



Ontario Guild of  
English Handbell  
Ringers

# CLAPPER CHATTER

October 2021

## Date Change for *It's About Time* Handbell Festival

As the current health crisis is still with us, we recently polled our choir directors to gauge how they and their members were feeling about attending a Festival in 2022. The results indicated very strongly that more people would prefer postponing the Festival to 2023. Therefore, the Festival Committee and OGEHR Board have voted to postpone the OGEHR 2021 Festival to **early June 2023**.

As we previously mentioned, we will use our current plans (theme and music) at the 2023 Festival at St. Lawrence College in Kingston. Our conductors Kath Wissinger and Lisa Kyriakides have confirmed their availability for June 2023. We will confirm in Spring 2022 if plans are in place to go forward with the 2023 date. In the meantime, we hope many of you can return to practice and enjoy ringing bells once again.



For details on the Festival, the music, the accommodations, please visit the OGEHR website.

## Membership Renewal

The new OGEHR membership year started on October 1, and membership fees have reverted to pre-pandemic amounts: \$90 for choirs, \$10 for affiliates, \$40 for individuals. Visit the website at [ogehr.ca](http://ogehr.ca) and renew online (easiest), or send a cheque to

Helen Coxon  
OGEHR Membership Secretary  
61 Wheatfield Road  
Etobicoke  
ON M8V 2P5

You can even send an e-transfer to [treasurer@ogehr.ca](mailto:treasurer@ogehr.ca). If you choose this option, please make sure that your name is included in the comments box so that we can credit the right person.

If you have any difficulty, or any questions, please check the FAQ on the website, or contact Helen at [membership@ogehr.ca](mailto:membership@ogehr.ca).

## **PUBLICATION INFORMATION**

### **SUBMISSIONS**

Clapper Chatter welcomes your submissions. All submissions must be received by the following deadlines: September 30 (October issue), January 31 (February issue), May 31 (June issue).

### **FORMAT**

Text in Microsoft Word and high resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred.

### **REPRINT PERMISSION**

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### **DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in Clapper Chatter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers, nor does the appearance of products or services in advertisements constitute an endorsement by OGEHR.

### **ADVERTISING**

Ad sizes and rates are available on request. Advertising must be submitted by the submission deadlines listed above. All final ad artwork must be saved in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. When preparing ads, use high resolution images and fonts, and set the Acrobat Preferences to embed the fonts and images at their original high resolution quality.

### **CLAPPER CHATTER EDITOR**

Please send all submissions to:  
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simon.spencer1993@gmail.com  
416-702-5661

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### **MORE ON SUBMISSIONS**

A newsletter thrives or dies based on its content, so we need your input! Do you have a concert coming up, a review of a performance just accomplished, a significant event in the life of your bell choir, or a favourite piece of music that you would like to recommend to others? Send it in! Anything is fair game (subject to editorial review). Accompanying photographs are encouraged, as they really liven things up.

We want your feedback. Let us know what you like, or don't like, or would like to see, by emailing Simon at [simon.spencer1993@gmail.com](mailto:simon.spencer1993@gmail.com).

Submission deadline for the next issue: Jan 30th, for publication on Feb 15th.

## President's Message

I am so happy that at least some things are starting to get back to normal! My students were thrilled to be together when school resumed, and so far, things have been going well. You can see from my July picture that a much-needed haircut finally happened, and I was thrilled to learn from our Return to Ring survey that about half of the handbell groups in the province have been able to resume rehearsing! Hopefully, more soon.

We have shared lots of news with our members lately, and I hope that all of you are aware of what has been happening. Here is a brief summary of our latest news:



1. Our Kingston festival “**It’s About Time**” has been moved from the spring of 2022 to the spring of 2023. A survey of handbell directors conducted by the festival committee in August provided the information needed to make this decision.
2. The **Return to Ring survey** of all members in September, allowed us to make the decision about a **vaccine policy** for OGEHR in-person events.
3. We are working to provide **virtual opportunities for performing**. Even though we might not be able to be in front of a live audience, there is a larger audience out there across the province. We hope that you will consider being a part of our **Virtual Christmas Concert**.

Staying busy and involved is one of the best things we can do while still working through the pandemic. Watch for OGEHR initiatives throughout the Fall:

- ◆ to brush up on skills if you haven’t played for a while,
- ◆ to promote your group with a website presence,
- ◆ to have access to shared music within your region,
- ◆ to archive your history and the history of handbells across the province.

