

A Song of Hope sponsored by WNC FUMMWA
February 20, 2010
Handbell Repertoire Rehearsal Notes

Dear Directors:

I am looking forward to making beautiful music with you and your ringers in just a few short weeks. I know you have been learning the music and we will be able to put everything together in a short amount of rehearsal time. Here are a few notes on the pieces.

Dona Nobis Pacem

arr. Margaret Tucker

- Depending on our room acoustics, I may take it slightly faster. I prefer quarter note = 76.
- Please follow the dynamics carefully.
- If you do not own chimes, play all chime notes on handbells.
- In measures 45, 46, and 48, be VERY gentle with the C7 martellato lift.

Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace

Kevin McChesney

- Measures 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10, the tower swing is on beats 2 and 3
- Please observe the repeat at measure 23, going back to 11. 5 octave choirs only double on the repeat, please.
- Practice having ringers look up at measures 34 -36 for the brisk new tempo and meter.
- Again, ringers must practice looking up from measure 107 to the end.

Variations on Madrid

arr. Michael Helman

- Make sure ringers know that first four measures are in E-flat major (three flats) but measure five is in G major (one sharp)!
- Lots and lots of dynamic markings to practice – what fun! ☺
- Spend five minutes of rehearsal and have ringers mark the sections of this piece as follows:
 - M. 1 introduction
 - M. 9 theme
 - M. 25 variation 1
 - M. 41 variation 2
 - M. 59 variation 3

- M. 76 variation 4 (really a middle section with new theme)
- M. 111 variation 5 (final)
- Note in m. 114, fourth beat treble clef, should be a D natural 6. (My score is very old; hopefully this has been corrected in newer printings.)
- Between measures 40 and 41, add a *cessura* (railroad tracks) to enable everyone to pick up mallets. This is a marking recommended by the composer Michael Helman.

Processional

Ken Lowenberg

This is attached as a PDF file. This piece was published in the Area III newsletter, *The Bell-o-Gram*. I talked with Ken Lowenberg and he has given me permission to use it in workshops and festivals. It is very easy and I will teach it the day of the festival. However, you might want to get a headstart on it with your choirs!

I have one suggestion – ringer 11 (B6, C7) might find the rhythm a little difficult. First, take out the shaking indications. If that does not help, simplify! Eighth Eighth Quarter Eighth Eighth Quarter to the pitches

CC C_ CB B_

1+ 2_ 3 + 4_

If you have any questions about the music, email me at:

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See you on February 20!

Ed Tompkins