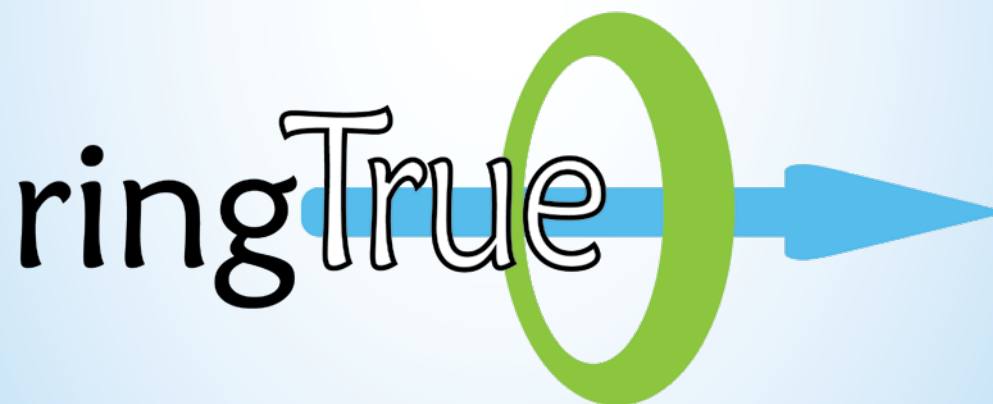


Summer/Fall 2023

New Music for Handbells and Handchimes

from



Innovative Music for Successful Ringing

by Kath Wissinger

Fall/Winter 2023

ringTrue Innovative music
for successful ringing
from Kathleen Wissinger



12 Bells for Thanksgiving – Six versatile, artfully-arranged tunes for Thanksgiving and more, 1 or 2 pages each, in a **reproducible** Level 2 collection; offered in four 12-bell ranges for 4iH trios up to 6 ringers: B4-F6, C5-G6, D5-A6 and F5-C7. Select the range that best fits your group!!
RE4013BFR, RE4013CGR, RE4013DAR and RE4013FCR

Kingsfold - A 2 oct. L2 RE8037A

Kingsfold - B 3 or 5 oct. L2 RE8037B

This beloved tune is beautifully interpreted and accessible to almost every choir. Two score options to better match your available ringers and bell range.

12 Bells for Holidays – Seven popular carols celebrate the holidays, each 1 or 2 pages in this well crafted **reproducible** Level 2 collection, available in four 12-bell ranges to fit your group to a “T”: B4-F6, C5-G6, D5-A6 and F5-C7 - for 4iH trios up to 6+ ringers. Ideal for small groups, small spaces, no tables & even outdoors! RE4012BFR, RE4012CGR, RE4012DAR, RE4012FCR

All Time and Space 3-7 octaves (opt. 3-7 oct chimes) L5+ RE8G7161
Stunning and ethereal, this original commission explores the vastness of the universe in 3 distinct sections, informally titled “Let There Be Light,” “Space Cowboys” and “The Great Expanse.” Originally published by GIA, this reissue features a few tweaks, as well as the *option* to play the composer’s original uncut version of “The Great Expanse.” Dedicated to honor Beth Ann Edwards, the opening theme features her initials: B-A-E. Based on Hebrews 1:2 and subtitled “*Rhapsody in Am*” - a majestic addition to any performance.

Auld Lang Syne 3-5 oct. L2 RE8E01R *The new “Encore!” series*
Cap your concerts with a rousing rendition of this traditional favorite. Set in a singable key, you can invite your audience to sing along. This is the first release in a new series “*Encore!*” - showcasing short, snappy originals or well-known tunes to pull out when the audience begs for just one more! **Reproducible**

Joseph’s Colorful Coat 2-3 oct. Level Zero RE1005R
Travel with Joseph through his many adventures in this brand new Chord Story. Each character has a short musical “theme” played by a few ringers during the narrated story; teachable by rote and ready to perform within minutes. Set-up instructions included. Entirely **reproducible**. For 2 to 18 or more participants.

Song for a New Day - 1 RE6036ABR Trio (19-21 bells) M **Reproducible**

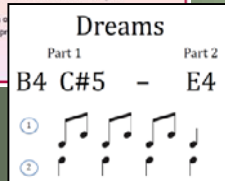
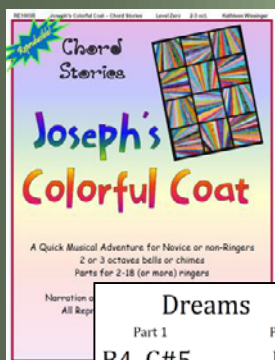
Song for a New Day - 2 RE8636AB 2 or 3 oct. (19-21 bells) L3
This long-time favorite sparkles again! The original trio score (#1) features each part scored individually for ease of reading. Also available: a fully scored version for small ensemble (#2). Each includes 2 ranges: “A” C5-C7 & “B” G4-G6.

