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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpha 4 Secures Place at the 2005 Christmas Pageant of Peace

GAITHERSBURG, MD – October 25, 2005 – Alpha 4 has been invited to perform on December 16, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. for the 2005 Christmas Pageant of Peace Music Program in Washington, D.C. The National Park Service Winter Program at President’s Park is intended to provide musical entertainment for park visitors at the Christmas Pageant of Peace site. The outdoor stage is located at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion on the Ellipse south of the White House.

Alpha 4 is a Four-in-Hand Handbell Choir from Gaithersburg, Maryland that utilizes the interlocking handbell style of ringing. Interlocking the bells allows each member to play with two to three bells in each hand so that each person is holding and playing anywhere from four to six bells at once. This group includes director, arranger and ringer Pam Ion in addition to the ringers Kristine Farrell, Nita Roff, Laura Staley and Kathy Stauffer.

Established in August 2001, the members began ringing together in the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg handbell choir. After attending a Christine Anderson workshop, the five ringers decided to form a four-in-handbell group

Alpha 4’s repertoire includes classical, seasonal, patriotic, folk, hymns, wedding, sacred and secular music. Pam Ion also arranges music for hard to find pieces making the group’s repertoire diverse and interesting. Alpha 4 has performed at weddings, senior-living facilities, nursing homes, shopping malls and worship services.

The ‘Alpha’ in the name refers to the group’s status as the beginning of interlocking handbell ringing at the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg. The ‘4’ refers to the interlocking bell technique itself, which is also popularly known as “four-in-hand.”

Alpha 4’s repertoire for the evening will include Carol of the Bells, A Christmas Music Box, Greensleeves and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

For more information go to www.alpha4handbells.org.

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