

First and foremost, thank you to all of the directors for preparing these young people to ring at the festival. I am looking forward to working with each of you and your choirs! For the ringers to have more fun and be successful in the mass ringing the day of the festival, please be sure they know their parts and have practiced the pieces many times prior to our time together.

Echoes- This piece has been used at Area 2 Young Ringer Festivals and Hudson Valley Young Ringers before. It is a fun and energetic piece but be careful not to get going too fast. Practice placing the echoes together on the table as a choir so they are clean- this will be important when we put all of our choirs together. The marts for the G4 in measures 19-22 are marked **P** so they do not get walloped on the table, these should be gentle and quiet. Measure 23 is still **Forte**, the **P** marking was just for the G4 in the measure prior. Measure 34 the echo is for the half notes in the treble cleft. We will take a slight **rit.** In measure 47 so train your ringers to look up here. Be sure the last mart in measure 50 is clean and together.

Many and Great- Kathy Wissinger directed our first HV Young Ringers festival a few years ago and is a wonderful MS handbell director/educator. We need a drummer for this piece and I would love for it to be one of our directors so all the ringers can ring. We will be observing all of the repeat signs. It is very important for all of the long tied notes in this piece to be held with the bell continually

moving in large circles, please encourage your ringers to do so. As with Echoes, it will be tempting to increase the speed on this piece as you go so we will need to watch for our study pulse. In measures 31-56 treble notes will be observing the TD marking by thumb damping. When the melody is in the middle section and bass, make sure you lower ringers play out as indicated in the dynamics.

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright- This melody fits many seasons and I hope that your choirs included it during the Advent season. We will ring the middle section with choir chimes beginning at the anacrusis for measure 75 and finish at measure 98, back to bells for measure 99. I would love to direct the beginning and ending sections in 1 but we will see how this goes, the middle section is slower and it will definitely be conducted in 3. Be sure to observe the TD markings in measures 49-71. Beginning in measure 72 we will slow down to arrive at the fermata and give time to switch to chimes. Ringers should be ready to look up for fermatas at 74, 97 & 98. Damp cleanly throughout and observe the LVs careful as they only last one measure.

Ring Little Bells- crisp like snow (which we have had so little of!) damp damp damp and keep this clean and crisp. A traditional German Carol, this is a fun piece for young people to ring. There are many techniques to practice here and work to have your choir do them accurately. In measures 21-24 we will have the base bell use mallets. Careful with those tower swings that the ringers don't go to far back as we will be in tight

quarters. As in Many and Great, be sure to bring out the melody when it is in the middle and bass (measures 21-24, 38-41, 50-57). Please see Lynne Hollandar's notes for the words of the carol and more on her performance ideas.

March- This piece has many important dynamic markings to fit the style Henry Purcell and other Baroque composers wrote in, be careful to ring the dynamics as written. Base notes in measures 17-20 will be plucked. 4th beat of measure 20 will be a mart lift. Measure 25- treat the half note like a dotted quarter with an eighth rest (for the breath mark) to allow space before the third beat (have your ringers pretend they are singers who need to breath). The shake in 32 should start close to the body and gradually come away from the body to help the crescendo to the forth beat- which will be stretched & held (with great anticipation!) for the **sfz** on the down beat on 33.

Please feel free to email me with any questions and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Abi Gray
Abibells.gray@gmail.com