All ringTrue scores are available in digital format.

To see the entire ringTrue catalog (150+ pieces) and hear sound files, use QR code at left or enter “RE” in the stock # search box

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Joseph's Colorful Coat

Kathleen Wissinger

2-3 oct HB • Level 0

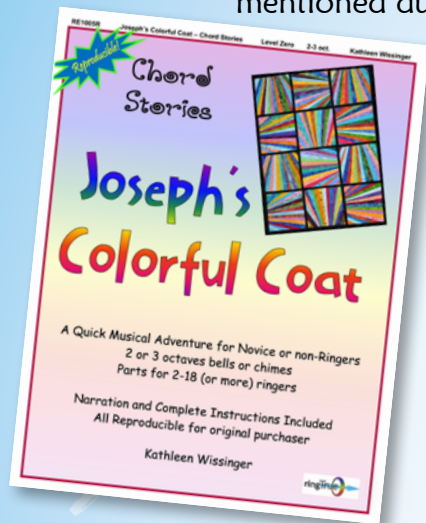
REPRODUCIBLE

MRE1005R

\$20.00 \$17.00

Engage all your young ringers as they travel with Joseph through his many adventures in this brand new Chord Story. Each character has a short musical "theme" played by a few ringers whenever they are mentioned during the narrated story.

Teachable by rote
and ready to perform
within minutes.



Joseph's Colorful Coat – Characters

Below are "snapshots" of each character - fully staffed - to help you teach each pattern by rote.
Some mnemonics (rhythmic phrases) are offered to help with learning and memory.
Play any or all notes within your two or three octave range.

Joseph
Save me, O Lord!!
Use C6 here, unless needed for Potifar

Potifar
Hail, Po - ti - far!

Father
I love Jo - seph best!

Brothers
His e - le - ven bro - thers

Many Colored Coat
All sharps - low - middle - high

Dreams
LV All Vibrato

RE1005R - Joseph's Colorful Coat - Chord Story - Character Snapshots - Wissinger

"Joseph's Colorful Coat" Assignments

2 octaves (& 3 Octaves)

Character and Position Number * = required for the character

Joseph

1. *Ab5 [C6]
2. *C#6 E6
3. *Ab4 E5
4. Eb6 (Ab6)
5. (Db4)

Brothers

1. *A5 Bb5
2. F5 Gb5
3. Bb4
4. (D4 Eb4)
5. (B6)

Father

1. *D5 Eb5
2. *G5 B5
3. G4 C5
4. F6 G6
5. D6

Potifar

1. *C6 F#6
2. (A6 Bb6)
3. (F#4 A4)
4. (F4 C4)
5. (C7)

Dreams

1. *B4 C#5
2. (E4)

Colorful coat - play 3 clusters of sharps (Low - middle - high), without damping (LV) then vibrato: Tap finger on chime slot or wiggle bell side to side (like a fishtail)

22 positions - some may be shared. Be careful of challenging rhythm patterns.
For Joseph position #1, use C6 unless you need it for Potifar.

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Joseph's Colorful Coat - Chord Story Narrative

2

Joseph – Jacob – Brothers (the sons) – Potifar – Dreams – Coat

Back in the time of the Pharaohs, a man in Canaan named Jacob had 12 sons; his youngest was Benjamin, his favorite was Joseph. He had an unusually beautiful coat of many colors made for his favorite son. This made all of the other brothers angry and jealous. And on top of that, Joseph told two of his dreams to them. In the first dream, the brothers were gathering wheat in the field, and their bundles of wheat bowed down to Joseph's bundles. In the second dream, Joseph envisioned the sun, moon and stars (representing his entire family) bowing down to him. This was too much for the brothers to take!

One day Jacob sent Joseph out to the fields where his brothers were tending sheep. They seized this opportunity to get rid of him and sold him to a caravan of traders. The brothers covered the colorful coat with goat blood and made up a story saying he had been killed by wild animals. How Jacob mourned the loss of his favorite son! Joseph ended up working for an Egyptian named Potifar, a very important man, the captain of the Pharaoh's guard. Joseph worked diligently and was made head of the household by Potifar. Potifar's wife accused Joseph of a crime even though he was innocent, and Potifar had him put in jail, where again, he interpreted dreams for two prisoners, saying one would live and the other would die.

Later on Pharaoh was having troubling dreams himself. The prisoner that lived remembered his amazing experience in prison. So Joseph was sent for, and, giving God all the Glory, he interpreted the prophecy of Pharaoh's dreams: 7 years of plenty would be followed by 7 years of famine. Egypt stockpiled food under Joseph's supervision, and they were ready when the famine came. But Jacob back in Canaan wasn't so lucky. He had no such warning and therefore hadn't stockpiled any food. His sons came to buy provisions in Egypt, but they didn't recognize the one in charge - Joseph! He played a small trick on the Benjamin, to see if the brothers had reformed - and they all passed the test. It was then that Joseph revealed who he was and sent for his father, Jacob, who joyfully joined them in Egypt.

