

2023 National Festival - Mass Choir Director Notes

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Please email, text or call with any questions

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God's Own Child I Gladly Say It

- Steady tempo throughout – goal is 100 but be ready for 90-95 if needed
- Keep in the “middle” melody strong & confident beginning at m. 29. The “middle” melody resumes at m. 42 with the F5
- mm. 29-50, high trebles: pay attention to your dynamic markings, forte during “Jesus Priceless Treasure” and mezzo forte (almost mezzo piano) when the melody is in the middle
- mm. 56-72, 5 octave choirs: Be sure to ring B6/C7 to double the B5/C6 when they are the top note of the melody (for example, beat 4 of m. 57 and beat 3 of m. 58)
- m. 75: Watch as we will ritardando

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

- Organ & brass will accompany, congregation will sing all verses
- Fermata values/counting shown below is subject to change based on organist input...please be flexible 😊
- Tempo about 95
- m. 19: hold fermata for two extra beats, total of six beats in measure
- m. 39: hold fermata for two extra beats, total of six beats in measure
- mm. 40-47: high bells are mezzo piano, everyone else is forte
- mm. 48-59, bass: mallets are preferred over plucks
- m. 66: hold fermata for two extra beats, total of six beats in measure
- mm. 67-90: slightly slower tempo
- m. 86: hold fermata for two extra beats, chord at end of measure will ring on beat 6
- mm. 87-88: swing if space behind allows you to do it safely

Brother James' Air

Random Ring Rules:

- Must be soft and restrained
- No repetitive/non-random notes, such as ringing every beat or playing a sequential group of 8th notes
- Be considerate of others who are also random ringing. There are nine bells in the chord; there could be 90 or 135 or more bells random ringing in each section
- Tempo will start at 55
- m. 1 is the only fermata we will recognize; measure will have 6 total beats
- m. 2: We will ring the chord on beat 1 and those bells may random ring thereafter through m. 7
- Chimes are LV mm. 2-7 and mm. 9-14 and mm. 66-70
- m. 8 = 3 beats; random ring begins on beat one of m. 9; chimes begin on beat 3 of m. 9
- m. 15: Tempo will increase to 64
- m. 41: half note chord echoes on beat 2
- m. 57: C7 and C8 shake; chords echo on beats 2 & 4
- m. 58 = 3 beats; random ring begins on beat one of m. 59; chimes begin on beat 3 of m. 59
- m. 60: Tempo back to 55
- m. 65 = 3 beats, ring chord on beat 1 of m. 66, random ring thereafter, ending at end of m. 70
- Tempo will increase to 64 at m. 71 beat 3, but ritardando will be observed in m. 74.
- m. 75: C3 chime may be added
- m. 76: final chord is malleted on suspended bells.

Before the Throne of God Above

- No other accompaniment or vocals; this will be handbells only
- Watch the LVs throughout
- Tempo 72
- mm. 24-28: LV includes treble stems-down notes
- mm. 29-42: trebles stems-up notes are piano and LV (no damping) until R notation in m. 42
- m. 52: Do not speed up when mallets begin
- m. 64: Tempo will not change but the change in meter makes it feel slower. Keep the same tempo.
- m. 72: We are going to try to ritardando – watch to stay together
- mm. 73-74: back to tempo
- mm. 75-78: We will ritardando at each measure as we also get softer

Alleluia! Christ is Risen

- Trumpet accompaniment
- Tempo goal is 112 but please be prepared to take slightly slower if needed
- mm. 33-35: we will try to observe the ritardando but we must get back to tempo at m. 35
- m. 58 & m. 64: martellato lift for C6/C7 and F6/F7
- mm. 66-67, 5 octave choirs: Be sure to ring B6/C7 to double the B5/C6 when they are the top note of the melody
- mm. 73-74, bass mallets: Be prepared for the change in pattern
- m. 79: Watch for ritardando

Blessings to you on your preparations

To God Alone be the Glory