



Dedicated to the RiverBells of Sacramento, CA, Paul W. Allen, Director

# The Bells Heard 'Round the World

An original work for handbells and optional handchimes,  
incorporating change ringing from "The Plain Hunt"  
and the English traditional, "Oranges and Lemons Say the Bells of St. Clements"

3, 4, or 5 octaves

Handbells used: 27, (34), (41)

3 octave choirs omit notes in ( );  
4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ];  
5 octave choirs play all notes.

3 octaves

Optional handchimes used: 9

Joyfully (♩ = 120 - 132)

Valerie W. Stephenson

\*The Plain Hunt

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Musical notation system 1, measures 7-9. Treble and bass clefs. Measure numbers 7, 8, and 9 are indicated above the treble staff. A large watermark 'Piano' is visible across the page.

Musical notation system 2, measures 10-12. Treble and bass clefs. Measure numbers 10, 11, and 12 are indicated above the treble staff.

Musical notation system 3, measures 13-15. Treble and bass clefs. Measure numbers 13, 14, and 15 are indicated above the treble staff.

Musical notation system 4, measures 16-18. Treble and bass clefs. Measure numbers 16, 17, and 18 are indicated above the treble staff. The instruction *molto rit.* is written below the bass staff in measure 18. A fermata is placed over the final note of measure 18 in both staves.



40 \* 41 42

43 44 45

46 47 48

R

LV LV

\*Measures 40-43: Bring out the treble notes in squared notation.

The musical score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 58-59) features a piano part with a treble clef and a bass clef. Measure 58 is marked 'LV'. Measure 59 is marked 'R' and 'f'. The second system (measures 60-62) continues the piano part, with measures 60, 61, and 62 each marked 'LV'. The third system (measures 63-64) introduces a mallet part in the bass clef. Measure 63 is marked 'R' and has an asterisk above the first note. Measure 64 is marked 'SK'. The mallet part consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth notes and quarter notes.

\*Measure 63: Mart-lift F6 only.

71 SK SK 72 SK SK 73

74 SK 75 76

77 SK SK 78 SK SK 79

♩ = 132 or faster  
5 octave choirs double top note 8va

SK

80 81 82

7

LV

83 84 85

86 87 88

89 90 91

*molto rit.*

SK

LV

\*Measures 81-88: 5 octave choirs are reminded to double C6 with C7 only (no C8).



## Historical notes for “The Bells Heard 'Round the World”

*An original work for handbells and optional handchimes,  
incorporating change ringing from "The Plain Hunt"  
and the English traditional, "Oranges and Lemons Say the Bells of St. Clements"*

### **The “Plain Hunt”**

The opening of this piece begins with one of the first and most common change ringing patterns, the Plain Hunt. We chase the C's in this hunt. “Hunting” is described as follows: “The unvarying path of one bell, usually the treble, which starts by ringing first and gradually changes to being last (hunting up). The reverse process, from last to first, is called “hunting down.” This work begins and ends with this “hunt” and also incorporates an original tune and the following English melody.

### **“Oranges and Lemons”**

This is a well-known English nursery rhyme of unknown origin. It is possible that the children of London made up the words to fit the rhythm of the ringing bells. St. Clements is a small church, only 64 feet long and 40 feet wide, and stands huddled between two office blocks. There has been a church on this site since the 11th century, the present one being the third. The rhyme begins with this church because, at the time, the wharf where the citrus fruit cargoes from the Mediterranean were delivered lay just across the street. It is said the church bells pealed when a cargo arrived.

*Valerie W. Stephenson*