

Benedictions and Blessings
to Ring and Sing

**A collection of short, simple arrangements for the
creative use of handbells in worship.**

by

Barbara R. Broome



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Foreword

Handbells can enhance any worship experience. These short, simple arrangements can be incorporated into a worship service or program with minimum preparation or ringing experience. Some require only a few ringers.

The descants were written to be rung 4-in-hand by two ringers along with the hymns during congregational singing. They are easy, do not have any bell changes, and do not require any equipment other than a music stand. They can be memorized and used as processions.

Some of the arrangements require a handbell choir but are simple enough for the ringers to sing as they ring the accompaniments. Most can be used with congregational singing by printing the text in the order of worship. **Thanksgiving Canon**, a simple *ring-and-sing* piece, makes an effective blessing for meals or banquets or during a Thanksgiving service. **Veni Emmanuel** was arranged for use as a processional for a children's choir Christmas program. Handchimes can double the handbell parts.

It is hoped that the arrangements presented here will suggest some new ideas to spark our creativity in the use of handbells in worship. Feel free to adapt them in any way to suit your worship situation.

Benedictions and Blessings to Ring and Sing

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Baton Rouge, LA

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Performance Notes

'Til We Meet Again

This benediction requires 28 bells. Practice singing the melody first, harmonizing on the ending. Then add the bell part. Observe the LV and rit. in measure 11. Handchimes can double the handbell part.

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

This farewell discourse was written in 1971 by Gregory Norbet, a Benedictine Monk with the Weston Priory in Vermont. The Brothers granted me permission to adapt this lovely melody. It uses 5 octaves (31 bells) and voices. Guitar chords are provided. Diamond-shaped notes denote the voice part. Ring the chords while singing the melody. This is an easy ring-and-sing benediction.

Thanksgiving Canon

The source of the Canon is unknown. It utilizes 29 handbells and singers. All can sing the tune in measures 5-16. Divide into two groups for the canon beginning in measure 21. Harmonize on the end. LV's refer mainly to the stems down bass notes. Use your ear. Handchimes can supplement the melody or the accompaniment as needed.

Descants

These descants were written to supplement congregational hymns. They were arranged for two ringers using 4-in-hand. Check the footnotes of each piece for suggested bell assignments. No tables are needed. It may be necessary to amplify the bells. *This Is My Father's World* includes a flute part. Violin could also be used.

Processional in Ab

This processional uses from 2 to 5 octaves of handbells. Assign only one or two bells per ringer except for line 1 which requires two ringers to 4-in-hand. However, these parts could be divided. The line 1 parts could also be rung on 2 belltrees using the assignments indicated in the footnote. Any or all parts can be doubled on handchimes. Ringers process, entering as their line begins. The processional can lead into an opening congregational hymn in the key of Ab. For an alternate majestic ending, on beat 1, ringers ring all the bells together in a cacophony of sound. Then, on cue, all bells are damped except those in the Ab chord.

Veni Emmanuel (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

This was written as a processional for a children's choir Christmas program. The handbell part can be memorized and the ringers can process with the singers. Or the ringers could ring from the tables while the singers process. All is supported by the piano or organ accompaniment. D4 and E4 are suspended mallets. Be sure to assign these bells to some physically strong children. Treble clef notes are rung. Note the Picardy 3rd in measure 24. Be sure to assign the G#5. Be creative and add handchimes to include more participants.

Away in a Manger

This is an easy arrangement for children's handbell choir. The singing bells begin before the first measure. Once they are sounding, bring in the G4, finger cymbals, and the suspended mallet bells in measure 1. Singing bells tacet at measure 8. They resume at measure 45. Begin the stirring motion before that measure so that the singing will be clear and steady by m. 45. Continue SB to the end. LV measures 5-8 and 45-49.

