

2024 West Regional Handbell Festival
Exultate Choir Director Notes
Mary Huismann, Good Shepherd (Burnsville, MN)

In general, observe all techniques and dynamic changes. Please ring all diamond notes on chimes. I'm not sure if we will have any of the optional instruments/voices.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

- Singing bells at m. 49: strike, then begin the singing bell
- At m. 61, end the singing bell but let the sound continue (do not damp); ring the chord in m. 62
- Slight *ritardando* in m. 86; back to tempo in m. 87
- At m. 89, slight *ritardando*, hold beat 4 until I cut off
- At m. 90, slightly slower tempo for this ending section
- At m. 96, begin the vibrato technique; I'll cut off after the sound has faded

God's Love Rings Out

- Count carefully in m. 1-2 (we're used to this tune in 3 / 4, but here it is in 4 / 4)
- Omit *poco ritardando* in m. 2
- Observe the dynamic markings in m. 13-14 (middle bells with melody are *mezzo forte*, high bells are *piano*)
- Meter change at m. 28!
- The fun part! At m. 53, meter change to 6 / 8 - the previous dotted quarter note in m. 52 should equal a quarter note in the new meter. I will direct this in 2, rather than 6. We'll keep the tempo lively to keep the spirit of the tune (as in the [recording](#))
- Tip for the mallet part: use 2 mallets, alternating strokes (L-R) on a single bell to keep the rhythm accurate and at a dynamic level low enough to let the melody through
- Omit *poco accelerando* at m. 117
- Lots of techniques in the last 2 measures, and *fortissimo!*

Dance Africana on Dix

- If there are no percussion instruments, begin at m. 3 (but hopefully there will be!)
- Use mallets at m. 3; continue mallets (stems down) in m. 7 through m. 23
- Note page turn and meter change to 3 / 4 at m. 12-13 (don't you just love when that happens!)
- Back to mallets in m. 28 - but lightly, to let the middle bell melody through
- Continue mallets from m. 46 to either m. 50 (stems up melody) or the end (stems down). Note that in m. 67, *all* notes are mallets!
- Observe the rest on beat 1 of m. 69 - no inadvertent solos 😊
- Keep mallet up until I bring them down

Siyahamba

- Prefer mallets, but may pluck or TD if that's easier
- We'll keep the tempo somewhat lively, to keep the energy of the tune
- At m. 44, don't speed up on the quarter notes, and observe the *pianissimo* dynamic marking
- At m. 70, big build to the end

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions (email: huisma1@stolaf.edu or text 612.968.4646). Blessings on your preparations and looking forward to playing these pieces with you at Festival!