

# Introduction to Handbells/Chimes

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# Handchimes and Handbells are wonderful tools for teaching music!

- ▶ Easy to learn how to ring
- ▶ Hands on music experience
- ▶ Teaches music reading
- ▶ Teaches team and cooperation
- ▶ Builds confidence
- ▶ Beautiful sound and fun to ring!
- ▶ Even though the initial expense may scare you – the instruments hold their value and last a long time





# Introducing Handchimes

to 4<sup>th</sup> grade music classes





## Newington Elementary – Area 4 HMA SC 2017 Chime Loan Recipient

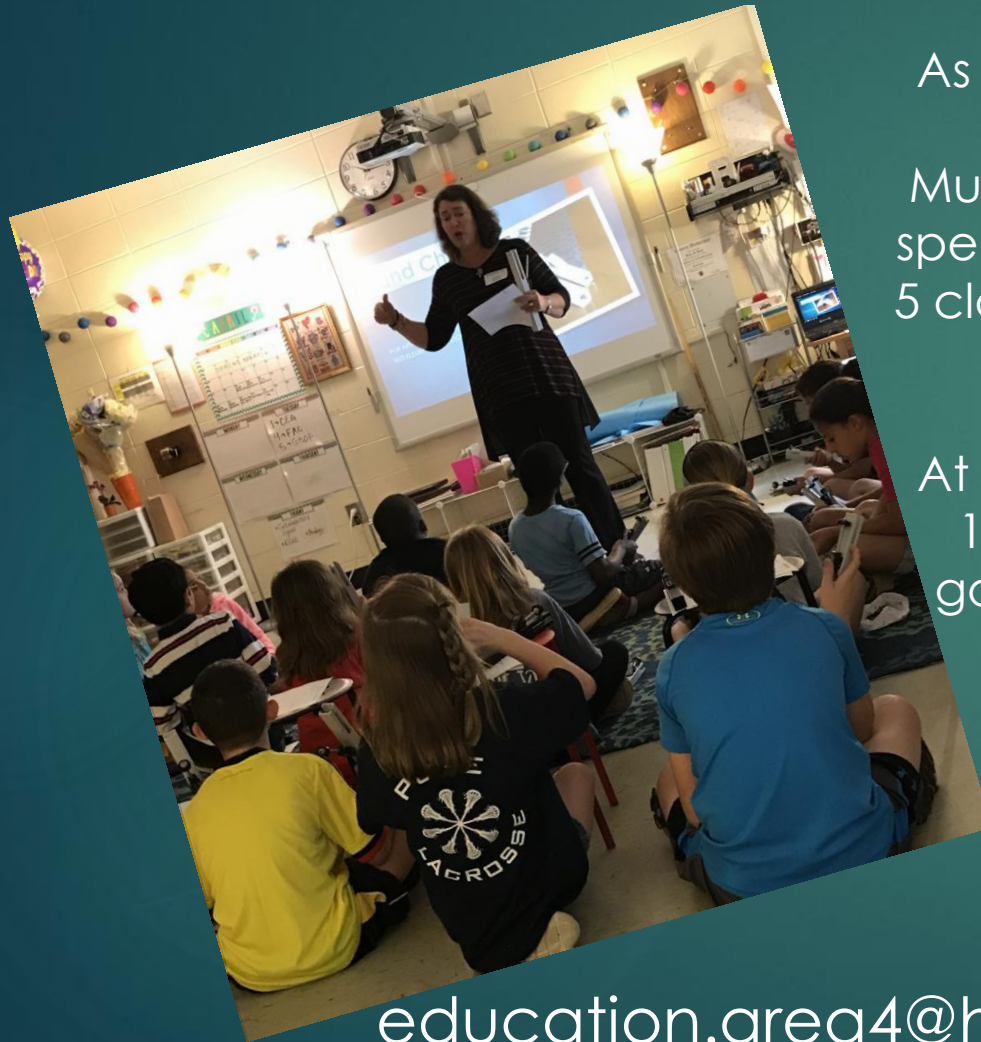
Erin Bromley also uses a recently purchased three octave set of used bells during an after school bell group.

