



## **John-Charles (J.-C.) Coolen**

J.-C. Coolen is an active participant and leader in the Greater Toronto Area (Ontario, Canada) handbell community. One of the founding members of The Bronze Foundation, Toronto's auditioned community handbell ensemble, he has served as its Music Director since 2005. J.-C is the Director of Bells of Bowmanville, at the Bowmanville Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the Director of the Manor Road Handbell Choir at Manor Road United Church in Toronto. He is also active in the wider handbell world as Membership Secretary for the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers <[ogehr.ca](http://ogehr.ca)> and as Ontario District Coordinator for Area II of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. He has been ringing since 1989 and directing bells since 1998.

J.-C. was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and currently lives in Ajax, Ontario. As a freelance accompanist, conductor and church musician, he participates in a wide range of musical activities throughout the eastern Greater Toronto area. In addition to his handbell activities, he is Music Director at Manor Road United Church (Toronto) and Director of Durham Community Choirs (Oshawa). In his spare time, he likes to travel, read, think, and satisfy his curiosity.