The Church Chimer

106 pieces in treble clef notation for 8 bells

T G Howell



Foreword

There is now an impressive collection of music composed and arranged for the carillon, those instruments ranging in size from two octaves up to four octaves and larger. Carillonneurs are therefore spoilt for choice in choosing repertoire for any occasion or for diverse audiences, when playing on instruments of 23-bells and more.

For the carillonneur visiting a chime, or for the resident chimer, there is not so much repertoire ready to hand. I have long advocated that baton chimes, those instruments of less that 22 bells which are played from the traditional baton keyboard, have an important place in the carillon art, concerned as it is with making music on tower bells, and with exploiting their musical possibilities.

These smaller instruments are often fine additions to a local church, for which they can fulfil their primary purpose of acting as a call to worship. The chime is both a voice to the community proclaiming the Gospel, and a means of bringing music both sacred and secular to a wider audience who would otherwise be unaware of the church's presence.

Many years ago, John Knox produced a most valuable collection, A Chimer's Tune Book [1], consisting of almost 130 tunes for a wide range of chimes. Now Thomas Howell, an accomplished organist who has recently taken a keen interest in the chime at the Church of the English Martyrs, Sparkhill, in Birmingham. He has contributed The Church Chimer, a most impressive compilation of chime music. The particular value of this new book is the focus on the smaller chime, those of 8 bells and less. (There are some 40 baton chimes in Britain and Ireland alone [2], the most common range being that of 8 bells).

Since the majority of chimes are in churches, there will always be a need for hymn tunes for any part of the Church's year, and for any occasion. The Church Chimer fulfils such a need, having a hundred or more such tunes. Moreover, whilst change-ringing can be performed on any chime or carillon, there is something particularly apposite about employing the smaller chime for this purpose. Tom has provided 15 bell methods, all painstakingly typeset in treble-clef notation – a most useful resource for chimers and carillonneurs who want to perform change-ringing as part of their recital or as a call to worship for church-based instruments.

Chime instruments throughout the land can sometimes seem to be out-of-sight, out-of-mind. This new contribution to chime music may go some way to restoring their profile within the community. It will be invaluable for carillonneurs who make occasional visits to chimes, and for chimers everywhere.

Michael Boyd Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland May 2023.

[1] A publication of the Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland [2] Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland, Newsletter 94

Editorial Notes

All tunes have been transposed to fit a standard diatonic octave specification. For pieces in F major or D minor, a courtesy key signature has been given (but, these pieces do not require B-flat). In change ringing, the approximate beat of silence between hand-stroke and back-stroke is not notated.

In the 'hymnal' part of the book, there are no performance suggestions marked, so it is up to the good taste of the chimer to decide these matters. Slurs represent text melismas and phrase endings / 'breaths' are represented by commas.

The hymn tunes are direct (mostly transposed) transcriptions, with the exception of:

Hymn number 1. 3rd system, F-natural originally F-sharp.

28. 3rd system bar 3, *F-natural* originally *F-sharp*.

34. Penultimate note D-natural originally B-natural.

- 35. 3rd system 1st crotchet A-natural originally quavers A-natural and B-flat.
- 44. 3rd system, last note G-natural, originally an octave lower.
- 45. 2nd system, 2nd bar, minim *D-natural*, originally crotchets *D-natural*, *B-natural*.
- 48. Theme only from a longer work.
- 51. 1st system and 2nd system penultimate note *D*-natural originally *B*-natural.
- 58. 3rd system A-natural originally an octave lower.
- 65. Theme only from a longer work.
- 72. Penultimate note of final system D-natural originally B-natural.
- 84. Second system, penultimate note A-natural originally F-sharp.
- 99. D-naturals marked with an asterisks are originally B-naturals.

The above changes are marked in the score with an asterisk (*) above the altered note.

Works have been listed alphabetically according to the text names, rather than tune names as I want lyricism to be at the forefront of performers' minds.

Front Cover

The front cover shows the tower of English Martyrs' Roman Catholic Church, Sparkhill which houses a Taylor chime of eight bells in A. The chime is played from a baton clavier, on the same level as the west end church organ gallery, adjacent to the tower. The bells are hung on two tiers, in a steel framework. Inscribed on the bells are the names of parishioners who died during the second world war. There is no clock, nor hour chime, but, there is an automatic angelus bell and an automatic continuous toll (both functions use the chime's tenor bell).

Thanks

I would like to note the late John Knox's book 'A Chimer's Tune Book' published by the CSBI as this has served as a foundation for my anthology. Knox's edition of 'Gartan' (12a), 'Resonet in Laudibus' (89) and his arrangement of 'C'est la Noël' (94) appear here by kind permission of the CSBI. I wish to note my thanks to Scott Orr of the Carillon Society of Britain and Ireland (CSBI) for his 'introduction to proper technique for playing a chime'. I also thank Michael Boyd for his 'foreword' to this book.

