

English Handbell Performance by Michèle Sharik Sunday, September 30 at 4 p.m.



Michèle Sharik (pronunciation: share-ick) is raising the performance with bronze bells to the level of high art. Internationally renowned for her graceful and flowing style, she is an emerging artist in the growing genre of English handbell performance. This art form began as a popular pub activity some 400 years ago, and from this humble beginning, has developed into a concert performance venue.

Michèle will present "The Golden Dance," a tapestry of story and music woven together in a presentation that takes the listener on a journey from Renaissance England to the Golden Gate, and all points in between.

During the concert, Sharik will lift more than 250 lbs. of bronze in her own dance-like choreography combining both grace and strength. English handbells were originally cast by the bell foundries in tuned sets for "change ringing," the practice of ringing a set of bells in every possible unrepeatable sequence, to duplicate the heavy tower bells on a smaller scale.



Tower ringers could practice change ringing on handbells in the warmth and comfort of a pub without disturbing the neighbors. In time, ringers began to play tunes on the bells, and it became a widespread musical art in Britain. The two world wars of the 20th century devastated the mostly-male British teams, but in the meantime handbells had spread to America, and even to Gualala where we have our own Ernest Bloch Bellringers.

In a handbell ensemble, nine to thirteen musicians will perform on three to five octaves of bells. Sharik performs alone on three and a half octaves (44 bells) of American-cast Malmark handbells. A visual as well as musical performer, a handbell soloist must combine the fluid grace of a dancer, the musicality of a virtuoso, and the precision of an athlete to perform on this demanding instrument. Accompanying Sharik one time in this special program will be Don Krieger and Jeanne Jackson.



Along with a new class of gifted musicians, Michèle is dedicated to presenting solo handbells as a concert instrument on a par with flute, harp, or piano. Visit TheGoldenDance.com for more information about Michèle, solo ringing, and the musical art of handbells.

Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 on the day of the performance. Call the Gualala Arts office at (707) 884-1138. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

The Physics of Musical Instruments with Bryant Hichwa Monday, September 17 at 7 p.m.



Join Bryant Hichwa in exploring the physics behind musical instruments. We have all wondered what makes a Stradivarius violin so special. Is it the shape of the violin or the wood it's made of or possibly the varnish finish? You may have enjoyed a concert piece played on a "Strad." When one listens to such an instrument, you know it's special. But is there scientific evidence that we can measure to give us more insight into what makes these instruments stand apart?

During this lecture Bryant will demonstrate string, woodwind and various percussion instruments. He will take a violin apart in order to gain an understanding of what produces the wonderful complex tones. He'll demonstrate the standing waves produced when we bow or pluck a string. He'll show the harmonic spectrum associated with various woodwinds such as the clarinet. Finally



the audience will be involved to demonstrate a number of unique percussion instruments from around the world.

Bryant Hichwa is currently Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Sonoma State University and a recent recipient of the campus teaching award for his work with an upper level General Education class titled "The Physics of Music." He has appeared as an invited guest on NPR's Science Friday to discuss the physics of musical instruments. Bryant is a committed environmentalist; President of the Board of Audubon Canyon Ranch; past president of Sonoma County's Madrone Audubon Society; an avid birdwatcher and semi-professional nature photographer. \$5 donation requested.