

## Performance Notes from Fred Gramann



Greetings, Area 1 handbell musicians!

Welcome! I'm excited that you have signed up for the Area 1 Festival Conference in 2025. It's going to be outstanding! I will have the privilege of working with those of you in the Coppers and Bronze divisions.

To give you a bit of a head start, I was asked to put together some performance notes which fall into several categories:

**Take Note:** these are the most important indications, signaling where something needs to be added or corrected in the music.

**Be Aware:** I've simply called attention to the various tempo changes which are so important to incorporate as you learn the music. If they aren't observed in your preparation, it's quite a challenge to retrain the ensemble once at the festival.

Then there are a variety of suggestions sharing how I might approach certain challenges. Please know that I have full confidence in your capabilities as directors and ringers, so take what is helpful and leave the rest.

As you delve into the repertoire you may have questions or need extra help with challenging sections. Please do not hesitate to send me a note and I'll do my best to assist you. Also let me know when you come up with solutions so they can be shared with others. Let's function as a team so together we can create fantastic ensembles! [gramannfred@gmail.com](mailto:gramannfred@gmail.com)

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How to decode measure number indications:

m 1.3 = measure one, beat three

m 40.4& = measure 40, the "and" of beat four

### Abbreviations used

m      measure

mm    measures

## COPPERS REPERTOIRE

Psalm 139

Fred Gramann

This piece was written to celebrate the life of a dear handbell colleague. The choice of this Psalm was due to the message that, no matter what our circumstances may be, no matter where we may go, God is there to guide and comfort.

### Added June 12, 2025

- add an R on beat one of m 58.

#### Take Note

- m 25.1 Add an R
- m 63.2 The C5 is part of the melody so doesn't observe the LV
- mm 95.3, 96.3, 99.3 Tie the C3 to the following measure (as in mm 79 & 80)

#### Be Aware

- mm 105-106 rit.

#### LVs

- mm 1-8, 74-78 These sections provide good opportunities to work on keeping the bells constantly moving rather than ringing and parking the bell near the shoulder.

#### An Idea

- P4 has a quick change from Bb to B-nat (mm 20-21, 90-91). The ringer can damp the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bb on the foam and ring the following B-nat close to the foam as needed. It might be useful to slowly practice each hand alone.

Come Christians Join to Sing

Shackley/Sherman

Parts are available for flute (or another C instrument), tambourine, hand drum and finger cymbals which add a lot to the piece. You will need to purchase the director's score which includes the separate instrumental scores ([10978125](#)).

This setting provides an opportunity to explore two contrasting styles of ringing:

- mm 5-54 & 70-114 use an energetic, percussive stroke, creating accent.
- mm 55-69 require a smoother stroke with a more gentle, legato strikepoint.

#### Be Aware

- mm 70-71 poco rit. and a tempo

#### Marts

- The use of marts among repeated 8<sup>th</sup> notes calls for:
  - ringing close to the foam
  - keeping the mart in the foam as long as possible (no, it won't be very long) so as to avoid too much of a mart lift.
- m 70: The mart lifts are to be sustained (except for D5), damping on the downbeat of m 71
- I'm going to make an editorial call and have everyone mart the final chord in m 114. (You can of course handle this as written for your own use of the piece as desired.)

### Mallet clicks

- mm 1-4: Make sure to include the accents. Those who ring in m 5 can either omit the clicks, or drop out in m 4.
- mm 107-110: P2, P4, P9 & P11 can begin the clicks. P1, P5 & P8 can join in as soon as possible.
- m 110: P1, P5 & P8 will need to drop out

### Take Note

#### Added May 31, 2025

- m. 70: allow mart-lifts to LV for the full measure except for D5 with the selective damp symbol
- m. 71, beat 1: add an R
- m. 83, beat 1: add mf
- m. 83, beat 2: change D5 to E5
- m. 85, beat 1: add f
- m. 89, beat 2: change D3 and D5 to E3 and E5

- ☐ m 62.1      Add an R
- ☐ m 9.1      Treat the grace notes like 16<sup>th</sup> note triplets as shown here:



- ☐ If doubling the top notes in the sections with brackets, make sure to double the F#5, G5, A5, B5 & C6.

### Bass challenge

There are times when the D3, F3 and G3 mallet on the table then ring immediately. If that presents a problem, an option is to:

- ☐ Mallet the bell on the foam, then lift the bell slightly and mallet it again (instead of ringing it), then ring (or even mallet) the next note.

