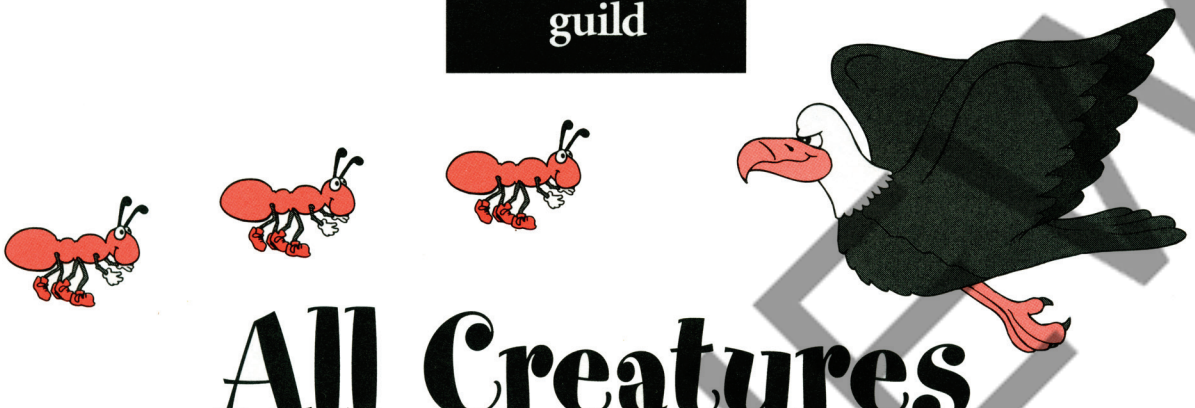
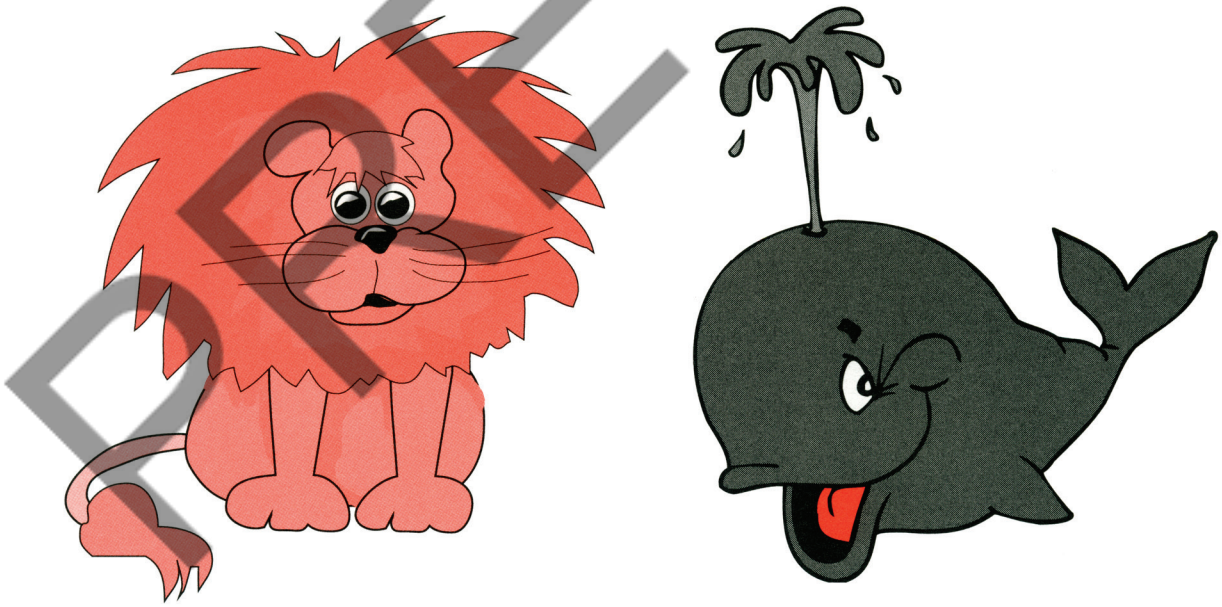
choristers guild



All Creatures Great and Small

A Suite for Handbells and Optional Narrators



PREVIEW

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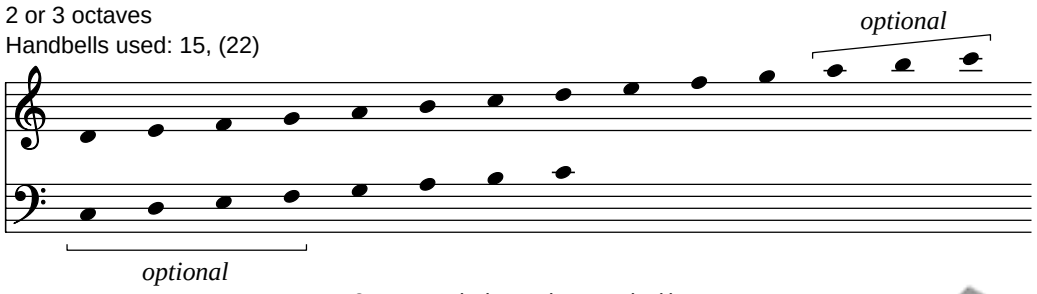
All Things Bright and Beautiful

