

## Ring and Rejoice: the Use of Handbells in Worship

Prepared by

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### Handbell Music Publishers and Suppliers

1. Jeffers Handbell Supply - [www.handbellworld.com](http://www.handbellworld.com) - 800-JHS-BELL – quantity discounts  
Recent promotions include music of Agape/Hope, AGEHR, Alfred, Choristers Guild, and Lorenz –  
Music Selection Assistant
2. Agape – a Division of Hope Publishing – [www.hopepublishing.com](http://www.hopepublishing.com) - 800-323-1049
3. AGEHR (American Guild of English Handbell Ringers) - [www.agehr.org](http://www.agehr.org)  
800-444-1144 – Free email newsletter *E-Notes*  
Priority Music Club – *Overtone*s magazine to members
4. Alfred Publishing – [www.alfred.com](http://www.alfred.com)  
Has acquired Warner Bros. Publications – sound samples online  
Purchase online through music dealers such as J. W. Pepper, Pender's, Music Mart
5. Augsburg Fortress – [www.augsburgfortress.org/store](http://www.augsburgfortress.org/store) - 800-328-4648
6. Beckenhorst Press – [www.beckenhorstpress.com](http://www.beckenhorstpress.com) - 614-451-6461 – sound samples  
online
7. Choristers Guild – [www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org) - 972-271-1521 – *The Chorister* magazine to  
members – sound samples and pdf music files online
8. Concordia Publishing House – [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) - 800-325-3040
9. Genesis Press, Cantabile Press, and Ring Along Series – [www.genesispressmusic.com](http://www.genesispressmusic.com)  
Genesis: mostly Level 1; Cantabile Press: quartets and ensembles; Ring Along: non-  
readers ringing according to circled texts (four volumes)
10. GIA Publications, Inc. – [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com) - 800-GIA-1358 (442-1358)  
quarterly planning guides online
11. Green Rose Press, Inc. – [www.greenrosepress.com](http://www.greenrosepress.com)  
“internet contacts for all things handbell” - multimedia online catalog
12. MorningStar Music Publishers – [www.morningstarmusic.com](http://www.morningstarmusic.com)  
800-647-2117 – includes online Liturgical Planning Guide

## Handbell Instructional Materials

1. American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. (AGEHR), *Handbell Notation (Difficulty Level System; Solo and Ensemble Notation)*, AGEHR, 1999.

AGEHR is the professional organization for handbell ringing. This book covers the officially designated notation for handbells, the difficulty level system applied to published handbell music, and notation for solo and ensemble ringing.

2. American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. (AGEHR), *Handbell Notation and Grading System*, AGEHR, 1995.

An earlier guild publication covering notation and grading repertoire for difficulty.

3. Allured, Donald E., *Handbell Composing and Arranging*, National Music Publishers, 1985.

This informative pamphlet covers all aspects of handbell arranging and composing, including preparing a bells needed chart.

4. Allured, Donald E., *Mastering Musicianship in Handbells*, Broadman Press, 1992.

The “bible” of handbells do’s and don’ts from the “Grandfather” of handbells in this country. It covers all aspects of handbell ringing: bell assignments, equipment, fundamentals of ringing, rehearsals, techniques, exercises, maintenance, among other topics.

5. Allured, Donald E., Hilty, Everett J., Southwick, Su, and Thompson, Martha Lynn, *A Guide to Handbell Assignment*, AGEHR R-209

Alternative assignment methods, including possibilities for too few ringers with too many bells, and too many ringers with too few bells. Interesting reading.

6. Berry, Susan, *Healthy Ringing*, Handbell Services, Inc., 2000

This book looks at ringing in such a way as to prevent injuries. It includes exercises, care of the body, and advice on massed ringing.

7. Folkening, John, *Handbells in the Liturgical Service*, Concordia Publishing House 99-1254

A publication in the Church Music Pamphlet Series, Carl Schalk, editor. Practical information on using handbells effectively in the liturgical church: giving pitches, psalms, chants, service music, processions, accompanying hymns

8. Frier, Louise, *Belltrees*, AGEHR R-211

Detailed information on assembling and using belltrees effectively.

