

# Marking Your Music – Make it Count!

## *AREA 10 Goes Glo-Bell 2021*

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### **To mark or not to mark on the music? That is the question!**

The answer is “Yes, please go ahead and use some markings to support a musical performance”. However, there are varying opinions on how much to mark-up in a music score, who should be doing the marking, and when does music mark-up become a problem.

### **The Toolkit**

There are good tools and ‘not so good’ tools for this job. Please always use:

- a soft-leaded HB #2 pencil
- a soft, latex-free rubber eraser
- Coloured pencils – pastel colours, art supply store soft-lead

Press lightly, erase carefully! Always mark in light pencil so that:

- you can make changes if need be
- the copy can be erased for future users

### **How much is too much?**

Beginner ringers/music readers will need more support than advanced ringers but marking the music works for everyone. Marking the music can get in the way of actually reading the music.

- Colour-coding
- Circles, letters, numbers – not writing a story!

### **Preparing your music – who, when and how?**

- Ringer prep vs conductor prep
- Before, during, and after rehearsal
- Binder sharing

**What to Mark and Why**

- bell allocation, initial bell placement, additional equipment
- rehearsal marks
- mood if not indicated
- tempo changes
- dynamic changes
- signs that fall between staves
- counting if in a difficult or unusual pattern
- bell changes
- 4-in-hand bell placements
- Sharing a bell
- Octave doubling of notes
- page turns – binder buddies
- ‘watch box’ or ‘eagle eyes’
- special performance techniques
- performance reminders at end of piece

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