

WELS Western Regional Handbell Festival  
April 6-7, 2019  
Director's Notes  
1 Exaltate and 4 Mass pieces

**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow (Exaltate)**

This is an energetic setting with a contrasting, lyrical center section. Our goal will be to take this at the given tempo markings. Please play only chimes on the diamond notes.

- The opening mallet rhythm pattern needs to be precise!
- Observe the *poco ritardando* at measure 27 to meet the slower tempo at measure 28
- At measure 53, begin to slowly accelerate to our original opening tempo – we have six measures to do this
- Omit the *fermata* in measure 59
- Starting in measure 64 we have a statement of the melody in the upper bells echoed by another statement of the melody by the chimes beginning in measure 67 – everyone may need to pull back their dynamic level so the chime part comes through
- Please take a good look at the final measure – it's tricky, and we want to all end together 😊

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Mass)**

A nice medley of tunes in this piece – with lots of tempo changes! We will observe them all.

- We'll omit the *fermata* in measure 5 – and I'll give measure 6 in the faster tempo that begins in measure 7
- Watch out for the meter change in measure 22; the slight *ritardando* will help us prepare for the key and tempo change in measure 23.
- At measure 26, please play the diamond notes on chimes only
- At measure 46, watch out for the meter, tempo, and key change! Again, please play chimes only on the diamond notes in this section
- At measure 78 we will *decrescendo* for two measures, then progressively bring down our volume level measure by measure (as marked) to the final *pianissimo*. Please mallet the final chord(s) in measures 83-84.

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (Mass)**

A creative setting of this tune, an English/Irish folksong that may date as far back as the Middle Ages! Please play chimes only on the diamond notes throughout the piece and observe all techniques.

- The opening section has a few interesting harmonies, providing a bit of dissonance before resolution. We don't get to the *Kingsfold* tune until the pickup to measure 20.
- We'll add a beat to the *fermata* in measure 43, then a complete cutoff. I will give you both eighth notes (the pickup to measure 44) in the slower tempo.
- In this section (measures 44-59), we'll need to make sure the chime part is predominant
- At measure 70 we begin a crescendo to *fortissimo* – continue at this dynamic level through the *fermata* at measure 75. We won't slow down until beats 1-2 of that measure (please watch!). There will be a complete cutoff after measure 75.
- We resume tempo in measure 76 with a sudden dynamic change to *mezzo piano*
- At measure 88 we will begin to slow the tempo and bring the dynamic level down.

- At measure 91 we will slow the tempo way down (I will give you each eighth note on beats 1-2)
- The vibrato technique for chimes is a bit different than for bells. See this YouTube [video](#) for a demonstration of the technique

### **Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Mass)**

This piece will be a challenge, because everybody knows it 😊 Please play only chimes on the diamond notes. We'll start the tempo around a quarter note at 50 and see how it goes. I will direct this in three (each triplet group equals one beat). Think "trip-o-let!"

- Apply the instructions on the bottom of page 3 – the sixteenth notes in the chime counter-melody should be placed on the third note of the triplet pattern. This pattern reoccurs in several places throughout the piece
- While the lower bells may seem to have a "boring" part, it is very important! A fine, steady bass line will keep all the melody parts together.
- There will be a slight *ritardando* in measure 70; I will give you each of the triplets on beat 3.

### **In Christ There is No East or West (Mass)**

Another energetic setting! Please observe all of the dynamic and tempo changes throughout.

- Pay close attention to the syncopations in the opening measures – this pattern reoccurs throughout the piece
- We'll slow down a bit in measure 22 to prepare for the key and tempo change in measure 23
- At measure 28, we'll slow down slightly, with a slight extension of beat 3 (watch!) before launching back into our original tempo
- Starting at measure 37, everyone has the syncopated pattern with the addition of some martellato lifts (beat 4)
- We will not slow down at the ending!

God's blessings on your festival preparations! Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions.

Mary Huismann

Good Shepherd, Burnsville, MN

e-mail: [huisma1@stolaf.edu](mailto:huisma1@stolaf.edu)