

**Music for 2025 Big Sky Handbell Festival**  
**April 25-26 – Ammon, IDAHO**                      **Clinician: LeAnna Willmore**

**NEW MUSIC**

1. **Come Christians Join to Sing**, Matthew Compton, Lv 3- (Thanksgiving, general)  
3-6 oct. Evergreen Music MEGM116  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=19510>
2. **The Rhythm of Life**, Lloyd Larson, L2+ (Concert, General)  
3-5 oct. Hope Publishing Co. MHP3079  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=20050>
3. **I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say** (Kingsfold), Sandra Eithun, L2+ (Lent, General)  
3-5 oct. SoundForth Publications / Lorenz Co. MSF202037SF  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=17303>
4. **Prelude on Thaxted**, arr. Michael Helman, L3 (Concert, General, Worship)  
3-6 oct. AGEHR MAG36045  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=14153>
5. **Plink, Plank, Plunk**, Leroy Anderson, arr. Martha L. Thompson, L3 (all plucked)  
(Note, this is not the same Plink, Plank Plunk that was performed in 1998, by Robert Ivy)  
3-5 oct. Hope Publishing Co. MHP2367  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=11512>
6. **O Come, Little Children**, Marquise Usher, L3 (Advent, Christmas)  
3-4 oct. From the Top MFM206343  
5-6 oct. From the Top MFM206345 optional flute MFM20634W  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=18477>

**PREVIOUSLY PERFORMED**

7. **Meditation on Beautiful Savior**, Cathy Moglebust, L3  
3-5 oct. Choristers Guild MCGB175 or 2 oct. MCGB763  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=14904>
8. **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**, Kevin McChesney, L3-  
3-5 oct. Hope Publishing Co. MHP2180 or 2-3 oct. MHP1499  
<https://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=2003>

**OPTIONAL CHALLENGE PIECE**

9. **Brazil**, Ary Barosso, arr. Doug Benton, L4 (concert, general)  
5-6 Oct. From the Top MFM20429HB  
Percussion MFM20429P                      Full Score MFM20429M  
<https://handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?Piece=15823>

**Come, Christians, Join to Sing!   Arr. Matthew Compton**

Use the tempos as indicated on the music.

Pluck staccato notes, mallets would make it heavy especially in the bass part. Use the note in the music for the AB5 ringer to use a mallet on page 5.

**I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say   Arr. Sandra Eithun**

Keep the tempos as indicated. It is a little more difficult to play slowly in the B section at 76 but it is preferred as it gives contrast to the beginning.

An important feature of this piece is the Kingsfold melody but there are significant battery measures that should be brought out. For example measures 16, 17, 19, 23 and similar measures throughout.

**The Rhythm of Life   Lloyd Larson**

Practice with the 120 tempo so it won't be a surprise. Then the B part is led in 2 beats per measure about twice as slow. Use the mallets as indicated and the accents.

Put physical energy into this piece.

**O Come Little Children (flute)   Arr. Marquise Usher**

Keep the sweetness into this music by not having a heavy moving bass. The first beat of the measure is a stronger bass note. The melody should be played gently with loose arms in flowing free movements. It will be wonderful if there are some of the lower than C3 notes available in some choirs.

**Prelude on Thaxted   Arr. Michael Helman**

Plan ahead to have wooden dowels available for the Singing Bell Technique for Bass Clef notes. These bells will start ringing before I go to stand to direct. Work on the first 9 measures of Treble Clef so there is give and take in the rhythm. After that observe dynamic markings with crescendos and decrescendos and ritards. Slow down at measure 65 and play boldly.

### **Plink, Plank, Plunk    Leroy Anderson Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson**

Performance notes at beginning of piece will be used. Staccato dots indicate that bells are to be malleted on table. Ringers who are free to do so should click mallet handles together wherever there is a stemmed "X" in the score but hold the handles high so the audience can also see it happen.

There is a tendency to rush this piece. I have found if the tempo is rapid enough, rushing does not occur. So practice it at 144 as soon as possible. Then it can move up when everyone is ready. To try rehearsing it slow makes it difficult to control and play together.

Work on the dynamics. Actually lean down to the table when it is soft and rise up during crescendos for a showy performance.

### **Meditation on Beautiful Savior    Arr. Cathy Moglebust**

Keep the tempos as written without rushing. The ending speeds up and is glorious with the big chords. Especially work on the three Freely rhythmic sections so as a group we can play these spots rubato.

### **Brazil (Bongos, shaker, claves) Arr. Douglas J. Benton**

Even though this is the challenge piece it would be wonderful to have everyone participate. See if there are some notes that everyone in your choir can select to play so all can participate.

The staccato notes can either be plucked or malleted. Observe the Coll'8va to end at measure 26 which means with the Octave to the end. That is only for the stems up notes of the treble clef so the entire chord does not need to be played an octave above. However, with shelly ringing and available bells the entire chord could be played when it is not a single note. It depends on the reading skill of your treble ringers. It will all sound good.

Ring with energy and physical movement following the beat.

### **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Arr. Kevin McChesney**

This piece is available for 2-3 Octave or 3-5 Octave versions. We will work for the tempo of 126.