

FALL 2008
Handbell Music Reviews
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Ring, Little Bells (King Glockchen)

Arr. Hollander

23 octaves

Level 1

This is a great level 1 piece! It is full of techniques that make it sound more difficult than it is. If you are short of rehearsal time, just leave out the techniques or only use some of them. The piece will still sound great! Only position 4 has bell changes which is good but position 11 has no bells to ring so that is not so good!

Campana Songs (Bell Sounds - Theme and Variations)

By Wissinger

23 octaves

Level 1

This is a terrific teaching piece. Ringers can learn it in 8 bar sections (each section includes a different technique) and then put it all together. In total, there are 5 variations - you can include all 5 in your performance or only as many as you like. Encourage your ringers to smile and have fun with this piece!

Repeat the Sounding Joy

Arr. Eithun

345 octaves Opt. Choirchimes®

Level 2

If you are looking for something joyful and easy to put together for the Christmas season, this is the piece that you need. It combines Joy to the World, Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee, and How Great Our Joy. The beat is steady throughout, the arrangement is full, it has few bell changes, and also a few chimes to add some flavor and texture to the music.

Joyful Noise or Click Sticks

By Ingram

3 octaves with Rhythm Sticks or Clapping

Level 2

If you are looking for something rhythmic and fun, this is the piece for you! The first 14 measures has no bell ringing at all - just rhythm sticks or clapping (you could also click your mallet handles together). Then bells are added over the next few measures followed by a malleted rhythmic passage. Then a slow meditative section and then back to a rhythmic. The most interesting part is the optional second ending - there is a free style section, where the director claps or clicks a rhythm and then the ringers echo it. This gives the director a chance to be creative with rhythm while teaching it to students.

Savior of the Nations Come

Arr. Wissinger

345 octaves with Optional Choirchimes®

Level 2+

Looking for a different setting for Advent? This one really works well. It is slow, calm and ethereal. The addition of Choirchimes® make this piece really sound great. It has numerous bell changes but because of the pace, they are all manageable - this will give new ringers a chance to be successful with bell changes by Christmas. Then just think of the things you can do in the new year!

The Prayer

Arr. Eithun

3456 octaves

Level 3

This music was made famous by Celine Dion - the words and music are by Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster. The tone is set for the piece with the malleting of suspended bells to simulate wind chimes in a gentle breeze. The music and warmth of the piece unfolds brilliantly. Unlike some modern music, this has depth and harmonies that make it interesting and enjoyable for directors, ringers and the listener.

Come, All Ye Shepherds

Arr. Hall

35 octaves

Level 4

Jefferey Hall has made this piece rhythmic and fun for everyone. This would be a great concert opener. The tempo needs to be steady and the key changes rehearse well. Although it is rated a level 4, the rhythmic sections are repetitive so likely if your choir rings level 3 music and needs a bit of a challenge, this would work well.

12 Bell in F
Arr. Ingram
Level 2/3

Similar to the Twelve bells series, this one is in the key of F. Music includes more contemporary hymns that will well with fewer ringers and in churches with Praise bands. Titles include: How Great is Our God, Here I Am to Worship, Lord I Lift Your Name on High, You Are My All in All, In Christ Alone, Come Now is the Time To Worship, and Shout to the Lord