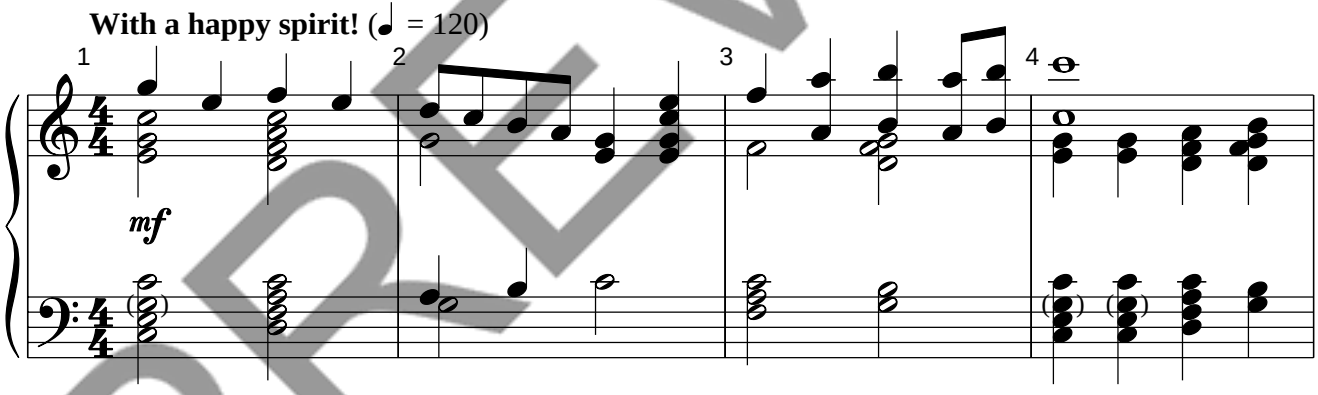


2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).

NARRATOR: All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

(Mrs. C. F. Alexander, 1818-1895)

ROYAL OAK
Traditional English melody
arr. Tammy Waldrop



Performance notes:

LV = Let Vibrate - Ring your bell and do not dampen until you see another LV sign or an R. If your bell does not ring again immediately, then dampen. Play the LV notes in this arrangement at a medium-soft level so that you do not overpower the melody.

See page 12 for suggestions for use.

