



Handbell Music Reviews - Jan 2011 by Debbie Rice

**Debbie Rice** holds a bachelor's degree in music and a master's degree in opera. Her expertise with the handbell instrument is recognized internationally through her frequent work as clinician and conductor for workshops, seminars and festivals with recent engagements in Australia, California, Vermont, Texas, Wisconsin and Great Britain and upcoming events in California, Georgia, New York, South Dakota, and Virginia. Debbie has also authored numerous articles for *Overtones*, the national handbell/handchime publication of AGEHR (American Guild of English Handbell Ringers). Through her work with AGEHR she has served on and chaired numerous committees as well as held a number of elected positions including National President. Most recently, Debbie has served as guest conductor of JUBILOSO! at Concordia College in Edmonton for the winter term and has graciously provided these Music Reviews for our newsletter.

### **Alleluia Fanfare**

Gramann      2-3 octaves

Level 3

This exciting original composition is a good choice for worship on Easter Sunday, any joyful occasion and year round concert programming. It may be rung as an introduction to the singing of Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (Easter Hymn), other inspirational hymns in C major, for weddings and to open concerts. Fred begins with *forte* accented chords that transition through gentle syncopation and a few easy triple patterns for musical contrast. After exploring a range of dynamics from *piano* to *fortissimo* listeners will be lead to a strong ending with martellato.

### **Alleluia, What Wondrous Love**

Wagner      3 octaves handbells or handchimes

Level 1

Eight pieces covering Lent/Holy Week, Palm Sunday and Easter are included in this reproducible collection of familiar hymn settings making it a budget friendly investment. As a level 1 collection these will build confidence with beginning ringers since there are no key changes, extra accidentals or rhythms beyond quarter notes. Doug has done a good job of keeping ringers busy, but not overly so. Use of techniques is limited to LV and swing, but I see places where it would be easy to add echo and vibrato type sounds as ringers are ready and comfortable expanding into technique territory.

## **Celebrate with Joy**

Dobrinski 3-6 octaves

Level 3-

Ringers of all ages will enjoy this uplifting original work. "Celebrate" masterfully incorporates options for ten techniques in various combinations that are simply so much fun to do. While ring touch against martellato is the most common; other favourite options include echo, consecutive martellato lifts, swing and gyro. As an added bonus bell changes are limited and ringers stay busy...even B6/C7! It is also worth noting that this piece was commissioned to celebrate the life of a 12 year old girl making this music suitable for remembrance occasions as well as any type of concert.

## **Creation's Dawn: A Prairie Hymn**

Tucker 3-5 octaves

Level 3+

Singing bell and suspended mallets portray the moment of dawn as the leading edge of the sun appears just above the horizon. This quiet opening slowly comes to life through creative writing via gentle plucks, marts, pluck lifts, echo and shakes to paint early morning life on the prairie. Sondra specifically references the wind waving through tall grasslands, raindrops and buzzing insects. This would be a photographer's haven for those who like to incorporate power point with bells. It is peaceful and calm, yet full of life. For a few pages the scoring expands to three staves making it much easier for high treble, battery bells and bass to distinguish various technique combinations and musicality. You will love the imagery! This truly is a hymn for the prairie with all its beauty.

## **Linstead Market**

Morris 3-5 octaves

Level 3-3 octaves handchimes, bongos, conga optional

Hart, well known for his creative use of rhythm and percussion, has given us another winner executed in Caribbean style. In keeping with other arrangements of Caribbean tunes, he achieves success in this style of writing by using off beat Ring Touch chords alternating in both staves. If syncopation is something new for your ringers consider leaving out the ties initially until the notes are comfortable. You won't find anything beyond tied 8<sup>th</sup> notes here. Thankfully the optional repeat does not include a page turn and the optional percussion parts for bongos and djembe or conga are included as part of the ringer score. Notes on the inside cover provide interesting background information on this Jamaican Folksong's connection to a very popular market in the small island town of Linstead...hence its title. Mallet rolls, well placed accents, handchimes and staccato notes bring this to life!