9. Holland, Lois and Ken, *The Art of Solo Handbell Ringing*, Broadman Press, 1982.

A thorough look at solo handbell ringing covering such diverse topics as setup and preparation, technique, memorization, repertoire, working with accompanists, etc.

10. Johnson, Dr. Norman G., *Creative Beginnings and Endings: A Manual for Creative Handbell Ringing*, copyright 1996 Dr. Norman G. Johnson, 3310 Altaloma Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35216, (205)-979-8378

Practical tips on musicianship and performance enhancement, from techniques to banners and streamers

11. Johnson, Dr. Norman G., *Mastering Rhythmic Understanding*, copyright 1996 Dr. Norman G. Johnson, 3310 Altaloma Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35216, (205)-979-8378

Reproducible ringer exercises to help beginning ringers understand rhythmic notation and ring it

12. Keller, Micahel R., *Developing Conducting Skills for Directors of Handbell Choirs*, AGEHR, R-200

Handbook of specific “how-to” issues of conducting and communicating with handbell choirs

13. Keller, Michael R., *Developing Coordination Skills*, AGEHR AG 001 (Lorenz)

Fifty progressive exercises for handbell choirs to develop physical coordination and techniques and to build rhythmic skills

14. Keller, Michael R., *Developing More Advanced Coordination and Technical Skills in Handbell Choirs*, AGEHR AG 001 (distributed by Lorenz)

More advanced skills than the book just above, in rhythm, coordination, handbell changes, dynamics, and fast ringing

15. Keller, Michael R., *Rehearsal Planning, Techniques and Procedures for Directors of Handbell Choirs*, AGEHR R-201

Practical handbook for directors, addressing a wide variety of common issues and challenges

16. Keller, Michael R., *Score Study Techniques*, AGEHR

Specifically designed to apply to rehearsing handbell choirs

17. Kielniarz, Marilyn, *Dalcroze Applications for Handbells*, AGEHR R-215

Games and activities utilizing Dalcroze Eurhythmics in the learning of handbell skills: rhythm, coordination, quick reaction, ensemble, etc.

18. Miller, Dan, *Four-in-Hand Handbell Ensembles*, Hinshaw Music, Inc., 1987.

This book covers many aspects of small handbell ensembles: four-in-hand technique, six-in-hand technique, and musical examples.

19. Pinson, Joe, *Focus on Participation: Alternate Methods for Handbell Choirs*, AGEHR R-210

For special groups of persons who may have developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, visual and/or hearing impairment, advanced age, etc., who need non-traditional methods to produce music. Joe Pinson is a Board Certified Music Therapist.

20. Powell, Nancy, *Impossible Ringing Made Possible*. Agape, 1985.

Practical information from someone who's been a handbell director for many years: ringing techniques, bell assignment and position, repertoire, repertoire lists, etc.

21. Proulx, Richard, *Tinnabulum: The Liturgical Use of Handbells*, GIA Publishing G-4569

Refined and expanded version of the 1980 edition, including a significant collection of liturgical handbell performance material that can serve as a source of basic repertoire – peals, psalms, arranging possibilities, and more

22. Rosene, Paul E., *Making Music with Choirchime Instruments*, Agape, 1984.

The book takes you through everything you need to know to use and teach choirchimes: organizational helps, nomenclature, technique, exercises, etc. It also includes musical selections for a 2-octave set of chimes.

23. Van Valey, Valerie and Berry, Susan, *Director's Manual: Learning to Ring Series*, Lorenz Publishing Co., HB-200

Sequential information to organize a handbell program, ranging from equipment needs, developing leadership skills, teaching new ringers, and special effects.