Silent Night

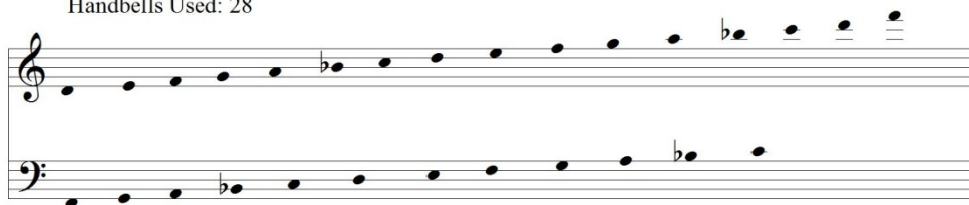
Silent Night was arranged for one ringer and piano. A nice addition would be an acoustic guitar. 4-in-hand F6/G6 and A6\Bb6. D6, C7, and the optional Eb7 are rung off the table. The downward arrows denote a quick table damp and release. See the footnote for the suggested layout.

'Til We Meet Again

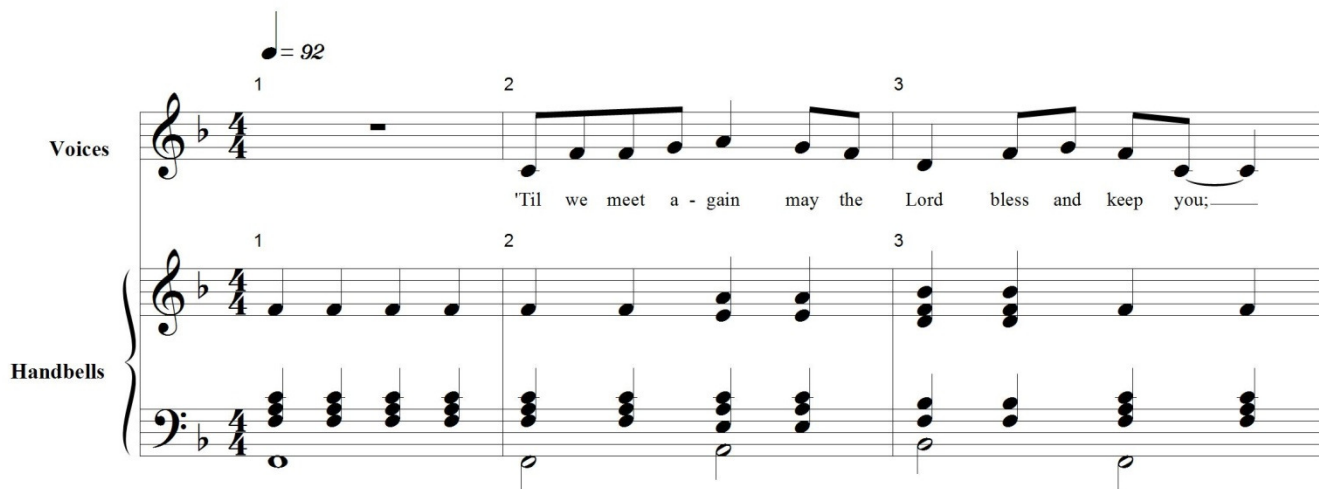
for handbells and voices

Barbara R. Broome

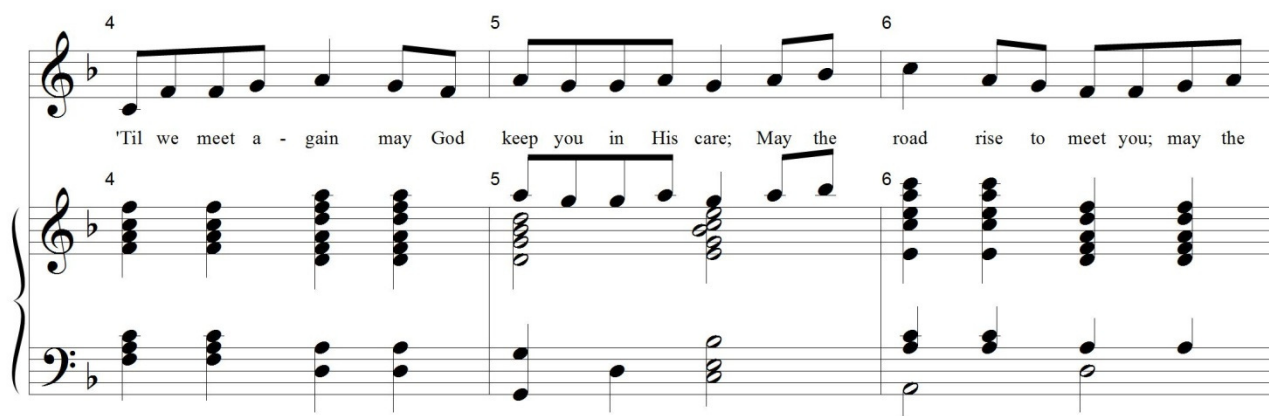
Handbells Used: 28



Handbell introduction in 4/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of quarter notes in the treble and bass lines.