## **Renewed Spirit**

Mazzatenta 3-5 octaves with optional 3 octaves handchimes

Level 2+

It was my pleasure and honor to conduct the world premier of “Renewed Spirit” for AGEHR Area XII’s 2010 Conference near Sacramento, CA. This creative original combines mallet rolls on the table with thumb damp after an opening swing chord. Gentle syncopation accompanies the first legato melody. As this develops it is punctuated with pluck and mart lifts. This provides a great teaching opportunity for ringers to balance melody and harmony that are both satisfying to play. For me, an eagle on the covers suggested that this first melody should soar and glide as this majestic bird of prey does so well. With that imagery I took the opening tempo slightly faster than indicated which the composer thought was fine. I also asked Michael (or Mazz as he’s also known) if the “eagle pic” was planned. He confessed the eagle was entirely coincidental, but apt for a renewed spirit feeling of the music. A contrasting section introduces a second melody on handchimes. Towards the conclusion these two melodies interplay back and forth with each other before returning to a variation of the opening that concludes with a beautiful suspended mallet sound. Meaningful interpretations for sacred and secular applications provide versatility for performance.

### **Marstaccato Blues**

Devenport 3-5 octaves

Level 2

This jazzy original will be a crowd pleaser with its predictable chord progressions and technique combinations. Written for middle school ringers, it’s a very accessible way to introduce this style of music to the less experienced. Mallets on the table, marts, echo, thumb damp and swing are incorporated for a bluesy atmosphere with nothing beyond even 8<sup>th</sup> notes. I would also consider adding gyro and vibrato on fermata chords. Be flexible with the suggested tempo, enjoy the repeat and consider choreography.

### **Ring With 6....year round**

Thompson 6 ringers: Ab4-C7, optional handchimes

This most recent addition to the highly popular “Ring With 6” collections features selections applicable for general use plus Advent, Christmas and Lenten seasons. As with Martha Lynn’s earlier series these are easy for 6 ringers to prepare. While four-in-hand ringing could be utilized it is not required. Suggestions are provided for assignments and rehearsal numbers identify potential places as rehearsal units. These collections are great resources to develop ensemble ringing skills. They will also come in handy for programs or occasions with space limitations.

### **A Simple Dance**

Glasgow 2-3 & 4-6 octave compatible editions, optional violin

Level 2+ (with options for 4-)

Simple Gifts, a Shaker tune from 1848, was intended to be a dance song. Consequently, “A Simple Dance” does just that, except that it is arranged as a waltz rather than as originally notated in 4/4. This is where the fun begins. A light accompaniment of thumb dams against plucks provides support for the initial statement of the tune. Optional violin would add to the dance feel as it ornaments the ringers’ easier writing. Several measures into the piece an additional staff is included to provide a more difficult option to challenge treble ringers. This staff is identical to what the violin would play. While beginning or young ringers might find these additional staves distracting in finding “their line”, these optional staves could easily be covered to reduce any stress so only the grand staff is visible. I’ve witnessed the composer conduct this and he would encourage you to have fun with it and enjoy the dance.

## **Spirit Song**

Wagner        2-3 octaves

Level 2(handbells or handchimes)

John Wimber wrote the music and text for this praise song in 1979. Although the melody is not specifically notated in Doug’s arrangement it is easy to discover and track. There are not any techniques used beyond the straight ring; however some dotted rhythms are necessary due to the nature of the song. If ringers needed more of a challenge, a director could choose to ring (for example) the melody on bells and harmony on chimes (or vice versa). This also provides opportunities to explore softer dynamic sounds since the loudest moment is marked *mf* as the melody moves under the treble for a short time.