18 19 20

Handwritten musical score for measures 18, 19, and 20. The score is written on two staves. The right staff contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes. The left staff contains a bass line with chords and single notes. Red handwritten annotations are present: a '+' sign under the first note of measure 18, another '+' sign under the second note of measure 18, and a 'R' under the first note of measure 19.

86 87

Handwritten musical score for measures 86 and 87. The score is written on two staves. The right staff contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes. The left staff contains a bass line with chords and single notes. Red handwritten annotations are present: a '+' sign under the first note of measure 86, another '+' sign under the second note of measure 86, and a 'R' under the first note of measure 87.

88 89

Handwritten musical score for measures 88 and 89. The score is written on two staves. The right staff contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes. The left staff contains a bass line with chords and single notes. Red handwritten annotations are present: a '+' sign under the first note of measure 88 and another '+' sign under the second note of measure 88.

**Added June 12, 2025**

- Beat four of m 41 should also be malletted by the G4, A4 and C5.
- m 22: sustain the C4, putting it down on beat 3 to then be malletted.

This will most likely be the challenge piece for the Coppers. It asks a lot in regard to techniques, bell changes and rhythms.

All staccato notes in the treble clef are TDs. The use of different techniques for the up-stems and down-stems on the same clef can be challenging to decipher. It may be helpful for ringers to cross out the stopped technique indications which don't apply to them.

For example, the P6 ringer might do this:

Measures 4, 5, and 6 of the musical score. The treble clef contains staccato notes, some of which are marked with red 'X' symbols, indicating they are crossed out for the P6 ringer. The bass clef contains staccato notes marked with '+' symbols. A legend at the bottom left states: \* TD staccato notes throughout. Above measure 5, there is a circled 'R' with a double line through it, indicating a crossed-out technique.

The P7 ringer might do this:

Measures 7 through 12 of the musical score. The treble clef contains staccato notes, some of which are marked with red 'X' symbols, indicating they are crossed out for the P7 ringer. The bass clef contains staccato notes marked with '+' symbols. The score shows a continuation of the musical piece with various rhythmic patterns and staccato markings.

## Take Note

Cautionary accidentals might be useful here:

- ☐ m 11 natural on C5
- ☐ m 15 natural on E5 & 6
- ☐ m 31 naturals on B4, C5 & C6
- ☐ m 60 naturals on C5 & 6
- ☐ m 64 naturals on E6 & 7
- ☐ m 74 Note that the G5 & 6 do not mart (the cautionary natural on A4 is a typo)

## Bronze

Serenade

C. Onstead

### Be Aware

- ☐ mm 4-5 rit. / new tempo
- ☐ m 8 accel.
- ☐ m 27 slower tempo (q=68)
- ☐ m 34 faster tempo (q=72)
- ☐ m 48.3 rit.
- ☐ m 55 rit.
- ☐ m 60.3 rit.

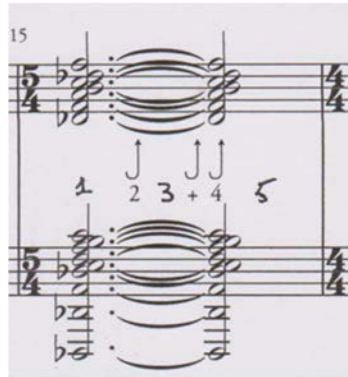
### 5/4 Measures

It can be helpful to separate the 5/4 measures into a group of 3 beats and a group of 2 beats by a dotted bar line, making it easier to keep your place in these “long” measures for the eye:

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Serenade" by C. Onstead. The score is written for piano (p) and features a 5/4 time signature. The tempo is marked "Con moto" with a quarter note equal to 72 (♩ = 72). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 9 through 10. Measure 9 is marked with a forte (f) dynamic and a left-hand (LV) instruction. Measure 10 is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and a left-hand (LV) instruction. The second system contains measures 11 through 12. Measure 11 is marked with a forte (f) dynamic and a left-hand (LV) instruction. Measure 12 is marked with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and a left-hand (LV) instruction. A dotted bar line is placed between measures 10 and 11, separating the 3-beat and 2-beat groups of the 5/4 measures. The score is identified by the code EGM113.

