



Handbell Music Reviews

June 2018

English Suite

By Helman

23 octaves opt Choirchimes Level 2,3-

345 octaves and opt Choirchimes Level 2,3

This is an original composition by Helman that includes 3 separate pieces. March (Processional) starts the series with a fanfare and grows from there. There is a “pretend” key change with lots of accidentals for a few measures, then the music returns to the key of C again. The melody switches to the base, with light thumb damps in the treble, then the original theme returns. The middle selection, Air (Meditation) is quiet and meditative. The final piece Giga (Rejoicing) is in 6/8 time with a lovely lilt that makes it easy for a level 2 choir to play. This gives your choir three pieces for the price of one!

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Arr Sherman

345 octaves opt keyboard

Level 2+

If you are looking for a familiar hymn to start your fallseason, this one will work well. Although the piano is optional, the addition of it, really adds to the texture and grandness of the hymn and this arrangement. It's always great to include musicians to help the congregation to remember how versatile bells can be!

Haunted House

By Pfitzinger

345 octaves opt Choirchimes

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Level 2+

Looking for something completely different? Each section of this piece represents a different part of the haunted house – start with the foyer, move to the living and dining room, next the ballroom and of course, the grand staircase! Ringers need to add various spooky laughter and some screaming and your audience will really believe they are actually in a haunted house. Dim the lights and have the ringers wear masks and costumes to enhance the effects of the music!

Contemplation

By Krug

345 octaves and opt Choirchimes

Level 2+

This music is completely different than the Haunted House! It is meditative and calming with beautiful flowing melodies and accompaniments. The addition of the Choirchimes really add to the feeling of the pieces.

A Prayer for Peace

By Young

345 octaves and opt Choirchimes

Level 3

This is a great piece for Remembrance Day, or really any time of the year! WE can take time in worship or concert to say a prayer for peace. This one was written by Phillip Young to remember the 15 anniversary of the terror attack of September 11. The piece is flowing and calm and but does have some time signatures changes throughout that will need to worked by ringers and directors. As a direvcftor, if you have not had the opportunity to direct a piece with a variety of time signatures, this would be a good time to try!

Ritmico (Rhythmic Rejoicing)

By Mallory

2345 octaves

Level 3-

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This is definitely rhythmic and loads of fun! Mallet clicks, mallets on the tables, percussion interlude all makes this a piece that will make ringers and audiences smile! Just when you think the fun is done, the marts happen and key changes! This will stretch your level 2 ringers and be a quick study for your level 3 ringers.

Here We Come A-Caroling

Arr. Hurlbutt

345 octaves

Level 3

It's always the right time to buy Christmas music! The melody has some syncopation at the beginning that totally works. The melody switches to the bass clef with thumb dams in the treble. The final verse is full and lively and a great way to end a concert!

Jubilant Spirit

By Delancy

345 octaves and opt Choirchimes

Level 3

This original composition will stretch your ringers as they must ring in 8/8 time (with a few 4/4 bars in the midst). The middle section is on chimes and slower and lyrical. Then, it returns to the first them!

Greensleeves Rhapsody

Arr Lamb

345 octaves opt Bb or C Instrument, Bass, Triangle, Windchimes

Level 3+

This music works with or without the additional instrumentation. The beginning and ending of the piece has the melody in 4/4 time and is kind of swung! Kind of fun!

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