There is a lot we can do even if we can’t play right now! We are working to try to help you safely return to handbells and to provide some ideas for this time if you are still waiting to return.

**Help us to help each other.**

Rob Cairns

President  
OGEHR

# Terry Head Scholarship

Please help us to foster the next generation of handbell leaders in Ontario!



**\$4,455.00** raised as of the end of May 2021!  
**Thank you all who have donated!**

We need to continue to supplement this fund in order to provide a scholarship on an annual basis. Please consider donating for the first time, or on an annual basis at <https://ogehr.ca/Terry-Head-Scholarship/>

## Purpose

The Terry Head Scholarship was established in memory of Terry Head, the Vice President of OGEHR, a director, conductor, clinician, educator, and performer who died suddenly and unexpectedly on November 17, 2019. The fund is to be used to offer an opportunity for handbell musicians to pursue the ideals that Terry held throughout his life.

## Criteria

1. Each applicant must be a member of OGEHR, either through his/her choir, or as an Individual member.
2. The fund is intended to further an OGEHR member's education and/or skills related to handbells.
3. More than one person can receive an award from the fund in a given year. Applicants will be evaluated on the merits of their proposal, rather than competing against each other.
4. The fund will be awarded annually, however, it will be officially presented at the biannual Festival to all the successful applicants.
5. Funds will be awarded to an individual only one time.

## Process

1. Each applicant will submit an application form accompanied by a full proposal outlining how he/she would like to spend the funds awarded.
2. The deadline for submitting applications is March 15<sup>th</sup> of a given year and should be submitted to the Bursary and Scholarship Committee Chair. Applications received after this date will not be considered for the current year.
3. The Board appointed **Bursary and Scholarship Committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the Board by the April Board meeting of that year.**
4. More than one application may be approved depending on the number of applicants and the benefit of the proposal to the OGEHR community.

## Reviews from The Music Lending Library (MLL)

### **Ring Praise, O My Soul**

*Ring Praise, O My Soul* was written by American composer Margaret Tucker and published in 2005. As a level 1+ piece, this highly accessible composition comes in two compatible editions – 2-3 octaves (MLL has eight copies) and 3-5 octaves (MLL has two copies). *Ring Praise, O My Soul* is written in an upbeat triple meter and alternates between a full chordal theme and 2 thinner textured sections. There are two octaves of optional handchimes (G4-B5) with footnoted suggestions on how to assign those chimes to less busy ringers. Although this piece is 106 measures long (approximately 3 minutes), the composer makes note of certain measures that can be omitted if you would like to perform a shorter version. There are suspended bells with mallets in the treble clef and the bass ringers have a chance to play the melody in the chime section. To view a copy of the score for *Ring Praise, O My Soul* and listen to a recording, you can visit [www.handbellworld.com](http://www.handbellworld.com).

Reviewed by Lisa Kyriakides

### **Outbursts Of Joy**

*Outbursts Of Joy* is an original composition by Cynthia Dobrinski published in 1988. It is written for 3, 4 or 5 octaves of handbells and has 251 measures. The MLL has 12 copies. The composition starts out in C major, changes key about halfway through and then goes back to C major for the ending.

There is a section in which the bass and battery play LV chords while the stems-up treble ring running eighth notes, then it switches to the bass having the melody and the treble playing mostly chords. Later the bass gets a turn at running eighth notes while the treble plays soft chords. Techniques used include shakes, marts, LVs, TDs and plucks. As the title suggests, it is an upbeat, enthusiastic piece with a rousing ending.

To view the score and listen to a recording of *Outbursts of Joy*, go to

<https://www.lakestatepublications.com/index.php/outbursts-of-joy.html>

Reviewed by Debi Sproule

### **As The Deer**

This beautiful level 3 piece was written by Martin Nystrom in 1994, and this version was arranged by Patricia Cota in 1998. The music lending library currently has 10 copies of this arrangement. It can be played on 3-5 octaves of handbells with an optional 10 handchime melody requiring a 2-octave set of handchimes (G5-E6). This lovely praise chorus is only 44 measures long (approximately 2 minutes), making it the perfect addition to worship and could be followed up with a sung chorus. The piece offers numerous passages to Let Vibrate, allowing the handbells to resonate until indicated to dampen. The key change, numerous ritardandos, and plenty of dynamic changes give level 3 ringers a chance to practice their musicality. This piece is sure to be loved by ringers and listeners alike. To view a copy of this score and listen to a recording, visit [https://www.hopepublishing.com/W39\\_AS\\_THE\\_DEER/](https://www.hopepublishing.com/W39_AS_THE_DEER/)

