**2023 Lowcountry Handbell Workshop**

**Class Descriptions – Coppers**

**Weaving -** Do you feel like your arms look like a pretzel when ringing? Are you having problems damping bells when playing chromatics? Getting the correct bell in the correct hand for the appropriate beat is half the battle in ringing. We will work on creating a beautiful sound and fluid movement while performing passages full of bell changes. This will allow you to look flawless when playing those tricky spots in music with tons of accidentals.

**Advanced Four-in-Hand –** Explore challenges encountered playing Four-in-Hand and Shelley with advanced music. Issues addressed include bell changes, damping, techniques, dynamics and more. Practice solving difficult situations with exercises designed to challenge you!

**Visual Presentation –** Did you know what your audience sees can affect what they hear? Learning your music is just the first step in an engaging performance. Once you’ve learned the notes, there’s a non-verbal language you should master to captivate your audience. Learn how small changes to your ringing stroke and body language can bring about big changes in the ability of the audience to hear and feel the music.

**Bell Tree –** What is a bell tree and how do you use it?  Why would I consider it versus regular ringing?  This class will explore all things bell tree, including advantages/disadvantages, music selection, proper set up and playing techniques - and will include hands-on practice with them. (Class size limited)

**Advanced Rhythm –** When you see music in 6/8 meter, do you count it in 6, or do you “feel” it in 2? Are you confused by 9/8 and 12/8? This class will help unravel the issues presented by music where the meter changes frequently (aka, “mixed meter” music). Using movement and other strategies, participants will learn how to combine what they see on the page with the inherent flow of music in “mixed meter” to achieve a more musical performance.

**Musicality –** How do you turn notes on a page into music? What are the markings in the music that help you understand what the composer heard as (s)he created the piece? Learn a few tips to improve your skills and good judgment in ringing music.

**Small Ensemble Ringing –** Does your group not have enough ringers to ring 2+ octave music? Do you need to conserve space and ring without tables? Would you and a few of your peers like to perform a piece above and beyond what your full group is doing? This class will give you an opportunity to actually ring music designed for smaller groups.