And so, with God guiding Joseph, Egypt, with its 7-year stockpile of food, was able to weather the famine and also to help many people in surrounding countries as well, including Jacob (who was also called Israel) and his sons, who formed the basis for the 12 Tribes of Israel! And it all started with boy named Joseph, his dreams and a very colorful coat!

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12 Bells for Thanksgiving

Kathleen Wissinger

2 or 3 oct HB · Level 2

12-bell collection

REPRODUCIBLE

MRE4013BFR	(B4-F6)	\$25.00	\$21.25
MRE4013CGR	(C5-G6)	\$25.00	\$21.25
MRE4013DAR	(D5-A6)	\$25.00	\$21.25
MRE4013FCR	(F5-C7)	\$25.00	\$21.25



Here's the answer for Thanksgiving services and special events! Six versatile, artfully-arranged tunes of 1 or 2 pages each in a reproducible Level 2 collection. All ringing techniques are optional, so all of these pieces can easily be rung 4iH or without tables.

1 This is My Father's World

TERRA BEATA

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12

Bring out the melody line throughout

Earnestly $\text{♩} = 76$

TERRA BEATA
Franklin S. Sheppard, 1915
arr. Kathleen Wissinger ASCAP

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3 With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring

ST. PETERSBURG

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12

Lightly $\text{♩} = 112$

ST. PETERSBURG
Dmitri S. Bortniansky, 1825
arr. Kathleen Wissinger ASCAP

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9 We Gather Together

KREMSEER

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12

.. = TD or light mart All techniques are optional

Resolutely $\text{♩} = 76$

KREMSEER
Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clank, 1626
arr. Kathleen Wissinger ASCAP

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12 Bells for Holidays

Kathleen Wissinger

2 or 3 oct HB • Level 2

12-bell collection

REPRODUCIBLE

MRE4012BFR	(B4-F6)	\$25.00	\$21.25
MRE4012CGR	(C5-G6)	\$25.00	\$21.25
MRE4012DAR	(D5-A6)	\$25.00	\$21.25
MRE4012FCR	(F5-C7)	\$25.00	\$21.25



Celebrate the Holidays with these seven popular carols, each 1 or 2 pages, in this well crafted reproducible Level 2 collection.

All techniques are optional, so all of these pieces can easily be rung 4iH or without tables.

5

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12



KINGSFOLD
English Country Songs, 1893
arr. Kathleen Wissinger ASCAP

Cantabile

♩ = 76

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

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7

Twas in the Moon

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12



Huron Carol, trad.
arr. Kathleen Wissinger

Gently

♩ = 90

mp

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

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9

Jingle Bells

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 12



Pierpont
arr. Kathleen Wissinger

Boldly

♩ = 120

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

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Auld Lang Syne

Kathleen Wissinger

3-5 oct HB • Level 2

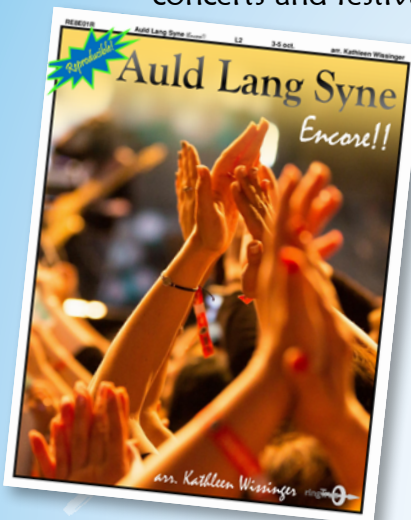
REPRODUCIBLE

MRE8E01R

\$25.00 \$21.25

Cap your concerts with a rousing rendition of this traditional favorite, Auld Lang Syne: sure to be a memorable and heartfelt closing to your Holiday concerts and festivals. Set in a singable key,

you can invite your audience to sing along. Words to the song are included in the score so your ringers can sing, too.



Auld Lang Syne

3-5 Octaves
Handbells Used: 28, 35, 43



Note: Mns. 18-20 some notes are in opposite clefs () 3 oct. omit
6+ oct. may double down bass line

Text - Robert Burns, c. 1788

trad. Scottish tune

arr. Kathleen Wissinger (ASCAP)

Moderato (♩ = c. 76)



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*New Releases
Fall 2023!

ringTrue

Innovative music
for successful ringing

This listing features 2 of ringTrue's B series. See HandbellWorld.com
for little gems, Sing & Ring, First String, Celebrations, Split-Level and Chord Stories series

