WESTMINSTER CONCERT BELL CHOIR
Kathleen Ebling Shaw, conductor

Celebrating 40 Years of Handbells at Westminster Choir College

2018 Tour
Westminster Choir was founded by John Finley Williamson at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio.

1925 The Westminster Choir School was founded.

1928 Westminster Choir and the Cincinnati Symphony made the nation’s first coast-to-coast radio broadcast, aired over Station WLA.

1929 Westminster Choir College was established and moved to Ithaca College.

1932 Westminster Choir College moved to Princeton, N.J.

1934 As the first official American guests of the Soviet Union, with whom the United States had just resumed diplomatic relations, Westminster Choir made the first broadcast from Russia to the United States.

1938 Westminster Choir, with conductor and founder Dr. John Finley Williamson, presented the first U.S. performance of Joseph Haydn’s *The Seven Last Words*. The performance also featured a volunteer orchestra of Princetonians, including Albert Einstein in the violin section. *The Choir sang at the dedication of the New York World’s Fair.*

1939 Westminster Choir sang for the first time with the New York Philharmonic. Since then, it has set a record for the number of joint performances—more than 50—by a single choir and orchestra.

1957 Westminster Choir completed a five-month, globe-circling tour under the auspices of the U.S. State Department’s Cultural Exchange Program. The Choir performed in 22 countries, traveled 40,000 miles and appeared before 227,000 people.

1964 Westminster Choir sang on the Telstar World-Wide Telecast in the spring for the opening ceremonies of the New York World’s Fair. This reportedly was the largest audience ever to see a television show at that time.

1965 For the first time the Choir appeared with three major orchestras in one year: the Berlin Philharmonic, the American Symphony Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

1972 The Choir began its first summer as the chorus-in-residence for the Festival dei Due Mondi (Festival of Two Worlds) in Spoleto, Italy, at the invitation of Gian Carlo Menotti.


1978 Westminster Choir established its own recording label, copyrighted “Westminster Choir,” and released its first recording: *Six Motets of Johann Sebastian Bach*, with guest conductor Wilhelm Ehmann. *Westminster Choir College was the first institution of higher learning to create a handbell curriculum.*

1980 Westminster Choir was the first choir to be featured on the “Live from Lincoln Center” telecast series over National Public Television. The Choir performed Verdi’s *Requiem* with the New York Philharmonic and Zubin Mehta.

1982 Westminster Choir was part of the 10,000th performance of the New York Philharmonic, America’s oldest permanent orchestra.

1984 The Westminster Concert Bell Choir premiered the world’s first seven-octave set of handbells (C2 to C9) crafted by Malmark, Inc. to celebrate Malmark’s 10th anniversary.

1990 Westminster Symphonic Choir sang in the Leonard Bernstein memorial concert at the invitation of the Bernstein family.

1991 Westminster Symphonic Choir performed at Carnegie Hall’s 100th Anniversary Celebration.


1996 Westminster Choir, conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt, traveled on a concert tour of Korea and Taiwan and performed in the Colmar Music Festival in Colmar, France.

1999 Westminster Concert Bell Choir appeared on *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*.

2001 Westminster Choir and the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Joseph Flummerfelt, performed the world premiere of Stephen Paulus’ *Voices of Light*, commissioned by Rider University to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Westminster Choir College.

2002 To commemorate the events of September 11, 2001, Westminster Choir was featured in the PRI national radio broadcast of “In the Shadow of the Towers.” They were joined by President George W. Bush and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. *Westminster Symphonic Choir’s performance of Verdi’s Requiem with the New Jersey Symphony was broadcast nationally by PBS.*

2004 Westminster Choir premiered *Arie My Love* by Stephen Paulus, a gift from the composer to celebrate Joseph Flummerfelt’s extraordinary career. *Westminster’s artistic director, Joseph Flummerfelt, was named Musical America’s 2004 Conductor of the Year, the first choral conductor to be so honored.*

2005 Westminster Symphonic Choir performed Ravel’s *Daphnis et Chloé* (complete) for the first time with the New York Philharmonic, conducted by Lorin Maazel.


2007 Rider University established Westminster College of the Arts. *Westminster Williamson Voices presented the North American premiere of James Whitbourn’s *Annelies: The Anne Frank Oratorio*. *Westminster Symphonic Choir opened the Carnegie Hall season performing Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 with the Lucerne Festival Orchestra, conducted by David Robertson.*

2009 Westminster Choir and Joe Miller released their first recording, *Flower of Beauty.*


2012 Westminster Symphonic Choir performed with Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra for the first time.