Thomas Gethin Howell

A complete index of pieces

Hymns, Anthems, Sacred Songs and Spirituals

1	A mighty fortress	Ein' feste Burg
2	All creatures of our God and King	Lasst uns erfreuen
3	Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	Hyfrydol
4	Amazing Grace	Amazing Grace
5	Around the throne of God	Solothurn
6	At the name of Jesus	Evelyns
7	Be still and know that I am God	
8	Be still my soul	Finlandia
9	Blest are the pure in heart	Franconia
10	Break thou the bread of life	Lathbury
11	Brightest and best	Epiphany
12	Christ be with me	Gartan
13	Christ is the world's true light	Christe Sanctorum
14	Chris whose glory fills the skies	Ministres de l'Éternel
15	The Church of God is a kingdom	Capel
16	Come thou font of every blessing	Nettleton
17	Come, thou long-expected Jesus	Halton Holgate
18	Creator of the stars of night	Conditor Alme
19	Dearest Jesus, we are here	Liebster Jesu
20	Faithful Shepherd, feed me	Pastor Pastorum
	<i>and</i> Faithful vigil ended	
21	Father of heaven, whose love profound	Rievaulx
22	Fight the good fight with all thy might	Duke Street
23	Firmly I believe and truly	Halton Holgate
24	For Mary, mother of our Lord	Kilmarnock
25	Give us the wings of faith	Song 67
26	God moves in a mysterious way	London New
27	Hail Easter bright in glory dight	Southwold
28	Hail the day that sees Him rise	Llanfair

29	Hail, O Star that pointest	Ave maris stella
30	Hail, Queen of heav'n, the ocean star!	Stella
31	Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer	Wigtown
32	The Heavenly child in stature grows	Tallis' Ordinal
33	Holy, holy, holy!	Nicaea
34	How sweet the name of Jesus sounds	St Peter
35	I Heard the voice of Jesus say	Kingsfold
36	In Christ there is no east or west	Manchester
37	In His temple now behold him	Webbe's St Thomas
38	In the cross of Christ I glory	Wychbold
39	It is a thing most wonderful	Herongate
40	Jerusalem, thou city blest	Newbury
41	Jesu grant me this, I pray	Song 13
42	Jesu meek and lowly	St Martin
43	Jesus, where'er thy people meet	St Sepulchre
44	Joyful, joyful we adore Thee	Ode to Joy
45	Just as I am without one plea	Saffron Walden
46	The King of love my shepherd is	St Columba
47	Kum ba yah	
48	Largo from 9th Symphony Dvořák	
49	Lead me, Lord	
50	The Lord is risen indeed	Narenza
51	The Lord's my shepherd	Brother James' Air
52	Lord, teach us how to pray aright	St Hugh
53	Lord, who shall sit beside thee	Christus der ist mein Leben
54	Lord who through these forty days	Cheshire
55	My faith looks up to thee	Olivet
56	My God, I love thee, not because	St Francis Xavier
57	Now let us from this table rise	Solothurn
58	Now the green blade riseth	Noël Nouvelet
59	O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire	Metzler's Redhead No. 66

60 O day of rest and gladness

Herzlich tut mich erfreuen

44 Ode to joy

61	O faith of England taught of old	Genevan Psalter Psalm 68
62	O holy spirit, Lord of grace	Tallis' Ordinal
63	O love, how deep, how broad, how high!	Eisenach
64	O most holy	O Sanctissima
65	O rest in the Lord from Elijah	
66	O Spirit of the living God	Ludborough
67	O thou who camest from above	Hereford
86	When the saints go marching in	
68	Palms of glory, raiment bright	Boyce
69	Praise to the holiest in the height	Somervell
70	Prayer is the soul's sincere desire	Mendip
71	Put thou thy trust in God	Doncaster
72	Rock of ages cleft for me	Petra
73	Sanctus from Schubert's <i>Deutsche Messe</i>	
74	Sing to the Lord glad hymns of praise	St Hugh of Lincoln
75	The Sinless one to Jordan came	Solemnis haec festivitas
76	Skye boat song	
77	Steal Away	
78	The strife is o'er	Victory
79	Suo Gân	
80	Tell out my soul	Woodlands
81	Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour, Thee	Adoro te
82	Thou hallowed chosen morn of praise	Mach's mit mir Gott
83	Through the day Thy love has spared us	Dretzel
84	We hail thy presence glorious	Offertorium
85	We love thy place, O God	Quam Dilecta
86	When the Saints go marching in	
87	Ye choirs of new Jerusalem	St Fulbert
88	Ye watchers and ye holy ones	Lasst uns erfreuen

Carols

89	All the world with praises rings	Resonet in Laudibus
90	Behold, the great Creator makes	This endris nyght
91	The First Nowell	
92	From east to west, from shore to shore	Vom Himmel hoch
93	How brightly shines the morning star	Wie schön leuchtet
94	It's Christmas, I count the days, I wait for the snow	C'est La Nöel
95	Joy to the world!	Antioch
96	Lord God, open the door	Seigneur Dieu ouvre la porte
97	People look east, the time is near	
98	Sing we now of Christmas	Noël Nouvelet
99	Wassail from Yorkshire	Wassail from Yorkshire
100	Whence is that goodly fragrance	Quelle est cette odeur agréable?
	Original Compositions for Chime	
P36	Air	
P37	Canzona á 2	
P38	Concert Sequence	
	Methods	
P39	Plain Hunt Major	
P40	Grandsire Triples	

P42 Double Norwich Court Bob Major

Highlighted numbers indicate tunes that require only six bells.

An introduction to proper technique for playing a chime

by Scott Allan Orr

The primary aim above all is to produce music that is communicative, expressive, and free of mistakes. Balancing these factors will allow for music worth listening to and fitting of any occasion.

The performer

Although there is no standard title, one who makes music on a chime can be called a *chimer*, or *chime player*. This person should normally be able to read music in the treble clef.