24. Van Valey, Valerie and Berry, Susan, *Using Handchimes: Learning to Ring Series for Teachers, Directors and Therapists*, Lorenz Publishing Co., HB-315

A detailed overview of teaching choirchimes, technique, consecutive skill building, ensemble ringing, simple chordal approaches, and teaching special populations

### **Handbell Repertoire – with and without congregation**

1. Bedford, Michael, ed., *Bells for All Seasons*, St. James Music Press 2004 – 14 pieces, various composers and arrangers; reproducible
2. Behnke, John, *Handbell Descants for the Divine Service, LBW Setting One*, Concordia Publishing House 97-6512, 2-3 octaves, Level 3
3. Behnke, John, *Hymnal Supplement 98 handbell descant edition* (reproducible), CPH 97-6720, 2-3 octaves – approximately 40 hymn tunes

4. Behnke, John, *I Know that My Redeemer Lives, (Duke Street)*, Concordia Publishing House 97-6484, SAB choir, congregation, organ, opt. trumpet, opt. 2-3 octaves handbells
  
5. Freeman, Ardis, compiled, *Ring Along Series*, Cantabile Press CP3001, 3002, 3003, 3004 – any number of ringers – no music reading experience necessary – ring circled text – sets for Christmas, hymns, old favorites, and gospel favorites
  
6. Hillert, Richard and Folkening, John, *Festival Setting of the Communion Liturgy, LBW Setting One*, Concordia Publishing House 97-5958 for organ, congregation, and 3-4 octaves treble bells (full score with opt. brass parts 97-5939; opt. choral descant edition 98-2755)
  
7. Honoré, Jeffrey, *Handbells in the Catholic Liturgy*, Hope 2120, 1999.  
 In two parts: 1/Suggestions on how to write for specific uses in the Catholic liturgy (psalms, Gospel acclamations, hymnody, Gloria, Eucharistic acclamations, fraction rites, litanies); 2/Practical ideas that enrich the assemblies' song (also includes some permissions for copying up to 10 copies of the music included in the text).
  
8. Hopson, Hal H., *The Creative Use of Handbells in Worship*, Hope, 1997.  
 In two parts: 1/Enlivening Worship through Handbells: a mini-course in handbell arranging for specific use in worship services; 2/The Creative Use of Handbells in Hymnsinging: practical ideas for handbells that enrich hymnsinging.
  
9. Hopson, Hal H., *The Choir Hymnal (An Idea Resource based on Thirty-four Well-Known Hymns)*, Hope, 1992.  
 A collection of hymn introductions, choir stanzas, free accompaniments, descants and ostinato handbell patterns on 34 very well-known hymns.
  
10. Moglebust, Cathy, *Hymn Stanzas for Handbells*, Augsburg Fortress 11-10722, 4-5 octaves, reproducible; 2-3 octave version also available, reproducible  
 Fifteen hymn tunes (two settings of each) to accompany congregational singing, with or without keyboard. Harmonizations from *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice*
  
- 11 Moglebust, Cathy, arr., *Thee We Adore*, Choristers Guild CGB166  
 Four Lent/ Communion and Easter Pieces: *Adoro te devote; O Lamm Gottes, Noël nouvelet, Orientis partibus* – 2 octaves – Level 2
  
12. Thompson, Martha Lynn, and Callahan, Frances L., *Ready to Ring for Christmas*, Agape 1352 for 2 octaves; Agape 1353 for 3-5 octaves – sacred and secular – most not difficult
  
13. Tucker, Margaret R., *Communion Meditations*, Choristers Guild CGB331  
 Four pieces to combine or not: 1/ *Thee We Adore*; 2/ *O Taste and See (Meditation in A Minor)*; 3/ *Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup (Meditation in D Minor)*; 4/ *Bread of the World* – Level 2
  
14. Wagner, Douglas E., *Hymn Descants for Handbells*, Beckenhorst Press HB9, 10, 11, and 12; Set I Advent, Christmas; Set II Passiontide, Easter; Set III General, Patriotic; Set IV General, Thanksgiving – 10 hymn tunes in each set – 3 octaves
  
15. Zabel, Albert J., *All Glory, Laud and Honor: Five Festive Pieces for Handbells and Organ*, Flammer, 1971.

Titles include “All glory, laud and honor (*St. Theodulph*),” “Praise to the Lord (*Lobe den Herren*),” “All my heart this night rejoices (*Warum sollt ich*),” with “Good Christian men, rejoice (*In dulci jubilo*),” “From all that dwell (*Lasst uns erfreuen*),” and “Ah, holy Jesus (*Herzliebster Jesu*).”