True Music	Well-crafted originals & arrangements	Class ring	Pedagogical music for classroom & concert
No Greater Love	L3 3-5 RE8001	Sakura I	L1 3/5 RE30011
Through the Storm	L4 3-6 RE8002	Sakura II	L2 3/5 RE30012
Semper Paratus (Coast Guard)	L3 3-7 RE8003	Madrasta III (see Split-Level options 1&2)	L2 3/5 RE30023
A Winter Scene (arr. Al Reese)	L3-4 4-6 RE8004	Providence	L1+ 3-5 RE3003
Call of the Water	L3-4 3-7 RE8005	Down by the Riverside A&B	L1+ 2-3 RE3004AB
Wichita Lineman	L3-4 3-6 RE8006	Hornpipe & Dance I, II & III	L1 12 bells 24 RE3005123
The Stones Will Shout I & II	L2 2-5 RE800712	Bronze Fanfare I & II (4 rings)	L1+ 3-5 RE300612
La Mer (The Sea - Clari)	L5 3-7 RE8008	I Saw Three Ships A&B	L1 2 or 3/5 RE3007AB
Norwegian Fantasy (Grieg)	L3 3-5 RE8009	Shenandoah A&B (folk or fleet)	L2 2-3/5 RE3008AB
Veri Emmanuel A&B	L2 2 or 3/5 RE8510AB	Gather, Thankful People A&B	L2 2-3/5 RE3009AB
Let All Mortal Flesh A&B	L1+ 2-4 or 3/5 RE8511AB	In the Beginning (Gospel Promise)	L2 3-5 RE3010
A Manger Lullaby	L3 3-6 RE8012	40 Days in the Desert (see pieces)	L2 3-5 RE3011
We Are Done (The Madder Brothers)	L3+ (3)-6 RE8013	Ode to Joy A&B 8-22 bells	L1 22-24 RE3011ABR
Cool Cats 2 A&B	L2 2 or 3/5 RE85012AB	A Day to Celebrate! A&B	L2+ 22-24 RE3012AB
40 Days in the Desert (see pieces)	L2 3-5 RE8513	Square One Method Book	L1+ 2-3 RE3013
Amazing Grace 3A&B (opt. BT)	L2 2-24 3/5 RE8514	Square One - Sampler F	L1 2-3 RE3013SF
The Angel Gabriel A&B	L2 24 3/5 RE8017AB	Behold the Heavens A&B	L1+ 24/35 RE3014AB
Friendship I (Reverie & Be Merry)	L1+ 2-3 RE8018	Square One Suite (2 pieces)	L1+ 2-3 RE3015
Friendship II	L2 3-6 RE8019	Surprise! (surprise)	L1+ 2-3 RE3016
Friendship III	L2 3-6 RE8020	Brother James' Air	L2 3-5 RE3018
Friendship - Director's Score	L3 3-6 RE8021	Gentle Mary Laid Her Child I & II	L1 2-3, 2-5 RE301912
Friendship - Solo inst. for #1	- C instr. RE8018S	Falling Light (The Forgotten Element)	L1 3 or 5 RE3020
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night	L2+ 22+ or 3/5 RE8019AB	What Wondrous Love is This?	L1 3 or 5 RE3021
Hydrid AB (15, 16 or 19 bells)	L2 22+ or 3 RE8020AB	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	L2+ 2 or 3/5 RE3022AB
The Best Gift I & II	L2 (2) 3-5 RE822112	Dorian Epic A&B I & II	L1 24/35 RE3024B12
Jesu Waded That Lonesome Valley	L3 3/5 RE8722	Upbeat! A&B	L2+ 2 or 3/5 RE3024AB
Miracle Child - 1 (opt. vocal BT)	L3 3-5 RE8723	Plains D'Amour (opt. ukulele/guitar)	L2 3/5 RE3025
Highland Fanfare	L3 5 RE8024	Wind in Our Sails (opt. BT/vocal)	L1 3 or 5 RE3026
Festival on Wexford Carol - 1	L4 3-4 RE83251	In the Hall of the Mt. King	L2 3-5 RE3027
Festival on Wexford Carol - 2	L4 4-6 RE83252	Wellerman A&B	L3 2 or 3/5 RE3028AB
Celebration & Dance I	L2 3-5 RE8326	Jesu, Jesu, Rest Your Head A&B	L1 2 or 3/5 RE3029
Celebration & Dance II	L3 3-5 RE80232	Covenant (The Return Home)	L1 3-5 RE303012
Celebration & Dance - Director	- Dir. RE8023S	Salvador Dances/Gedco Artics 1&2	L1 2-3 & 3-5 RE303012
Celebration & Dance - Solo	- Score RE8023S	Iranian Columns 1&2	L1 2-3 & 3-5 RE3031
When We Gather (see vocal, BT)	L2 3-5 RE8326	Fear No Evil	L2+ 2 or 3/5 RE3032AB
Wind in Our Sails (opt. vocal, BT)	L3 3-5 RE8327	Enjoy the Ride! A&B Glorify the Lord	L2+ 2 or 3/5 RE3033
In the Hall of the Mt. King	L3 3-6 RE8327	Fantasy on Carol of the Bells	L1 3 or 5 RE3034
Wellerman A&B	L2+ 3-5 RE8328AB	Griffin's Hornpipe-1 (BT opt.)	L2 2 or 3/5 RE3035AB
The Sower (Kulka's Orchard)	L3 3-5 RE8514B	Written on a Postcard (Playful Moments)	L1 3 or 5 RE3036
Love, Love, Love (see vocal, BT)	L2+ 3-5 RE8516	Lemon Chimes A&B (Cascades of Joy)	L1 2 or 3 RE3037
Who is This? (opt. vocal/unison)	L3 3-5 RE8729A	Ghost & Shadow (When Shadows Fall)	L1+ 3 or 5 RE3038
Fantasy on Carol of the Bells	L2 2-3 RE8729B	Building Blocks: Unison Exercises	L1 Any RE30391R
Who is This? (opt. vocal/unison)	L3 3-5 RE8330		
God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen	L3 3-5 RE8331		
Fear No Evil	L2 3-5 RE8332		
He is Born! 1&2	L2 3-5 RE833412		
Griffin's Hornpipe-1 (BT opt.)	L2 3 & 4-5 RE3815		
Salvador of the Nations (BT opt.)	L2 3-5 RE83312R		
Love, Love, Love (BT unison/guitar)	L2 3-5 RE5916		
Here's One - 1 (opt. C/B instr)	L2+ 3-5 RE80352		
Here's One - 2 (opt. chimes)	L4+ 5-7 RE8035D		
Here's One - Director Score	L2+ 3-7 RE8036		
A Gentle Presence			