2014 The Westminster Williamson Voices’ and James Jordan’s recording of James Whitbourn’s *Annelies*, the first major choral setting of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, was nominated for a GRAMMY Award for Best Choral Performance.

2015 Westminster Symphonic Choir performed Leonard Bernstein’s *Mass: A Theater Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers* for the first time with The Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

2016 Westminster Williamson Voices performed Arvo Pärt’s *Kanon Pokajanen* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Temple of Dendur.

2017 Lumina, Westminster Kantorei’s first recording on the Westminster Choir College label, was released. *Westminster Choir represented the United States at the World Symposium on Choral Music in Barcelona.*

2018 Westminster Symphonic Choir performs the world premiere of Tod Machover’s *Philadelphia Voices* with The Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.
Top 40 Hits

Celebrating 40 Years of Ringing Excellence
Westminster Concert Bell Choir • Kathleen Ebling Shaw, conductor

The program will be selected from the following:

Capriccio

Dancing Queen

Fantasy on “King’s Weston” †‡

In the Hall of the Mountain King
from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1

Londonderry Air †‡

Misty

Morning from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1

Nocturne in A Minor †‡

Passacaglia

Reflections on the Plains

Reverberations

Song of Peace+

The Ball from “Children’s Games” †‡

The Stars and Stripes Forever *

Kevin McChesney
Benny Andersson, Stig Anderson & Björn Ulvaeus
arr. Brian Tervo & Ron Mallory

KING’S WESTON, NEUMARK PASSION CHORALE
arr. Fred Gramann

Edvard Grieg
trans. Michael R. Keller

arr. Donald E. Allured

Erroll Garner
arr. Arnold B. Sherman

Edvard Grieg
trans. Arnold B. Sherman

Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Georg Friedrich Handel
trans. William H. Griffin

Cathy Moklebust

Sallie Lloyd

Arnold Sherman

Georges Bizet
arr. Betty B. Garee

John Philip Sousa
trans. William H. Griffin

* Included on Let Freedom Ring!
+ Included on By Request!
† Included on Westminster Concert Bell Choir: 30th Anniversary
‡ Included on Westminster Rings!
Westminster Concert Bell Choir

Kathleen Ebling Shaw, conductor
Gillian Erlenborn, graduate assistant
David Sherman, manager

Elena Byassee, New Windsor, NY
Valerie Dzielski, State College, PA
Destiny Elazier, Carmichael, CA
Gillian Erlenborn, Bridgewater, NJ
John Franek, West Caldwell, NJ
David Grossman, Belle Mead, NJ
James Harris, Bristow, VA
Hannah Kim, Cherry Hill, NJ
Madeline Payment, Kent, WA
Sam Scheibe, Moorestown, NJ
Peter Schertz, Glen Rock, NJ
David Sherman, Marlboro, NJ
Hannah Steele, Schnecksville, PA
Charlotte Steiner, Maplewood, NJ
Lauren Tannen, Davie, FL
Kelly Ye, Hangzhou, China

About the Artists

The 16-member WESTMINSTER CONCERT BELL CHORI is composed of undergraduate and graduate students at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. Its conductor is Kathleen Ebling Shaw. This year celebrates the 40th year of the handbell curriculum at Westminster Choir College, which was the first institution in the world to develop such a program.

Hailed for its virtuosity, the Westminster Concert Bell Choir uses the largest range of handbells in the world — 8 octaves, from C1 to C9. Many of the bells are made of bronze and range in weight from four ounces to 11 pounds. The Choir also uses the large “Basso Profundo” aluminum-cast bells that are a new phenomenon in handbell ringing. The ensemble supplements its handbells with a six-octave set of Malmark Choirchime® instruments from C2 to C8 — the widest range in existence.

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir has appeared on Public Television’s Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood and several holiday broadcasts of the Today Show, including one in which the ensemble was joined by NBC personalities Katie Couric and Willard Scott. Its holiday performances have been heard annually on National Public Radio’s Performance Today, and it is included on NPR’s Christmas Around The Country II recording.

The Choir has performed at Carnegie Hall twice during the Christmas season and has been featured on New Jersey Network’s State of the Arts program.

In December 2002 the ensemble joined Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Charlotte Church and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra for a critically acclaimed 15-city tour titled A Royal Christmas. Most recently, the Choir joined singer, Josh Groban, appearing at NBC’s nationally televised lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

Last year, the choir released two recordings — An English Christmas and Let Freedom Ring! The ensemble has made nine other recordings: The Pealing Bells, Westminster Concert Bell Choir, Christmas Bells, Westminster Rings!, Praise and Adoration, Christmas at Westminster: The Westminster Concert Bell Choir, By Request, Westminster Concert Bell Choir: 30th Anniversary Collection and A Time To Dance.

