



# SOUNDINGS

Music of Our Lands and Our Lives

17TH INTERNATIONAL  
HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM  
JULY 26–30, 2016  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

## Registration is Open!

### *An update for Canadian Handbell Musicians*

OUR ON-LINE REGISTRATION represents a change from past symposia, as it has previously been handled entirely with paper forms, and usually not until the fall. Be sure to read the information and instruction document available for download from the website, as questions you may have will be answered there.

As Canadians, the first step is to contact Handbell Guilds of Canada (HGC) chair Patsy Andrews-Vert, ([hgcchs2016@gmail.com](mailto:hgcchs2016@gmail.com) or 204.735.2423) who will provide you with the code you will need to proceed with the registration process. Some of you may have received a letter from Alison Wood, encouraging you to register and pay as soon as registration opens, in order to supply working capital for the planning committee. If you are able to do this, we would be very grateful, as the seed money we received from HGC has been exhausted, and there are many more expenses to cover before the Symposium takes place. When you register, you can either pay the whole amount, or you can pay a deposit and then the final balance later. We also want to point out that while it is possible to pay by cheque, doing so will incur an extra \$25 fee for each cheque. By far the preferred method of payment is by credit card through the secure web-based registration system, which also allows you to benefit from any rewards program your credit card may have.

A word of caution: once you have received the code from Patsy, please don't share it with other ringers, but have them contact Patsy themselves. She is tracking the number of Canadians who are registering to know where we stand in relation to our quota.

**Hotels** As there is no one single hotel affiliated with the Vancouver Convention Centre (VCC), we have contracted with a number of hotels in Vancouver, at a variety of price points and in a variety of locations. Hotel information is now available from the website. MCI Canada has negotiated very favourable rates and terms for symposium delegates. Anyone who would be comfortable using Vancouver public transit may want to consider one of the properties a little farther away but a little more reasonably priced. For instance, the contracted hotel offering the lowest rate is the Sheraton Vancouver Airport, which is a short walk from the Canada Line SkyTrain, the terminus station of which is directly across the street from the VCC.

**Social Media** If you are a Facebook user, please make sure that you have visited the IHS2016 page and "Liked" the page itself (not just any of the individual posts on it) so that you receive our updates on your own newsfeed. Twitter users can follow us @ihs2016vancouver. Also keep an eye on the website, as more and more content will be added in the coming weeks and months. Whenever anything significant is added to the website, an alert will be issued through Facebook and Twitter.



*IHS2016 Registrar Annie Hergott*

**Program** Development of the program schedule for the symposium is well underway, as are plans for the musical and social aspects of the event.

**Other Ways You Can Help** We also ask you to remember that sponsorships, grants and donations are an important part of the overall budget for this event, and whether you are able to consider a tax-deductible donation in support of IHS2016, made through BCGEHR, or if your business or any business you are associated with would consider being a sponsor or advertiser. We're delighted to report that we have received a \$6000 donation from one individual to support youth registration. We would be grateful for any donation, whether it be \$60 or \$600 or \$6000. Donors will be recognized in the program booklet and of course will receive a tax receipt. Thank you for considering.

**Volunteers** Canadians from outside of BC (or family members accompanying them to Vancouver) who are interested in volunteering in some capacity will have many opportunities. Naturally, most of the dozens of volunteers we will need will necessarily be from Vancouver or BC, but there will be many opportunities before, during or after the symposium for those from other provinces, everything from transporting equipment from a very long distance, to being a "Person Friday" in a workshop room. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kathie Zalasky at [zalasky@shaw.ca](mailto:zalasky@shaw.ca) for further information.

**So Glorious and Free** The HGC Composition Contest winner, "So Glorious & Free" by Betty Radford of Edmonton, has now been published by From the Top Music and is available from their website ([www.fromthetopmusic.com](http://www.fromthetopmusic.com)) and will soon be available through your regular music distributor. Check the Facebook page to watch a video of the world premiere performance of it, by Jubilo! of Edmonton in March 2015. HGC is currently in the midst of its process for choosing the conductor who will represent Canada on the podium, conducting "So Glorious & Free," and an announcement should be made sometime this summer.

