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## Call for Applications for Canadian Massed Ringing Conductor

### 21<sup>st</sup> International Handbell Symposium Hamamatsu, Japan August 12-17, 2024

Applications are now being accepted to represent the Handbell Musicians of Canada at the 21<sup>st</sup> International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan as the Canadian Massed Ringing Conductor.

The successful candidate will be asked to prepare and conduct the selected Canadian composition during the massed ringing rehearsals and performance taking place throughout the five-day event.

The selection criteria, including previous experience conducting massed performance of at least 100 ringers, are listed below.

Symposium registration and travel/accommodation expenses are to be covered by the successful applicant. However, Handbell Musicians of Canada will provide a small financial contribution to help off-set these expenses.

**Interested persons are asked to forward a brief CV along with an expression of interest demonstrating how the candidate satisfies the selection criteria to [chair@handbellmusiciansofcanada.ca](mailto:chair@handbellmusiciansofcanada.ca) no later than 11:59 pm Pacific time on Friday, August 31, 2023.**

### Selection Criteria

#### **1. Membership**

The successful candidate should be a member in good standing of Handbell Musicians of Canada.

#### **2. Previous experience**

It is expected that the successful candidate will have previous experience conducting a massed performance of at least 100 ringers. Due to the large scale of symposium massed ringing performances (600+ ringers), the ability to conduct a large group with clarity and articulation is essential.

#### **3. Musicianship**

It is expected that the successful candidate has a strong musical background, and an appreciable level of musical training and musicianship. The ability to speak with an advanced degree of musical knowledge about the composition being performed is essential. Symposium attendees span a

range of musical experience from intermediate to highly accomplished, therefore the successful candidate must be capable of leading high calibre performance of skilled musicians. Previous teaching or education experience is an asset.

#### **4. Organization**

Organizational and time management skills are essential. Massed rehearsal time allotted to each piece is very brief – 10 to 20 minutes – and time must be given for the translation of any commentary or direction given. Rehearsals are timed and generally involve being able to follow lights indicating time remaining for each piece, so careful and thorough preparation ahead of every rehearsal time is critical.

#### **5. Communication**

The successful candidate should be comfortable communicating with large groups and be able to convey their ideas and direction in a clear, concise, and purposeful manner to facilitate translation into the various official languages in use at the symposium. Attention must also be paid to how ideas and direction are conveyed to a multi-national and multicultural audience as idioms and cultural references do not always translate easily.

#### **6. Ambassadorship**

As the musical representative of Handbell Musicians of Canada at the symposium, the successful candidate will be an ambassador for our Canadian handbell community and must deport themselves with respect, dignity, and goodwill. Being approachable and friendly as well as respectful of customs or cultures with which the candidate may be unfamiliar is vital.

#### **Please note:**

It is HMC policy that, should “equal candidates” be under consideration, preference will be given to the candidate who has not previously represented Canada at an International Handbell Symposium.