Conductor of the Westminster Concert Bell Choir, KATHLEEN EBLING SHAW is a member of the Sacred Music department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where she teaches classes in handbell training and conducts a second handbell choir. She is Director of Sales and Marketing for Malmark, Inc. and serves as the Creative Director of ChimeWorks® — an online resource community for educators who use handchimes. She is a graduate of Westminster Choir College.

Well known as a handbell clinician, Mrs. Shaw has conducted sessions for the Handbell Musicians of America (AGEHR) both on the local and national levels. Her other engagements have included sessions for the American Guild of Organists; the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas Music Educators Conferences; Choristers Guild; Presbyterian Association of Musicians Conferences; the St. Olaf Church Music Conference; and International Handbell Symposia in Japan, England, Korea, Australia and...
the United States. Last season, Mrs. Shaw was the featured conductor at the Handbell Musicians of America Distinctly Bronze West. Her 2018 engagements include the West Texas Handbell Festival, the LA Metro Spring Ring, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians’ Music and Worship Conference at Montreat, the HMA Area 2 Challenge(R)ing, and the HMA Directors' Seminar in Grand Rapids.

Mrs. Shaw traveled with the Westminster Concert Bell Choir during the critically acclaimed 15-city North American A Royal Christmas tour, performing with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Charlotte Church and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir under the direction of Mrs. Shaw made its Carnegie Hall debut in December 2001 as the first American handbell ensemble to perform there. They have also been featured on Lifetime Television, QVC, NBC’s Today Show, New Jersey Network, Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood and NBC’s nationally televised lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree. She has also produced eight recordings with the Westminster Concert Bell Choir.

Mrs. Shaw is also the recipient of an Alumni Merit Award from Westminster Choir College of Rider University in recognition of her dedication to the art of handbell ringing and her enthusiasm and accomplishments in the classroom as well as the concert hall.

2018 SUMMER SESSION

Continuing Education at Westminster

Foundations In Ringing – Building A Successful Handbell Program
Kathleen Ebling Shaw, clinician
July 23 - July 27

This hands-on class is perfect for the director or ringer who is interested in starting or revitalizing a handbell program. This course will include information on understanding the handbell instrument and equipment necessary for a program, ringing and damping techniques, special ringing techniques and articulations, ringing multiple bells and making changes, coordination drills, understanding the handbell score and making assignments/markings, handling bass bells, rehearsal plans, using handchimes, choosing appropriate repertoire, issues in musicality and using the instruments liturgically.

For more information:
Westminster Choir College
Office of Continuing Education
609-924-7416
woce@rider.edu
www.rider.edu/wcc
Rider University’s WESTMINSTER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS inspires and empowers innovative artists and leaders to transform their communities through the arts. With world-class programs in art, dance, music, music theatre and theatre, and based in Princeton and Lawrenceville, New Jersey, the College consists of three divisions: WESTMINSTER CHOIR COLLEGE, THE SCHOOL OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS, and WESMINSTER CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC, a music school for pre-college students. RIDER UNIVERSITY is a private co-educational, student-centered university that emphasizes purposeful connections between academic study and real world learning experience. Rider prepares graduates to thrive professionally, to be lifelong independent learners, and to be responsible citizens who embrace diversity, support the common good and contribute meaningfully to the changing world in which they live and work.

Please note the unauthorized use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Out of courtesy to the performers and everyone in the audience, please refrain from using cell phones and electronic devices during the performance.

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir is grateful to have on loan the lower eighth and ninth octave bass handbells, the lower seventh octave Choirchime® Instruments, and the C₆ to C₈ CymBells® from Malmark, Inc. – Bellcraftsmen, Plumsteadville, PA.

On the web: www.malmark.com

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Westminster Concert Bell Choir Milestones

Performing with Julie Andrews as part of the A Royal Christmas tour

One of several appearances on NBC's Today show. Katie Couric and Willard Scott joined the choir.

Performing The Bells of New York with Josh Groban at the lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

Filming a segment for Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood

Carnegie Hall premiere!

Performing on world’s first seven-octave set, conducted by Donald Allured
Let Freedom Ring!
*Creative arrangements of some of America's favorite patriotic songs*

An English Christmas
*Holiday favorites from Great Britain*

30th Anniversary Collection
*Highlights from the ensemble's first three decades*

**WESTMINSTER CONCERT BELL CHOIR**

*Recordings*

Take the sounds of Westminster home with you after today’s performance!

A Time to Dance
*Dance-inspired works from around the world*

Christmas at Westminster
*Familiar holiday songs and masterworks*

A Westminster Christmas II
*Christmas favorites for choir, organ and handbells*