



SOUNDINGS

Music of Our Lands and Our Lives

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

Opportunities for supporters

An important message regarding donors and sponsors

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Canadian handbell musicians, from every part of the country, have been waiting for the International Handbell Symposium in Vancouver for many years. The excitement has been growing for a long time and many of us have gotten familiar with thinking about it as a far-off event. The Planning Committee has had much support from individuals including messages of encouragement, positive feedback on our reports, and offers to help with whatever tasks need to be done. This support and encouragement are so important and appreciated!

But we can now say the wait is truly over—IHS2016 is really here! Contracts have been signed, venues have been booked, bills have been paid, registration numbers are climbing and travel plans are being made. The time has arrived to execute the plans we've been busily putting in place for the last several years!

For those of us in the Canadian handbell community, it's time to solidify our support. Some may be considering acting as a volunteer. Please take a moment to reflect on what role you can see yourself playing, whether it be pre-symposium preparation or helping out at the event itself in any of the many on-site roles, and consider whether you have any special talents that you are particularly positioned to offer.

Another role that we should all consider is that of sponsor. As we all know, a festival of this magnitude is an expensive proposition for both the hosts and the participants. The Planning Committee has needed to carefully balance participant affordability with the real costs associated with the calibre of experience for which the symposia are known. Part of that balance includes sponsorship and grant funding. In addition to applying for various grants, we are approaching industry leaders and potential corporate sponsors about supporting

this event financially in return for various forms of recognition.

However, financial support is not just something to be left to large corporate organizations. While some individuals are best suited to give their time or physical strength to help out during the event, some of us may be better suited to showing our support financially.

There are several options for offering financial support, including sponsorship and donation. Those who own small businesses or even those involved in promoting the businesses they work for can sponsor many different aspects of the symposium from delegate T-shirts, to workshops, to concerts, to any number of the printed materials that will be distributing. We have a wide range of sponsorship options to fit any budget or business need. Another financial support option is to donate to BCGEHR in support of IHS2016 activities. As a registered charity, BCGEHR will issue a tax receipt for all donations over \$20, and all donors will be acknowledged in our official Symposium Program.

The power of financial support is remarkable. BCGEHR has established a bursary program that will help young Canadian musicians attend IHS2016 and the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track. This important program would not have been possible without a \$6,000 donation we recently received from a generous individual who supported our work to involve youth in this event.

Every additional dollar we receive will help to make IHS2016 the amazing experience we know it can be! Whether you can give \$60, \$600, or \$6000, every sponsorship or donation will be gratefully received. For more information on how to become a sponsor or donor, please contact BCGEHR Treasurer and IHS2016 Financial Coordinator Peggy Bensler at treasurer@bcgehr.com or 250.765.7780. *Thank you!*