

WINTER 2009
Handbell Music Reviews
Handbells etc.
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Joyful Canticle
By McChesney
23 octaves
Level 2

This original piece of music starts out with a simple tune and then has a number of variations with added techniques and dynamics. Most bells in the two octaves are busy most of the time. There is a repeat in the piece so you can make it longer if needed. Straight 4/4 time with no tempo changes – a great piece for beginning ringers.

Holy Spirit, Breath of God
Arr. Lamb
345 octaves with Opt. Choirchimes®
Level 2

This arrangement of the hymn tune “Trentham” looks at first glance to be more of a level 1 piece than a level 2. Linda has done some interesting additions to make the piece sound unique. She has added the “Singing Bell” (SB) technique. This is used for very long sustained notes like those that need to last 26 measures! Information on the specifics of this technique is detailed in the music. Hint: You need a piece of dowel at least 1 inch in diameter and about 8 inches long!

Love Never Fails
Arr. Turner & Hall
345 octaves
Level 2+

This original music is based on first Corinthians 13:8. The music doesn't go fast (adagio) and there are no special techniques either but this simple flowing melody just unfolds beautifully. It is one of those pieces that ringers will love to ring and congregations will love to hear. It will fit anytime during the church year and would be a great addition to a wedding.

An American Tapestry II: Jazz Rag
By Sherman
34567 octaves with opt Wind Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, and Four-Hand Piano
Level 3

This music was commissioned by the AGEHR for the 13th Handbell Symposium in Orlando, Florida in 2008. It is full of jazzy rhythms and harmonies as well as techniques. It can stand alone or can have a wind or vocal ensemble or four-hand piano added to make it even more lively and fun!

Morning Has Broken
Arr. Quintana
45 octaves
Level 4

There are numerous handbell arrangements of this traditional Gaelic melody. This one has many more meters than the usual $\frac{3}{4}$. The first verse is in officially a 4/4 but really has a pulse of three due to the combinations of eighth notes that are used – the malleted accompaniment helps ensure the

beat is steady. The interlude between verses is adagio and then – oh yes – just about forgot to mention – an occasional bar of 5/8! Loads of fun – there is lots of repetition that will make learning this great arrangement a lot easier to learn.

Rondeau from Abdelazer Suite

Arr. Griffin

345 octaves with opt. Choirchimes®

Level 3

This arrangement of Purcell's Rondeau from 2008 is one of the pieces chosen for Distinctly Bronze West in February. If your choir has not rung many 16th notes, this would be a great way for the treble bells to learn – the bass is strong and on the beat so tempo can be easily kept steady. Additional notes for the 6th and 7th octave in the lower bass for chimes and bells have also been added – should be fantastic!

August 9th Adagio

Arr. Etzel

4567 octaves with opt. Choirchimes®

Level 4

This piece looks easy on the surface. When you look at the score, there are no key or tempo changes. Some ringers don't even have bell changes. After a closer look, the challenge of this piece is the fact that the piece goes very slowly, AND the melody is often doubled on bells and chimes! So if you have the F5G5 position, you will need (sometimes only) to ring both the F5 bell and F5 chime at the same time. You will really need to "think outside the box" when looking at assignments for this piece.