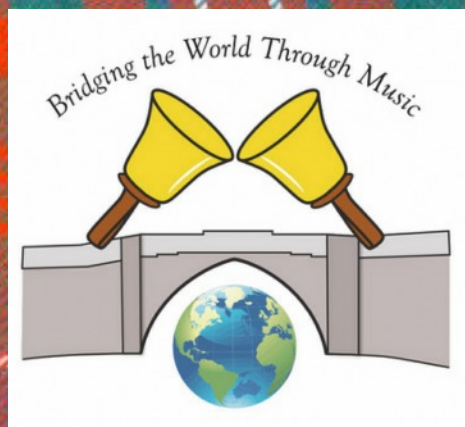


22nd International Handbell Symposium

Registration Information



3-8 August 2026
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK





For over 40 years the International Handbell Symposium has brought together handbell ringers from around the world to foster peace, greater understanding of different cultures and ways of life and to create long lasting friendships through handbell ringing.

From small beginnings in 1984 involving ringers from three countries it has grown to a truly worldwide event with representatives from 5 continents meeting in Japan in 2024.

As we met to 'Ring the Future' in Hamamatsu in 2024 we were able to put some of the challenges of the early 2020's behind us and renew our international partnerships.

In 2026 we will build on the successes of previous Symposia by
Bridging The World Through Music
as we share our love of handbells and the special music they create.

Important dates and deadlines

-  **16th January 2026 early bird registration closes**
-  **24th April 2026 registration closes**
-  **24th April 2026 deadline for final payment of registration and other fees**
-  **3rd - 8th August 2026 the 22nd International Symposium**

Welcome to P&J Live Convention Centre Aberdeen



P&J Live is a new arena and convention centre opened in 2019, with full wi-fi connectivity throughout. We will be using the convention centre with massed ringing and meals in large halls on the ground floor. Workshops will be based in a range of smaller rooms on the first floor above the massed ringing venue. <https://www.pandjlive.com/>



Workshop rooms on the first floor



**Massed ringing and catering rooms
on the ground floor**

Access to P&J Live. The P&J Live convention centre is easily accessible, from Aberdeen Airport – approximately 10 minutes by taxi or bus. Aberdeen train station is in the centre of Aberdeen approximately 30 minutes by taxi or bus.

Outline Daily Schedule

Monday 3rd August

PM Registration and load in
Evening Registration and Friendship reception

Tuesday 4th August

AM Opening Ceremony and Massed Ringing
PM Massed Ringing
Evening Team solo performances

Wednesday 5th August

AM Massed Ringing and Workshops
PM Massed Ringing and Workshops
Evening Team solo performances

Thursday 6th August

AM Worship service and Massed Ringing and Workshops
PM Massed Ringing and Workshops
Evening Team solo performances

Friday 7th August

AM Massed Ringing
PM Massed Ringing
Evening Team solo performances

Saturday 8th August

AM Massed Ringing dress rehearsal
PM Massed Ringing Concert
Evening Closing Banquet

Sunday 9th August

AM Optional Excursion.
Further details to be announced

Massed Ringing

All ringers will rehearse the 9 pieces chosen by the Guilds from around the world for the final concert. Time is limited so it is important that you are familiar with the pieces before coming to Symposium.

Team Solo Performances

All groups attending are invited to perform **one** piece as a solo item for the other ringers. Please register your groups interest on the registration form.

Workshops

Enjoy attending a choice of ringing and cultural workshops led by registrants from around the world. Symposium choirs of different levels will be offered.

Massed Ringing Concert

The final concert of all of the massed ringing pieces will take place on Saturday. This will be a ticketed concert open to the general public

Friendship Reception

A chance to meet up with old friends from around the world and to make new friends as the Symposium begins. Exchanging pins/small gifts with other ringers is an option.

Registration

Early-bird registration fee per person	Registration fee per person
£650	£700
Registration deadline midnight (Greenwich mean time) 16th January 2026	Registration deadline midnight (British summer time - GMT+1) 24th April 2026

All fees to be paid in UK pounds (GBP)

A deposit of £150 is payable at the time of booking

Payment in full may be made at the time of booking

Registration fee includes:

-  massed ringing
-  workshops
-  solo concerts
-  opening and closing ceremonies
-  friendship reception
-  lunch and dinner Tuesday 4th – Saturday 8th August including closing banquet
-  symposium bag
-  symposium shirt
-  individual copy of group photograph

Registration fee does not include

- ❖ accommodation
- ❖ breakfast
- ❖ transportation to and from Aberdeen
- ❖ transfers from off-site hotels
- ❖ car parking charges
- ❖ massed ringing music
- ❖ massed ringing table foam
- ❖ workshop materials
- ❖ travel insurance
- ❖ Optional Sunday excursion

Register online at:

<https://ihs26.handbells.org.uk/>

Registration is individual, members of groups should indicate clearly on their registration form the name of their team/choir.