Reviewed by Barbara Peaker

**For instructions on how to borrow music from the Music Lending Library, please go to <https://ogehr.ca/Music-Lending-Library>.**

# Return to Ring Survey Results

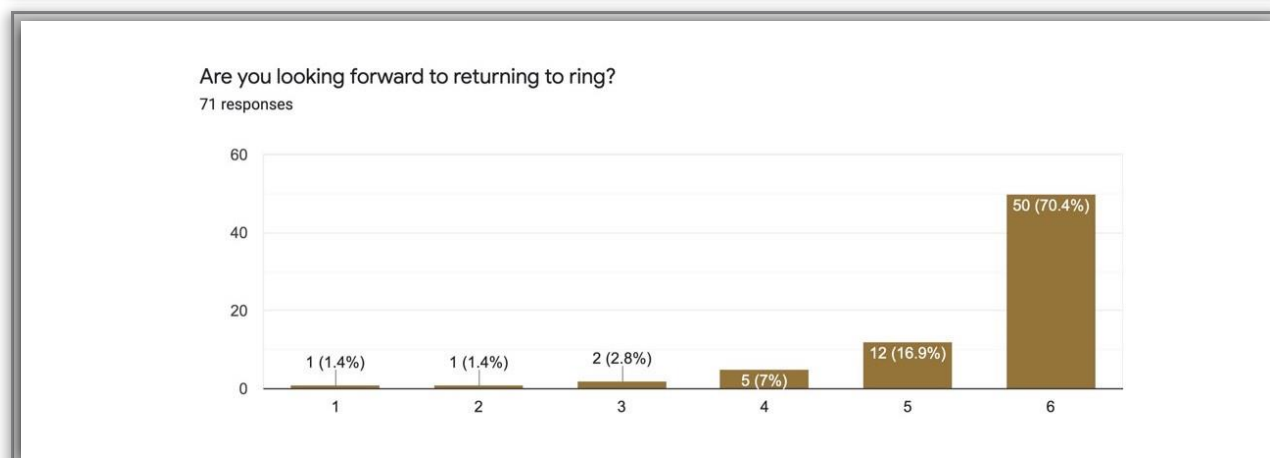
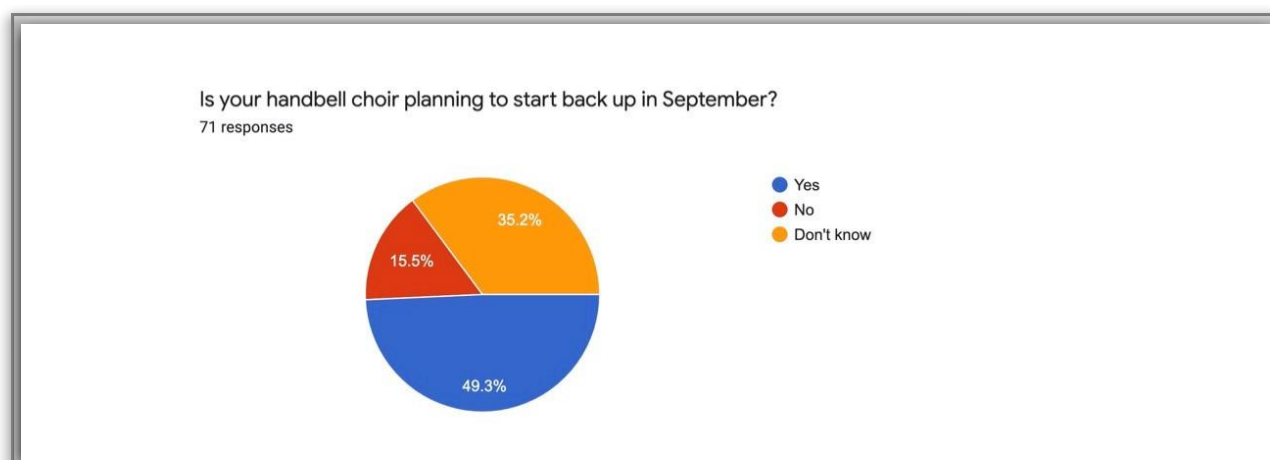
Thank you to everyone who returned the Return to Ring Survey. Here are the details:

- The survey was open to all members of OGEHR.
- It was conducted between Thursday, September 10th and Saturday, September 25th, 2021.
- A total of 74 responses were received, although not every respondent answered every question.  
(Number of responses for each question are listed.)