16. Zabel, Al, *Seventeen Handbell Processions*, Agape 1029, 3 octaves – very easy

### Handbells with Choir

1. Artman, Ruth, arr., *Carol of the Cradle* (Christmas; 15<sup>th</sup> c. German folk tune) Studio 224, 3-part treble choir with optional 2-octave handbells.

2. Batastini, Robert J., arr., *Gaudete*, (Christmas) GIA G-3056, SATB, 10 handbells, finger cymbals and tabor

3. Behnke, John, arr. *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, (Christmas), MSM-60-1000, SATB, organ, opt. congregation, 3-octave handbells

4. Burkhardt, Michael, arr., *Built on a Rock*, (Reformation, Festival, General) MorningStar Music MSM-9014B, SATB, trumpet, organ, congregation, 3-octave handbells

5. Cherwien, David, arr., *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* (Christmas) CPH 98-3208, 2-part choir, organ, 9 ringers, 3-octave handbells

6. Colvin, Herbert; arr. Mary Kay Parrish, *Surely the Lord is in this Place* (General) Ringing Word RW 8052, SATB choir or ensemble, 4-5 octave handbells (Level 2)

7. Currie, Randolph, arr., *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*, (General; based on the early American folk tune, *Holy Manna*) Chorister's Guild A-130, Unison or 2-part choir (children's choir) with piano/organ, and optional handbells or glockenspiel.

8. Hobby, Robert A., arr., *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, (Christmas), CPH 98-3240, unison mixed, flute, finger cymbals, 5 ringers, 2-4 octave handbells

9. Hopson, Hal H., *God Is Gone Up with a Shout*, (Ascension, Christ the King; based on *Agincourt Song*) Gray GCMR 3586, SATB, based on Psalm 47:5-7, optional trumpet and handbells.

10. Hopson, Hal H., *We Know that Christ Is Raised*, (Easter, General) Gray GCMR 3566, SATB choir, congregation, uses the tune *Engelberg*, uses brass quartet and handbells (brass/handbell accompaniment available separately GCMR 03566A)

11. Hunnicutt, Judy, arr., *Midst the Deep Silence*, (Christmas; Polish folk tune) Augsburg 11-1657, Unison & SATB, handbells or organ.

12. Kallman, Daniel, arr., *Charity and Love (Ubi caritas et amor)* (General, Maundy Thursday) Kjos J15, SATB, optional alto solo, organ, flute, clarinet, optional handbells or chamber orchestra

13. Kemp, Helen, *Set the Sun Dancing!* (General, children) Choristers Guild CGA780, unison with

keyboard and 3-4 octave handbells

14. Kosche, Kenneth T., *Bless God's Holy Name* (General; based on Psalm 103:1, 4-5) Chorister's Guild CGA766, 2-part choir (children's choir) with keyboard and optional 6 handbells (2-octave)

15. Leaf, Robert, *Good News* (General; based on John 3:16) Augsburg 11-1762, unison choir (children's choir) with optional 3 handbells

16. Liebergen, Patrick M., *A Celebration of Faith*, (All Saints; uses tunes *Engelberg* and *For all the Saints*) Alfred 7956, SATB, optional handbells and brass quartet, optional congregational refrain

17. Lindh, Jody W., *Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above* (General, children), Choristers Guild CGA-583, unison, percussion, 6 ringers, 3-octave

18. Lindner, Jane, *Christ Is Risen* (Easter; based on Matthew 28:1-7, Mark 16:1-8, and Luke 24:1-9) Chorister's Guild CGA767, Unison choir (children's choir) with keyboard and optional 2-octave handbells

19. McCabe, Michael, *Bring Us Together, Lord*, (General, Festival) Paraclete PPM09114, SATB, organ, Brass Quartet, Timpani and optional French Horn and handbells

20. Pearson, Donald, *An Advent Processional*, AureoleAE63, unison/2-part chorus, congregation, handbells and percussion instruments

21. Powell, Robert J., *Thine is the Glory* (hymn concertato; tune: *Judas Maccabeus*), (Easter, General) Chorister's Guild CGA-457, Children's Choir, SA(T)B Choir, Congregation, Organ, 2 B-flat trumpets, optional 2-octave handbells