Understanding the instrument

A chime is an instrument played from a baton keyboard, composed of 22 or fewer bells. Beyond this definition, chimes come in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Before you begin playing, take the time to understand the instrument's layout and mechanics; the batons will be arranged like a keyboard instrument, composed of two rows of batons (the lower naturals and upper sharps and flats). Typically, most of the 'white' notes will be present across the instrument's range, but some of the 'black' notes will be missing, especially in the lower range of the instrument.

Chime keyboards do not follow a design standard. Some instruments will have a deeper 'keyfall', meaning that the baton must be lowered further to reach its maximum depression near which the clapper will strike the inside of the bell.

Almost all chimes are transposing instruments, like many orchestral instruments. However, transpositions are not standardised. Generally, the largest bell is connected to a 'low C', regardless of its pitch, and each bell is then connected to notes of the musical scale relative to this bell.

The transposition is a crucial factor in the 'weight' of the chime. A chime that does not transpose will have a C weighing over two tons, with a proportionally large clapper. While the transmission system will also influence the weight, this instrument will likely require more force to be played than one which transposes up a 6th (i.e. a bourdon connected to C sounding an A above middle C). On a heavier chime, it will be more difficult to play quickly. As well, the batons might take longer to return to their resting position.

Adjustment

Some chimes will have an adjustment mechanism. Using turnbuckles slightly above the clavier (sometimes behind the rack for music), the chime should be adjusted prior to each playing session. General practice is to commence with the smallest bell. If a 'staccato' effect is heard when playing the key, adjust the turnbuckle to increase the distance between the clapper and the bell. Play the note as quietly as you are likely to do so for musical purposes: if a sound is made, adjust the turnbuckle so the clapper is slightly further away. If no sound is made, return the turnbuckle to its original position. Note that either a clockwise or anticlockwise motion to increase the distance between the clapper and the bell is dictated by the variety of turnbuckle and both are commonly found.

Handling

In general, batons should be struck with a fist or with a loosely open hand. In the former case, the fist should not be clenched but should be sufficiently tight so that fingers do not get stuck between the batons. In the latter case, the baton should be lightly held between the thumb and index fingers. Using an open hand can also enable multiple notes to be played with a single hand, however this generally requires good preparation (see below). On lighter baton chimes (i.e. those composed of smaller bells), it may be possible to play some or all of the notes by depressing the batons with finger tips. This can be an effective technique, particularly for expressive playing, but will depend on the characteristics, particularly the 'weight' of the

instrument mechanism. Consecutive notes should ideally be played with alternating hands, as this allows for the best preparation (see below). When this is not feasible 'hooking' is used, which means that consecutive notes are played by the same hand.

Preparation

Of fundamental importance is that notes should be 'prepared'. Prior to being sounded, a note should be lowered from its resting position almost to the lowest point of the 'keyfall' near to the point at which the clapper would strike the bell. From here, the bell should be struck with either a flick of the wrist (when playing with a closed fist) or a turning of the wrist (in the case of open-hand playing). The dynamic of the note produced is therefore determined by the speed at which these motions happen. With this technique, all dynamics are possible.

Once a note has been played, the next note should be immediately prepared. This can be understood as a 'jump' between the keys in question. The speed of this jump is independent of the musical tempo. Rather, being undertaken as quickly as possible to enable 'preparation' (described above).

Preparation may also be required for repeated notes. In this case, the baton may be 'caught' midway in its rise to the resting position. This is more efficient than allowing the baton to rise fully before again preparing it.

Expressive playing

Chimes are capable of enormous dynamic ranges. If well adjusted, and a proper technique (including preparation) is used, then all possible dynamics from pianissimo to fortissimo are possible. The playing of a chime should therefore observe musical expression as with any other instrument that shares these properties. Melodic lines should be shaped and accompanying notes that embellish the harmonic and /or rhythmic structure of the melody, should be played at a lesser dynamic level.

Practice Techniques

One practice option is to play the chime keyboard 'silently', preparing the notes and becoming familiar with the music while not actually striking the bells and producing sound. Prior to being performed, music should be studied. Handling (analogous to fingering on other keyboard instruments) can be marked in the score with vertical dashes above and below the note, for the right and left hands, respectively. 'Hooking' can be annotated by bridging the dashes. There is no mechanism for damping the sound after a bell has been struck. It is better to play the piece at a slower tempo or omit some notes so as not to make mistakes. If the piece has an accompaniment, it is important to prioritise the melody or main voice above other notes.

Arranging and composing music for chimes

An important factor of how to arrange and compose music for chimes is the 'weight' (see above *Understand the instrument*). However, some general principles can be observed to ensure that arrangements of music and new compositions for chimes are idiomatic:

Rapid passages on larger bells should be avoided as they are difficult to play due to the heavier clappers and may become 'muddled', as the bells sound for longer than smaller bells.

Rapid harmonic progressions should be avoided on larger bells: with the longer-sounding bells, these may become 'muddled' and lose their integrity. However, when done correctly these can be very effective, for example a rapid change based on a minor third interval, i.e. from I (e.g. a C major chord) to III (e.g. an E major chord), can capitalise on the unique sound qualities of well-tuned bells.