Over the course of the last year and a half, we have experienced a lot of uncertainty. As we begin to reopen our programs, we still have questions about how to do so safely. We all need to be following the protocols set out by the Ontario Provincial government, but we as ringers should also understand which protocols and rehearsal routines truly make us feel safe.

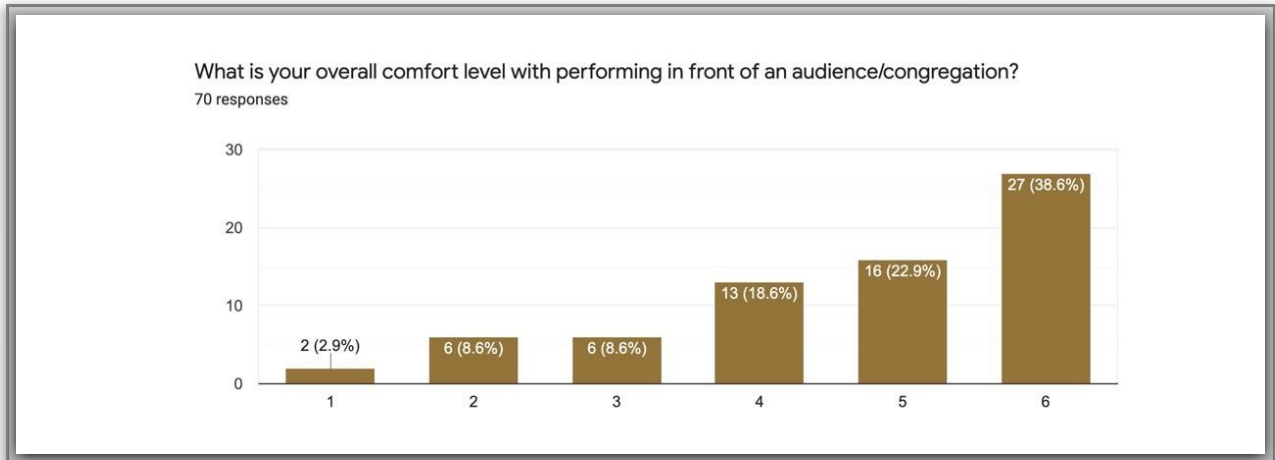
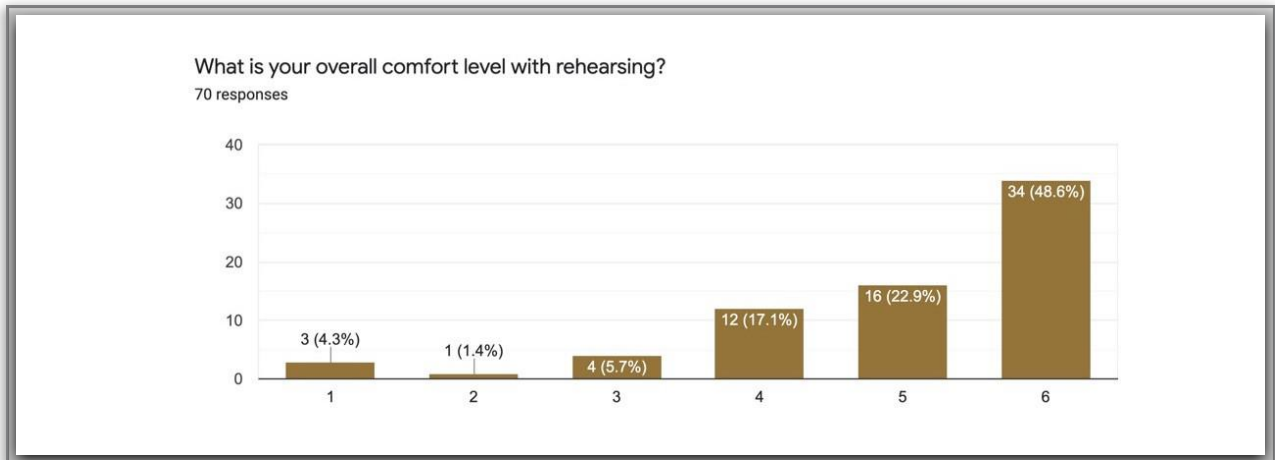
The results presented here are intended to help inform both directors and ringers about what things are important to all of us. The more information we have, the better we all will feel. The results have also been very useful in determining OGEHR policy for future events, both virtual and in person.  
(Please see motion at the bottom of this page.)

