



SOUNDINGS

Music of Our Lands and Our Lives

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

The Early Bird may have flown the coop... ...but there are still plenty of worms to go around!

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, the early bird registration deadline for IHS2016 has now passed, and we're very excited about the great response so far! But even though the deadline to register at the early bird rate has passed, we want to make sure everyone knows that registration remains open for anyone still wanting to join us for what is sure to be a fantastic event this summer.

The registration process for IHS2016 has several aspects that are new and different from previous symposia, and the Planning Committee (IHS2016 PC) wanted to make sure that these changes were as easy as possible for all registrants to navigate.

One of these differences is the registration timeframe: while it has been traditional for past symposia registration to open in the autumn of the year prior to the event with an early-bird deadline early in the new year, IHS2016 registration opened several months earlier in May 2015 with an early-bird deadline of mid-autumn.

To ensure that this shift from previous symposia did not cause too much difficulty for those who may not have been prepared to pay their registration fee quite so early in the year, the Planning Committee made sure that the regular registra-

tion fee was only a modest 5% increase from the early-bird rate. At \$1,150 CAD (with currency exchange at the time of publication, that's about equivalent to \$830 USD and £570 GBP), the regular registration rate is still available for anyone who registers before February 26, 2016.

Not only is registration still open, but there's great news for almost all delegates outside of Canada. Due to the drop in value of the Canadian dollar over the last months compared to most international currencies, almost anyone converting their own currency into Canadian dollars today to pay the regular registration fee would be paying *less* than if they had paid the discounted early-bird rate back in the spring of 2015 when registration first opened! But time is running out—the late fee that will apply to registrations paid after February 26th will cancel out these savings, so register today to save your spot at the best price possible!

The Planning Committee and handbell musicians from across Canada are ramping up their plans for hosting the world in July 2016 and we'd love to have you to join us! Take a look at our website www.ihs2016vancouver.ca for all the details and feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. See you in Vancouver in July!

*There's still room
for YOU!*





Recommendations for accommodation

Important information regarding hotels

IT'S THAT TIME! Those of us who have registered for IHS2016 are planning their travel and accommodation arrangements, and the Planning Committee (IHS2016 PC) wants to make sure everyone is aware of the special hotel rates we have to offer.

IHS2016 is being held in downtown Vancouver, which is an expensive area in terms of hotel accommodation. So the IHS2016 PC has worked hard with MCI Canada to secure some of the most affordable rates you'll find in that city. All of the special rates and details around the official symposium hotels can be found at www.ihs2016vancouver.ca/registration.

In order to secure these deeply discounted rates, the IHS2016 PC has made commitments to each of the official hotels on the number of our delegates who will be staying with them. This type of commitment is standard when negotiating special pricing for large groups, as are the penalties we will have to pay if these commitments are not met. While some event organizers choose to charge a penalty for delegates who stay elsewhere in order to ensure these penalties will not apply, we did not feel this was the best option for IHS2016 as we know that the benefits of the official hotels and our special rates are of clear value to our delegates.

For example, the **St. Regis Hotel**, which is located within minutes' walk of the IHS2016 venue not only has the style and quality-of-service that boutique hotels are known for and a near-perfect customer review rating (4.6 out of 5 stars on Trip Advisor), but offers free breakfast and bottled water daily. Or the **Sheraton Vancouver Airport** which, while it offers great value due to its location outside the downtown core, is situated only a few blocks from the Skytrain (light-rail transit) that provides direct service right to the symposium venue at the train's terminus station. We have secured rates for both of these great hotels that are 65% off their regular rates!

We've worked hard
with our event
management firm
to secure some of
the most affordable
rates you'll find in
Vancouver.

Many may be familiar with online discount hotel-booking options, and it's possible that rates similar to those we've secured can be found using these discount sites. But there are several differences between booking with discount sites and through MCI with our secured rates that you may not be aware of:

- When booking one of the official hotels online with MCI, you will not be required to pay for your full stay up-front like you would on many discount web-sites. In most cases, you will only need to provide your credit card number to secure your reservation, and your special rate is guaranteed even though you won't be charged until check-out.
- Many discount bookings are non-refundable, but if your travel plans change, you don't have to worry when you book with MCI as there are no change fees and, if cancelled by May 25, 2016, no cancellation penalties. Even after May 25, you can still cancel your reservation with only a minimal fee instead of the full-stay price.
- Unlike many discount sites that don't guarantee the type of room nor even the number or size of beds in your booking but simply guarantee the nightly rate, booking with MCI will ensure your room class, bed specifications and location within the hotel is guaranteed to be of the quality you are expecting.
- MCI also has friendly, personable staff available to help you find and book the best hotel option for your needs – they will be happy to answer any questions you might have at any point in the process, from booking, to changing, to last-minute questions along the way!

For those who have not yet made their accommodation reservations, please take a look at our website for more details on all the hotels and special rates we've secured to ensure you have the best experience possible this summer.

Questions regarding accommodations can be directed to ihsinfo@mci-group.com, or the general IHS2016 mailbox, ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com.



[READY TO BOOK? CLICK HERE](#)

www.ihs2016vancouver.ca

ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com