Erin has used Donorschoose.org to help with the purchase of her equipment



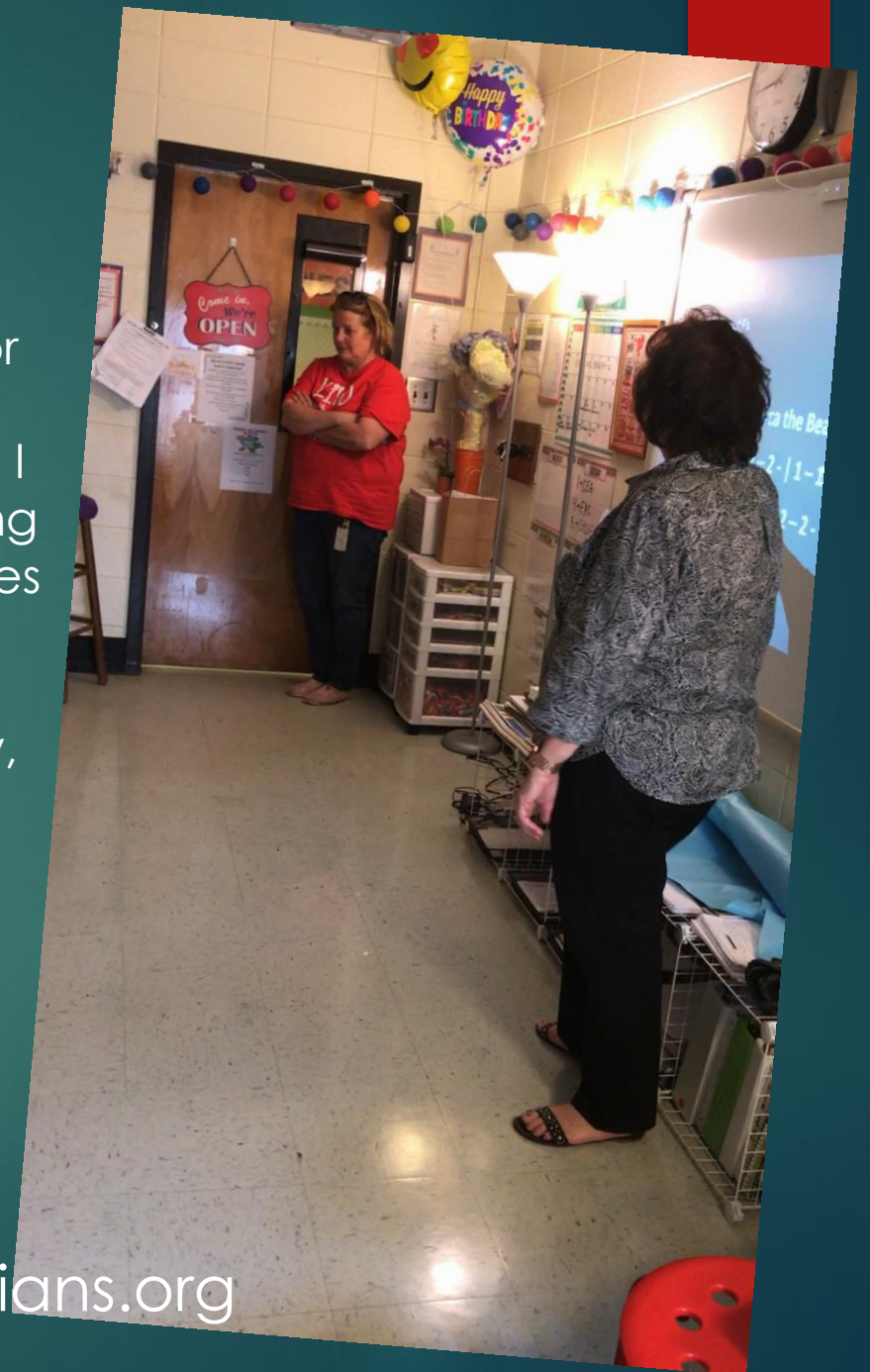


# Arts in Education Day



As Education Chair for Area 4 Handbell Musicians of America, I spent a day introducing 5 classes to handchimes during an Arts in Education Day. At the end of the day, 150 children had a good time and were introduced to handchimes!

[education.area4@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:education.area4@handbellmusicians.org)



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class of beginners!



This was in November, just a couple of months after school started!



# Let's Get Started

- The remainder of this presentation is exactly what I do with classrooms when I go in to introduce handchimes.
- This is actually a 4-5 day introduction and best done on back to back days if possible
- This presentation can be found on the Palmetto Bronze website [www.palmettobronze.com](http://www.palmettobronze.com)

