



STRIKEPOINT

presents



A Bell Noël:

Ringin' in the holidays!

Friday, December 19, 2025



Strikepoint is directed by Derek Bromme.

Listed in order from bass to treble, ringers are Derek Bromme, Tasha Kapp, Jacob Ginocchio, Emily Wetzel, Christine Winkler Johnson, Sue Marquardt, Pamela Nelson, Nancy Eaton, Gwendolyn Woerpel, Libby Gaalaas, and Elissa Downs.

About Strikepoint



Strikepoint is a church-based community/professional handbell group that performs in a directorless ensemble setting. High school and college students, and community members have joined selected ringers from the bell choirs at Duluth's First United Methodist Church to provide a consistently high

level of musicianship since Strikepoint was founded in 1984 by Bill Alexander. Annual summer tours have taken the group throughout the continental U.S. as well as to England, Scotland, Japan, Hong Kong, Sweden, Canada, and Hawaii, with performances in four national capitals. Strikepoint has been the featured performer at many handbell events and has performed at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Disney World in Florida, and both Disneyland and the Crystal Cathedral in California. In 2024 Strikepoint was honored to be chosen to represent the U.S. in a special concert at the 21st International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan.

Strikepoint rings seven octaves of bronze Schulmerich handbells with additional aluminum Malmark bass bells, six-plus octaves of handchimes, two octaves of Silver Melody Bells and three octaves of Petit and Fritzen handbells, along with other instruments ranging from classical violin and Spanish guitar to pennywhistle and fire bell. Noted for capturing the enthusiasm of audiences with a dynamic style and accessible music, concert selections include both familiar and new music. They are highly regarded in the handbell world as pioneers and innovators, and are considered among the very top handbell ensembles in the world.



Welcome to Strikepoint's fourth almost-annual holiday concert. We hope you will make this one of your holiday traditions, sitting back to enjoy Strikepoint's trademark variety of festive music.

We always have big dreams and we work hard to make them come true. We are proud to represent Minnesota, Duluth, and First United Methodist Church as we travel around the country and the world, and now we are asking for your help to support our endeavors. Our most immediate plans include completing our seventh octave of bells (average cost is \$5500 per bell and carrying case); doing more recording; and repairing, replacing and upgrading our "infrastructure" (rehearsal, performance, storage, and touring equipment). We are planning to attend the 22nd International Handbell Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland, next summer, an incredible opportunity that has long-lasting effects on everyone in Strikepoint. At previous symposia, we have connected and made friends with handbell ringers from across the world, proving that music is indeed a common language. All of us have returned from these events inspired to continue producing the best music we can for as wide an audience as possible. We are grateful for any support you can give.

If you would like to make an additional donation by credit card or online, see us at the merchandise table following the concert or use your phone to donate here:



GiveMN



Venmo

Please join us for refreshments following the concert

Happy Holidays from Strikepoint!

A Bell Noël

Welcome Christmas

Albert Hague
arranged by Ron Mallory

Farandole

Georges Bizet
arranged by William H. Griffin
with Jeremy Craycraft, percussion

Waltz of the Flowers

P.I. Tchaikovsky
arranged by Mitchell Eithun
with Melanie Sever, flute

Coventry Carol

traditional English carol
arranged by Sandra Eithun

Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy

traditional Trinidadian carol
arranged by Kenta Nagata
Jeremy Craycraft, Hannah Wohlers, Ella Christensen;
percussion ensemble

I Saw Three Ships

Traditional English carol
arranged by Sandra Eithun

Where are You, Christmas?

James Horner, William Jennings
and Mariah Carey,
arranged by Blanche Marie Lewis and Kevin McChesney

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst;
arranged by Stephen DeCesare
Tasha Kapp, soprano; Keith Wehmeier, countertenor;
Brian Kapp, piano



Ringling in the holidays!

Good King Wenceslas

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDU

arranged by Sandra Eithun

with Melanie Sever, piccolo, and Jeremy Craycraft, percussion

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen

arranged by Joel Raney

Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol

Gerald Near

Velda Graham Bell, organ

What's This?

Danny Elfman

arranged by Derek Bromme

Traditions of Christmas

Chip Davis

arranged by Paul McKlveen

I Wish You Christmas

John Rutter

Tasha Kapp, soprano; Velda Graham Bell, piano

Diminished Minor Alterations

David Lovrien

arranged by Chris Peck

with Jeremy Craycraft, percussion

Sleigh Ride

Leroy Anderson

arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson

with Jeremy Craycraft, percussion





We are delighted that so many of our very gifted musical friends are performing with us tonight. In addition to our featured guests, we are grateful for the masterful talents of emcee Stacy Carolan. He outdoes himself each year! Thank you to Alex Flinner for running sound and lights; our ticket sellers Ellen Hill, Anita Zager, and Samantha Frey; our reception volunteers Pamela Brown, Cindy Hedlund, and Clair Thomsen; and our ushers and general helpers Avery Collins, Clair Thomsen, and Jean Walsh.

Derek Bromme is the new artistic director of Strikepoint, taking over from founder Bill Alexander last year, although he has been a member of the group since 2014. In addition to Strikepoint, he is the director of two other bell groups at First United Methodist Church in Duluth. Derek's first published piece of handbell music, *The Sparrows of Keshum*, is now available from From the Top Music. Derek is the founder and director of Benedictine Bronze, the College of St. Scholastica's handbell ensemble, where he also serves as the director of bands. Aside from bells, he directs the FUMC choir and the Lake Superior Low Brass Ensemble, and is an active member of the Big Time Jazz Orchestra and Twin Ports Brass quintet. Derek spends the rest of his time at home with his husband Amos and adorable toddler daughter Sonja.



