

Help! I'm Leading a Handbell Choir

Presented by Stephanie Rhoades

Basics

Setup – Tables, foam/pads, covers

Octaves


Manufacturers – Malmark, Schulmerich, and White Chapel are most common

Accessories – Folders, Gloves, Polishing Cloths

Assignments

Ringling

Basic Ringling & Dampening

- Goal – Uniform style within ensemble; flowing movement; graceful (C4 and up)
- “Don’t Spill”
- “Pedaling backwards”
- R indicates normal ringling/dampening
- LV means let vibrate Laissez Vibrer regardless of note values or rests (like a pedal on the piano). Terminated by a new LV, R, or 

Other Techniques

Malleting

Chimes – Ring upright; turn inward to damp on body; Never martellato

Music

- Levels
- Notation Guide
- Finding Music
- Tips on selecting pieces

Rehearsals

- Exercises/Drills
- Weaving
- Changing bells
- Working with new/beginning ringers
- Ringer “management”
- Conducting

Recommended Resources

www.handbellmusicians.org

www.dallashandbells.org

Basic Training for Bells, MacGorman CGB323

Basic Training 2 – Rhythm Training, MacGorman CGB518

Handbell Helper, M. L. Thompson, AB020867

Healthy Ringing, Susan Berry, Handbell Services

Bass Bell Techniques (2006), Thomas Parsons, From the Top Music

Bass Bells: a Collection of Observations and Ideas (1994), Various authors, AGEHR R-206

Belltrees, Frier, AGEHR R-211