Starting Point
Volume 2

Reproducible music for
3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells or handchimes

by Sandra Eithun

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PREFACE

The purpose of the Starting Point collections is to offer simple music to young or beginning musicians that will foster success and provide the building blocks to future ringing experiences through repetition, the limited use of techniques, and no page turns (with the exception of The Merry Widow Waltz.)

The nine pieces in this collection range in difficulty from level 1- through level 1+ and include selections from folk, classical, sacred and original repertoire. They are ideal for use in school, sacred, or festival settings. Some of the pieces have optional repeats to use as length of performance dictates or as the director sees fit.

- The collection opens with Afterthoughts, an original level 1- piece comprised solely of whole and half notes. This piece offers the perfect opportunity to introduce ringing strokes, the vibrato technique, simple dynamic changes and a slight slowing of the tempo near the end.

- The next three familiar titles, Écossaise, Canon and Simple Gifts, are all level 1 offerings that begin to incorporate the quarter note and more dynamic variance, as well as the LV and echo techniques.

- Lovely Evening is a familiar, level 1 round and the first offering of the collection in 3/4 time. In this piece, ringers will be required to find and know their significance in the melodic line of the round as the lines weave in and out. The techniques of LV and swing are also incorporated. Directors and ringers may find it helpful to locate a vocal setting of this piece and sing it through straight and as a round to gain familiarity.

- Another 3/4 title from the classical repertoire is The Merry Widow Waltz. The LV technique becomes more frequent in this piece, which also includes the martellato technique in the final measure. (Handchime choirs should not use the martellato technique. Substitutions for handchimes are suggested on page 16.) This is the only piece in the collection that requires a page turn. It is an ideal offering to teach the concept of the “feel of the waltz” being a heavy-light-light feel. Ringers ought not punch too hard on beat one, but rather press into it for a more weighted feel.

- The last three titles in the collection, Ancient Voices, Wayfaring Stranger, and Wings of Song are the level 1+ offerings as they introduce the idea of an accidental for some ringers. Techniques, dynamics and tempo changes also become more frequent, making these three titles the most challenging of the collection.

– Sandra Eithun

Also Available:

An edition for 2 or 3 octaves is also available, code CGB963. The two editions are fully compatible for festivals and other massed ringing events.
Afterthoughts

3, 4 or 5 octaves
Handbells or handchimes used: 22, (29), (35)

Thoughtfully \( (q = 96-104) \)
Sandra Eithun

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Écossaise

3, 4 or 5 octaves
Handbells or handchimes used: 22, (27*), (36)

Light and dance-like ($\frac{q}{\text{ }} = 132-140$)

from Six Écossaises for Piano
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827
arr. Sandra Eithun

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Canon

Moderato \( \text{\( q \) = 112-116} \)

Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706
arr. Sandra Eithun

based on Canon in D

3, 4 or 5 octaves
Handbells or handchimes used: 22, (29), (35)

optional

3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).
4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].

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CGB964
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On Wings of Song

3, 4 or 5 octaves
Handbells or handchimes used: 28, (35), (42)

optional

3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).
4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].

Flowing tenderly \( \frac{\text{q}}{=} \ 120-128 \)

from Six Songs for Voice and Piano
Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847
arr. Sandra Eithun

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