

How do I purchase handchimes?

Malmark and Schulmerich Carillon, two American handbell manufactures, both produce handchime instruments. They maybe purchased directly from the companies web sites.

What comes in a “set” of handchimes?

Handchimes are sold in two, three, four or five octave sets. The octaves are expanded in both treble and bass directions. When you order a set of chimes you will receive just the chimes and the carrying cases.

What else do I need to use handchimes in my general music class? What about in my chime ensemble?

Chimes can be used in a general music class straight out of the box they are shipped in. There is no special equipment needed to use these instruments. A carpeted floor or carpet squares will be useful so children have some place to set the chimes down when they are not in use.

For your chime ensemble you may want to invest in 1” foam that can be placed over standard 6’ banquet tables. While the foam is not necessary, it will protect the chimes, and will make transitions between accidentals much quieter. You may also want to invest in binder/music stands available from any handbell retailer. These binders sit directly on the table, the bottom flips back allowing the binder to serve as a music stand.

If I am interested in using chimes in my classroom, what is the easiest way to fund the purchase of chimes?

A set of chimes will cost between \$1,000 to \$6,000 depending on how many octaves you choose. A three-octave set of chimes will cost around \$1,700. While this is a significant amount of money, it is important to remember that a three-octave set of chimes can provide several students an opportunity to be actively engaged in music making, where as one bass xylophone, for approximately the same cost, will only allow one student to be actively engaged.

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers New England Chapter, sponsors a chime loaner program. This program will place a three-octave set of chime in your school as well as provide teaching materials and mentoring to ensure successful implementation. Once parents, students and administrators see the value of the instrument, the funding often appears.

For more information on the AGEHR Area One Chime Loaner Program visit their web site at www.agehrarea1.org.

Are there materials for using chimes in the classroom?

Traditional Orff style arrangements are easily adapted for use with chimes. Materials currently in print for handchimes are focused on handchimes as a performance instrument. Handchime ensembles can be an engaging activity for many students. This type of ensemble is based on traditional handbell ensembles and students gain an understanding of rhythmic reading and ensemble performance.

Resources for Handchimes Handchime Manufactures

Malmark

P.O. Box 1200
Plumsteadville, PA 18949
www.malmark.com

Schulmerich Bells

P.O. Box 903
Carillon Hill
Sellersville, PA 18960 0903
www.schulmerichbells.com

Handbell Music Resources

Jeffers Handbell Supply

1-800-JHS-Bell
www.jhsbell.com

(Check out the Music Selection Assistant on the web site featuring an easy to search database of a huge collection of handbell music. Many titles include audio clips.)

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR)

AGEHR, a national advocacy organization for ringing, offers many education workshops for directors and ringers.

www.agehr.org

AGEHR Area I (The New England Chapter)

www.agehrarea1.org

Printed Handbell Resources

Healthy Ringing for Handbells and Handchimes
Tunes that Teach
Handbell and Handchime Notation

Susan Berry
Martha Lynn Thompson
AGEHR

Chime loaner program

agehrarea1.org: AGEHR Area I will loan a three-octave set of chimes for up to one school year. This is a free program and you do not have to be a member of AGEHR to apply.

Chime donation program

Back Bay Ringers donates a two-octave set of Choirchimes to a Boston area school as part of their annual Boston Handbell Festival. For more information visit www.backbayringers.org

***Detailed session notes are available at www.backbayringers.org/links.htm**

Griff Gall had his first experience as a handbell ringer while attaining his B.M. in Music Education from Westminster Choir College as a member of the Westminster Concert Bell Choir. An elementary music specialist in the town of Danvers, Mass, Mr. Gall has presented seminars at state and national handbell and music education conference and was recently published in *Overtones*, the journal for the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. He is Education Liaison for AGEHR, Area I, and is a member of the national AGEHR education advisory committee.

As the founding artistic director of the Back Bay Ringers, a community handbell organization based in Boston, Mass., he has collaborated with many of Boston's finest musical organizations including Boston Children's Chorus, New England Treble Chorus, Handle and Haydn Society and Boston Choral Ensemble. Mr. Gall is currently pursuing his Masters in Music Education from Boston University where he completed his Orff Level III certification.

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