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Klipnocky Klangers

The Klipnocky Klangers consists mainly of students in grades 7-12. Many of these ringers have played bells in FUMC's elementary school handbell teams, and represent a wide variety of area churches in this ecumenical music ministry sponsored by FUMC. Each year the handbell team participates in a number of concerts in the Oneonta area as well as church services here at FUMC. As funds permit, they also attend festivals usually every other year where bell ringers come together from across the U.S. and Canada to ring in massed choirs. Klangers have had a long-standing reputation of excellence, and one of the best prepared choirs at festivals.

For all ringers, the dedication to this team of musicians is very rewarding. Each ringer may be responsible for 5 or 6 bells and the music they have prepared. Unlike an athletic event, substitutes who can play a position on this team are hard to find. It is akin to a piano – one person out takes away 4 piano keys; two people out takes away 8 keys; three people takes 12 keys, etc. As you can see, the piano becomes unplayable when several people are missing.

Finances: The cost for sending our handbell team to festival can be over \$600.00 per ringer. In order to keep the Klangers' finances current, we ask that a personal financial commitment of \$200.00 per ringer be paid **every year**, the balance being earned with fund-raising efforts. We ask that one-half the amount (\$100.00) be paid within the third week of October in this present year. (*If your ringer is a senior in a non-festival year, this fee is waived.*) This will give us a fund with which to pay early registration for festival, and show what our commitment is.

PLEASE NOTE Any family for whom this may mean hardship will be asked to only contribute as much as possible. Payments may be made in one lump sum, or monthly. (Ringers should be encouraged to help meet the family financial goal, as they are the main beneficiaries of the festival experience.) **No ringer will be excluded for lack of funds. If finances are a problem, please call or stop in to see John to make confidential arrangements.** This will help us plan finances accordingly so that there are no sudden surprises.

Medical Forms: Klangers under the age of 21 are required to have medical forms on file. Even if you already have one on file from the previous year or for youth group, we need our own set. Please fill out all the information and return it to the church by the end of October.

Outfits: The church provides Klanger polo shirts. Graduating seniors are asked to donate back to the Klangers. To complete the outfit, ringers must provide their own bottoms. For in-house performances in cooler weather, black or navy blue pants or skirts. For warm weather concerts and festivals, shorts (cargo or dress shorts; no basketball or sports type shorts), pants, or skirts.

Practices: Klangers practice every week on Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., and as concerts or festivals draw near, additional or extended practices may be necessary. ***Parents are requested to rotate attendance at rehearsals on a weekly basis.***

Ringers who need to mark their music must come in early for that task. Our rehearsal time is short and we must make the most of it. John will be at the church by 6:30 p.m. for those who wish to mark their music.

We follow the school schedule as far as breaks and snow days. If there is no school due to a break or weather Klangers also do not meet. If the weather suddenly turns on us after school lets out, and deemed dangerous to travel, you will receive a robocall from the church and e-mail to cancel the rehearsal. This decision will be made no later than 6:00 p.m. Please check your voice and e-mail before heading off to church in these situations. Our website and Facebook page will also have a cancellation announcement. If you haven't heard of a weather related cancellation and are unsure, call John at home and check. Safety comes first!

There will be scheduling conflicts which come up in everyone's life which cannot be resolved. John requires each member to notify him as soon as such conflicts are known. It is not easy to rehearse such team music without a ringer or to get substitutes, so ringers are expected to make every effort to attend regularly and be on time. To perform as a unit, each member depends on every other member. In the event of a last minute decision (after school hours) on a rehearsal day that a ringer cannot attend practice, it is requested you contact John via email (johnjmouse@gmail.com), Facebook private message, or phone him at home (267-4967) up until 6:00 p.m. From 6:00 p.m. on, please call/text his cell phone (434-0678).

Additionally, there is a sign-out sheet in the choir room for members. If a ringer knows specific dates of a conflict, we request they sign-out from these dates. This will be a big help and reduce the occurrence of "sudden surprises." As soon as you receive your sports schedules, bring them in and sign out on those dates of conflict.

Conduct: Ringers are expected to show commitment through regular attendance and positive attitudes throughout the year for all practices, concerts and all fund-raising events. Be respectful of each other and your director.

About Parental Involvement: Parents perform vital roles in the success of our team. Two or three parents are needed to help organize various fund-raising events throughout the year. These can be car washes, flower bulb sales, etc. Feel free to input your ideas. With a minimal amount of meetings in a year, your input and help will make things run smoothly and successfully.

Chaperones are also needed for bell festivals; one male and one or two female. If you would be comfortable driving the church van, please see Jeff to get cleared and placed on our list. Chaperones' festival fees for festivals are paid for by the church.

You may call John at 432-4102 (church office) if you have any questions. Other parents who are involved are also willing to answer questions.

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Klanger Schedule of Events (Tentative)

2019

Italicized dates are pending.

September 10, 2019 – Initial Ringer/Parent meeting, 7:00 pm.

September 17, 2019 – First full rehearsal, 7:00 pm.

December, 2019 – *Holiday Parade, Date & Time TBA*

December, 2019 – *Tree Lighting, Muller Plaza, Date & Time TBA*

December, 2019 – *Southside Mall, Date & Time TBA*

December 14, 2019 – Christmas Carol, 3:00 pm. Call is 1:30.

December 15, 2019 – *Christmas Carol snow date. Time and call same.*

2020

January 7, 2020 – Rehearsals resume.

February 18-21, 2020 – NO Klangers. Winter break.

February 22 & 23, 2020 – Annual Dinner-Theater

April 6-13, 2020 –NO Klangers. Spring break.

June ??, 2020 – *Spring concert, 2:00 pm. Call is 12:00.*