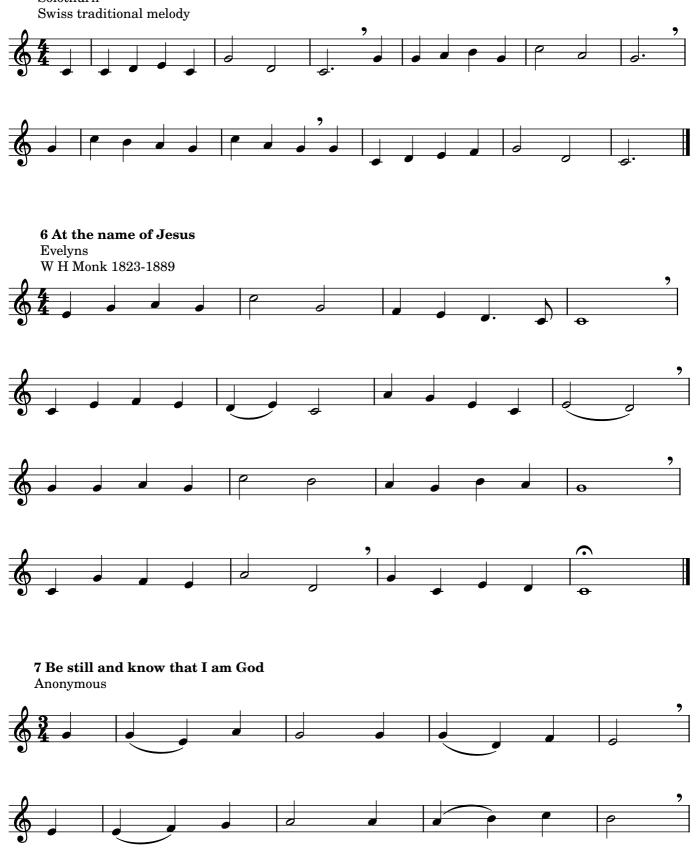
Generally, on chime instruments, 'thin' textures (eliminating all unnecessary notes melodically and harmonically), are desirable. The sounds of each bell (each composed of 5 principal overtones) provide a rich harmonic texture on their own. Music which is spaced out, similar to that written for guitars and similar instruments, is generally a very effective texture on chimes.

Hymns, Anthems, Sacred Songs and Spirituals.

