

# Handbell Music Review

**Spring 2005**

by Camille Ream

Handbells Etc.

Edmonton, Alberta

## **Animal Antics Today's Handchimes**

by Mitchell

3 octaves

Level 1

This original handbell music actually includes four different pieces. All have alternate names so they can be used in a church setting by a youth choir. Prancing Ponies (Processional) includes staccato and ring touch notes tick tock blocks are also suggested. Other titles include Educated Elephants (Celebration), Dancing Dogs (A Happy Time), and Monkey Tricks (March in C Major). All pieces are at a level one and can be used on handbells or Choirchimes®. Please remember that you can do some of the techniques on Choirchimes® but not all of them.

## **Morning Has Broken**

arr by Sherman

345 octaves

Level 1

This familiar Gaelic melody works well with bells or Choirchimes®. It is in the key of G and includes two verses. It is repetitive so would be easy for young or beginning ringers to learn in a short time.

## **Buffalo Gal's Chopsticks**

arr by Smith

3 octaves

Level 2-

This energetic piece must be rung "western style"! It opens up the possibility of cowboy hats, blue jeans and plaid shirts! In addition to the multiple techniques that are used, ringers have the opportunity to hit their mallets together or on their music stand...James Smith has added a separate Orff/percussion part so everyone in the class can be involved.

## **Theme from "The Unfinished Symphony"**

arr. Thompson

345 octaves

Level 2

This Schubert piece works well in church or school settings. The melody moves from the treble bell to the bass bells. Accompanying music lines are LV eight notes. Great opportunity for your ringers to work on phrasing and musicality.

### **Dona Nobis Pacem**

arr. Tucker

345 octaves opt. Choirchimes®

Level 2

Margaret Tucker has put together a really wonderful arrangement of this traditional melody. Many options for performance are available. It can be performed on handbells alone, or handbells with three or four instruments such as cello, violin, oboe, flute, bassoon, clarinet, or handbells with keyboard or handbells with instruments and keyboard. If you want to get others involved, you have the option to purchase a separate SATB part! Simple enough that if all parties know their parts, it will only take one rehearsal to pull it together for performance.

### **The Colors of God's Love**

by Stephenson

3456 octaves

Level 3

This original piece of music commissioned by the friends of Carolyn Tenery, a ringer who was described as a very colorful person. Valerie Stephenson writes "As we travel through life's journey, we experience a variety of emotions, The somber (blue section) played on handchimes reminds us of times of sadness or reflection. The intense (red) section used mallets, martellatos, accents and shakes, reminds us of times of excitement. The sparkling (yellow) opening and closing themes are pure joy, reminiscent of all the happy times in our lives. Through all of the various emotions and experiences in our lives, God's love and presence are always with us.

### **Passacaglia for Handbells**

by Helman

345 octaves

Level 4-

This original handbell composition starts out very simply with a repeating bass melody of 8 measures. This same theme repeats itself with a different variation every 8 measures there are 145 measures in the piece

you can do the math! This might sound kind of boring but it is definitely not! The theme is wonderful and comforting to listen to

the rest of the music is filled with fullness and variety! The accompaniment uses many different techniques and uses quarter, eighth, triplets, and sixteenths. Helman makes this wonderful melody throughout it all. Directors, ringers and audiences will love how this piece builds to the final chord. This piece would work well in community or church setting. I am a huge fan of Michael Helman's music

this is no exception to the quality and depth of his previous compositions.

### **Classical Gas**

arr. by McKlveen

45 octaves

Level 4

Anyone remember this music by Mason Williams? Lots of syncopation, rhythmic

changes (meters include 2/4 3/4 4/4 5/4 and a little 12/8!) Metronome marking is 164 for the quarter note. Lots of challenge but great fun. Audiences will love it!