[Return to Handbells Etc. Music Reviews Page](#)

---

**Handbell Music Reviews  
Winter 2010  
Handbells etc.  
Submitted by Camille Ream  
Edmonton Alberta**

### **Laudare**

Wissinger  
23 octaves  
Level 1

Laudare means Praise in Latin. This original handbell composition in ABA format is full of excitement and energy. Although it is rated at a Level 1+, it really sounds much harder. It has lots of full chords, some marts on unexpected beats which add to the rhythmic nature of the music. There is ample opportunity to do dynamics and phrasing. There are some exercise included to help beginning ringers with marting and syncopation.

### **Two French Folk Songs**

Wissinger  
23 octaves  
Level 2

What better music for Canadian school bell choirs but two French Folk Songs! These traditional folk tunes include Au Claire de la Lune and Sur le Pont d'Avignon. This music has a great practice sheet with unison exercises so that all ringers can practice the techniques at the same time. Techniques used include shake, echoes, mallets or plucks, martellatos, mart lifts, and thumb damp! All of these can be included in the music or, if you need something a little simple for your students, leave the techniques out initially and add them in later. Parents will love this arrangement.

### **The Lord Is My Shepherd**

Moklebust  
3456 octaves with optional violin  
Level 2+

This is an original composition written to the words of Psalm 23. Its descriptive style and interludes, really make you think of the words, even though none are spoken or sung. They are included in hopes that the ringers will reflect on them as they can express the words through the music. Although the violin part is optional, it really is a wonderful addition and adds depth to the music.

### **Triumphant Celebration**

McKlveen  
345 octaves with opt. Choirchimes®  
Level 3

Triumphant Celebration is the perfect name for this original piece of handbell music. It starts out with an optional processional (even gives suggestions as to bell assignments for this). The chords are full, the rhythm crisp and the melody easy to follow. This arrangement includes loads of techniques and dynamics and would be appropriate for church or community choirs. Great addition to any repertoire.

### **Shepherd Me, O God**

Arr. Roberts  
3456 octaves with opt. Choirchimes®  
Level 3

Based on Psalm 23, this arrangement can stand alone with bells or can be enhanced with choir. Separate compatible choir scores are available. There are five verses, each with a varied accompaniment. The music flows well and is almost could be rated as Level 2 instead of Level 3.

### **A Call to Celebration**

Angerman  
345 octaves  
Level 3

I actually fell in love this piece when I first heard it. It is full on energy and excitement, and yes – celebration! It is written in 4/4 but has various parts that are really 8/8 which adds to the energy and excitement. It gives the audience the sense that you are speeding up but you aren't. Rather clever. There some very tricky bell changes so best that the director plan a little ahead before showing this to the ringers!

### **Jerusalem, My Happy Home**

Arr. Moklebust  
345 octaves  
Level 3

This arrangement of this old hymn tune (Land of Rest) brings new life. The time signature alternates between 6/8 and 3/4 in the dancelike sections. The singing bell technique is used to accompany the beautiful melody played by the Choirchimes®. If you are looking for an arrangement of a hymn tune that is a little different, this is what you need.

### **The Syncopated Clock**

Arr. Thompson  
345 octaves and percussion and optional Choirchimes® and C Instrument  
Level 3

Yes, this is an arrangement of Leroy Anderson's Syncopated Clock which will give audiences and ringers lot of fun. The optional Choirchime® part is written separately on the score so it is something that is a little different than your ringers are used to. There is a separate part for the percussion and C instrument parts have a separate score. This part is not really needed to make the piece work.

### **Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)**

Arr. Nelson  
345 octaves and optional and C Instrument  
Level 3

This traditional Scottish tune has wonderful lyrics about how we need to follow a calling from God. The music has a wonderful lilt that congregations and ringers will love. The music flows well and has no time signature changes and only one key change. The addition of C instrument to this Scottish tune is definitely something to consider.

### **The Passion Prophecy**

Moklebust  
35 octaves and optional Choirchimes®  
Level 3+

What a wonderful piece of music – filled with passion and drama. This music is based on Isaiah 53:4-5 “Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” This descriptive original handbell composition should bring tears to the congregation as they meditate on the words and listen to the music. The music has 16<sup>th</sup> notes but the tempo is adagio and the haunting melody makes the 16<sup>th</sup> notes seem easier. I think I might have my choir learn this for the Lent.