## Counting

The echoes in m 15 are on 2, 3& and 4. It may be helpful to write in the missing beats:



Here is the counting explained for the end of m 26:



São Paulo

E. Peters

There are multiple opportunities for sharing bells, especially where the chimes are added to the texture.

- mm 17-19, 23, 74 Consider having P7 cover the G5 bell (possibly LH : A RH: G/Bb)
- mm 49, 50, 51 & 55 One can't ring and mallet the G5 at the same time. I would suggest sacrificing the rung note and just mallet it. I would also suggest malleting the final G5 in m 54 to ease the transition to m 55.

### An Idea

- mm 17-20, 23 & 75-78  
If P5 and P6 are weaving their chimes, consider putting them in non-chromatic order:
  - P5: keep the Eb in LH, have the E & D next to each other and alternate with the RH
  - P6: keep the F# in LH, have the G & F next to each other and alternate with the RH

As the subtitle suggests, this piece can be programmed during the Christmas season as Prelude and Fugue on 'Sing We Now of Christmas', or at Easter as Prelude and Fugue on 'Now the Green Blade Riseth'. Both the Prelude and the Fugue can be used separately.

#### Be Aware

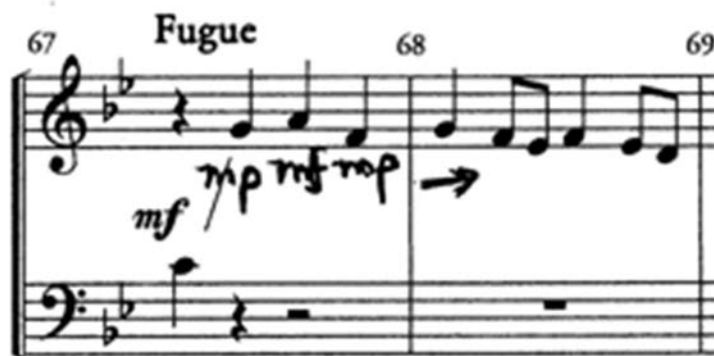
- mm 1 - 6 poco rit. / a tempo / rit. poco a poco
- m 7 new tempo
- mm 130-131 rit.

#### Take Note

- mm 23 - 27 / mm 43 - 46 The repeated bass clef chords should be *f* on beats 1 & 3 with a small circular extension, and *mf* on beats 2 & 4 with no circle.



- m 49: Damp completely on beat 4
- Fugue: Think it in 2/2 with the quarter notes alternating between strong and weak (*mf* and *mp*).



- m 77.1-80.1: Mark the bass line forte
- m 69.4&: Note the D5 in the bass clef (the footnote should read "D5 in bass clef")
- m 77: See the footnote about TDs



### Mastering the 16<sup>th</sup> note runs in mm 126-129

Start simple by teaching each ringer that their right hand is always on the same 8<sup>th</sup> note subdivision in the 2-beat pattern. Practice the top staU until all are comfortable about placing their right hand exactly on their 8<sup>th</sup> note subdivision. Then play the second staU which adds the left hand notes. (This is all LV) This repeating pattern can be easily memorized so they can watch the director.



### LVs

There are three sections with continuous LV scale passages: mm 7-14, mm 31-41, 53-64. All treble clef bells involved need to be kept in continuous motion. Make a second circle without restriking when needed but never park a bell at your shoulder. The patterns are repetitive. Learn them and look up.

### Position Specific Notes

- P10/P11: Note that P11 starts with the Bb6,7. P10 rings A#6 [Bb6] in mm 120-121.
- mm 1-7: Assignment suggestions:
  - P4 Ring C5 chime and C5 bell (note the two C5 bells in the treble clef)
  - P3 mm 2-3: ring G4B4 chimes / mm 4-6 ring G4A4 chimes, putting down the G4 on m 6.4& (fermata) / ready for G4 bell in m 7
  - P2 Ring E4F4 chimes
  - P1 Ring C4E4 chimes / putting down the C4 on m 6.4& (fermata) / ready for C4 bell in m 7 (If you have 5-octaves, a bass ringer could cover the F3 & C4 chimes)

Walkin' on Sunshine	S. Eithun
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There will be an 8-measure drum solo lead in.

The chromatics like in m 3 can be handled by 4-in-handing or by sharing:

- P5 could ring the Fb5 (E5)
- P10 could ring the Ab5
- P11 could ring the Fb6,7 (E6,7)