

Ring Sarasota Home Page

Now in its sixth season Ring Sarasota, the area's premier handbell ensemble, is making music throughout the Gulf Coast. With a passion for playing, these spirited musicians captivate audiences age seven to seventy-seven with a unique combination of entertainment, education, and community engagement.

Dedicated to bringing ringing prime time, the Sarasota-based group under the direction of former Navy bandleader Rick Holdsworth showcases over 200 bells rung by 30 hands to create a symphony of sound with special effects mimicking the piccolo, percussion, chimes, trombone, even the Tibetan singing bowl. Their music has been described as an inspirational mix of melody and muscle.

Performance history highlights include a news making Veterans Day celebration benefiting 48 hometown soldiers through Manatee Operation Troop Support, a sold out Christmas collaboration with Bay Chorale at Neel Performing Arts Center, debuting director Rick Holdsworth's original transcription of Holst's "Jupiter" from *The Planets*, radio and video broadcasts of their first CD recording, and an invitation to ring as the featured ensemble at the Handbell Musicians of America Florida state festival.

Hitting the road with their new "What a Wonderful World" tour, inspired by the Louis Armstrong tune of the same name, hope for a bright tomorrow is the theme of Ring Sarasota's season six. A musical mosaic of much-loved compositions and less familiar pieces spans the ages, from days of old in Martin Luther's rugged hymn of assurance *A Mighty Fortress* and Tchaikovsky's timeless overture, to the current pop scene in Katy Perry's explosive *Firework*. As varied as the colors of the rainbow, this soundscape blends the blue-sky optimism of the Academy Award winning lullaby *Beauty and the Beast* with the red-hot mambo *Sway* made famous by Michael Bublé. Along the spectrum, the program pairs the uplifting *Armed Forces Medley* brimming with patriotism and, from the *Shrek* soundtrack, an introspective *Hallelujah* in 12/8 time, as we extol the wonders of our world in song.

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