

**Job Title:** Artistic Director

**Organization:** Bells of the Lakes Handbell Ensemble

**Location:** Minneapolis, Minn.

### **Position overview**

Bells of the Lakes, an elite regional community handbell ensemble, seeks a visionary and technically proficient Artistic Director. This leader will be responsible for the overall musical excellence of the group, shaping its artistic identity through sophisticated repertoire, rigorous rehearsal management and high-quality public performances. The Artistic Director will drive the ensemble's educational outreach and collaborate with guest musicians to elevate the group's regional presence.

### **Key responsibilities**

#### *Artistic vision and programming*

- Select challenging and engaging repertoire for a season including five to eight concert appearances.
- Design cohesive concert programs that align with the ensemble's elite brand and mission.
- Evolve the long-term musical program and artistic direction of the ensemble.

#### *Rehearsal and performance leadership*

- Lead and execute high-intensity weekly rehearsals, focusing on advanced technique, musicality and precision.
- Conduct the ensemble at all performances, ensuring professional-level execution.
- Coordinate with and integrate guest musicians or auxiliary instrumentalists into performances.

#### *Educational outreach*

- Oversee and develop educational initiatives to engage the regional community and foster an appreciation for advanced handbell artistry.
- Represent the ensemble as the public face at workshops or community events.

#### *Administrative and ensemble management*

- Lead the audition process for new members to maintain high performance standards.
- Collaborate with the organization's board of directors on strategic growth, budgeting and marketing efforts.
- Consult on the ensemble's music library and equipment maintenance.

### **Compensation**

This is a stipend-based position. Salary is commensurate with experience.

### **Experience requirements**

#### *Mandatory (required)*

- **Conducting proficiency:** At least five years of experience conducting advanced handbell or instrumental ensembles.
- **Educational background:** Bachelor's degree in music (conducting, performance or education) or a demonstrated equivalent in professional mastery.

- **Technical knowledge:** Advanced knowledge of handbell notation and technique.
- **Ensemble leadership:** Proven ability to manage a team of 12 to 15 advanced musicians and lead efficient, high-intensity rehearsals.
- **Communication:** Strong verbal and written communication skills for interacting with the organization's board of directors, manager, patrons, venue representatives, guest musicians, collaborators and the public.

*Preferred (highly desirable)*

- **Advanced degree:** Master's degree in music or conducting.
- **Industry network:** Established connections within the regional music community and the Handbell Musicians of America.
- **Curatorial experience:** Track record of creating innovative, cohesive concert programs beyond standard seasonal music.
- **Fundraising and administration:** Basic experience in nonprofit budgeting, grant writing and/or donor relations.

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