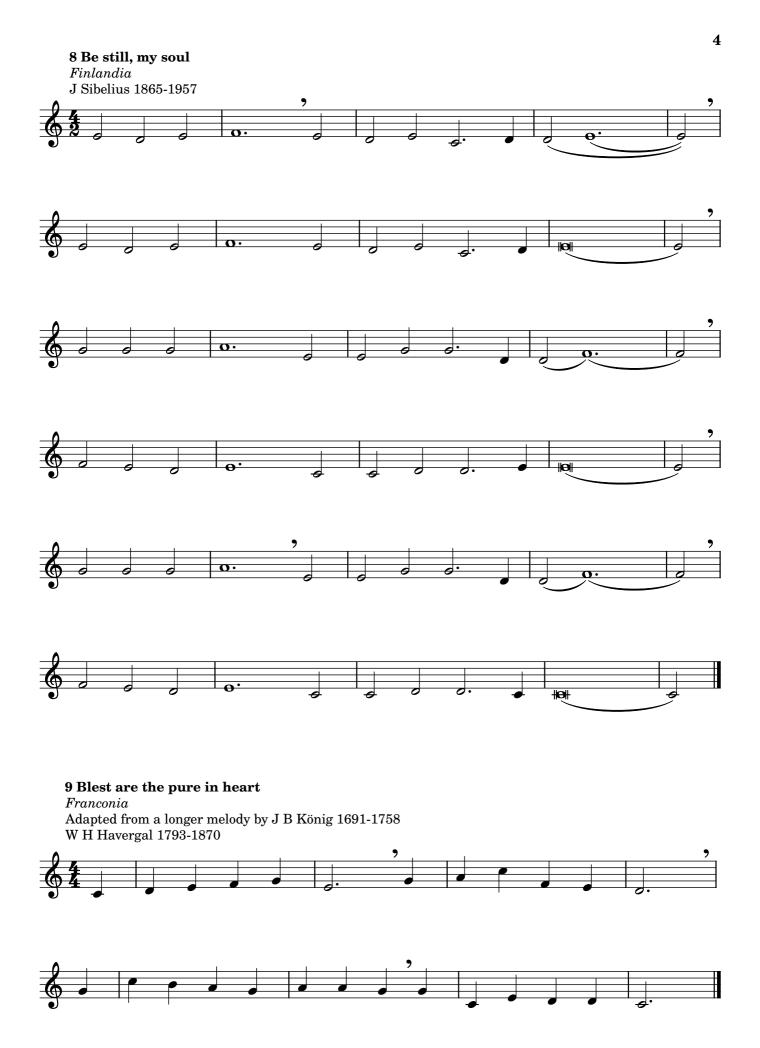




5 Around the throne of God Solothurn



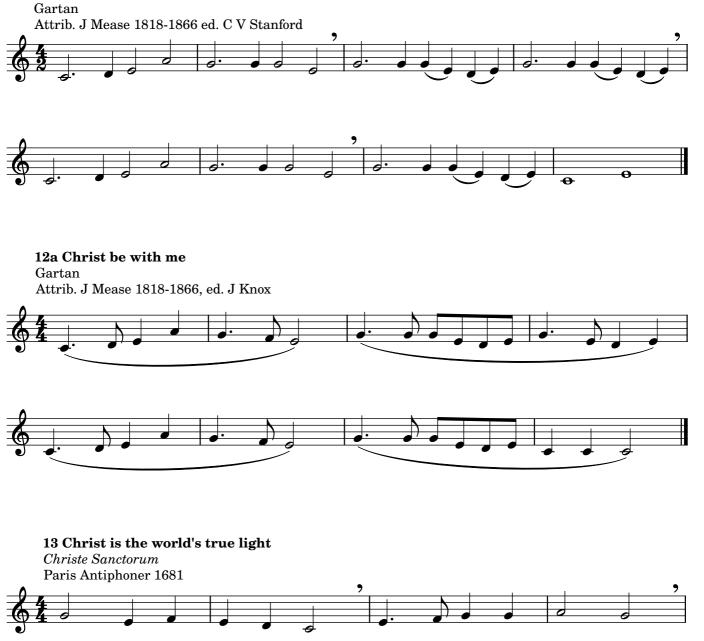




10 Break thou the bread of life Lathbury W Sherwin 1826-1888 6 6 **11 Brightest and Best** Epiphany J F Thrupp 1827-1867

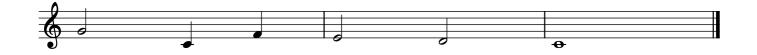
5

12 Christ be with me









7 14 Christ, whose glory fills the skies Ministres de l'Éternel Psalm 135 Genevan Psalter 1562 • • • . . . Z • • 15 The Church of God is a kingdom CapelEnglish carol melody collected by Lucy Broadwood 1858-1929 _____ 6 16 Come thou fount of every blessing Nettleton J Wyeth 1770-1858 • . • 6

17 Come, thou long-expected Jesus Halton Holgate







19 Dearest Jesus, we are here *Liebster Jesu* J R Ahle 1625-1673





20 Faithful Shepherd, feed me and Faithful Vigil Ended

Pastor Pastorum F Silcher 1789-1860





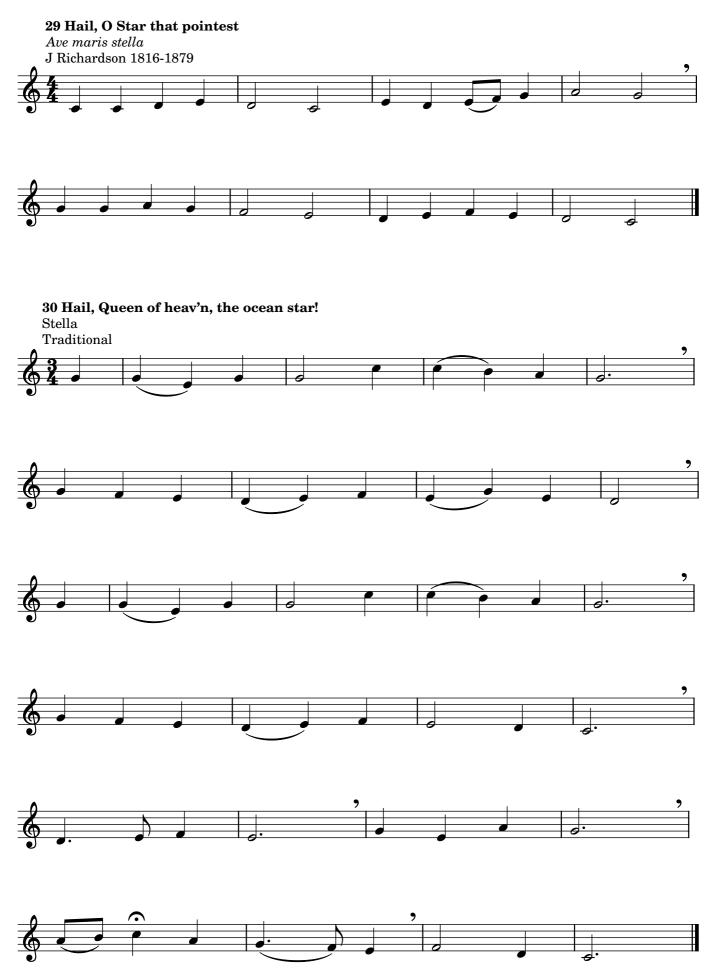
23 Firmly I believe and truly Halton Holgate W Boyce 1711-1779 <u>See **17 Come, thou long-expected Jesus**</u>



26 God moves in a mysterious way







13 31 Heal us, Emmanuel, hear our prayer Wigtown Scotish Psalter 1635 6 32 The heavenly child in stature grows Tallis' Ordinal T Tallis 1505-1585 . . 6 33 Holy, holy, holy! Nicaea J B Dykes 1823-1876 0 0 đ Ē • • • • • 6 0 . . .



37 In His temple now behold him Webbe's St Thomas



40 Jerusalem, thou city blest Newbury **Traditional English** Ĩ . . 41 Jesu grant me this, I pray Song 13 O Gibbons 1583-1625 • 0 Ż Omit on heavier chimes. 42 Jesu meek and lowly St Martin C Ett from 'Cantica Sacra' 1840 0 0 43 Jesus, where'er thy people meet St Sepulchre G Cooper 1820-1876 .