## Restarting Programs?



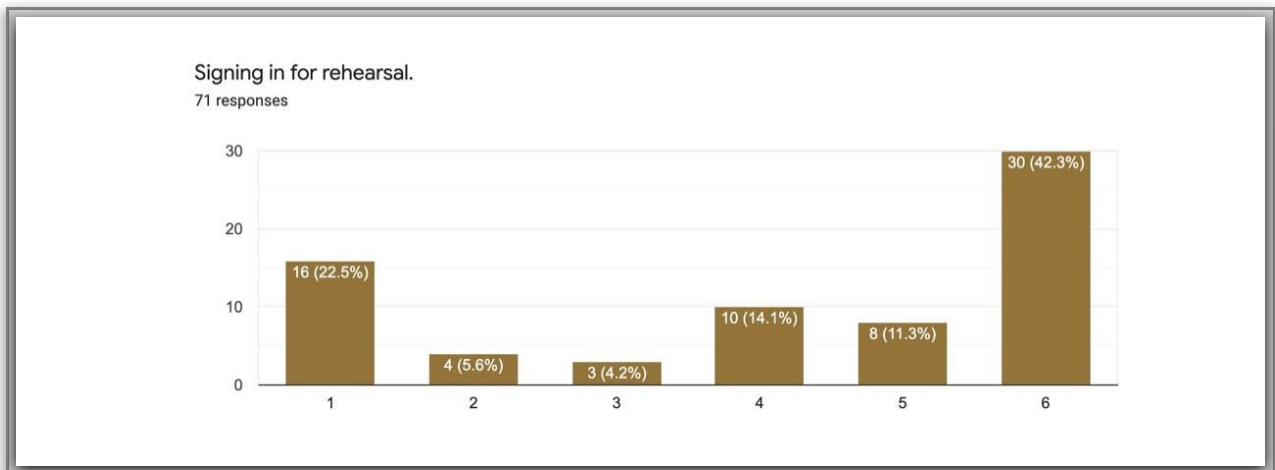
It is great to see that the vast majority of handbells are looking forward to getting back to ringing and currently about half are able to start back up!