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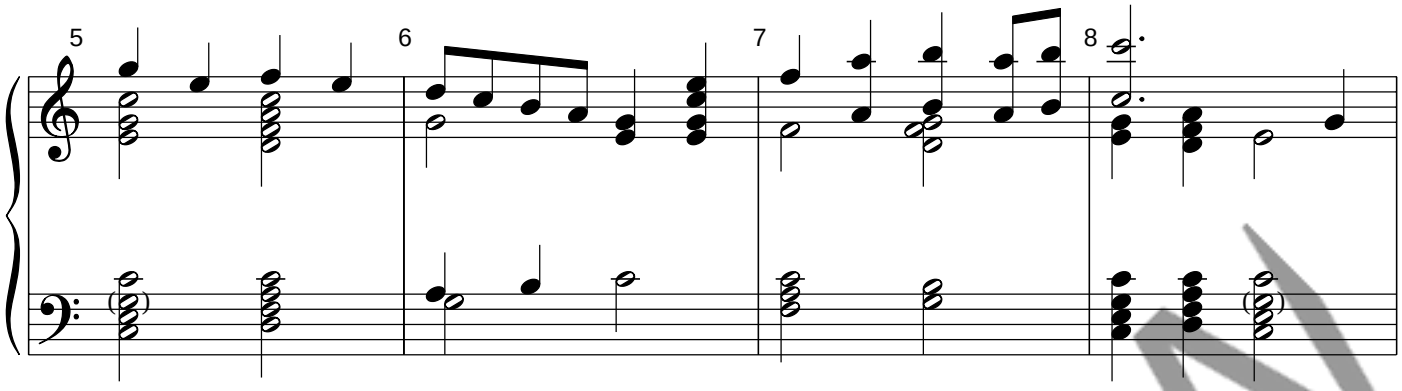
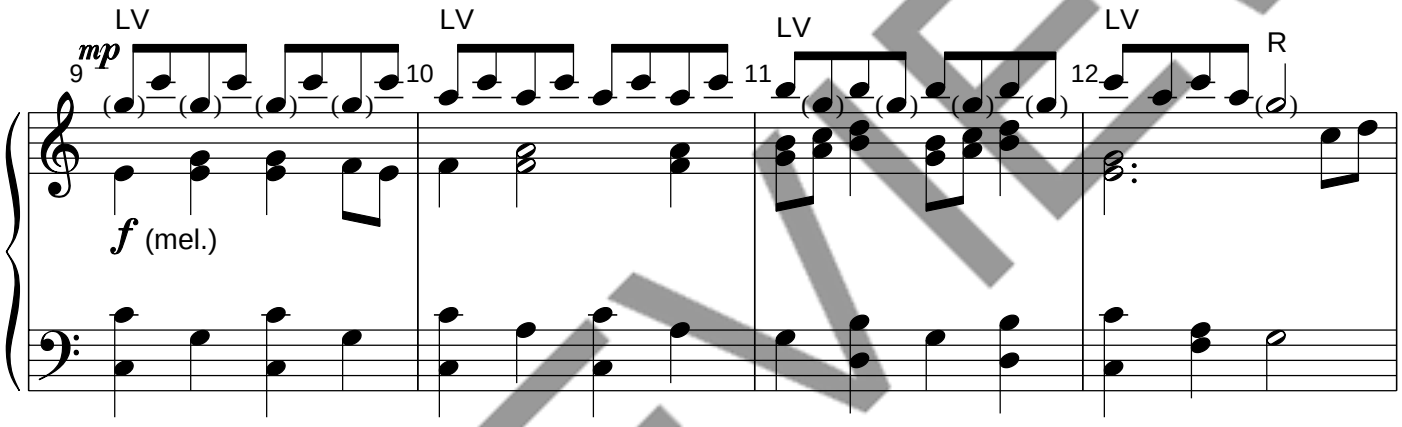
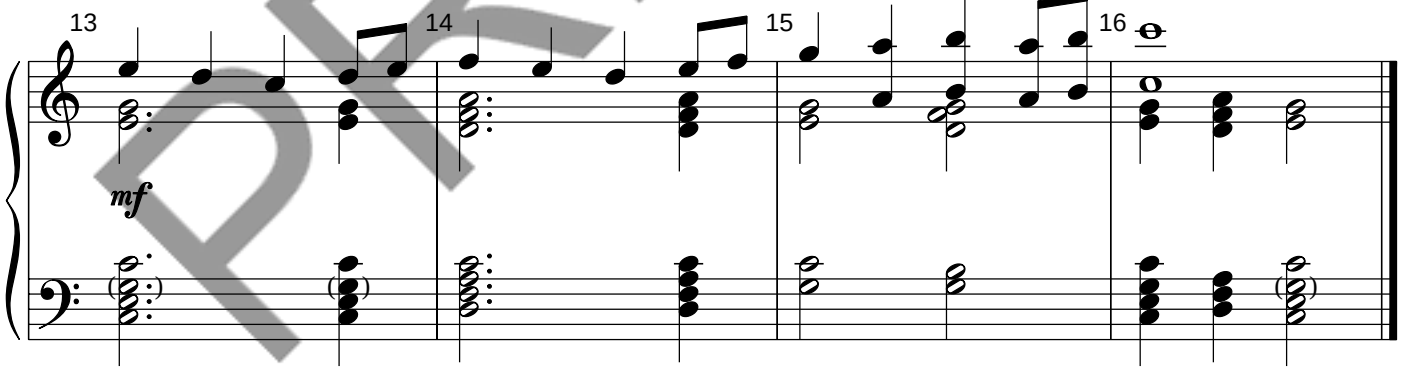
PREVIEW