All ringTrue publications are available as high-quality, full-color hard copies and as digital downloads.

NEW! True Music pieces!

Song for a New Day AB (15-21 bells)	L3 2 or 3 oct.	RE8036AB
Kingsfold - A	L2 2 oct.	RE8037A
Kingsfold - B	L2 3-5 oct.	RE8037B
Auld Lang Syne (Encore!)	L2 3-6 oct.	RE8037R
All Time and Space (Happily vs. Am)	L5+ 3-7 oct.	RE8037161



ringTrue Handbell Music offers innovative, well-crafted, inspiring compositions for all needs - Levels 1-5, solos through full ensembles! Many titles have multiple-range (A, B ending the Cat. #) or compatible (1, 2, 3) options; some are reproducible (R). Split-Level scores offer Level 1 ringing positions in Level 2 pieces. Sing & Ring features songs, hymns and anthems with handbell options. Introducing "Encore" - short stumpy reproducible pieces to pull out when they demand an encore! Like "ringTrue Handbell Music".
Facebook page for announcements
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Kingsfold - A & B

Kathleen Wissinger

2 oct HB · Level 2

&

3 or 5 oct HB · Level 2

MRE8037A 2 oct ver. \$4.00 \$3.40

MRE8037B 3 or 5 oct ver. \$5.00 \$4.25



Kingsfold is a well known traditional English tune from 1893 with over 100 texts associated with it, so it can be used year 'round in liturgy. This setting would also be ideal as a lyric piece in a concert, school or festival setting. "Kingsfold B" contains a bonus piece!

1

Kingsfold - A

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say / Today We All Are Called/
O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 17

Kingsfold - B (RE8037B)
is a similar arr. for 3 or 5 oct.
but it is in a different key and is
NOT compatible with this score.

KINGSFOLD
English Country Songs, 1893
arr. Kathleen Wissinger ASCAP



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1

Kingsfold - B

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say / Today We All Are Called/
O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

3 or 5 Octaves + opt. Bb3, F3
Handbells Used: 25, (38), (41)



opt. () 3 oct. omit
KINGSFOLD
English Country Songs, 1893
arr. Kathleen Wissinger ASCAP



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A Bonus Piece!!

Regal March

3-5 Octaves
Handbells Used: 25, (32,) (36)



Performance Notes:
Play all bells malletted on the table
Note different dynamics on repeats

Kathleen Wissinger (ASCAP)

Brightly, 120-160 **vivace**



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Song for a New Day

A & B

Kathleen Wissinger

2 or 3 oct HB · Level 3/Med.

Trio or Ensemble

MRE8636AB Ensemble ver. ~~\$4.00~~ \$3.40
MRE6036ABR Trio (REPRODUCIBLE) ~~\$16.00~~ \$13.60

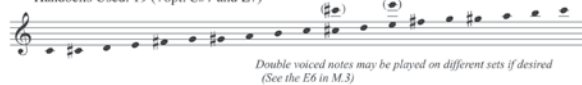


Long a favorite of adventurous trio ringers, "Song for a New Day" is reissued in a reproducible trio score of medium difficulty and also in a small Level 3 ensemble score for a few more ringers. Short, bright and cheery with lots of movement, it's perfect as a Call to Worship or as a light palate cleanser in a concert.

