



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Bells on Temple Square Featured at National Handbell Seminar New Associate Bell Conductor Named**

SALT LAKE CITY – The Bells on Temple Square are touring for the first time to Garden Grove, California for the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar. The Bells will be the concluding concert on July 15, 2017 capping off the four-day event. LeAnna Willmore, conductor of the Bells on Temple Square, will lead the performance. The repertoire will explore a variety of musical genres from hymns, folk music, and classical to jazz, gospel, and patriotic.

“We are honored to participate in this national event and showcase the talents of the Bells on Temple Square” said Mormon Tabernacle Choir President Ron Jarrett, who will travel to California with the bell choir. “The Bells have always been a fan favorite, and we look forward to sharing their musicianship with peers throughout the world at this seminar.”

The Handbell Musicians of America is dedicated to advancing the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing through education, community and communication. It provides benefits and services to approximately 5,000 member organizations and individuals, both national and international, representing approximately 100,000 handbell musicians around the world.

Established in 2005, the Bells on Temple Square, a handbell choir of 32 musicians, enhances the concerts and recordings of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and performs two handbell concerts in the Salt Lake Tabernacle each year.

And there will be a new face helping to lead the Bells on Temple Square in upcoming concerts. Geoff Anderson was named the Associate Conductor of the Bells on Temple Square in May, replacing Larry Smith.

“Larry Smith has been key to the growth and success of the Bells for six years. We will miss his leadership,” said Willmore. “At the same time, I am pleased to have Geoff Anderson on our team as we look towards future success.”

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Anderson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Southern Utah University and Boston University, respectively. He has experience in instrumental and vocal performance and as music director for many musical productions. He has also directed state honor choirs and choirs that have performed for LDS general conference. Anderson is currently the director of choirs at Fremont High School, with responsibility for vocal ensembles, the handbell choir and advanced placement and concurrent enrollment music courses.

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