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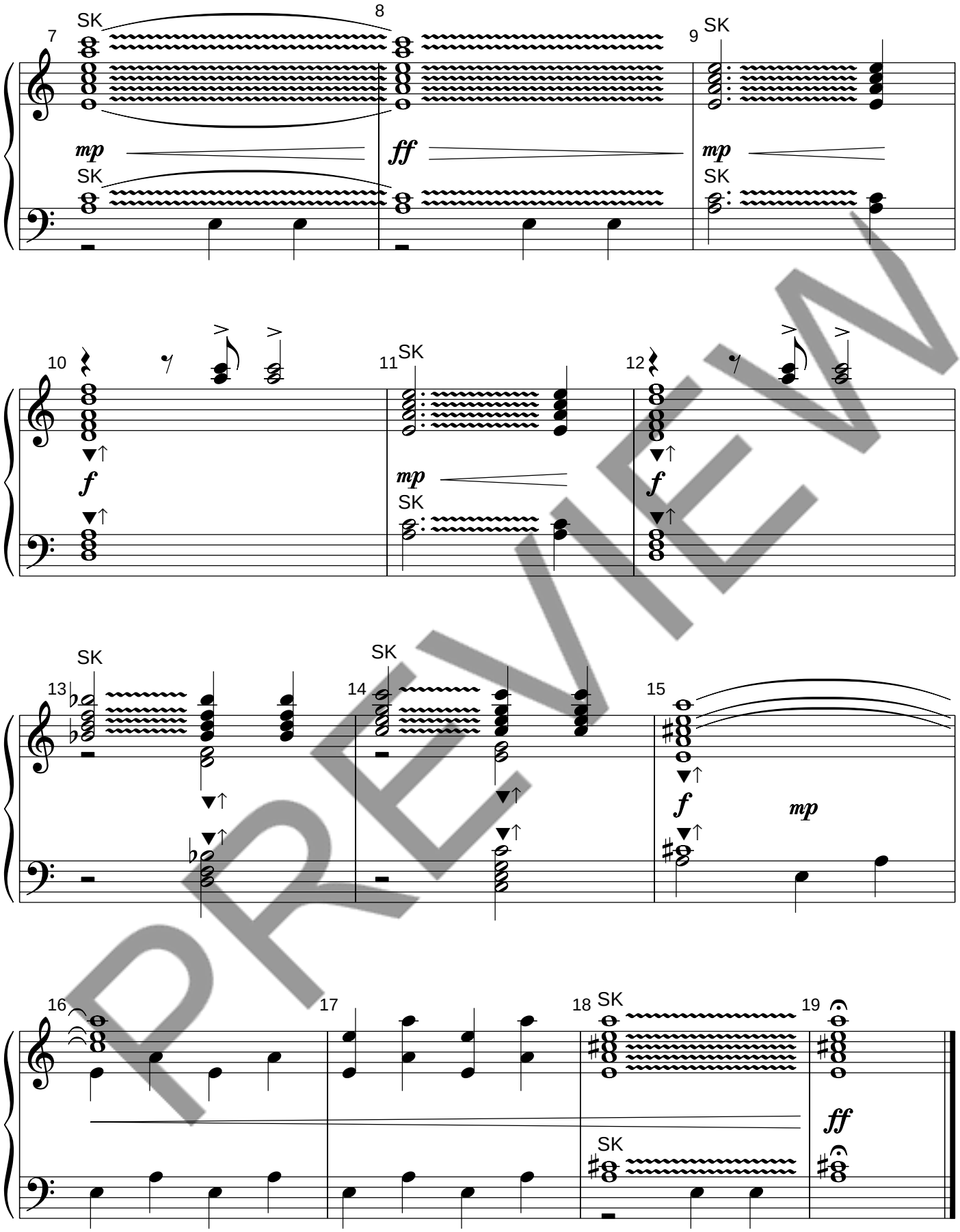
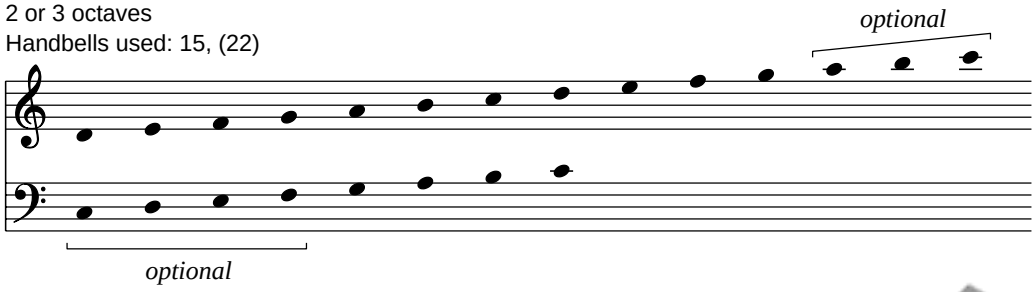


