



Hong Kong Bronze is a unique event for advanced handbell ringers in Hong Kong, dedicated to advancing their learning journey to the pinnacle of excellence and professionalism. In the international handbell world, the term "Bronze" embodies the highest level of performance, conveying the essence of rigorous training, dedication, and professionalism.

Thanks to the support from the local industry and academia this year, our association has decided to launch the Hong Kong Bronze Youth Ringing Track next year to provide high-quality and professional performance opportunities for students in the handbell community in Hong Kong to the completely next level.

The Youth Ringing Track will be led by our honorary guest director Mr. Lee Afdahl from the United States of America, and The Recital Ringing Track will be led by our honorary guest director Mr. Hirotaka Arai from Japan. Registration positions are limited to 30 youth handbell ringers for the Youth Ringing Track and 18 advanced handbell ringers for the Recital Ringing Track.

Five sections of rehearsal with a final performance during the concert at Y Studio, sharing the stage with The Hong Kong Elite Youth Ringers on a Sunday afternoon concert that is open to the public.

*Audition on February 7 is required.

Event Rehearsals (5 Sections in total)

2026 March 14 (Sat)	11:00-13:00
2026 March 14 (Sat)	14:15-15:45
2026 March 14 (Sat)	16:30-18:00
2026 March 14 (Sat)	19:30-21:30
2026 March 15 (Sun)	10:00-11:00 (Youth) / 11:00-12:00 (Recital)

Concert

2026 March 15 (Sun)	15:30	Y Studio, Youth Square, Chai Wan
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Repertoire

Youth Ringing Track	Recital Ringing Track
What Wondrous Love is This Arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski	Le Nozze di Figaro :Overture W.A.Mozart; Arr. by Hirotaka Arai
Cantabile, A Singing Spirit Composed by Lee J. Afdahl	情熱大陸 葉加瀬太郎; Arr. by Hirotaka Arai
Gopak Arr. by Lee J. Afdahl	Rondo Passacaglia Composed by Cynthia Dobrinski
Georgia on my Mind Arr. by Hart Morris	Let It Go Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez; Arr. by Hirotaka Arai

Registration Fee & Date

<p>Youth Ringing Track</p> <p>Registration Fee HKD 1250</p> <p>Recital Ringing Track</p> <p>Registration Fee HKD 1550</p>	<p>Registration Starts :</p> <p>2025 October 20 (Mon) 00:00</p> <p>Registration Close :</p> <p>2026 January 9 (Fri) 18:00</p> <p>Audition Date :</p> <p>2026 February 7 (Sat) 14:00-16:00</p>
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*Registration fee includes a copy of the original printed music from the US or Japan of the four repertoires, an Event Polo-Shirt, and also including Closing Dinner on the 2026 March 15 on Sunday.

*Registration fee does not include accommodation, music binder for handbells and gloves.

Eligibility

Youth Ringing Track -

All handbell students from form 2 to 6 are welcome to participate. They must have practiced and played handbells regularly in school for at least two years and have performed music at Level 3 or above.

Recital Ringing Track -

All handbell enthusiasts are welcome to participate. Those who have practiced and played handbells for at least 5 years and have performed music at level 4 or above are welcome to participate.

Concert Attire

Event Polo Shirt with black trousers/ maxi skirt and black gloves

Note

- This activity is not on a first come first served basis.
- Participants are required to attend an audition on February 7 in the afternoon 14:00-16:00.
Those who registered but fail to attend will be deemed to have forfeited the opportunity.
- Only those who are accepted through the interview need to pay the fee. After receiving the music score, you must read it before the first practice.
- Participants MUST attend all 5 sections of rehearsals and the concert.

Introducing Our 2026 Honorary Clinicians



Professor Hirotaka Arai graduated from Kunitachi College of Music, majoring in voice. He is currently dedicated to research in handbell music, choral performance, and opera. His journey with handbells began in 1987, when he was captivated by the performance of the Izumi Women's Junior College Handbell Choir, conducted by the late Kazuo Shimoda (former President of the Handbell Ringers of Japan). Inspired by the beauty of handbell music, he began studying handbell performance techniques. In 1988, Arai founded the Handbell Choir at Hakuoh University as part of the music education program. In 1992, he led the choir to its first appearance at the International Handbell Symposium in Edmonton, Canada. Since then, he has participated in the symposium 15 times, performing as a representative of Japan at major events including Makuhari Messe (Japan, 1998), Osaka (Japan, 2010), Liverpool (UK, 2012), and Jeju Island (Korea, 2014), receiving enthusiastic applause and standing ovations at each. He has also served in key roles at international symposiums: as massed ringing conductor in Birmingham (UK, 2000) and Vancouver (Canada, 2016), as conductor of the Symposium Choir in Osaka (Japan, 2010), and as conductor of the MIRAI Choir in Hamamatsu (Japan, 2024). In addition, he has led workshops in 2012 and 2014. Since 1992, Arai has made 30 performance trips to Hawaii, and in recognition of his long-standing contributions, he has received letters of appreciation from both the Mayor of Honolulu and the Governor of Hawaii. In 2025 August, he was invited to Hong Kong to lead a three-day seminar. Domestically, Arai serves as a clinician at workshops organized by the Handbell Ringers of Japan. He also conducts annual handbell experience courses in his hometown of Oyama City, helping to establish numerous community-based handbell teams. His contributions include the publication of many handbell arrangements and several CD recordings. He is Professor Emeritus at Hakuoh University and serves as a Board member of the Handbell Ringers of Japan.



Mr. Lee J. Afdahl is the Director of Music Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, Minnesota. A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, IA, Lee is a church musician with fifty years of experience in leading active programs of choral and handbell ensembles in Michigan and Minnesota.

Lee Afdahl is frequently a conductor and clinician for handbell conferences, choral workshops, and church music conferences internationally. He has conducted festival conferences for the Handbell Musicians of America at the local, area, and national levels, for handbell classes of American Guild of Organists, Fellowship of United Methodists, Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and international handbell events in England, Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

Mr. Afdahl has served the Handbell Musicians of America as Michigan Chair for Area 5, Chair of Area 7, and is a Past President of the national board of the organization. He represented the organization as a conductor at the International Handbell Symposia in Adelaide, Australia in 1994, Liverpool, UK in 2012 and Jeju, South Korea in 2014. Lee has taught intermediate and advanced conducting for HMA Seminars, and most recently taught conducting for certification for HMA. Lee is an active organ recitalist and published composer and arranger of handbell, instrumental, and choral music with over one hundred compositions and arrangements in print.

Organizers



Supporters

