

Handbell Collections with No Shared Bells - Some with No Tables Required

Shawn Gingrich, First UMC, Hershey PA (music@firstumchershey.org)

1 octave range / 8 bells (no shared bells / no tables needed)

(Selected Listing)

8 Bells Series by Kathleen Wissinger – Four different settings of each piece for added flexibility. C5-C6 for 1 octave groups, D5-D6 to keep space notes in left hand, F5-F6 for 2 octave groups, and C6-C7 to allow for lighter bells and 4/H options.

8 Bells for Advent (RE4005AD Jeffers)

This collection is perfect for 2, 3 or 4 ringers. Each short L2/2+ carol ("O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – "Savior of the Nations, Come" and "Prepare the Way, O Zion" – each with no bell changes).

8 Bells for Christmas (RE4002AD Jeffers)

This collection of 3 popular Christmas carols ("Infant Holy"– "I Saw Three Ships" and "Deck the Halls") gives you the flexibility of 4 different settings - select the 8 bells that fit your ringers' needs at the time.

8 Bells for Lent and More (RE4006AD Jeffers)

This 8-Bell collection features 3 thoughtful Lenten tunes: MORNING SONG ("Lord, Throughout These 40 Days"), MARTYRDOM ("Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed") and KAS DZIEDAJA ("In the Darkness") – and all three hymn tunes have additional texts associated with them, allowing each to be played during other liturgical seasons as well.

8 Bells for Easter and More (RE4007AD Jeffers)

This 8-Bell collection showcases 3 favorite Easter tunes: HYMN TO JOY ("Christ is Risen"), LLANFAIR ("Jesus Christ is Risen Today") and NOEL NOUVELET ("Now the Green Blade Rises") – and all three hymn tunes have additional texts associated with them, allowing each to be played during other liturgical seasons as well.

8 Bells for Spirituals L2/2+ (RE4003AD Jeffers)

for 2, 3 or 4 ringers contains "Guide My Feet" – "Ev'ry time I Feel the Spirit" and "There is a Balm in Gilead" - cleverly arranged for just 8 bells playable by 4, 3, or even 2 ringers.

Four Ringer Handbell Collections by James D. Kimball - Four ringers, eight bells or chimes. Four scores, one for each ringer, is included, so only one set is needed. Range G5-G6. All published by James Kimball and available from Jeffers.

Book 1 (JK01) – contains various pieces, hymns and secular

Book 2 (JK02) – contains various pieces, hymns and secular

Book 3 (JK03) – contains various pieces, hymns and secular

Book 4 (JK04) – contains Christmas carols

Book 5 (JK05) – contains various pieces, hymns and secular

Book 6 (JK06) – contains hymn arrangements

Book 7 (JK07) – contains selections from the Moravian Hymnal

Book 8 (JK08) – contains hymn arrangements

Book 9 (JK09) – contains Christmas carols

Book 10 (JK10) – contains selections from the Lutheran Hymnal.

Book 11 (JK11) – contains Christmas carols

Book 12 (JK12) – collection of Secular Tunes.

Book 13 (JK13) – contains hymn arrangements

Book 14 (JK14) – contains hymn arrangements

Sondra Tucker has recently been releasing works in her new catalogue Casa Publications available from Jeffers Handbell Supply. One copy required – purchaser can make up to 4 copies for performance.

Favorite Folk Hymns for Eight Bells (CSHB042) – “Christians We Have Met to Worship” – “Simple Gifts” – “Amazing Grace” – “Bound for the Promised Land” – “I Come With Joy” – “Beach Spring” and “Wherever I May Wander.”

Favorite Hymns for Eight Bells (NEW in 2020) – “This Is My Father's World” – “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” – “O Worship the King” – “Jesus Loves Me” – “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” and “Come Christians Join to Sing” – perfect for distance ringing.

