

# **Handbell Music Review**

**Spring 2008**

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**Handbells Etc.**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

## **10 Christmas Hymn Introductions**

arr. Prins

345 octaves

Level 2+

This book has great potential for the Christmas season's worship services. These arrangements allow handbells to be truly be part of the music during worship rather than only in the anthem or offertory spot. These 10 hymn arrangements let the bells shine as they ring the introduction to hymn singing and then join with the keyboard to ring while the congregation is singing. The accompaniments can also stand alone for hymn accompaniments. Great addition to your Christmas worship music.

## **Ring the World Around**

arr. Douglas Wagner

23 octaves

Level 2

This is a great resource for any school teacher - this book includes 8 different pieces of music, each from a different country providing a multicultural experience for ringers and their audiences. The added bonus is that this resource can be photocopied legally for use in classroom or church settings.

## **We Wish You a Merry Christmas**

arr. Stephenson

345 octave with percussion

Level 3-

The entire piece is played with mallets so each ringer will need 2 mallets to make this piece successful. Additional percussion includes woodblocks, slide whistle, jingle bells or tambourine, add a ratchet or slapstick or maybe a cowbell. If you don't want to use percussion, the ringers can click their mallets together. The arranger gives you permission to be creative with facial expressions, costuming or anything else your director may decide!

## **Jazz Pizzicato**

arr. Thompson

3 octaves - Level 3

45 octaves - Level 4

This Leroy Anderson piece is great fun for the listeners and the ringers. This piece too is done mostly with mallets - with the occasional R where the note is rung. It needs to be played in cut time to keep the momentum of the piece the way Anderson would have wanted it. Only 58 bars - makes a great encore piece!

### **Parade of the Tin Soldiers**

arr. Thompson  
456 octaves with percussion  
Level 3

This well know piece makes a great addition to the traditional Christmas Music Concert. Your lower bass ringers could likely do the percussion parts which could include tamourine, temple blocks, vibraslap, sleigh bells, and cymbal. Keep it at a speed of 152! It will be a challenge to the ringers and a joy to listen to!

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

arr. Raney  
3456 with optional Choirchimes® and Keyboard  
Level 2+

Joel Raney has just started to have some of his arrangements published on handbells. This piece can stand alone but really needs the addition of Choirchimes and keyboard to get the best effect. With the way this music is arranged and with the additional of the musical instruments, it sounds much grander and more difficult than a Level 2+. My choir doesn't have an arrangement of this carol - I think this will be the one that we get.

### **The Holly and the Ivy**

arr. Eithun  
345 octaves  
Level 2+

Although this is a traditional piece of music, it is not very often heard so it makes a great anthem piece during a service that there are many carols sung. This music blends The Holly and the Ivy with O Tannenbaum in a very gentle way. It flows well and would fit into any Christmas worship service or concert.