PREVIEW

The Ants

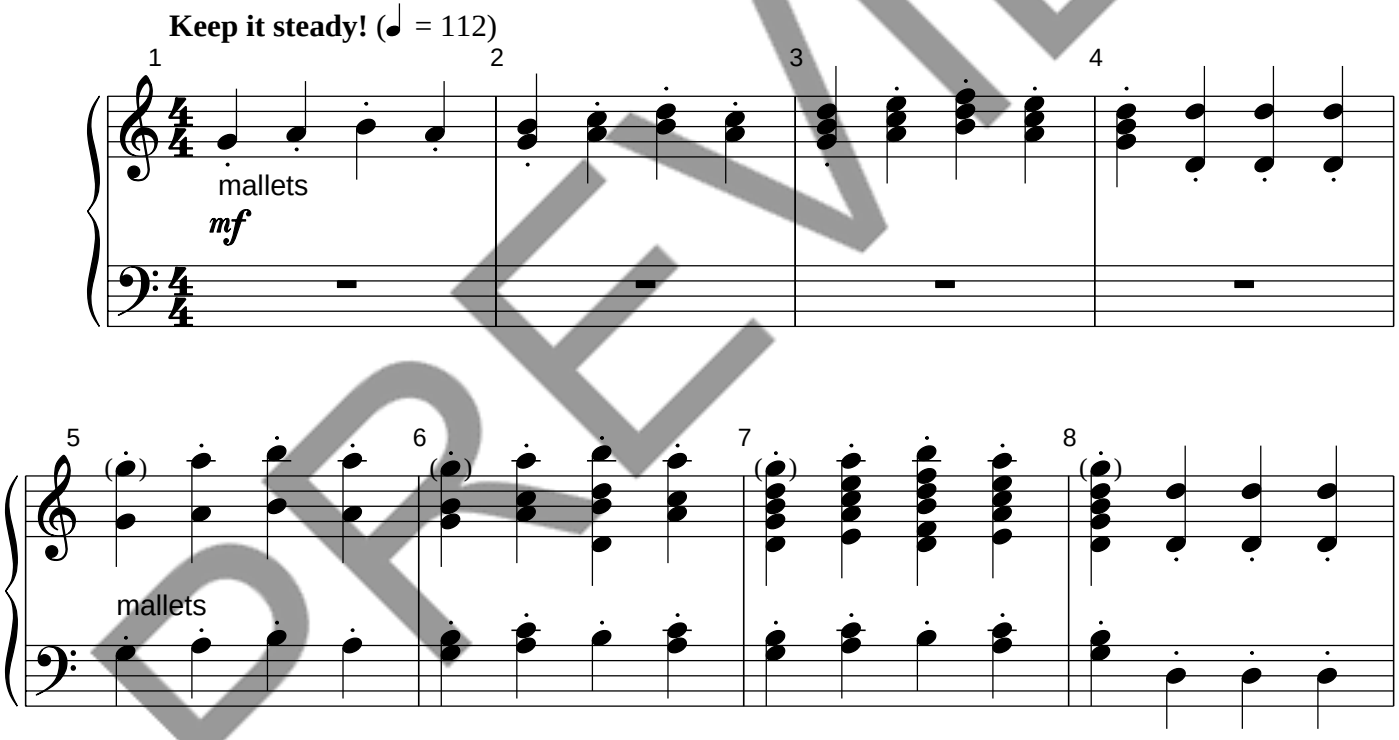


2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).

NARRATOR: "Next time you're tempted to be lazy, think about the little ants. They don't wait for mom and dad, or a teacher or a boss to tell them what to do. They work hard on their own to get ready for the future. Be smart like the ants!"

(Proverbs 6:6-8, paraphrased)

Tammy Waldrop



Performance notes:

· = Staccato - playable by mallets, plucking, or thumb damping. The preferred technique for this piece is mallets. With the bell resting on a padded table, strike it with a mallet on the outside of the bell in the same place the clapper strikes on the inside of the bell. This motion should be made with wrist action only, not the arm. Encourage ringers to think about the "rebound" pulse to avoid rushing the tempo. This technique was chosen to represent the steady steps of the diligent ant.

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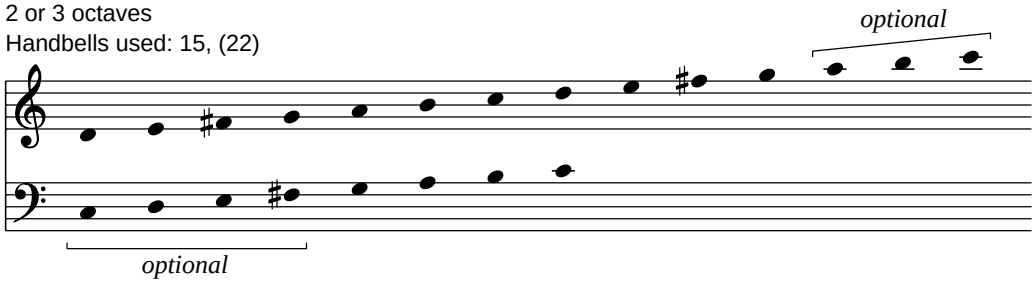
PREVIEW

