

**Handbell Music Reviews
November 2017**

Quiescence

By Mazzantenta

345 octaves with opt Choirchimes®

Level 2

If you are looking for a meditative and calm piece of music for your concert program, this one will work well. Its flowing melody will allow the audience a wonderful time of reflection.

Joyous Jubilee

By Heinlein

345 octaves

Level 2

Brian Heinlein is a newer handbell composer. This energetic original composition is full on techniques and drive that will add excitement to your program and make your audience smile. All bells are busy; there are few bell changes and the entire piece is in 4/4 so everyone will be happy to ring this piece!

Exultation

By Compton

345 octaves

Level 2+

This original composition is full of excitement and energy and is the perfect piece to open a concert or worship service. It has mart lifts, malleted notes as well as a lyrical section. Oh, yes, also some random 6/8 measures just to keep the ringers and audience on their toes!

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Handbells etc

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Mansion Over the Hilltop

Arr. Lamb

345 octaves opt Choirchimes®

Level 3+

This Southern Gospel classic is written to be played as a “last gospel swing” which would have pleased Elvis Presley! He made it popular when he recorded it in 1960. There are some amazing chromatic passages where ringers will really need to think outside their two bell box to make it happen (although some may be played with mallets).

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Arr. Compton

3456 octaves

Level 3

I know many of us are thinking thoughts but as directors, we are already preparing for Lent and Easter. This is an amazing arrangement by the young composer Matthew Compton. The music is filled with drama and depicts the last days of Christ – the walk to the cross, Christ’s plea to God and finally his last breath. Matthew has included in the score – pieces of scripture to help ringers interpret what he wants to portray.

Lord of the Dance

Arr. Thompson

345 octaves with SATB or SAB or Two Part Mixed or Vocal Solo or Duet

Level 3

This 19th century Shaker Tune was made popular in our churches by Sydney Carter in the 1960s. This is a terrific full handbell accompaniment so no keyboard is needed. When performing this music, there are a number of vocal options for you to choose from which makes the piece very versatile.

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Jubilant Fanfare

By Raney

345 octaves

Level 2+

This is a bonus to get an original composition by Joel Raney! He does some fantastic arrangements for hymns with keyboard accompaniment and now he has spread his talent to this music that will help you celebrate anything! It can be used in both sacred and secular settings as well as all year long. With lots of techniques and few bell changes, it can be used at any time you need to celebrate!

Brightest and Best

By Winter

345 octaves

Level 3

There are number of other handbell compositions that have this title but I like this by far the best! When I first saw the title, I imagined the Christmas start – thinking that this would work well as an original piece of music for a Christmas program. Then I read the dedication – this music was written for “Keith Hammond, a keen and valued member of Broxbourne Handbell Ringers (England) whose warmth, humour and simple kindness brightened the lives of all who knew him”. When my choir plays this piece, I will challenge the audience to ensure that they are the “Brightest and Best” to all whom they meet.

Hope Street Rag

By Buckwalter

345 octaves

Level 4-

Another piece with a beautiful dedication – “For all those who’ve been touched by cancer and thought there was no hope...this one’s for you.” Yes, this is a ragtime style with lots of energy and joy and many many accidentals! With this title and dedication, it could be used at all settings...some churches will be used a more traditional piece from their handbell choir, but why not give them hope in the form of ragtime ☺!

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