Our Ring of Support

*Without our donors, a program as broad and deep as Strikepoint's would be impossible.
Thank you!*

Bronze (\$1000 and above)

Bill Alexander
Anonymous (3)
Katherine and Edward Blascyk
Gina and Josefino Diaz
Elissa Downs and Dustin Oehler

Nancy Eaton *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Ryan Helmer
Laura and Paul Lokken
Rhonda Montavon
Richard Wallin *in memory of Peggy Wallin*

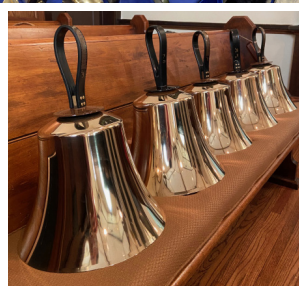
Coppers (\$101 to \$999)

Janet Akervik *in memory of Mike Akervik*
Anonymous (2)
Allen Anway
Ruth Brickell
Derek Bromme
Judy and Larry Bromme
Val Carolan
Bobbie Collins
Susan and Roger Downs
Mary and Gayle Draxten
Patty Erven and Mary Lou Aurell
Anita and Bill Fraundorf
LouAnne and Donald Gaalaas
Tiffany Gesme
Richard Gurske
Crystal and Michael Hintzman
HMA Area 7 Board *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Beth & John Kelly *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Marcy and Robert Kernez
MaryAnne and Charley Korsch
Carol and Michael Laughlin
Buffy Luostari
Janalee & Bill Lyth *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Sue and Mike Marquardt
Wanda Marquardt
Michael and Heidi McCallister
Annette and John Nygard
Jeanne Pearson *in memory of Cindy Alexander*
Darcy Reich
Cande Roberts *in memory of Carol Carlson*
Judy and Tim Sheriff
Liz & Jim Taylor *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Faye and Robert Topliff
Carol Trombley *in honor of Clista Wood*
Jane Wester

Tins (up to \$100)

Susan and Richard Abrahamson
Karen Adams
Steve Adams *in memory of Jean Blauert*
Karen Alseth
Anonymous (3)
Karen Anway and Ed Weston
Marilew and Robert Barnidge
Anthony Beasley
Jennifer Becker
Dan Benson *in honor of Trombone Jesus*
Nate Blair
Julie Blaske
Jennifer and Aaron Boyson
Pamela and Thomas Brown
Kendra Carlson
Jennifer Cauhorn
Rossi Clem
Seth Currier
Lori and Dick DeNardo
Jeremy and Michael Dimmick
Carol and Mike Donahue
Amanda Dutcher
Susan and Ronald Ellefson
Douglas Field

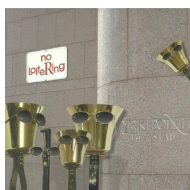
Christy Fisher
Maren and Peder Gaalaas
Lauren Giammar and Jeremy Bateman
Leanna and John Ginocchio
Ann Gumper and Mark Harvey
Anne Gustafson *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Noah Hatcher
Carol and Dennis Healy
MaryAnn and Oliver Houx
Dingaling Husker
Adam Johnson *in honor of Bill Alexander & Sue Marquardt*
Angie Johnson
Tanya Johnson
Vickie Johnson
Shannon Kaiser
Sheri Kalenian
Barbara and Young Kim
Gina and Scott Kleive
Holly Kross
Rebecca Krum
Laura and Bob Krumwiede
Sherry L
Regina Landrus
Lauren Larson
Sarah Lehman and Matt Thomas
Bill & Debbie Marquardt *in memory of George Marquardt*
Monica McGowan
Cathy & Dave Moklebust *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Kelsey Nesheim
Diane & John Newstrom *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Kate and Frank Nicoletti
Paul Nixdorf
David Olson
Jessica Olson
Naomi and Dan Palmquist
Andrea Pearson *in memory of Cindy Alexander*
Justin Peck
Rebecca and Kevin Peterson
Mike Racette
Hugh and Cheryl Reitan
Sam Runck
Robert Sherman *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Linda and Jerry Soyering
Carol Spielman
Jodi Stacken
Claryce Swensen
Teri and Gary Tangen
Janet Theado
Holly Thompson
Beth and Neal Topliff
Brandon VanWaeyenberghe
LeighAnn Viche
Julie Venus
Cheryl Wasmund *in honor of Bill Alexander and Strikepoint*
Karen Wetzel
Ann and Jim Wheeler
Hiroko and Robert Williams
Christine Winkler Johnson
Emma Witthuhn and Steven Korsch
Janet Worthing *in memory of Bill Alexander*
Karen Maack Younggren



Strikepoint recordings make great holiday gifts!



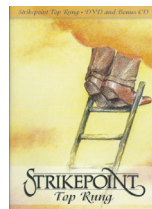
Concept CD



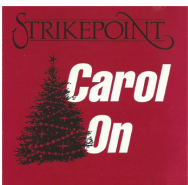
Concert CD



Concert CD



DVD + bonus CD



Christmas CD



Concert CD

Plus Strikepoint hats, music tape, pizza cutters, magnets, stickers, and more!



Venmo



GiveMN



Strikepoint is a musical outreach ministry of
First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway,
Duluth, Minnesota