# Returning to Playing

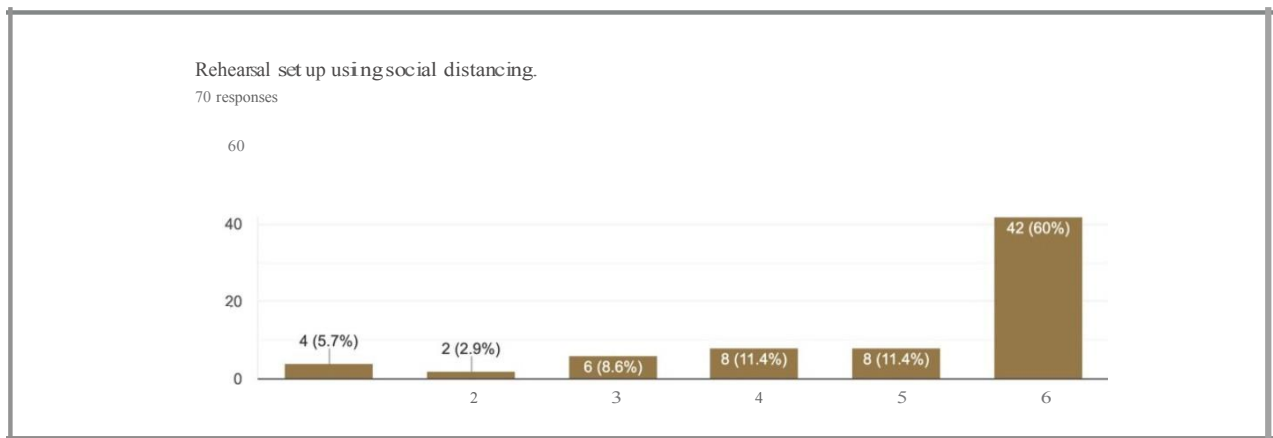
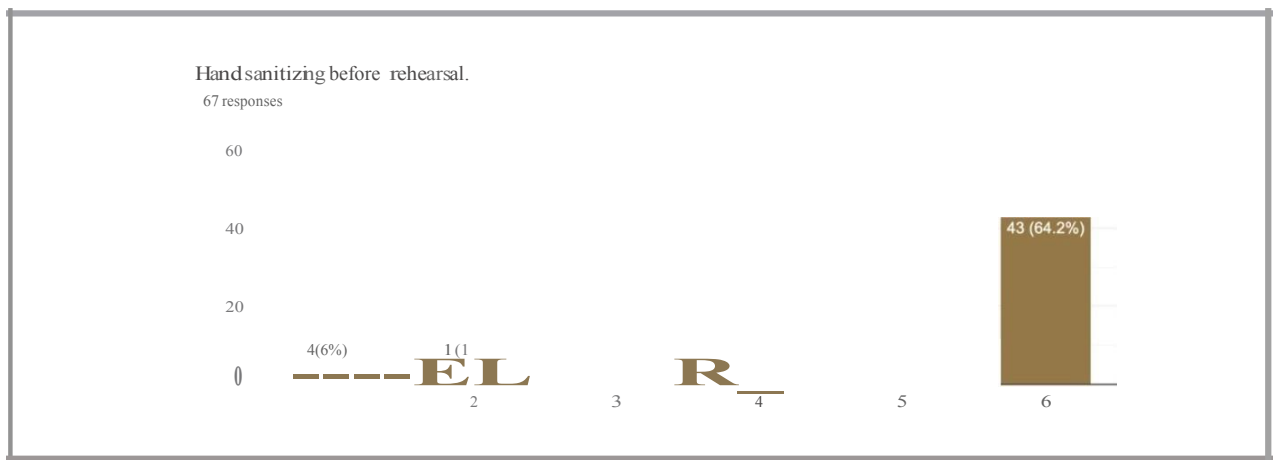
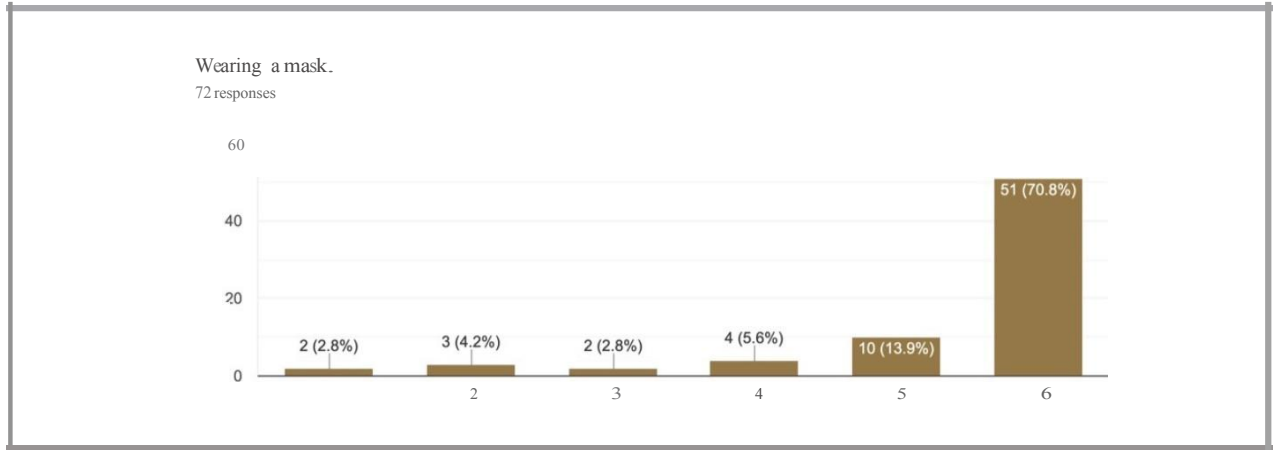


