

**Handbell Music Reviews
January 2012**

Tin-Tin-a Rhumba

By Duncan

345 octaves opt Shekere and Congas

Level 3+

This original composition is definitely an exciting piece of music! Not only will it make you want to tap your toes, hum along, clap your hands - it might also make you want to dance! Mallets take on a new life as ringers click them together, mallet them on empty bell cases or table pads...and even use the handle of the mallet instead of the head. The addition of the Shekeres and Congas add to the excitement. Then throw in a little 7/8 time signature and some shaking, you have an incredibly exciting performance!

There Is A Fountain

Arr. Lamb

345 octaves opt Choirchimes®

Level 2

This arrangement is based on the hymn tune Cleansing Fountain. As I was listening to it, I was taken by the haunting melody line...full of sadness, almost like a spiritual. It is one of those arrangements that plays by itself and sounds much more difficult than level 2. The addition of the Choirchimes® in the middle section causes the melody to go from haunting to almost calming. Then the mood changes again and becomes joyful.

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Tapestry on “Be Thou My Vision”

Arr. Linker/McFadden

345 octaves with Keyboard, opt C Instrument Choirchimes®

Level 3

Based on the Slade tune, this is a wonderful arrangement with a very manageable piano part. The addition of a flute or C Instrument is a must. This music will allow you as a director to pull and stretch the tempo and phrasing to make it more musical and interesting to the listener. The middle section with the gentle malleted bass and the dancing music line weaves around the melody. The next verse becomes more solemn with the addition of the Choirchimes®. Then the dramatic key change and slower, grander pace really shows off the beauty of this piece.

Spanish Dance from the Nutcracker Suite

Arr. Griffin

45 octaves Choirchimes® Opt Castanets

Level 3+

I know that the Christmas season is over but as director's we look at Christmas music all year round! I was so pleased when I saw this arrangement. It is always so good to get an arrangement that is close to what the composer had originally written. The music is in $\frac{3}{4}$ time but needs to feel like it is in one. The addition of the castanets really adds to the Spanish flavour of the music. If you are looking for a Classical piece for next Christmas, this might be an option for something fun and exciting for the ringers and the audience!

Steal Away

Arr. Eithun

3456 octaves Choirchimes®

Level 2+

Spirituals such as this one can work well at any time of the year. It must be expressively to make it work. Without dynamics, this just becomes another piece of music. Add the dynamics and you will be able to move your audiences.

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus! Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

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Morning Has Broken

Arr. Shackley/Sherman

345 octaves

Level 3+

I love this Gaelic tune and I have been looking for a good arrangement of it. I think I have found it! It is achievable for a church choir and works well in community and school settings. The arrangers have done a wonderful job weaving the melody with the accompaniment line make it lyrically and musical. As soon as my budget allows, I will be purchasing this for Resounding Joy at First United Church in Fort Saskatchewan!

Soliloquy

By Phillips 3456 octaves

Opt. Choirchimes®

Level 2+

This original composition works well in school, community and church settings. A soliloquy is usually in drama in which a character talks to himself or herself or reveals his or her thoughts without addressing a listener. The music starts out with singing bells and bells suspended with mallets – as if the composer is thinking about what she wants to say. Then the flowing melody starts indicating what she is saying – she doesn't seem to care if anyone is listening. She gets a little faster and forceful in the next section with what she is feeling and saying. Then she contemplates again with more singing bells and bells with suspended mallets. This flowing melody will work well during Lent, Remembrance Day or any other time when you are needing to play music of a reflective nature especially when it is hidden in the middle between the treble and bass bells.

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