Musical score for measures 1-3. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 92. The key signature is one flat and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes a vocal line and a handbell accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Til we meet a - gain may the Lord bless and keep you;—



Musical score for measures 4-6. The key signature is one flat and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes a vocal line and a handbell accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Til we meet a - gain may God keep you in His care; May the road rise to meet you; may the

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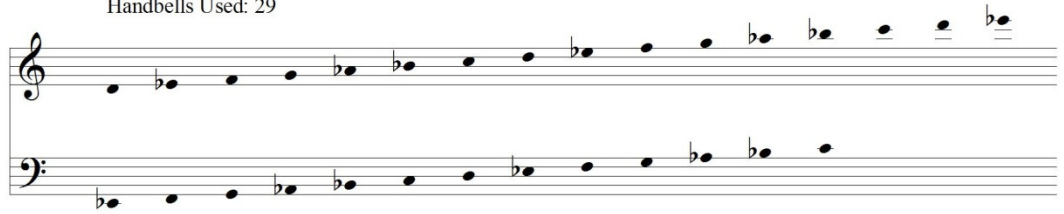
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Thanksgiving Canon

for Handbells and Voices

Unknown
Arr. by Barbara R. Broome

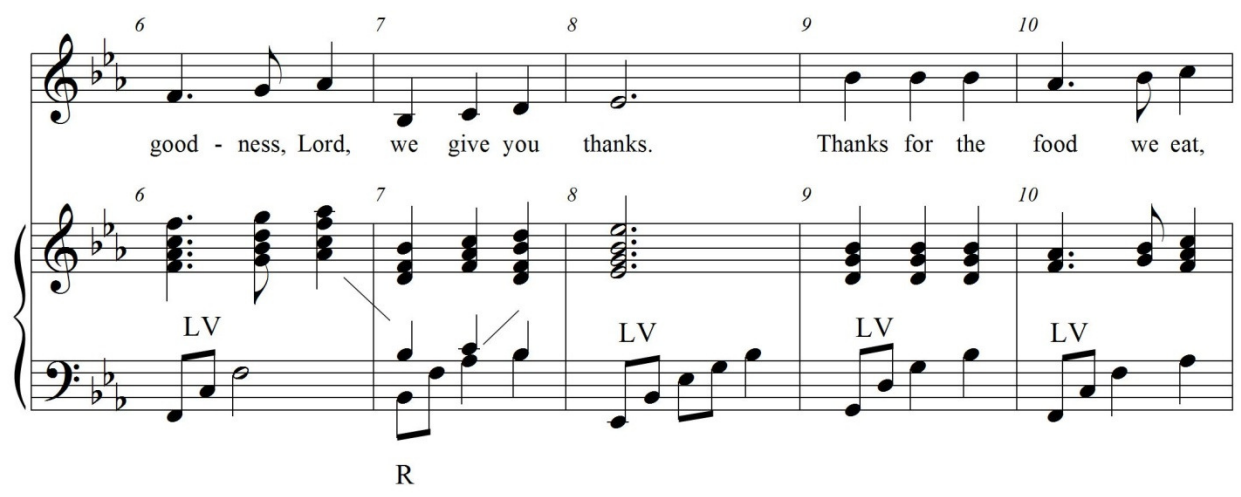
5 Octaves
Handbells Used: 29



A musical introduction for handbells, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) in a 3/4 time signature. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is a simple sequence of eighth and quarter notes.



Voices and Handbells Part I. The music is in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 90. The key signature has two flats. The lyrics are: "For all your". The handbell part includes markings for "LV" (Left Vessel) and "R" (Right Vessel).



Voices and Handbells Part II. The music continues in 3/4 time with the same tempo and key signature. The lyrics are: "good - ness, Lord, we give you thanks. Thanks for the food we eat,". The handbell part includes markings for "LV" and "R".

