

The 2026 Wiltse Scholarship Recipients

A resident of Lisle, IL, **Madeline Chang** started ringing handbells in elementary school and became a member of the St. Olaf College Handbell Choir in 2021 where she rang under Jill Mahr. She has been a member of The Agape Ringers under KC Congdon since 2024. Madeline recently completed an MS in Applied Data at the University of San Diego and is working as a Financial Analyst Professional at a healthcare company.

Madeline shared these words about herself:

“Ringing in handbell choirs has been a source of joy and strength for me for many years. While working on my undergraduate degree, I found a wonderful community of friends through the handbell program. Through late night rehearsals and counting out loud until a rhythm was ingrained into our brains, I joined a community that truly understood the contribution each individual brought to the (foam-covered) table. Handbells has become a stable foundation in my life, and I am incredibly grateful to have met so many mentors and friends.”



Catherine McCreddie is from Rochester, MN, where she started ringing at age nine at Rochester Covenant Church. During her college years she was a member of the St. Olaf Handbell Choir under Jill Mahr. After graduating she became a member of Rochester Area Handbells under the direction of Paul Kingsbury. Catherine is a legal assistant and also plays the flute.

Catherine shared these comments:

“A couple of the members of Rochester Area Handbells talk about Bay View every year. I've always been curious about it and finally decided to apply. I love handbells because there's always something that makes it challenging and unique. I'm ready for my next bell challenge and Bay View would be a great opportunity for me to stretch my abilities and see what I'm capable of.”