Enthralling audiences locally and abroad, Tintabulations has been making music since the mid-nineties. Beginning as an ambitious group of middle school students, under the love and direction of Barb Walsh, ‘Tintab’ continues to grow and develop, and is now a source of innovation and respect in the handbell community worldwide.

Unlike an orchestra or choir in which each musician is a member of a section responsible for one line of musical texture, each musician in a handbell ensemble is individually responsible for playing their specifically assigned bells/notes. The flash of polished bronze hypnotizes and excites, while the ringers enthusiastically share their passion and high level of skill with eager and appreciative audiences. Their mastery of handbell performance is rapturous as they bring both an audible and visual art form to life.

Tintab’s approach to concerts and workshops is to educate and entertain simultaneously. Audience members who are unfamiliar with handbells before a Tintab concert are invited to the tables afterwards to ask questions and ring the bells themselves. At workshops, care is taken to both educate beginning ringers and challenge those whose technique is more advanced.

Members of Tintabulations range in age from 18 to 60+ and commute to Reno from as far away as Lake Tahoe, Bishop, and Chester, CA. The group performs music ranging from classic church hymns to jazz and showtunes, proving that bell ringers from any age or background can turn a simple set of bells into an impressive music making force.

The group’s artistic director Barb Walsh got her Bachelor of Music Education from Colorado State University and her Master of Music from the University of Nevada, Reno. She taught elementary music and band in the Washoe County School District for 33 years before retiring. Walsh continues her education by taking conducting master classes from Handbell Musicians of America.