms using one bell.
3. Multiple Bell/Switching exercises (20%)
Ringers are asked to sight read several exercises using more than one bell. Exercises use bells that might typically be assigned to one ringer.
4. Group Sight Reading (30%)
Pieces of various difficulty levels are read by the entire auditioning group together. Assignments will change on each piece (giving each ringer an opportunity to ring the preferred position and other positions to demonstrate flexibility).
5. Form (5%)
Ringers are scored on their handbell ringing form, as demonstrated in Sections 1 – 4.
6. Commitment (20%)
Each ringer is individually interviewed. The discussion covers the general commitment expected as a member of the Main Line Ringers, specific requirements for the upcoming year, other outside group involvement, financial commitment, etc.

Other Points:

- a. No preference is given to the director's known ringers.
- b. The entire process is video taped for scoring that cannot be completed that evening. This is especially useful for the Group Sight Ringing (Section 4).
- c. Using multiple people to do the scoring is preferred.
- d. The intent of the auditions is to find the most qualified and committed handbell ringers for the Spring of 2008. It is also important that the group have adequate coverage for all 5 octaves (low bass ringers, experienced shelley/4ih ringers, etc.).

Special thanks to David Harris and the Raleigh Ringers for their generosity in sharing their tried-and-true audition criteria. The Main Line Ringers hope to follow in your respected footsteps.