We will need to know how many tables you need when you register. Only one person from each group should complete this part of the registration. (Changes can be made up to 24th April 2026)

Registrants will be classified as Ringer, Director or Chaperone.

The full registration fee applies to all classifications.

Chaperones

Guilds are responsible for ensuring that sufficient chaperones attend for the number of young ringers attending. Chaperones must be registered as full delegates and cannot be registered as non ringers.

Non Ringer Programme

A full non ringer programme is planned for non-ringing partners/friends who wish to travel with ringers.

Non-Ringer Early-bird registration fee per person	Non-Ringer Registration fee per person
£575	£625
Registration deadline midnight (Greenwich mean time) 16th January 2026	Registration deadline midnight (British summer time - GMT+1) 24th April 2026

All fees to be paid in UK pounds (GBP)

A deposit of £150 is payable at the time of booking

Payment in full may be made at the time of booking

Non-ringer registration fee will include:

- ✓ a programme of full daily activities Tuesday 4th August - Friday 7th August.
- ✓ Ticket to opening and closing ceremonies
- ✓ Ticket to friendship reception
- ✓ Tickets to solo concerts
- ✓ Dinner with ringers Tuesday 4th August – Friday 7th August
- ✓ Ticket to final concert Saturday 8th August
- ✓ Ticket to closing banquet

How to register

Please complete the non-ringer registration form at

<https://ihs26.handbells.org.uk/>

which gives details of how payment can be made.

Chaperones cannot be registered as non-ringers

Cancellation Fees

These apply to both ringer and non-ringer registrations

- Cancellation before 16th January 2026: deposit will be refunded; an administration fee of £25 will be charged.
- Cancellation after 16th January 2026: deposit is non refundable
- Cancellation after 24th April 2026: no refund

Massed Ringing

The following pieces have been selected by the International Guilds to be the massed ringing music for the 22nd International Handbell Symposium

Guild	Title	Composer/ Arranger	Conductor
Handbell Ringers of Great Britain	A Highland Blessing	Derek Hakes	TBC
Handbell Ringers of Great Britain	Celtic Peace	Katrina Gordon	Susie Dingle
Handbell Musicians of America	What a Wonderful World	Arr. Sandra Ethun	Greg Ashurst
Handbell Ringers of Japan	Shiretoko Fantasy	Hisaya Morishige Arr. Naomi Kato	Naomi Kato
Handbell Musicians of Canada	Connections	Betty Radford	TBC
Korea Handbell Association	The Prayer	Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster. Arr Joel Raney	Mrs Mi Hyun Kim
Handbell Society of Australasia			
Handbell Association of Hong Kong			
Handbell Ringers of Singapore	Galaxies	Jasmin Lim	Damien Lim

The massed ringing hall will be set up with the following:

-  **Tables.** Tables will be provided. Each table will be 200cm long and 75cm wide. We will need to know how many tables you need when you register.
-  **Foam. To meet fire and safety regulations only foam supplied for the event can be used.** You will need to purchase foam for your tables. Each piece is 100cm x 75cm. You will need two pieces of foam for each table. The final deadline for foam to be ordered is 24th April 2026. Prices and ordering information will be given later.

What to bring?

You will need to bring with you to the symposium

-  **Instruments.** You will need to bring your own handbells, handchimes, mallets, music stands and any other instruments needed for your performances.

If you are considering shipping your instruments please investigate arranging a **customs ATA carnet** from your country of origin.

-  **Music.** All massed ringing music must be purchased in advance and brought to the symposium. Photocopies are not allowed at massed ringing rehearsals or in the performance. If you are performing in a solo concert the music must be purchased in advance and photocopies are not allowed.

-  **Table covers.** Please bring your own table covers. Foam supplied will not be covered,

Workshops

A large programme of workshops will be offered, both handbell and cultural activities will be included. Full details of the programme and registration procedures will be provided to registrants in due course.

Other information

Hotel booking. Preferential symposium rates have been negotiated at a number of hotels. To access these rates you will need to register for the symposium and use the link provided to the Reservation Highway website where bookings can be made. (Once your registration has been confirmed you will be able to access bookings at the symposium rate.)

Other hotels. A selection of other hotels is available approximately a 15-20 minute walk away or 5 minutes by bus (buses every 12-15 minutes). These include Premier Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Leonardo, Hampton by Hilton, Courtyard, Moxi and Crowne Plaza.

Handbell Ringers of Great Britain
HRGB Promotions Ltd
2 Holt Park Approach, Leeds LS16 7PW
Email symposium26@hrgb.org.uk
<https://ihs26.handbells.org.uk/>