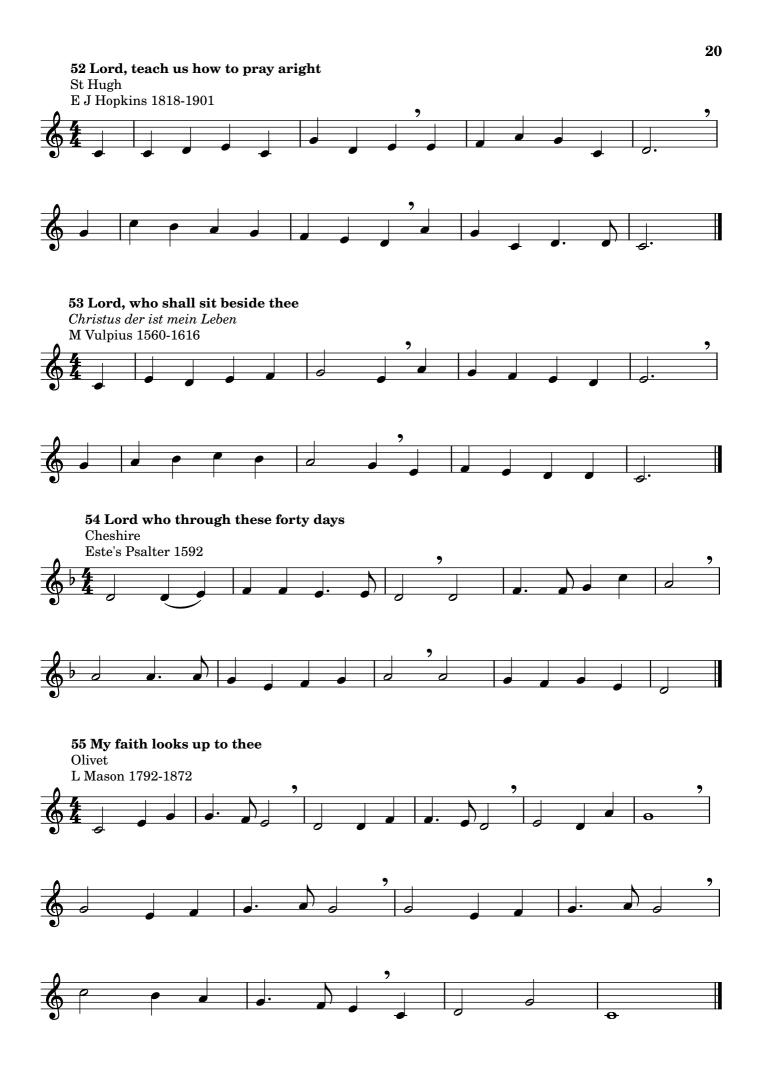


46 The King of love my shepherd is

St Columba







56 My God, I love thee, not because St Francis Xavier





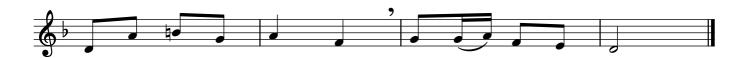
57 Now let us from this table rise Solothurn Swiss traditional melody See **5 Around the throne of God**

58 Now the green blade riseth









59 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire Metzler's Redhead No. 66





