

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

**Prayer**

Sherman  
345 octaves  
Level 2

This original composition has a melody that really flows nicely. The accompaniment is flowing eighth notes, lots of LVs and a few accidentals. I can imagine a choir playing it in worship, as an anthem or as background music for the Prayers of the People. It is set at 100 but would work well at a slightly slower tempo.

**Song of the Spirit (Play the Sunset)**

Hakes  
345 octaves with opt. 3 octaves Choirchimes®  
Level 2+

The first time I heard this I loved it. The music definitely represents a sunset well – that peaceful time at night when you see the sunset with glowing colours and then finally setting. The addition of Choirchimes® add flavour and texture to the music. This piece has great opportunities for wonderful dynamics and stretching of the tempo. It will likely be easy for ringers to ring the notes but they will need to watch the director for dynamics and tempo to make the best music possible.

**Renewed Spirit**

Mazzatenta  
345 octaves with opt. 3 octaves Choirchimes®  
Level 2+

This original handbell composition is filled with a variety of techniques including mart lift, thumbdamp, mallet roll, mart, pluck lift, shake, and echo! The middle section is all on Choirchimes® and is a little bit faster than the rest. This would work well for church, community or school handbell choirs.

**Nocturne in C Minor (Moonlight)**

Hascall  
3456 octaves  
Level 3

This piece was inspired by Beethoven's Piano Sonata No 14. This was another piece that we played at Distinctly Bronze West this year. Nancy has taken Beethoven's theme

and made it her own. The melody is familiar but not exactly like the original – the theme is woven with harmonies that are really pleasing to listen to.

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

Arr. Nelson

345 octaves with opt. C Instrument

Level 3

This traditional Scottish melody (Kelvingrove) will be familiar to you all. It is 6/8 time, has a lilt to it and flows wonderfully. The addition of the C Instrument (I would choose violin) will add to the music. This music would work well in church or community settings.

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

Arr. Roberts

3456 octaves with opt. 3456 octaves Choirchimes®

Level 3

This is a wonderful lyrical piece based on Psalm 23. The soothing melody and comforting paraphrased words make this piece definitely worthwhile sharing in worship. There are also choral parts available but it would equally well to have the words spoken over the music. I will be planning to use it with my handbell choir at First United Church.

### **Tremors (With Fear and Trembling Stand)**

Glasgow

567 octaves with opt. 7<sup>th</sup> octave bass Choirchimes®

Level 5

Wow! We played this at Distinctly Bronze West earlier this year. At first I wasn't sure about it (it looks initially quite challenging – especially for the bass – but after closer examination, they need to mallet the same ostinato for the first 16 measures). Then, as we began to “sound better”, I was able to really see and feel the descriptive nature of the music – that of an earthquake. There are additional percussion parts that really add to the turmoil of the music. Michael suggests that White Chapel bells or Petit and Fritsen bells may be used instead of orchestral chimes.