22. Proulx, Richard, *Psalm 134* (General) GIA G-1821, 2 mixed or equal voices, handbells and percussion.

23. Proulx, Richard, arr., *Ubi caritas et amor (Where True Love and Charity are Found)* (Processional, Communion, Maundy Thursday, General) GIA G-5513, SATB choir (or small ensemble) and 6 handbells

24. Schalk, Carl, *Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise* (General, Communion), Augsburg 11-2173, SATB, organ, opt. congregation, 7-8 ringers, 3-octave

25. Schulz, Russell, *Spring Carol (Fairest Lord Jesus)* (General, Easter) Agape RS 7729, SAB and 2-octave handbells

26. Scott, K. Lee, *The Glory of Christ*, (Easter, General, Communion, Festival) CPH 98-2982, SATB, opt. brass, organ, 5 ringers

27. Scott, K. Lee, *Sing to the Lord a New Song* (Psalm 96, paraphrased), (General, Christmas, Festival) Concordia Publishing House 98-3124; handbell score 97-6450, SATB, children's choir, organ, 3-4 octave

28. Scott, K. Lee, *Tell Out My Soul* (Magnificat paraphrase – Advent IV, Evening Prayer), CPH 98-3096,

SATB, flute, organ, 4 ringers

29. Scott, K. Lee, *The Tree of Life* (Lent, Easter, General), MSM 50-3000A, SATB or unison, opt. congregation, organ, opt. brass, 4-8 ringers, 3-octave

30. Sleeth, Natalie, *A Canon of Praise*, (General) Chorister's Guild CGA79, 3-part (treble or mixed) voices with keyboard and optional 3-octave handbells

31. Spevacek, Linda Steen, arr., *Kling, Glockchen* (Christmas; traditional German carol) Heritage Music Press 15/1193H-2, 2-part choir (children's choir) and optional 2-octave handbells

32. Wagner, Douglas E., *May the Peace of the Lord* (General, Blessing) Hope A606, 2-part mixed choir and 3-octave handbells (could also be done with keyboard only)

33. Wilson, John F., *Peace*, Agape 1258, (John 14:27a) unison choir, optional flute, 3-5 octave handbells

34. Wright, Vicki Hancock, *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, (General) Chorister's Guild CGA968, unison choir (children's choir) with piano and 3 optional handbells or choir chimes

35. Young, Carlton, *Processional*, (General) Agape RS 7717, 2-part mixed choir, 3-octave handbells and organ, based on Psalm 24:7

### **Bell Trees – Instructions and Repertoire**

1. Frier, Louise, *Belltrees*, AGEHR R-211 (email at [belltreelf@aol.com](mailto:belltreelf@aol.com))

Detailed information on assembling and using belltrees effectively.

*"Belltrees are very frequently used in processionals, introits and introductions and accompaniments for hymns. They can also be used in random ringing, particularly with the pentatonic scale. Belltree compositions can be used during other parts of the service as well. They are not for processional use only."* Louise Frier

2. *Belltree Fantasia*, Louise Frier, Red River Music BL5032

3. *Burgundian Carol*, Burgundian/Roth, Psaltery Music Publications BP10

4. *Christmas Rejoicing*, Various/Anderson, Hope/Agape 1541

5. *Ding, Dong, Merrily on High*, Wagner/Anderson, Hope/Agape 1648

6. *Fantasy on Carol of the Bells*, Leontovich/Hudnall, Psaltery Music Publications BP06