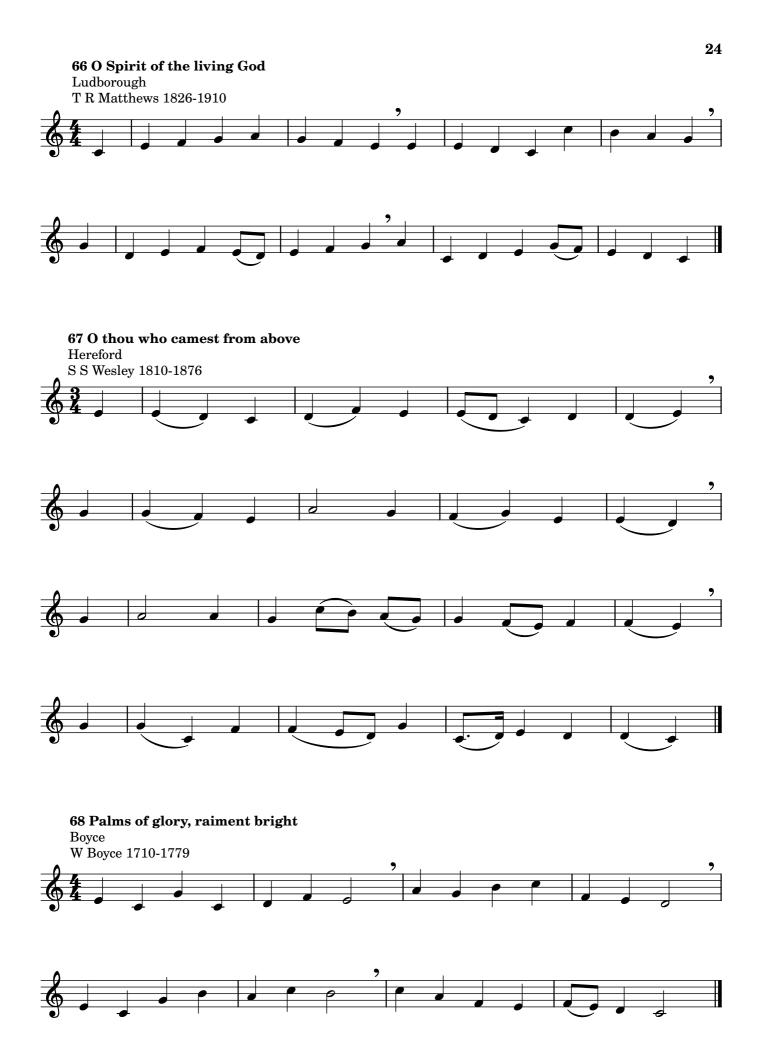
60 O day of rest and gladness

Herzlich tut mich erfreuen Founded on a German medieval melody



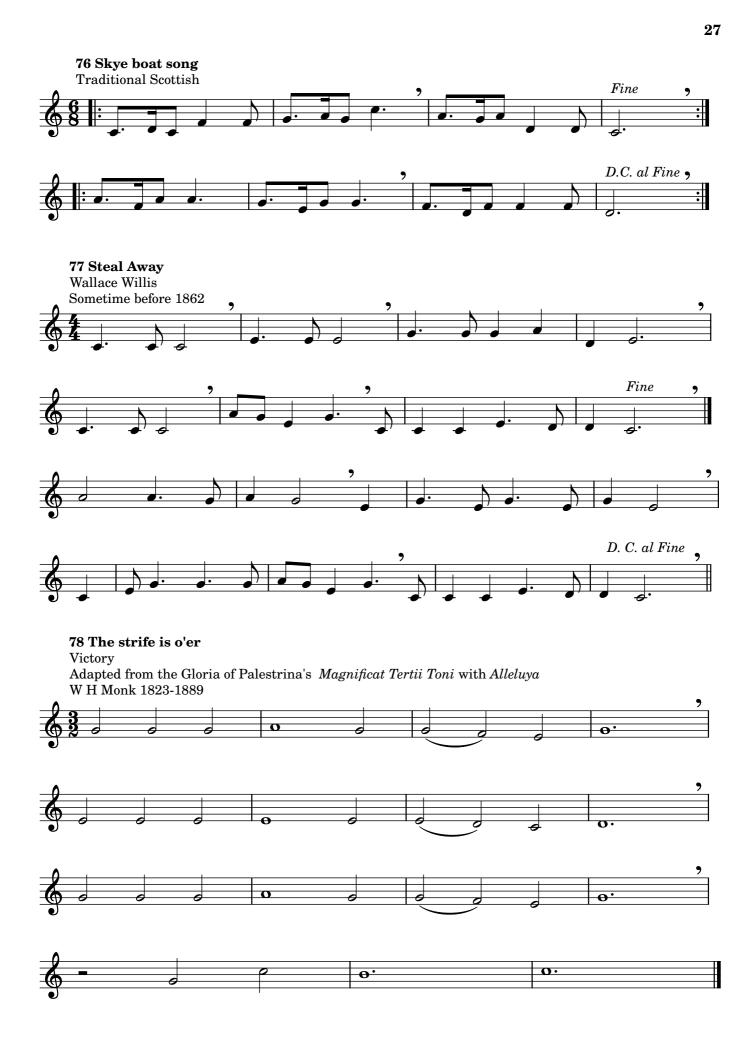
62 O holy spirit, Lord of grace Tallis' Ordinal T Tallis 1505-1585 See **32 The heavenly child in stature grows**



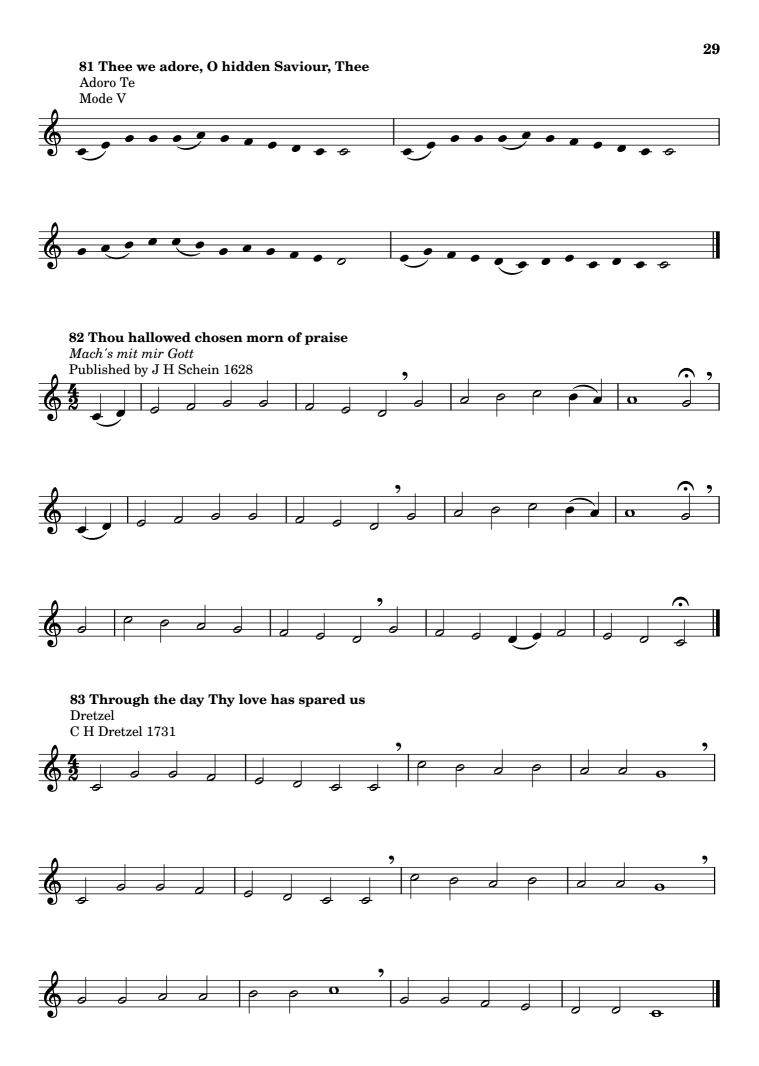


 $\mathbf{25}$ 69 Praise to the holiest in the height Somervell A Somervell 1863-1937 • 4 0 70 Prayer is the soul's sincere desire Mendip Traditional Somerset song Collected by C Sharp 1859-1924 P P • 71 Put thou thy trust in God Doncaster S Wesley 1766-1837 0. 72 Rock of ages cleft for me Petra R Redhead 1820-1901 using the shape of a Spanish Tantum Ergo . • • -. 6









