

THE ST. OLAF MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

THE ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR

Jill Mahr, *conductor*

Winter 2023 Tour Program

PROGRAM

Bravura	Jill Mahr, <i>conductor</i> Premiere Performance	Alex Guebert
My Strength Is From Heaven		Christian Humcke
Free Among the Stars	Premiere Performance Aryaman Joshi, <i>Lumatone</i>	Aryaman Joshi '23
Simplicity		Matt Compton
Invocation		Michael Joy
Claire de Lune		Claude Debussy arr. David Jordan Quartet: India Bock '23, Will Fecko '24, Natalie Robuck '25, Katie Nail '26
Un Regalo de Dios		Elizabeth Peters
Salut d'amour		Edward Elgar arr. Darrell Richards
Skye Boat Song	Natalie Robuck '25, Will Fecko '24, <i>vocalists</i>	arr. Matt Compton
Si Tuvieras Fe		Brian Seeman
Bound for South Australia	Aryaman Joshi '23, <i>Djembe</i>	Alex Guebert
Song of Assurance	<i>combined piece with host church bell choir</i>	Arnold Sherman

PERSONNEL

Hannah Anderson '25, *Lino Lakes, MN*
India Bock '23, *Seattle, WA*
Raina Swanson Edson '23, *Sultan, WA*
Madeline Chang '24, *Lisle, IL*
Will Fecko '24, *State College, PA*
Katie Howard '22, *Northfield, MN*
Aryaman Joshi '23, *Amravati, India*
Katie Nail '26, *Brambleton, VA*
Benjamin Reister '24, *Northfield, MN*
Natalie Robuck '25, *Columbia, MO*
Henry Rye '26, *Naperville, IL*
Heather Wallace '26, *New York, NY*
Meredith Wallace '24, *New York, NY*

ABOUT THE CONDUCTOR

A Minnesota native, Jill Mahr has been at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, for the last 28 years, where she conducts three handbell choirs and teaches flute. Jill founded and leads a youth program of five handbell choirs at her church, Bethel Lutheran, in Northfield, and is an active member of Handbell Musicians of America and a past secretary of Area VII. She is principal flute in the Mankato Symphony Orchestra and has a private flute studio in her home. She holds a B.M. degree in flute performance and music education with a minor in jazz from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and a M.A. degree in flute performance from Northwestern University in Chicago.

ABOUT THE ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir was founded in 1983 under the direction of Robert Thompson, Professor of Organ. In 1985 the group was taken over by Norman Heitz who equipped the group with the five octaves of bells that are used today. Some years later the group was handed over to Karl Zinsmeister. Since 1995, the program has been under the direction of Jill Mahr and has grown to include three handbell ensembles. Jill directs the St. Olaf Handbell Choir and the Chapel Ringers. The Manitou Handbell Choir is student-directed. The St. Olaf Handbell choir is the premier ensemble in this program of three handbell choirs at St. Olaf College. The ensemble is an auditioned group that meets twice a week. On campus they perform for chapel and church services, student recitals, and an annual spring concert with the all the handbell choirs. In addition, they regularly perform off campus at church services and concerts. They performed their first kid's concert in 2007 and enjoyed it so much that they have made it a biannual event. Sixteen years ago the group began touring, performing in many cities in Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa. They have participated in the critically acclaimed St. Olaf Christmas Festival premiering *Glories Ring*, *Joyous Noel* and *Gladsome Bells* written for handbells and orchestra by former faculty member Steven Amundson. The bell program at St. Olaf also offers a January term ensemble ringing (duet, trio, and quartet) experience for ringers.

TOUR CALENDAR

Friday, March 3, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

Hosanna Lutheran Church

Forest Lake, MN

Saturday, March 4, 2023 • 7 p.m.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Iowa City, IA

Sunday, March 5, 2023 • 3 p.m.

Zumbro Lutheran Church

Rochester, MN

Monday, March 6, 2023 • 8:15 p.m.

St. Olaf College • Urness Recital Hall

Northfield, MN

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Please silence all personal communication devices.

For more information visit [stolaf.edu/music](https://www.stolaf.edu/music).

**Many St. Olaf events, including concerts and chapel services, are streamed live
and archived at: <https://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia>**