The Whales

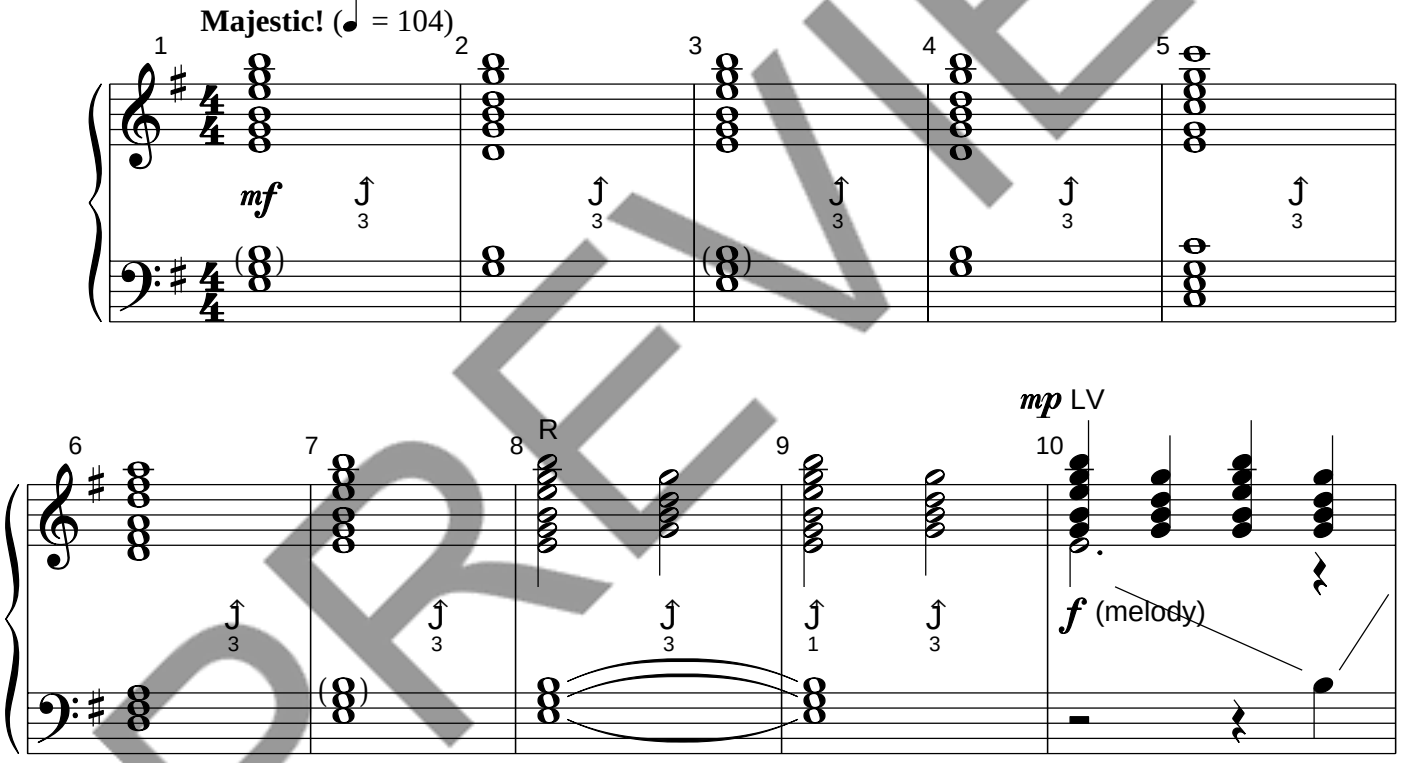


2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).

NARRATOR: "God created the great whales, and gave them the sea to live in. God takes care of all creation, and that includes you and me. Next time you feel unimportant, remember the whales."

(based on Genesis 1:21)

Tammy Waldrop



Performance notes:

ʃ = Echo - ring the handbell on beat one and then lightly touch the bell to a padded table on the beats notated. In this piece, the touch is always on beat 3, except for m. 9. There the echo is continued from m. 8 with the echo on beats 1 and 3. The echo was selected to give the impression of the great whales moving through the water.

LV = Let Vibrate - Ring the handbell and let its sound continue until you see another LV or R marking. Then, if you don't have a note, dampen the bell. In this piece, whenever you have an LV marking you are to play a medium-soft level. The LV was chosen to make the music resemble gentle water waves.

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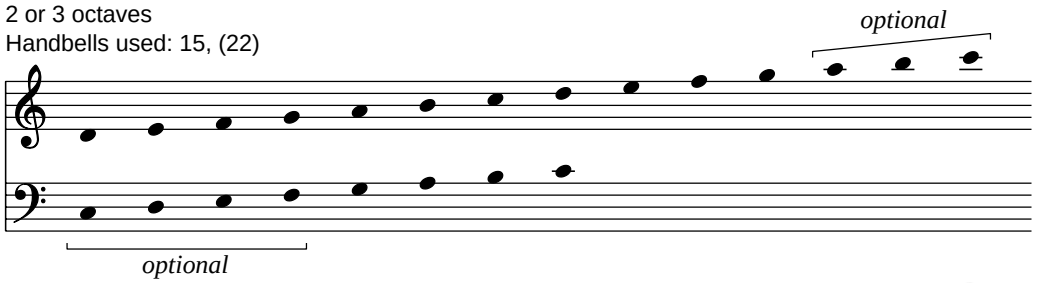
PREVIEW

