



## **DAVID M. HARRIS**

David is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and has studied conducting privately with Dr. William A. Payn at Bucknell University. He has been the director of The Raleigh Ringers since January 1990, when he was instrumental in the formation of the group. He was the director of the handbell program at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church and has served Handbell Musicians of America in several capacities: as All-Star Conductor, Ringing Track Conductor, Instructor for the National Seminar, North Carolina State Chairman, and as Area III Treasurer. He chaired the national committee that planned the first Community/Professional Handbell Choir event, Pinnacle 2000, held in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was elected in March 2023 to a six-year term on the HMA National Board of Directors. In July 2023, David was awarded Honorary Life Membership in HMA, the highest award presented by the organization. This distinction is reserved for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the art of handbell ringing.

Because of his strong interest in the development of community handbell programs, David and The Raleigh Ringers developed and sponsor the biennial event, Virtuoso, a performance-focused event for advanced ringers. In addition, he has led well over 200 handbell festivals and workshops in 39 states as well as in England, Singapore, Puerto Rico, Canada, and the Caribbean. He has also been the primary handbell clinician for several denominational music events, including Montreat, Lake Junaluska, and Lutheridge (NC); Mo-Ranch (TX); Massanetta (VA); and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (KY). David is also one of the co-founders of the very successful Capital Area Handbell Festival, held annually in Raleigh.

David has taken on a position as an adjunct professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, where he leads the Meredith College Ringers. He also conducts The Millbrook Ringers, an educational group sponsored by The Raleigh Ringers. He has written several articles for *Overtones*, the national publication of Handbell Musicians of America.

After growing up in the Northeast, David moved to Raleigh with his wife, Kristina. Dave and Kris have three grown children and one granddaughter.