---

**WINTER 2009**  
**Handbell Music Reviews**  
**Handbells etc.**  
**Submitted by Camille Ream**  
**Edmonton Alberta**

**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> octave in the lower bass for chimes and bells have also been added – should be fantastic!

### **August 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

---

**Winter 2008**  
**Handbell Music Reviews**  
**Submitted by Camille Ream**  
**Handbells Etc.**  
**Edmonton Alberta**

**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



**Handbell Music Review**

**Spring 2008**

**by Camille Ream**

**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.

---

**Winter 2007**  
**by Camille Ream**  
**Handbells Etc.**  
**Edmonton, Alberta**

**Tunes That Teach**

arr. Thompson

23 octaves Handbell or Handchime Choirs

Level 1 and 2

Martha Lynn Thompson has written numerous resources for beginning ringers. This resource will likely be the most helpful one around! It includes exercises and music that is all reproducible. There is information on Handbell Notation that can be copied as well as warmup exercises and music that are all reproducible. This is truly a must for beginning ringers, whether young or old.

**Adagio**

arr. Wilson

23 octaves

Level 2-

Composed by Mozart, this Adagio was originally from the Concerto for Clarinet K. 622. It could be used by beginning school choirs at festivals as a compliment to a faster and livelier piece. Also, it could be adapted for fewer ringers, with the melody being played by a C-Instrument or transposed for a clarinet.

**Joyful Variations**

by Childers

3 octaves optional Choirchimes®

Level 2

This includes four variations on a theme. The theme start out in the treble clef with a chordal accompaniment in 4/4 time. It then shifts to 3/4 but stays ath the same tempo. The next variation is

slow and and played with mostly mallets. The next variation could be played all on chimes. The final variation is joyful and lively with techniques and lots of notes!

### **Fanfare Festiva**

by Werner

23 octaves or 345 octaves

Level 2+

This is an excellent choice for mass ringing as it comes in two versions, depending on the number of octaves the bell choir has. Various techniques are used throughout the piece. Great contrast in dynamics at the beginning are a necessity to make this piece work. Werner has taken great care to write in the dynamics. It is a good challenge for ringers to try to play the music as written, complete with phrasing and dynamics.

### **Joyful Reflections**

by Dobrinski

3456 octaves

Level 2+

This piece fits for all settings - church, school or community. The first part is legato, with a peaceful yet happy mood. The middle section becomes lively with an increase of speed and the addition of techniques. Then the return of the original theme finishing with a calm reflective ending.

### **Dancing Raindrops (Blessings)**

by Patricia A. Thomson

345 octaves and optional rainstick

Level 3

Dancing Raindrops won the Canadian Composition Contest for the 2008 International Symposium in Orlando, Florida. This original composition is full of stopped sounds combined with melodies and phrases to simulate dancing raindrops. The passages of 16th notes in the bass bells add to the challenge and charm of the piece.

### **epilogue**

by Allured

5678 octaves with optional 567 octaves Choirchimes®

## Level 5

This is Donald Allured's last handbell composition. It was rung at the Bay View week of Handbells 2007 to commemorate their 30 year anniversary. It was also part of the repertoire at Distinctly Bronze 2007. The music has every bell rung and every technique and every note value included. As in the tradition at Bay View Week, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" is included in the last portion of the piece - a dynamic way to conclude this piece of music.

---

### **Handbell Music Review**

**Spring 2007**

**by Camille Ream**

**Handbells Etc.**

**Edmonton, Alberta**

#### **Go, Tell It**

arr. Waldrop

23 Octaves

Level 1

Optional Narration (Spoken Chant)

Go Tell It On the Mountain is a familiar Christmas Spiritual, You will need to divide your choir into two groups to make the narration work best. The melody in this one has been simplified so that it can be rung by a level 1 ringer. Included in this arrangement are TDs, Shakes, Echos and Swings.