1

Song for a New Day - A

3 Octaves
Handbells Used: 19 (+opt. C#7 and E7)



Double voiced notes may be played on different sets if desired
(See the E6 in M.3)

Kathleen Wissinger (ASCAP)

Allegro (♩ = ca. 120)



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3

Song for a New Day - B

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 19 (+opt. G#6 and B6)



Double voiced notes may be played on different sets if desired
(See the B5 in M.3)

Kathleen Wissinger (ASCAP)

Allegro (♩ = ca. 120)



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1

Song for a New Day - A Trio Part 1

2 Octaves
Handbells Used: 9

Part 1



Note: Part 1 EV each mss. unless noted - Table dump when needed

Kathleen Wissinger (ASCAP)



* Mm. 19 and 28 are additions to original version

Note: These scores are based on the original trio's assignments.
Feel free to assign notes among the Parts as needed. A fully
scored version for 2 or 3 octaves (RE8036AB) is available if you
would like to figure out your own assignments from scratch.
*Note the chords in Mm. 20-26 have an optional inner note added.

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All Time and Space

(Rhapsody In A Minor)

Kathleen Wissinger

3-7 oct HB · Level 5

w/ opt 3-7 oct HC

MRE8G7161

\$7.00 \$5.95

Stunning and ethereal, this original masterwork explores the vastness of the universe in 3 distinct

sections, informally titled

"Let There Be Light,"

"Space Cowboys" and

"The Great Expanse."

A welcome addition for advanced Bronze level repertoire as each section offers a different challenge in technique, chromatic work and interpretive skills.



Commissioned by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines, Iowa, in honor of Beth Ann Edwards, 2005

All Time and Space

(Rhapsody in A minor)

Hebrews 1:2 „God created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time.“

3-7 Octaves Handbells

* = 6th/7th oct. bass (bells &/or chimes) sometimes noted with 7th in score

optional * 8th

() 3 oct. omit [] 4 oct. omit { } 3-4 or 4-5 oct. omit (see perf. notes)

Opt. 3-7 Octaves Hand Chimes

optional * 8th

Study score to determine which combination of bass bells or chimes you will use.

"Let There Be Light"

Kathleen Wissinger (ASCAP)

Freely, in Plainchant style

1 2

p

* SB ** WC

* Start singing bell from silence, not necessarily all at the same time

3 Freely, poco a poco accel. 4 5

LV LV LV LV

**Windchimes

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3 18 19 20

LV LV LV LV LV

21 22 23 24

LV

"Space Cowboys"
Brightly!

(no change in pulse) *R f*

Opt. tambourine, casaba, castanets, etc. ad lib.

25 26 27 28

** R

29 30 31 32

LV LV LV LV

* Mallet low bells on table or RT

** Mm. 26-42 Opt. double top melody line with same note alt. bell (A5=A5)

All Time and Space (Kathleen Wissinger) REB8G7161 - 3 -

7 62 63 64

LV Chord *mf*

65 66 67 68

LV Chord *mp*

sustain C3

WC

nabourine fades into windchimes

Wind chimes fade in, on

* "The Great Expanse"
Calmly, with dignity *mp* *f*

69 70 71

LV LV LV

* Note in this section some slight edits have been made to the bass clef chimes compared to the original published version (fuller chords and clearer 4th oct. options)

** Dotted half notes stems down in bass, may be played by 5 oct. chimes or bells and doubled 8th by 6 and 7 oct. ranges. If using chimes as noted C4 and up, 4 oct. sets must play this line on chimes or not at all.

All Time and Space (Kathleen Wissinger) REB8G7161 - 7 -

Building Blocks:

Unison Exercises

Kathleen Wissinger

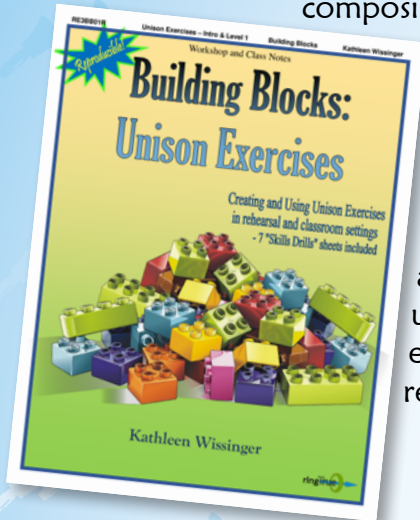
2-3 Octaves • Rating: Easy

MRE3BB01R

~~\$20.95~~ \$17.81

Introducing Building Blocks, a new series from ringTrue. In this series, Kathleen Wissinger shares workshop and class notes from her 18 years in the classroom and 30+ years of directing and composing, as well as expertise

and insights from other experienced handbell educators. "Unison Exercises" introduces the concepts and theory behind unison exercises and how to create and use them in a learning environment. A great resource for all directors!