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# Mandated Protocols



## Mandated Protocols (continued)

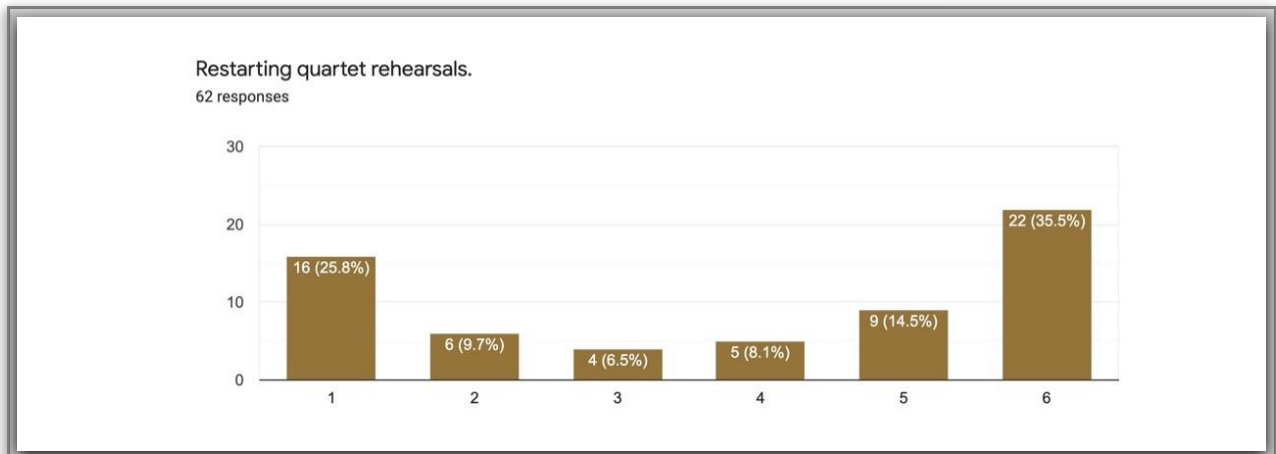
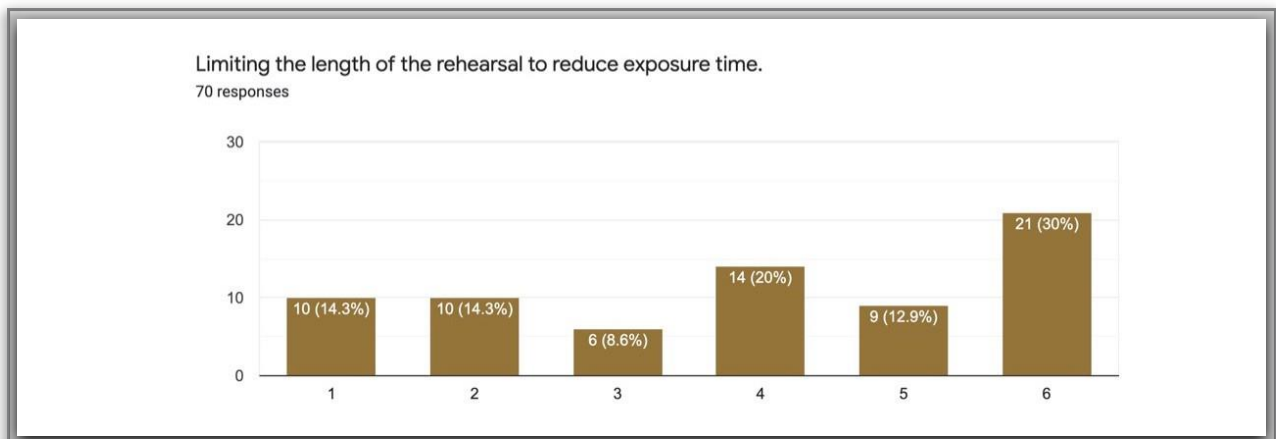
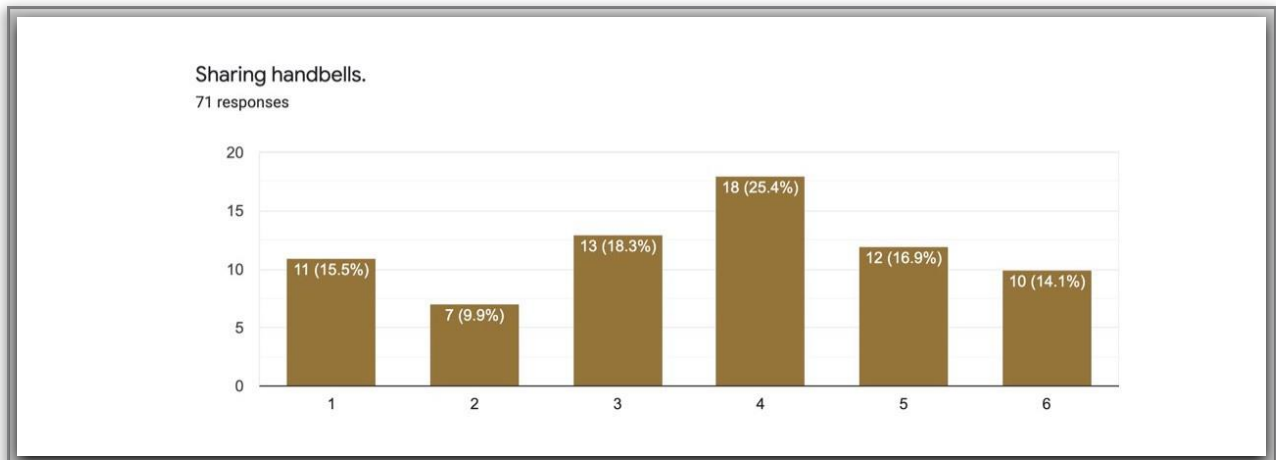


