



HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF CANADA
2023 ELECTIONS

Candidate Statement



Position: Director at Large
Name: Cheryl McFarlane
City, Prov: Cobourg, Ontario

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Cheryl McFarlane is an enthusiastic handbell ringer from small town Ontario who became instantly addicted to handbells thirteen years ago. Since then she has been immersed in the handbell world, happily living out the adventures only ringing handbells can award.

Cheryl actively serves in her church's music Ministry. She was there in the beginning assisting anyway with the implementation of the handbell program and as Chair of the handbell executive. She directed the youth handbell choir Jubilate Junior for 10 years, and annually still arranges these "kids" to ring together on Christmas Eve. In addition to fervently ringing at her home church, she rings in an additional handbell choir, has been a member in an inaugural community choir, and is a willing substitute ringer for anyone, anywhere!

As an active member within the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringer (OGEHR), Cheryl served as the Central-East Area Representative and then Chair of the provincial Area Representatives, as a Director on OGEHR Board of Directors, Festival Committees, and Nomination Committee. Known for her creativity and sense of fun, she treasures time making music and dreaming up events with fellow ringers. Since 2017, Cheryl has facilitated The Bell

Tree Forest, an opportunity for ringers to come together and experience performing Belltree at OGEHR Festivals.

Having interest in the wider ringing communities as well, Cheryl also holds memberships with the Handbell Musicians of America (HMA) and Handbell Ringers of Great Britain (HRGB). She has participated in many Area Events, Workshops, Festivals and National Seminars in America, the 17th International Handbell Symposium (IHS) held in Vancouver, and the 2019 Great Christmas Ring performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

When not ringing, Cheryl is working at her other passion, as a Registered Social Worker providing Supportive Care on a Palliative Care Community Outreach Team. She has a great husband, a terrific son, and an adorable, albeit quirky, calico named Frances.

Statement:

What relevant skills/abilities/experience do you bring to HMC?

Music/Handbells:

- Ringer - choir, small ensemble, Belltree
- Youth director experience.
- Workshop and Masterclass hosting and development - Conducting, Quartets
- Playdates and Read and Rings Planning
- Concert Planning
- Networking with members from other Guilds, and participation in events internally and externally
- Education opportunities and resource development ie. manuals, brochures

Governance:

- Program management, planning and program evaluation
- Board of Director
- Festival Committees (Secretary 2015, Music Selection Committee, 2023)
- People skills and recruitment
- Inclusiveness and accountability
- Communication skills
- Budgeting
- Analytical skills - micro and macro
- Open-minded
- Transparent and Responsive to others

As a Volunteer:

- I bring energy, creativity, ideas and fun
- Reliable and predictable and accessible
- Values networking with others
- A passion for handbells
- A Team player and supportive toward colleagues
- Generous with my time, approachable and a listener
- Researcher

What is your vision for HMC?

- HMC to readily be seen as the advocate on behalf of all the membership providing voice and a Canadian perspective for Canadians to ringing handbells
- To be knowledgeable as a “big-picture” resource and consultant on handbell ringing activity, trends, techniques and programming around the globe.
- To develop support and a depository of resources, shared ideas, education strategies, events etc.
- To network and work in partnership with the international handbell communities for joint events or projects via on-line and in person
- Hold a National Event for national connection
- Understand and address with a post pandemic plan for ringing sustainability in Canada
- To act a leader in the handbells by supporting and assisting choirs, ringers and those in the supporting industry

What are your top three priorities for the Board?

1. Hear, understand and act on the needs, wishes and wants from the HMC membership a
2. Address the annual plan or develop one for the organization and the working committees
3. Strengthen relationships and connection with members for involvement, support, ideas and opportunities for enhancing and advancing HMC work and exposure. Hold a national event.