presents

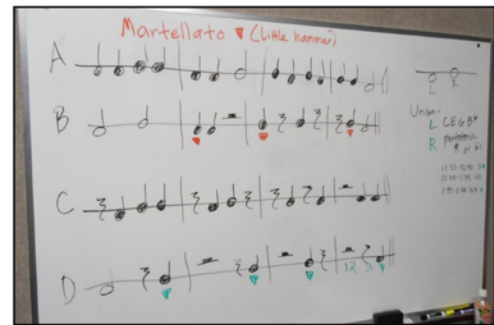
Building Blocks

A pedagogical series that features a wide range of teaching materials showcasing workshop and class notes from experienced handbell educators to make your rehearsals & classes more productive and your ringers more confident

Feel free to manipulate or change any of the materials to suit your teaching needs! All materials in Building Blocks are reproducible only by the original purchaser and are also available as a reproducible digital download.

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Please contact Kath Wissinger with any particular needs or questions, including ideas for topics to include in this series!



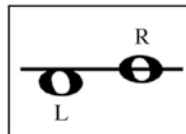
RE3BB01R Unison Exercises-Level 1 Copyright © 2022 Kathleen Wissinger
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What? How? Why? When? Who? Where?

Unison Exercises (UE)

What?

- A unison exercise (UE) allows all ringers to practice the same skill (or complementary skills) at the same time, not exactly "in unison" in the choral sense of singing the same note - but "in unison" in the "physically ringing left hands together & right hands together" and "skill" sense. UEs are valuable and efficient tools for general note reading introduction as well as focused skill work.



How?

- It can be as simple as demonstrating a rote pattern - "watch me, then do it." Everyone mirrors you.
- UEs for notation can be written on a single line staff with a line note (designating right hand note) and a space note (designating left hand note).
 - Other possibilities include using a three, four or full five-line staff or two, or focusing on a specific note pattern, rhythm or skill in the written score for everyone to practice.
- Examples can be quickly drawn on a white board, projected or written down for a photocopied handout.
- A new score's specific skills can be identified beforehand to cover all possible skills any ringer might encounter - and these skills incorporated into a sheet of UEs for everyone to practice.
- Simple examples can be taught first, and then layered with techniques and more complex rhythms, so ringers practice new skills by building on what they have already experienced.
- By varying assignments in a UE, skills are reassembled and learning (and fun!) increases in many different contexts. Involve every ringer in the skill at hand - keep everyone learning and focused. Some possible practice variations:

- Ring RH notes & Mart all LH notes
- Mart all quarter notes, or all RH notes, or beat 1 in every measure.
- Ring ONLY the LH notes (or only the RH notes)
- One group rings only RH notes - another group rings only LH notes
- Every other ringer alternate measures - even and odd
- One ringer plays a measure while everyone counts, then the next ringer plays, etc.
- Assign the "Not my notes/Somebody else's" outside the line/space notes to one or two ringers

Why?

- Prior experience with a new skill in its simplest form in a UE reaps great benefits for the ringer in confidence, understanding, physical coordination and accuracy as well as by saving time re-teaching skills, keeping rehearsals productive. They can be layered and added to for cumulative skills.
- Being introduced to carefully paced exercises that build on previous skills (spiraling) and having a variety exercise formats that practice known skills (scaffolding) help ringers retain and build skills.
- A UE can clarify or even simplify a part for a ringer who needs a little extra help.
- In the advanced arena, UEs can be used to teach weaving & 4H and to choreograph complex rhythms and bell changes. (See future editions of *Building Blocks: 4H, Weaving, Multiple Bells and Unison Exercises - Part 2* for more advanced skills.)

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~ 2 ~

- Often a technique is used in a score in only the treble or bass range, so ringers uninvolved have to wait while the targeted bell range practices the skill. With UEs, everyone learns and practices the skill at the same time (range appropriate, of course) - thumb damped trebles might be malleted in the bass. It also keeps everyone involved in the rehearsal, paying off when ringers change positions and encounter these same techniques not used in their previous position.

- Like etudes used in other instrumental studies, UEs focus on particular skills or concepts.
- If ringers hit a snag in a piece, quickly draw a UE of the measure to let them practice that skill alone.
- While playing a UE, ringers can be guided to match ringing styles so their overall visual appeal is enhanced.

When?

- Before music is opened, the focus skill is taught, experienced and mastered, along with the knowledge of the theory supporting it.
- Skill and rhythm drills can be applied at every rehearsal; specific drills keep ringers up to speed or prepare them for a new piece. Teaching basic 8th notes, arpeggios, triplets and 16th note patterns with UEs focuses attention on the new rhythms without distractions. Fun and challenging warm-up keep ringers moving ahead.
- Any time a ringer has a particularly challenging section, a specific UE can help them clearly figure out the music's requirements.
- Rhythms (especially irregular meters, mixed meters and syncopations) can be deconstructed and rebuilt sequentially so ringers learn step-by-step how to recognize, count and categorize these patterns. (See future *Building Blocks* series on *Mixed Meter and Syncopation*.)
- UEs are excellent for auditions, focus on skill sets and make sure each ringer is judged on a level field.

