



Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble Music Director

Milwaukee, WI

The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble (MHE), an auditioned community handbell ensemble, is seeking a Music Director to start Fall 2019. Applicants should email resumes to: president@milwaukeehandbells.org.
Deadline to apply is January 31, 2019.

About Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble

Over the past 16 years, the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble (MHE) has gained wide popularity in our community and beyond. MHE is an auditioned community handbell ensemble currently under the direction of Dr. John A. Behnke and associate director Suzanne Hibbard with fourteen ringers who play 73 handbells and 73 hand chimes.

Within these 16 years, MHE has become known for amazing memorized performances, for premiering new arrangements of popular music, as well as being the recording choir for AGEHR Publishing. They have been guest performers with the Midwest Vocal Express, Bel Canto Chorus, Present Music and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. In fact, MHE has performed five times with MSO under conductors: Doc Severinsen, Stuart Chafetz, Jeff Tyzik, and Andreas Delfs.

Over the past three years, MHE has expanded their reach by taking mini-tours to Minnesota, South Dakota and Michigan performing by invitation at the Area 7 Handbell Festival in Sioux Falls in 2016 and most recently, in the summer of 2018, played the closing concert of the National Seminar for the Handbell Musicians of America in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In May of 2013, the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble became a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Their mission is "To further the art of handbell ringing by educating, inspiring and informing others on the art form" by showcasing advanced handbell repertoire, while being a musical resource for the Milwaukee metropolitan area and beyond.

Qualifications:

- Keen sense of leadership, creativity and musicianship
- Works well both independently and collaboratively
- Strong interpersonal and ensemble-building skills
- Experience working closely with an executive board
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Vested interest in both group and individual ringer development
- Dedication to audience engagement through programming and community collaborations, with a vision for how to reach new audiences.
- Be an accomplished handbell ringer
- Prior handbell directing experience of at least 5 years.

Responsibilities:

- Lead and Direct all rehearsals, performances, and recording sessions. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings 6:15 – 8:45.
- Manage the group musically.
- Oversee the scheduling of all concerts and tours and notify ringers of all proposed concert dates. Dates will be confirmed by the group as a whole.
- Be responsible for the selection of all concert music and be the deciding person regarding edits, additions, deletions, and interpreting and rearranging of that music.
- Be responsible for selection of concert script.
- Hold auditions bi-annually for entrance into MHE and be responsible for the selection of handbell ringers, either personally or with assistance from outside sources.
- Serve as a member on the board.