

Bells to Ring across All Seven Continents this New Year during 2024 National Bell Festival

In what may be a global first, one of the most recognizable melodies in the world will ring out across the ice sheets of Antarctica.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, December 27, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In what may be a global first, one of the most recognizable melodies in the world will ring out across the ice sheets of Antarctica this New Year as Catherine McMichael and Joyce Terry, visiting the southernmost continent, perform "Auld Lang Syne" on handbells during the 2024 [National Bell Festival](#).



A gentoo penguin (*Pygoscelis papua*) emerges from the icy waters onto a rocky outcrop in Antarctica.

Flanked by icebergs and dotted with penguins, Antarctica is one of the least accessible places on earth, with vast stretches of icy terrain between the sea and the South Pole. For those in the Western Hemisphere, it may be reached by ship from Tierra del Fuego, the very tip of South America shared by Chile and Argentina, from which Mses. McMichael and Terry launch on December 30, 2023.

“

We couldn't be more thrilled to bring the global community together to ring in the New Year.”

Paul Ashe, Director, National Bell Festival

Leaving their husbands behind, the duo will reach the ice shelf just in time to ring in a frosty New Year. The trip has

been in the works since the pair first discussed adventuring south at the annual Distinctly Bronze, a ringing and learning event for advanced [handbell musicians](#), this last February.

For the occasion, six pieces have been arranged for eight bells, with both women responsible for four bells. Each are bringing half a diatonic octave of baby bells, G6–G7, with the additional F#7. All pieces in the repertoire are in the key of C or G and will be rung four-in-hand. Should the waddling penguins desire a performance program, the pieces are:

- Auld Lang Syne
- Plain Hunt Peal, adapted
- For the Beauty of the Earth
- Joy to the World
- My Country, 'Tis of Thee
- Jingle Bells

“Auld Lang Syne” is a globally-recognized tune based on a poem written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. It is traditionally sung to bid farewell to the old year on New Year's Eve. With the performance in Antarctica, bells will be ringing “Auld Lang Syne” across all seven continents this year during the 2024 National Bell Festival.



Catherine McMichael, left, and Joyce Terry hike the island of Gozo in the Maltese archipelago, completing the perimeter over five days in May 2023.

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 the U.S. 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. Learn more about the National Bell Festival and the lineup of events and experiences on New Year's Day by visiting: [Bells.org](https://www.bells.org)

Paul Ashe
National Bell Festival

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/677631167>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something

we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2023 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.