These are the main protocols the Provincial Government has asked all of us to follow. They are not only mandated, but in the minds of most ringers, continue to be an important aspect of returning to ring.

The one protocol which does not have clear results is "Signing in for rehearsal." The mixed results could be due to handbells generally being small groups and attendance records are probably already a regular part of our rehearsals.



# Handbell Practices



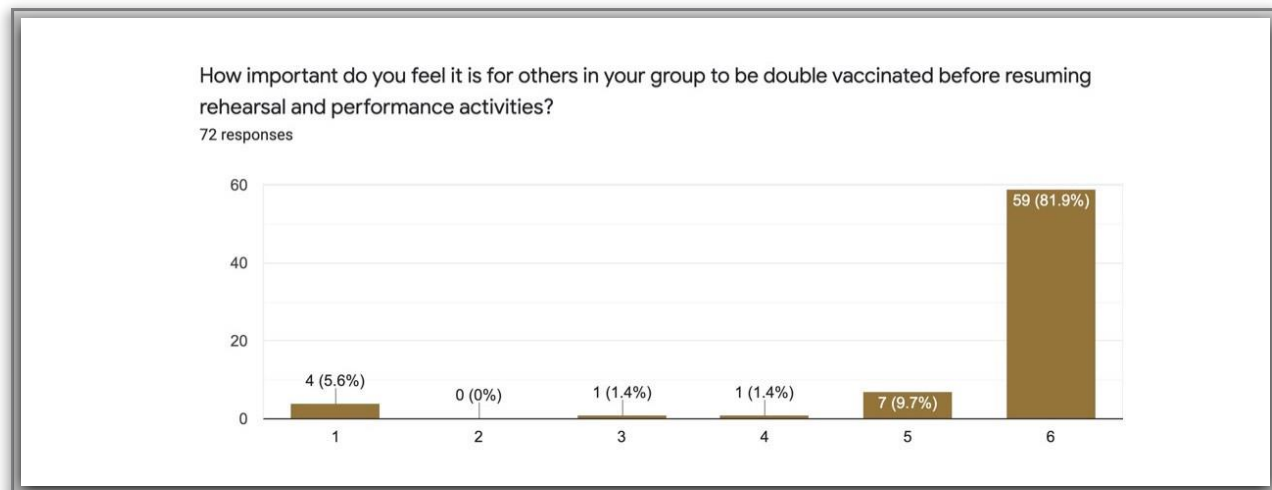
These questions all focus on practices specific to handbells rehearsals. They all have mixed results.

Sharing bells is a common practice with handbell groups. 56.4% are still concerned with bell sharing.

Limiting the length of rehearsals was a practice that many groups put in place last year before programs were entirely shut down. 63% feel it is still important.

There is an interesting result for restarting quartets, being strong on both extremes. Possibly a difference of opinion between quartet and non-quartet players.

# Double Vaccination



The vast majority of our ringers feel it is important that all members be double vaccinated. Of all the responses, this question had the highest results, with 81.9% in area 6 alone and an overall majority of 93%.

## Survey End Result

Due to the results of the survey and particularly the very clear response to the final question, OGEHR has put in place the following policy:

**Although there is no COVID vaccination requirement to belong to the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers, participants of any in-person event organized by OGEHR will be required to show proof of double COVID-19 vaccination or a valid, current (within 48 h), negative COVID-19 test. This policy will remain in place until such time as the Ontario Provincial Government determines that COVID-19 proof of vaccination is no longer necessary.**

Rob Cairns - President  
[president@ogehr.ca](mailto:president@ogehr.ca)

