



MANITOBA GUILD OF ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS

MONTHLY UPDATE FOR MARCH 2020

A MESSAGE FROM SCHULMERICH HANDBELLS IN PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Schulmerich Customers,

We have received many inquiries about Schulmerich's business continuity planning in light of the worldwide Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Our primary production facility is located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. As of now, public health officials in our community have not ordered the closure of any businesses. We have been given guidance on supplemental cleaning protocols to use in our facility and have implemented those protocols in an effort to keep our people safe and our business moving.

We know that the instruments we manufacture are important to you and to your organization. It is therefore our intention to stay open with a normal production schedule and to continue manufacturing and servicing your instruments. At this time many groups have chosen to suspend their rehearsals in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are continuing to rehearse but are still concerned about the spread of COVID-19, we recommend **cleaning your bells, chimes, and mallets before and after every rehearsal and/or performance. Disinfectant wipes can be used on bell handles, chimes, and mallets. Please try to avoid using disinfectants on your bell castings, as the chemicals will strip away the polished finish and gradually eat away at the metal castings. However, as long as these are only temporary precautions the damage will not be permanent, and if you absolutely must disinfect your bell castings they can always be polished again. If your ringers wear gloves, please make sure that they are washed after every use. Otherwise, we recommend ringing without gloves and washing your hands or using hand sanitizer before and after touching the bells/chimes/mallets.**

Please reach out to us if you have any specific questions. Thank you for your patience and your continued patronage.

A MESSAGE FROM MALMARK HANDBELLS IN PENNSYLVANIA FOLLOWS





Stop the spread of germs
by wiping your handbell handles and
handchime tubes with disposable
disinfectant wipes.

Remind your ringers
to wash their
gloves after each use.

For those of you who may have contemplated attending the Winnipeg Music Festival Classes at Fort Rouge School on Thursday, March 19th, for the first time in its 102nd Winnipeg Music Festival history, the festival was shut down for the remaining six days of the 22 day festival. All that hard work by Lori Bodner with her elementary school- aged handbell ringers from Fort Rouge and John M. King Schools as well as the Grade 4-8 Handbell Ringers at Balmoral Hall under the director, Dr. Cathy Doerksen – such a disappointment for everyone.

I believe it is likely that all handbell groups in Manitoba have now shut down due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. All churches have been temporarily closed.

Prairie Spirit United Church booked for Spring Ring on Saturday, April 25th is now closed for at least three weeks. There is a possibility Spring Ring may be cancelled or postponed. The Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers will keep you informed about the status of Spring Ring as soon as we have a clearer picture of the advance of COVID-19 and the limitations to restricting gathering of only 50 people.

Perhaps we will have to follow the choral conductor below? Patience is a virtue – may we all be virtuous during this global health crisis!