84 We hail thy presence glorious *Offertorium*



87 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem St Fulbert



88 Ye watchers and ye holy ones Lasst uns erfreuen Geistliche Kirchengesäng 1623 See **2 All creatures of our God and King**

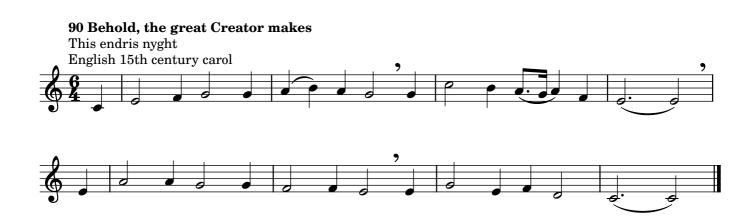
Christmas Carols.

89 All the world with praises rings

Resonet in Laudibus























94 It's Christmas, I count the days, I wait for the snow *C'est la Noël* Provence Carol arr. J Knox





96 Lord God, open the door

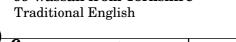








98 Sing we now of Christmas *Noël Nouvelet* French Carol <u>See **58 Now the green blade riseth**</u> 99 Wassail from Yorkshire





Original Compositions for Chimes.



Canzona á 2 T G Howell 2023 *Composed for St. David's, Neath*











'Concert Sequence' S A Price 2023 Comissioned for the church centenary recital at English Martyrs' RC Church, Sparkhill.



Included by kind permission of the composer.











Grandsire Triples





























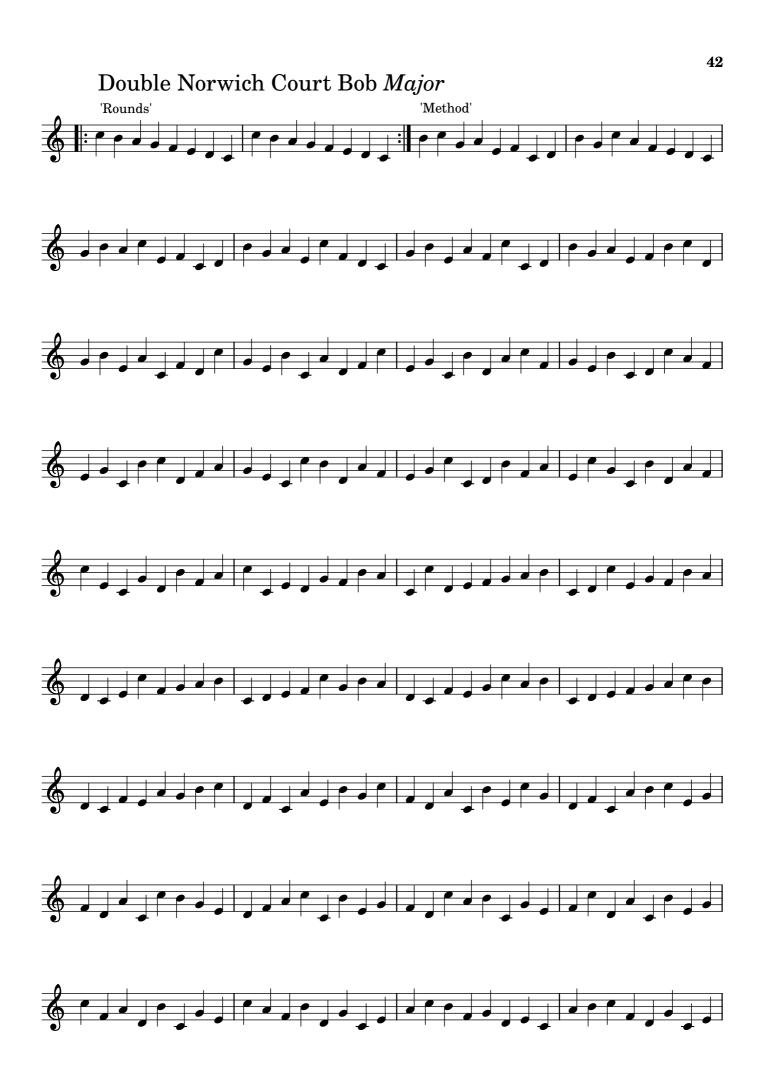




















































Liturgical Index

	This list is intended as a guide only. Hymn tunes are listed only once. However, they may be appropriate at many times in the church year. Change ringing lends itself to particularly joyous occasions.
Advent Gaudete Sunday only	17, 18, 80, 97.
Christmas	89-99.
Epiphany	11, 13, 29, 75, 92, 100.
Baptism of Jesus	See 'Baptism and Confirmation' and 32.
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General	1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 21, 22, 23, 26, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 52, 53, 57, 61, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 77, 81, 83, 84, 85.

Modern tunes not included in this book:

As the deer pants for the water - *C major (8 bells).* Bind us together, Lord - *C major (6 bells).* Colours of day - *C major (6 bells).* Little Donkey - *C major (8 bells).*

Plainsong melodies not included in this book:

Credo III - *C major* (8 bells). 'Gloria' from 'Missa de Angelis' - *C major* (8 bells). Salve Regina - *C major* (8 bells). Te Deum - *C major* (8 bells).