The Eagle

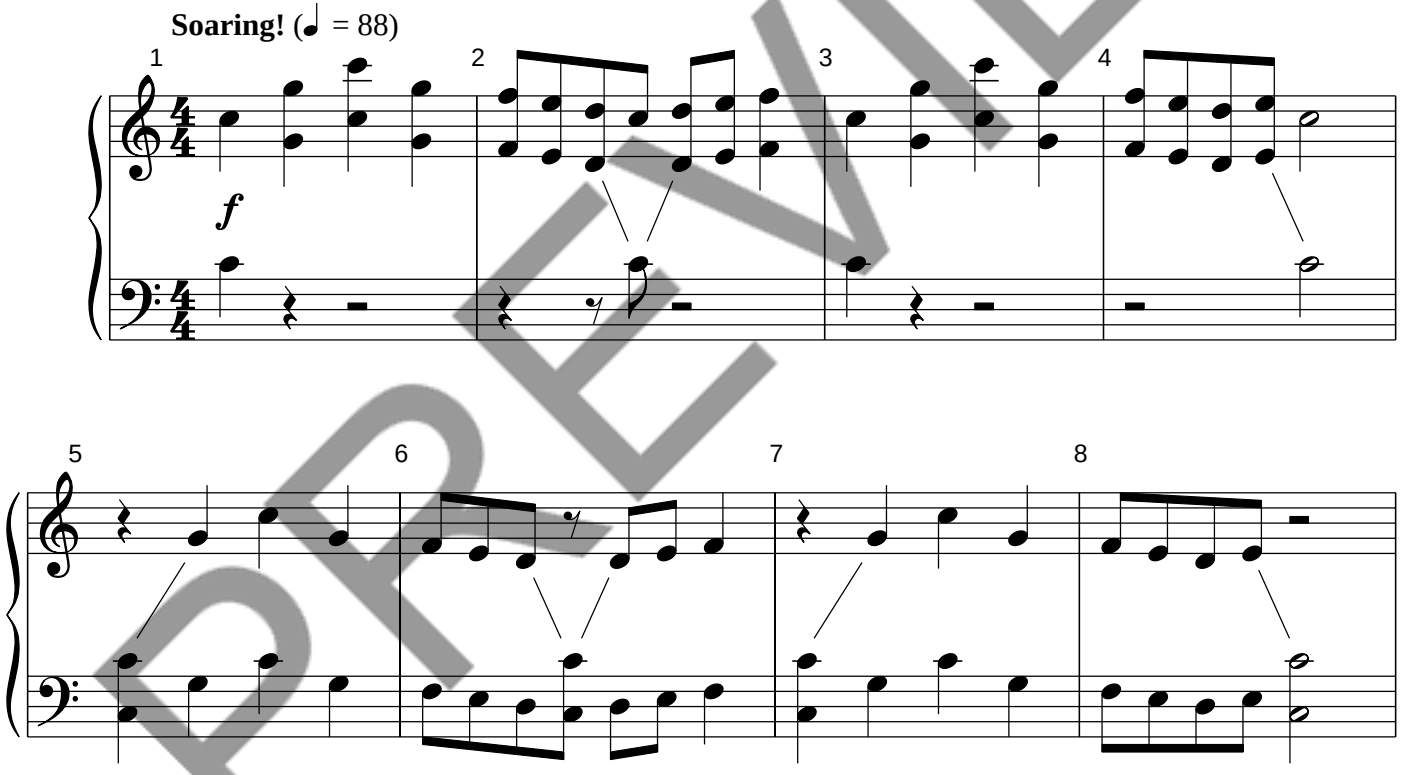


2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).

NARRATOR: "Everyone who waits for and hopes in the Lord will find new strength and energy. They will be like the eagles, who soar in the sky on mighty wings."

(Isaiah 40:31a, paraphrased)

Tammy Waldrop



Performance notes:

↻ = Gyro - To play a gyro, ring the handbell and keep it vertical. Then, with the wrist only, rotate the bell like swinging a lasso in slow motion to produce a slight vibration in sound. Only the marked **whole notes** ring the gyro in this piece, and it should take all four beats to complete one rotation. Gyros in m. 9-10 & 11-12 make two complete rotations - one per measure. Also, measure 26 may be extended to include two gyros - each of four beats. This technique was selected to represent the lazy circles eagles make when soaring in the sky.