12 Bells Collections (no shared bells / no tables required)

(Selected Listing – search both “12 bells” and “Twelve Bells”)

NOTE: The 12 bells collections usually require C5 to G6 within the 2 oct range while the 12 Bells in F collections require F5 to C7 within the 3 oct range

12 Bells in F by Bill Ingram (RO3262 Ring Out) – Level 2 / 2+

More in this series:

- Majestic Hymns (RO3338 Ring Out)
- Classic Hymns (RO3352 Ring Out)
- Christmas Hymns (RO3362 Ring Out)
- Ring Praises (RO3364 Ring Out)
- Gospel Hymns (RO3366 Ring Out)
- Five Hymns (CGB770 Choristers Guild)
- Spirituals (CGB848 Choristers Guild)

12 Bells in F by Linda Lamb – Level 2 / 2+

- Advent and Christmas (RO3318 Ring Out)
- Gospel Hymns (RO3366 Ring Out)

12 Bells in F by Jason Krug

- Lent and Holy Week (RO3321 Ring Out)

Porta Four Series by Robert Groth - "Porta Four" is a method of ringing by four ringers using 12 handbells or chimes without interchanging bells between ringers. All published by Robert Groth - available from Jeffers.

- Porta Carol Four (GRP04)
- Porta Carol Supplement (GRP05)
- Porta Four Anthems (GRP06)
- Porta Four Patriotic (GRP07)
- Porta Four Wedding (GRP08)
- Porta Fun Four (GRP09)
- Porta Four Hymns (GRP10)
- Porta Four Hymns Supplement (GRP11)
- Porta Four Holy Week (GRP18)

Twelve Bells by Sandra Eithun

- Classic Favorites for Twelve Bells (CGB943 Choristers Guild) – Level 2+

Four Advent Hymns for Twelve Bells (CO977769 Concordia) – Level 2+
Four Christmas Hymns for Twelve Bells, set 1 (CO977807 Concordia) – Level 2+
Four Christmas Hymns for Twelve Bells, set 2 (CO977808 Concordia) – Level 2+
Four Easter Hymns for Twelve Bells, set 1 (CO977855 Concordia) – Level 2
Four Easter Hymns for Twelve Bells, set 2 (CO977856 Concordia) – Level 2

Twelve Bells by Patricia Cota (no level provided but likely L2)
Twelve Bells for Worship (HP1859 Agape)
Twelve Bells for Worship II (HP2174 Agape)
Twelve Bells for Praise and Worship (HP1976 Agape)
Twelve Bells for Praise and Worship II (HP2131 Agape)
Twelve Bells of Christmas (HP1717 Agape)
Twelve Bells of Christmas II (HP2153 Agape)
Twelve Bells of Christmas III (HP2264 Agape)

Selected 3-5 octave titles with no shared bells (some require tables for special techniques and tables would be required if utilizing low bass)

Alleluia! (L2) 3-5 oct by J. Wayne Kerr (Choristers Guild CGB928) - a joyous original composition in which both treble and bass ringers share in playing melodic material. With no bell changes, this accessible piece will be an excellent addition to worship services, concerts and festivals. 64 measures. Key of G Major. Ending chord has a mart lift which could be replaced by a rung chord.

Cradle Lullaby (L3) 3-5 oct by Chris Peck (Concordia 977674) - This title is a tender, accessible handbell arrangement of “Away in a Manger” with the tune CRADLE SONG for 3–5 octave handbells. Everyone gets a chance to ring the melody and help move the piece from a light and airy feel at the beginning to a fuller, richer sound toward the end. This arrangement requires no bell changes, so it is a nice piece for those concerts without tables. Key of Eb Major – 71 measures.

Humbly I Adore You (L1+) 3-5 oct by Shawn Gingrich (Agape 2345) – The tune ADORO TE DEVOTE is set with optional chimes but can be rung without tables if using only bells since there are no bell changes otherwise in the C4-C8 range. Low bass could be covered by 2 ringers at 2 separate tables. Only one instance of eighth notes giving it the + on an otherwise L1 piece.

Ring Together Praise (L1) 3-5 oct by Kevin McChesney (Jeffers JHS9288) - Titles include: Come Christians Join to Sing, How Great Thou Art, Immortal Invisible God Only Wise, Morning Has Broken, and O God Our Help in Ages Past. Various keys but no bell changes in the C4-C8 range, low bass could be covered by 2 ringers at 2 separate tables. NOTE: Many of the “Ring Together” collections by McChesney include pieces requiring no bell changes with a few exceptions.

The Solid Rock (L3-) 3-5 oct by Bill Ingram (Ring Out Press RO3340) – This upbeat arrangement combines “The Solid Rock” and “Rock of Ages” to create a real winner that will work well in any season of the church year. Some of the rhythms are a bit tricky, but there is not a single bell change in the entire piece. Bass players will love the malletted sections! Key of Eb Major - 78 measures. Bass line is malletted or plucked at the beginning.