#### **Two Carols**

arr. Edwards

23 Octaves

Level 1

Optional Percussion

Pat-a-Pan has an optional tambourine or hand drum part and Fum Fum Fum has an optional tambourine part. Each percussion part is written in the score. The scores are full so all ringers are busy. The addition of the percussion, makes the music sound more difficult than it is!. Nice enough arrangement that a Level 2 ensemble could learn it in one or two rehearsals.

## **Bethlehem Dreams**

arr.Lamb

23 Octaves

Level 2

Optional Choirchimes®

This music is based on O Little Town of Bethlehem. The music is slow but each verse is in a different key which adds a little extra challenge. The first verse melody is rung on middle Choirchimes®, the second on treble bells and the third on a combination of chimes and bells. The music also has some mallets on suspended bells and the final chord end with a vibrato on both Choirchimes® and handbells.

## **The Little Drummer Boy**

arr. Waldrop

234 Octaves

Level 2

Optional Percussion (triangle and hand drum)

We often get requests for this piece of music. The first 10 measures can be played as a processional. It can be repeated as many times as need to allow ringers time to get to their tables. It is quite a full arrangement but some of the ringers are not that busy (the first 10 measures, position 2 doesn't have any notes but that ringer could do some of the percussion part.) Just for little interest - there is one bar of 2/4 time just near the end!

## **A Bit of Tchaikowsky's Nutcracker**

arr. Rogers

23 Octaves

Level 2

This is one of Alfred handbell series of pieces by classical composers. This collection contains music from the Nutcracker ballet - March, Chinese Dance and Russian Dance. This music will fit well with any Christmas concert. The challenge will be to ring it at the tempo that the audience is used to hearing it. The metronome markings for these pieces range from 112-144 so none of them are slow. Lots of repetition and fun for ringers and audience alike!

## **Once in Royal David's City**

arr. Dobrinski

3456 Octaves

Level 2+

Optional Choirchimes® and Flute

This familiar tune is not written in traditional Dobrinski style with a million techniques and tempo changes BUT it does have a fantastic flute part. Dobrinski has a multitude of dynamics marked as well as a few 6/4 measures which make this a great arrangement of this piece. The dynamics will make this piece go from ordinary to extraordinary.

### **What Child Is This**

arr. Kinyon

3 octaves

Level 3-

Optional Choirchimes®

Every handbell choir needs an arrangement of What Child Is This. You may think - this is only three octaves...But it would work great if you are short a ringer or two. The bass has a lot of LV and sustained notes so you could ring with 3 in the bass instead of 4 quite easily.

### **Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow**

arr. Dobrinski

3456 octaves

Level 3

Optional Choirchimes® and Clarinet

Now this arrangement is done in traditional Dobrinski style - full of techniques, mood changes but only a few key changes! You get to swing the last verse and end with a mart. I will be using this in my Christmas music this year. The clarinet part comes separately.

### **Wassail Song (Here We Come a-Caroling from Suite of Carols)**

arr. Thompson

3456 Octaves

Level 3+

Starts out with quarter notes...a bit deceiving because the tempo is marked Allegro with the dotted half note marked between 60 - 72 beats per minute. By page three, the quarter notes have turned into eighth notes, the excitement builds from there and goes to a grand ending! Harder than it looks but great fun to play!

### **Coventry Carol**

arr. Helman

345 Octaves

Level 3+

Optional Choirchimes®

This is one of my favourite Christmas pieces. I love the harmony and the soothing melody. Helman has woven an extra melody at various times in the piece which adds some great flavor to the music. His addition of chimes and echos really add to the piece.

### **Four-in-Hand Christmas Quartets**

This set of music includes quartet arrangements of Silent Night, O Holy Night, The First Noel and What Child is This. Each part is written on a different staff in the full score section (but there are lots of page turns). In addition, each part is written on a different page - much like band music where the clarinet only has his part and the trumpet only has his part. All ringers must be able to ring four in hand. No tables are needed but each piece uses different bells so there needs to be time between pieces to rearrange your four in hand bells.

---