**BC Composition and Conductor** Traditionally, each participating country of an international symposium supplies one piece of music and one conductor, and the host country is granted a second piece and a second conductor. For 2016, because BCGEHR is hosting the IHS on behalf of HGC, it is BC that will choose this second piece and second conductor. We are delighted to make the following two announcements.

The first is that the conductor who has been invited to represent BC and Canada on the podium at the IHS is BC's own Jan Nordstrand. Jan is a very experienced music educator, handbell conductor and clinician, a former board member of BCGEHR, and an active choral musician. She has conducted at regional, provincial and national handbell events — many Canadians will remember her from Ringing Link 2011 in Calgary — and will bring to the podium her experience, enthusiasm, and her special ability to make a connection with her ringers.

The second is that BC-based composer and multi-instrumentalist Bruce Henczel, who has been developing strong ties with the handbell community in BC over recent years, has been commissioned to compose the piece that Jan will conduct. Bruce is very excited about this opportunity, he's already started working on it, is excited about the theme of the Symposium and how his piece will relate to it, and it will most likely include percussion or other instruments that Bruce himself will perform.

**Bells of the Cascades Cruise** One last exciting announcement: many Canadians have travelled on the bell cruises sponsored by the Bells of Cascades, which take place every two years and combine all the fun aspects of cruises with our number one pastime of ringing handbells. Bells of the Cascades have confirmed that the 2016 Bell Cruise will be to Alaska, departing from Vancouver on July 31, one day after the conclusion of SOUNDINGS. How fantastic is that? We hope many delegates will take the opportunity to move from one event to the other without even having to pay for an extra night in the hotel. A perfect post-symposium tour! Check it out here: [www.bellsinthecascades.org/cruises](http://www.bellsinthecascades.org/cruises)

**Sound Effects Youth Track** Youth from ages 13 to 18 are invited to take part in a youth handbell event running concurrently but separately from the full Symposium (Thursday to Saturday). This event is an opportunity for youth who may not be interested in, or ready for, participation in the full symposium to have an international experience. It is not intended to divert all youth from the full symposium, which has no age restrictions, but to provide a special and exciting event and learning experience, geared just to that age group, on a smaller scale. This event will have a dedicated rehearsal and workshop space and its own programming and repertoire, but will share meals, social events and concerts with the full Symposium, and Youth Track delegates (who should be capable of ringing music up to a Level 3) will take part in the final concert.

We have two more exciting announcements regarding the Sound Effects Youth Track. The first is that the lead clinician/conductor will be our good friend, "honourary Canadian," and internationally revered maestro, Timothy H. Waugh. The second is that the assistant clinician/conductor who will work closely with Tim and the youth, is BC's very own Imran Amarshi, a young and talented handbell conductor who is currently pursuing a degree in music at the University of British Columbia.

A separate communication will provide more complete details about the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track.

**Youth Track Commission** Through the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award Committee in Michigan, we have been given the opportunity to include a piece of music in the youth track repertoire that is being commissioned especially for youth, and that will be premiered at the final concert of the Symposium. The commissioned composer is a young musician by the name of Matthew Compton, whose music is exciting, rhythmical and challenging. Like Imran, Matt is currently pursuing a university degree in music. Making for a true power-house combination to showcase the astounding talent belonging to the young members of our international handbell community, we are delighted to tell you that Imran Amarshi will be the conductor for this specially commissioned piece.

Keep an eye on [www.bcgehr.com](http://www.bcgehr.com) in the coming weeks for an announcement about the

**IHS2016 CANADIAN STUDENT BURSARY FUND**

providing support for youth from any region of Canada to attend either the full Symposium (SOUNDINGS) or the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track! An alert will be posted on our Facebook page when the announcement is made.



[www.ihs2016vancouver.ca](http://www.ihs2016vancouver.ca)  
[ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com](mailto:ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com)

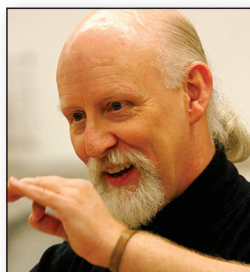
Janet Nordstrand



Bruce Henczel



Timothy H. Waugh



Imran Amarshi



Matthew Compton