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Thanksgiving Canon

11 12 13 14 15

and for the friends we meet, for each new day we greet, we give you

LV LV LV LV R

16 17 18 19 20

thanks.

LV LV LV LV R

21 22 23 24 25

For all your good - ness, Lord, we give you thanks. Thanks for the

Part II

For all your

LV LV LV LV LV

VENI EMMANUEL

Full Score

Plainsong by Thomas Helmore

Arr. by Barbara Broome

Voices

1 2 3 4 5 6

O come, O come, Em - man - u -

Handbells

1 2 3 4 5 6

R

simile suspended mallets in bass clef through m. 24

Piano

1 2 3 4 5 6

mp

V

7 8 9 10 11 12

el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone-ly ex - ile

HB

7 8 9 10 11 12

Pno.

7 8 9 10 11 12

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Handbells Needed: 11

D4, E4, D5, E5, F#5, G5, G#5, A5, B5, D6, E6 20

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Away in a Manger

Handbells, Flute, Finger Cymbals

German Traditional
Arr. by Barbara Broome

Musical score for measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features three staves: Flute, Handbells (HB), and a lower staff (likely Singing Bell). The Flute staff has rests for all five measures. The HB staff has notes in measures 1-5, with 'X' and '+' symbols above notes in measures 1, 2, 3, and 4. The lower staff has notes in measures 1-5, with a 'p.' dynamic marking in measure 2 and an 'LV' marking in measure 5. A note in measure 1 is marked with a circled 'S' and a line pointing to the text '* SB (through m. 8, bt. 2)' below the staff.

Musical score for measures 6-10. The Flute staff has rests for all five measures. The HB staff has notes in measures 6-10, with a 'p.' dynamic marking in measure 9. The lower staff has notes in measures 6-10, with a circled 'S' in measure 8 and a line pointing to the text 'SB out' below the staff.

Musical score for measures 11-15. The Flute staff has rests for all five measures. The HB staff has notes in measures 11-15. The lower staff has notes in measures 11-15, with a circled 'S' in measure 11 and lines pointing to the notes in measures 11 and 12.

* X-Finger Cymbals
SB-Singing Bell
+-Suspended Mallets

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Musical score for measures 16-20. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The top staff (treble clef) contains rests for all five measures. The bottom staff (bass clef) contains the following notes: Measure 16: G2, B1, D2. Measure 17: G2, B1, D2. Measure 18: G2, B1, D2, E2, F2. Measure 19: G2, B1, D2, E2, F2. Measure 20: G2, B1, D2. Arrows in measures 18 and 19 point from the treble clef staff down to the bass clef staff, indicating a transfer of notes.

Musical score for measures 21-25. The top staff (treble clef) contains rests for all five measures. The bottom staff (bass clef) contains the following notes: Measure 21: G2, B1, D2. Measure 22: G2, B1, D2, E2, F2. Measure 23: G2, B1, D2, E2, F2. Measure 24: G2, B1, D2. Measure 25: G2, B1, D2. Above measure 25, there are symbols 'X + +' above the treble clef staff. Arrows in measures 22 and 23 point from the treble clef staff down to the bass clef staff, indicating a transfer of notes.

Musical score for measures 26-30. The top staff (treble clef) contains rests for measures 26 and 27, followed by notes in measures 28, 29, and 30. The bottom staff (bass clef) contains the following notes: Measure 26: G2, B1, D2. Measure 27: G2, B1, D2. Measure 28: G2, B1, D2. Measure 29: G2, B1, D2, E2, F2. Measure 30: G2, B1, D2, E2, F2. Above measures 26, 27, and 28, there are symbols 'X + +' above the treble clef staff. An arrow in measure 30 points from the treble clef staff down to the bass clef staff, indicating a transfer of notes.

Away in a Manger

Silent Night

Handbell Solo with Piano Accompaniment

Arr. Barbara R. Broome

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 4. The second system contains measures 5 through 8. The third system contains measures 9 through 12. The Handbells part is written on a single treble clef staff. The Piano part is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or F minor), and the time signature is 4/4. Measure numbers 1 through 12 are indicated above the Handbells staff. The piano part includes various textures, including chords and moving lines. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking in measure 12.

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