

# National Bell Festival Selects United Kingdom as 2023 Spotlight Nation

*Annual festival to highlight the rich bell ringing traditions and bell making heritage of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.*

WASHINGTON, D.C., USA, November 26, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As the thundering of bells rings in the New Year, the [2023 National Bell Festival](#) will highlight the rich bell ringing traditions and bell making heritage of the United Kingdom. Bells have rung across the UK, the inaugural spotlight country, for over 1,500 years. Indeed, the Church of England provides every church with at least one bell to ring the people to service. From single bells in sleepy hamlets to the majestic rings of peal bells at magnificent cathedrals, the sound of bells ringing is deeply rooted in British culture – and within earshot of almost every home in Britain.



The Prince of Wales, now King Charles III, strikes the "Charles" bell, named after him, during his visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, May 15, 2012. Picture: Arthur Edwards.

From legendary bell foundries like Whitechapel, who cast the Liberty Bell and re-cast Big Ben, to

the roughly 40,000 bell ringers who work the ropes at the nation's more than 5,000 change ringing towers, bell ringing is [deeply ingrained throughout the UK](#). Bells call people to worship, signal the time, rally to arms, gather to celebrate, and toll to mourn.

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Experience the magic and wonder of bell ringing through the lens of the United Kingdom!”

*Paul Ashe, Director, National Bell Festival*

The National Bell Festival will pay tribute to this proud bell ringing culture in the upcoming festival, casting a spotlight on the people, places, and bells of the UK. Music by British

composers will be provided to carillonists across the world while change ringers will attempt their finest peals.

Throughout, incredible individuals and groups who keep the bells ringing over the British Isles will provide insight into their craft. Punctuating the day will be a concert arranged by the handbell choir [Virginia Bronze](#), featuring musical selections from the British Isles at the historic St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, in Washington, D.C.

What is the annual spotlight nation?

Beginning in 2023, the National Bell Festival is excited to shine a light on the bell ringing culture and practices of countries around the world. The program reflects our belief that bells have the power to unite people together.

We celebrate the diversity of people and the uniqueness of nations, but we also recognize how alike we all are as humans. The reverberating ring of a bell crosses over boundaries and borders. It cares not for social or economic differences. For hundreds of years, bells have gathered people together in times of hardship and celebration alike.

Let's keep bells ringing and let's keep bringing people together – exchanging arts and culture, supporting youths and education, and empowering community development. Where will bell ringing take us next year? You'll have to stay tuned to find out! For more information, visit: [Bells.org](#)

About the National Bell Festival

The National Bell Festival is on a mission to celebrate and restore bells in America. Each year on New Year's Day, the festival rings in the New Year with free community events across America and across the world. The organization also works throughout the year to restore historic bells and bell towers to their former thundering glory.

The National Bell Festival's work supports the United Nations' Global Goal No. 11 for Sustainable Development: Protecting the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage, and is enabled, in part, by a Google for Nonprofits grant.

Paul Ashe

National Bell Festival

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