



Bells of the Lakes Handbell Ensemble
Minneapolis, Minn.
bellsofthelakes.org
email: manager@bellsofthelakes.org

Thank you for your interest in our search for a new artistic director for Bells of the Lakes! After a remarkable 30 years with our ensemble, our founding artistic director, Bill Mathis, chose to retire at the conclusion of our 2025-2026 season in May. We are seeking a new artistic director for the 2026-2027 season, beginning in late August 2026.

The new artistic director will be asked to contract with us for one year (through August 2027) with the option to renew annually or as negotiated. The attached job description provides more detail about the role.

Search schedule:

- July 18, 2026: Applications due
- Through July 26, 2026: Interviews will be conducted as applicants and search committee members are available
- July 27, 2026, evening (tent.): Finalists lead rehearsal with ensemble members at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church (HAUMC), Minneapolis, Minn.
- By Aug. 21, 2026: New artistic director in place

Rehearsal schedule: We rehearse at HAUMC on Mondays, 6-8 p.m. We anticipate beginning the season's rehearsals on Sept. 14, 2026. The final rehearsal for the year will be determined based on our event schedule.

Season schedule: Many dates on our 2026-2027 calendar are already set. A few additional events may be added as determined by the Bells of the Lakes board and management team in consultation with the artistic director and ringers.

2026 Seminar for Ringers & Directors

Aug. 21, evening setup, Aug. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., HAUMC

Ringer auditions

Aug. 24, 6-8 p.m., HAUMC

Concert

Oct. 17, 2 p.m., Minnesota Veterans Home, Minneapolis, Minn.

(schedule continued on back)



Joint holiday concert with Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. (plus one joint rehearsal during the week before the concert),
Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, Minn.

Choristers Guild recording sessions

Jan. 23 and Jan. 30, approximately 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

BellFest 2027

March 5, evening setup and rehearsal, March 6, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., with public concert at 3 p.m.,
North Heights Lutheran Church, Arden Hills, Minn.

Note: Derek Bromme has been secured as the BellFest 2027 clinician.

Concert

April 11, 3 p.m., St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minn.

Concert

April 18, 4 p.m., Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minn.

2027 Seminar for Ringers & Directors

TBD (generally late August), HAUMC

Thanks again for your interest. We look forward to continuing the conversation!