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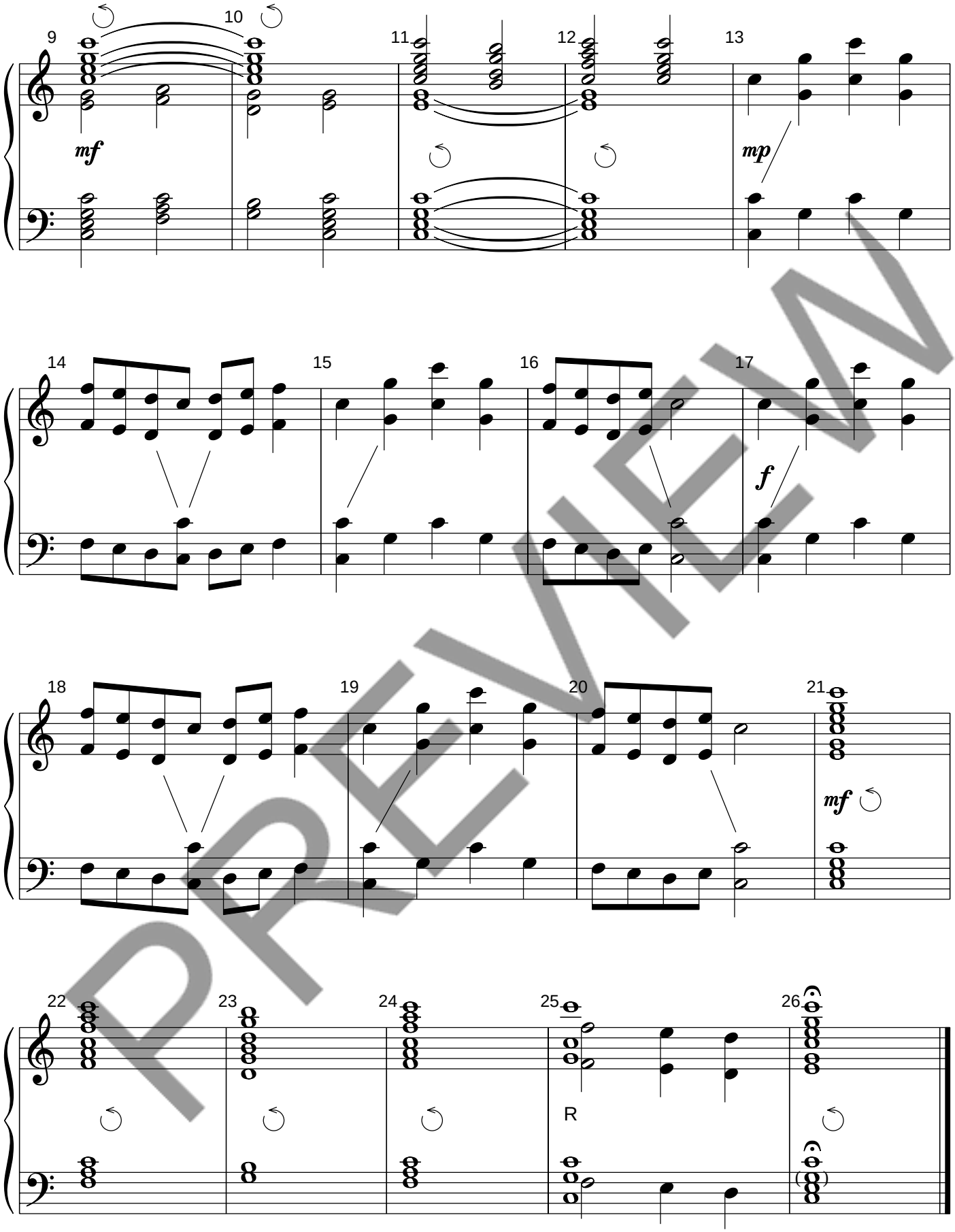

PREVIEW

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Notes from the Composer

God's creation fascinates me. Everywhere I turn, some aspect of God's character shines through nature. I see unconditional love in the faces of my dogs, shining light in the metallic colors of the dragonfly, and joy in the morning songs of the mockingbird. There are lessons that we can learn from the creatures God made – no matter their size.

– Tammy Waldrop

This suite of one hymn tune arrangement and four original compositions makes a great teaching tool in a fun setting. Each selection features one or more techniques along with performance notes.

Suggestions for use:

1. The narrator may read the narration under the title of each piece, and then the choir may ring that piece.
2. The narration may be omitted from any or all the pieces.
3. The order of the pieces was chosen for a pleasing flow when played as a suite. However, they may be played in any order desired, and one or more of the pieces may be omitted.
4. If desired, the hymn arrangement, "All Things Bright and Beautiful," may be played again at the end of the suite.

Other creative suggestions:

1. The ringers and/or narrator(s) may dress in costume for the different creatures. Masks or simple headbands can give the image quite nicely.
2. Use a multi-media visual effect of the different creatures such as a Power Point presentation, or slides.
3. Add dance to the presentation. Have a dancer(s) represent each creature. (For the ants, you'll need more than one to be realistic!)
4. Use puppets for the narrator(s). You may decide to make a puppet for each creature. All the creatures may say the opening narration together.

The End

PREVIEW