



# STRIKEPOINT

*presents*



## *A Bell Noël:*

*Ringing 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



# *Ringing 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 McKIveen

**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

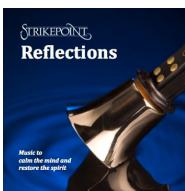
**Tins (up to \$100)**

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 Runk  
Robert Sherman *in memory of Bill Alexander*  
Linda and Jerry Soyring  
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



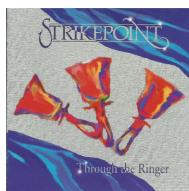
***Strikepoint recordings make great holiday gifts!***



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



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