7. *Festive Introit*, Victor L. Gumma, Psaltery Music Publications BP08

8. *Glad Tidings*, Frier, Psaltery Music Publications BP01

9. *Happiness Is...*, Frier, Psaltery Music Publications BP04



10. *Hyfrydol*, Prichard/Frier, Psaltery Music Publications BP05
11. *Hymns and Processionals for Handbells*, Various/Frier, (Out of print - Contact Louise Frier at [BelltreeLF@aol.com](mailto:BelltreeLF@aol.com))
12. *I Love Thee*, Ingall/Wanger/Anderson, Hope/Agape 1653
13. *Journey, The*, Frier, Psaltery Music Publications BP02
14. *Joy to the World*, Handel/Cowen, Psaltery Music Publications BP03
15. *Petite Suite* - Belltree Duet, Frier, Green Rose Press HB0189
16. *Processionals Plus*, Various/McKechnie, Jeffers Handbell Supply JHS 59070
17. *Riu, Riu, Chiu*, Spanish/Rothe, Psaltery Music Publications BP09
18. *Silent Night*, Gruber/Weishaupt, Jeffers Handbell Supply JHS 59060
19. *Time to Rejoice*, A, Frier, Psaltery Music Publications BP07
20. *Two Bell Tree Processionals*, Frier, AGEHR AG 35045
21. *Two Bell Tree Introits*, Jergenson, Laurendale Associates hb1024

### **Handbell Solos, Duets, Small Ensembles**

1. *5 Duets for Christmas*, arr. Douglas E. Wagner, Agape/Hope 1602 – 2 octaves with piano: *A Quiet Christmas (Silent Night & Away in a Manger); What Is This Lovely Fragrance?; Go Tell It on the Mountain; O Holy Night*
2. *5 Hymn Tune Duets*, arr. Douglas E. Wagner, Agape/Hope 1692 – 2 octaves with piano: *Amazing Grace; Let Us Break Bread Together; O, How I Love Jesus; There Is a Balm in Gilead; How Firm a Foundation*
3. *5 by 5: 5 Pieces for 5 Ringers on 3 Octaves of Handbells*, arr. Douglas E. Wagner, Agape/Hope 1387: *Be Thou My Vision; Carol of the Bells; Lord, I Want to be a Christian; Jesus Loves Me; Holy, Holy, Holy*
4. *5 by 5 for Christmas: 5 Pieces for 5 Ringers on 3 Octaves of Handbells*, arr. Douglas E. Wagner, Agape/Hope 1435: *Silent Night; Patapan; In Dulci Jubilo; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing; Coventry Carol*
5. *Four-Ringer Handbell Collections*, Books 1-14, arr. James D. Kimball, © James D. Kimball, available through music distributors. 12 arrangements in each set for 8 bells; typically 4 ringers, but could be played 4-in-hand; no bell changes, so no tables required – 2 octaves
6. *Four-Ringer Plus Hymn Descants*, arr. Susan E. Geschke, Concordia 97-6700. Ten hymn descants, optional 4-in-hand, for 3-5 octaves

7. *Songs for the Solo Ringer*, arr. Christine D. Anderson and Daniel Kramlich, Agape/Hope 1245 – 10 selections for 3 octaves with piano
8. Solo to Ensemble Project (STEP) – [www.stepproject.com](http://www.stepproject.com) - Kevin McChesney, Michael Kastner. Music and information for solo, duet, trio and small ensemble ringers. subscription service with 15 pieces per year from various composers; reproducible.
10. *Twelve Bells for Worship*, arr. Patricia Sanders Cota, Agape/Hope 1859, 3-6 ringers
9. Cantabile Press – Substantial catalog of music for quartets and other ensembles. [www.genesispressmusic.com](http://www.genesispressmusic.com).

### More Ideas for Handbells in Worship

1. Give pitches for parts of the liturgy, esp. for cantor or pastor/priest
2. Toll the hour at the beginning of the service
3. Accompany parts of the liturgy
4. Accompany psalmody
5. Accompany hymns or anthems and/or introduce them
  - a. I, IV, V chords
  - b. Random ring
  - c. Cluster chords
  - d. Ostinato patterns – ex., scale degrees 1 5 6 5 3 2 1 on pentatonic hymn
  - e. Simple chordal duplication
  - f. Peals
  - g. Descants
6. Some pentatonic hymn tunes: random ring or clusters on scale degrees 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
  - a. *Veni Emmanuel* (e f# g b c)
  - b. *Divinum mysterium* (e-flat, f, g, b-flat, c)
  - c. *Es ist ein Ros'* (f g a c d)
  - d. *Picardy* (d e f g a)
  - e. *Beach Spring* (f g a c d)
  - f. *Amazing Grace* (f g a c d)
  - g. *Foundation* (g a b d e)
7. Processionals
8. Accompany rounds and canons – ex.: *Dona Nobis Pacem*