



## About Strikepoint

Strikepoint, from Duluth, Minnesota, is a church-based handbell ensemble with a community group feel. Led by "Player/Coach" Bill Alexander, a nationally known handbell clinician and conductor, this eleven-member group performs in a directorless ensemble setting. College students and community members have joined with selected ringers from the five bell choirs at Duluth's First United Methodist Church to provide a consistently high level of musicianship since Strikepoint began in 1984. 'Pointers are often high school students, and sometimes as young as 13.

Annual summer tours have taken the group throughout the continental U.S. as well as to England, Scotland, Japan, Canada, Hong Kong and Hawaii, with performances in four national capitols, four National Handbell Directors' Seminars, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, both Disney World and Disneyland, and California's Crystal Cathedral. Strikepoint has been the featured performer at four Area Festival Conferences and one National Festival Conference.

Strikepoint rings 76 bronze Schulmerich handbells, 85 Schulmerich Chimes, 25 Silver Melody Bells, 36 Petit and Fritzen handbells, and an assortment of other instruments, which have included additional percussion, trumpet, viola, clarinet, snare drum, organ, flute, horn, pennywhistle and a gong.

Noted for capturing the enthusiasm of audiences with a dynamic style and accessible music, Strikepoint's concert selections can range from flowing Bach to a rousing Sousa march, and include both familiar and new music. Reviews of Strikepoint concerts have praised their "athleticism and showmanship, not to mention musicality" and an "exceptionally creative bent!" Their recordings have been featured on Minnesota Public Radio's "Morning Show," American Public Radio's "Schickele Mix" and other nationally broadcast programs. Their newest recording, *Top Rung*, a DVD with a bonus CD, was released in July, 2008.

Attitude, toward music and people, is an important factor in considering a potential ringer. Strikepoint's stated philosophy includes the goal of making the very best music possible and experiencing the social interdependence and dynamics found only in a group of this kind. Or, as one member put it, "Good Music, Good Food." Pizza parties and brownies play an important role in the Strikepoint culture. While the ringers take their music seriously, everything else is fair game.

Visit [www.strikepoint.com](http://www.strikepoint.com) for details on upcoming events. A Strikepoint concert is guaranteed to provide a fast-paced, high energy, rollicking good time.