Who?

- Before ringing from a score, beginning ringers (and all ringers, actually) benefit immensely from practicing a new concept in its simplest form.
- Every ringer in every ensemble can benefit from isolating a skill and practicing it alone; individuals hone ringing and sight-reading skills; ensemble ringers figure out parts, match ringing styles and devise choreography; soloists practice complex passages; everyone experiences a progressive mastery of skills.
- Ringers who need help finding their notes or need less clutter on the page benefit from having their part extracted and cleanly represented on a personalized unison line.
- Teaching at Festivals and Conferences, I use Unison Exercises to include all ringers in the skill at hand.

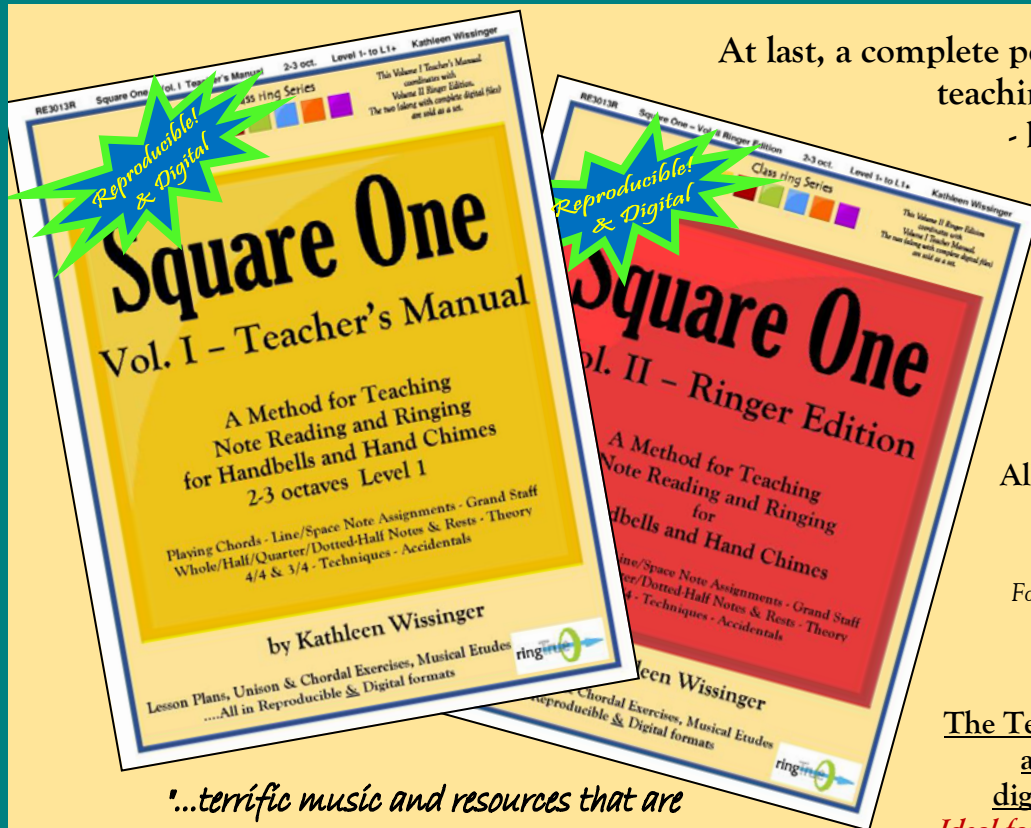
Where?

- Rote demos, hand signals, verbal directions, posterboard charts, white board examples, overheads, Smart Board, PowerPoint, digital projector, flash cards, printed score inserts, full score excerpts - offer a rich variety of unison experiences. Ringers can even write out their own UE to decode a difficult passage. You can make UEs up on the fly, draw them quickly on a board, make large posters or flip-charts. In a full score, all ringers can adopt one ringing position ("You are all now B4C5") and play that one part.
 - Use these notes and examples to create your own exercises to guide your ringers through new skills.
 - Confidence, knowledge, understanding and success will add to the joy of ringing!! Let's get going!
 - Feel free to contact me (Longwalk3@aol.com, on ringTrue FB page or through Jeffers) if you need more information on Unison Exercises or any skills in the Building Block Series!

With my best wishes, Kath Wissinger 9/2022

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teaching note reading and ringing
- literally from “Square One”



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- Appropriate for school, church and community settings; for children, youth and adults
- Look for more supplemental materials to come, coordinating with "Square One" teaching...and for the next set of method books - "Square Two" - which will teach Level 2 skills in the same manner. Check the ringTrue FB page and Jeffers Handbell Supply for updates.

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