# Parts of a Handbell



Bell Body – Casting

Hand Guard

Handle

Clapper Head

Clapper Mechanism

Note name and octave





# Parts of a Handchime

Clapper head

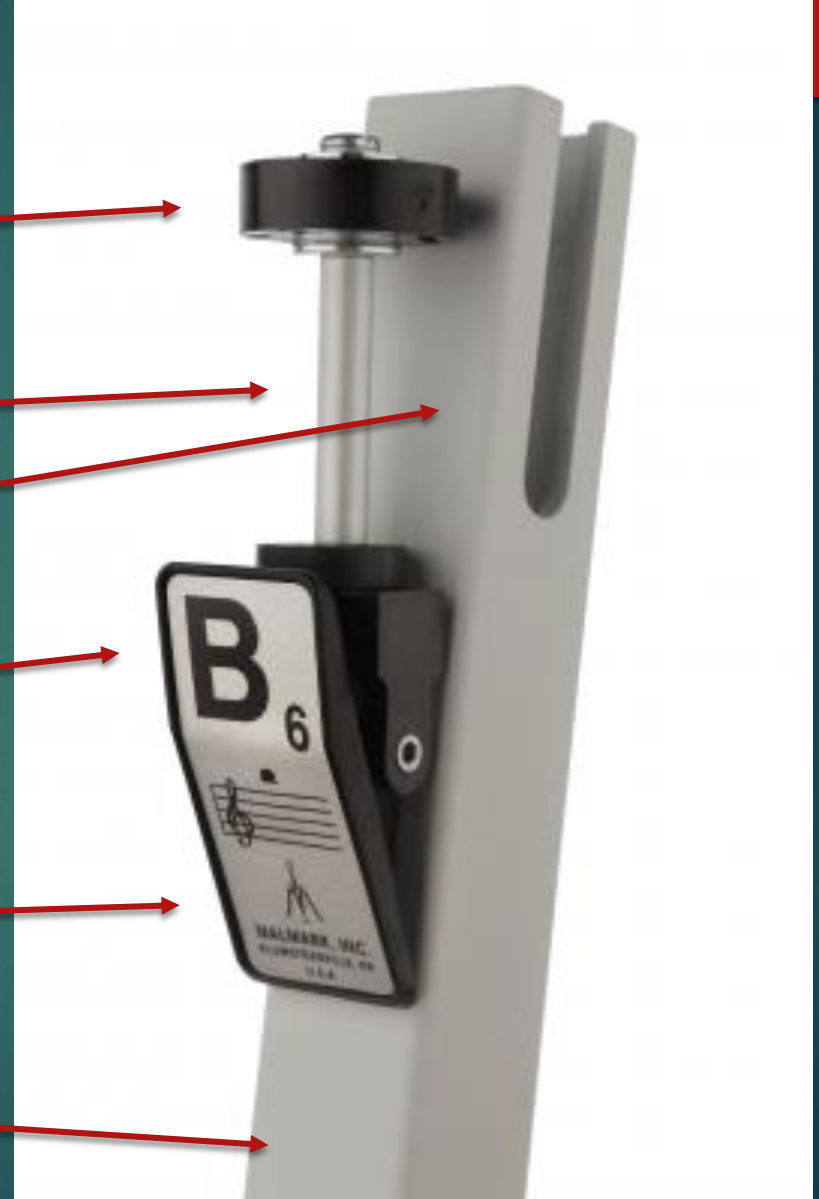
Clapper shaft

Chime body

Note name and octave

Clapper assembly, not for  
thumb!!

Hand grip



# Check Mark Stance

- ▶ Stand with your feet shoulder width apart and one foot slightly in front of the other





# Holding a Handbell/Handchime Properly

- ▶ Shake hands with your neighbor
- ▶ Look at how your hand is gripping your neighbor's hand
- ▶ Pick up a bell or chime with your left hand and place the bell in your right hand with the bell picture facing your hand.
- ▶ Lift the bell/chime up parallel to your shoulder! The bell should balance on your open hand.
- ▶ Gently close your index finger and thumb around the handle/chime – no tight grip – just enough pressure to hold on to bell/chime!!



# Ring that Bell or Chime!

## ► Preparation

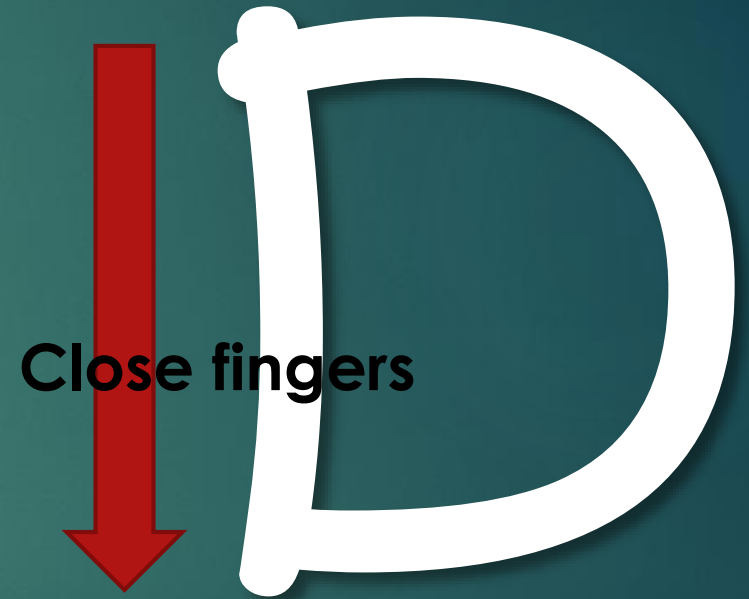
Imagine a letter “D” in front of you with the straight part of the letter next to your body. Raise and lower your bell/chime down the straight part of the D and see how it moves. Just above eye level and until your hand is parallel to the floor. Don’t ring. What happens to the bell/chime?





# Strike

- ▶ As you slowly lower the bell/chime to parallel, gently close your other three fingers around the handle to ring the bell/chime.



# Follow-Through

- ▶ After the bell/chime rings, open the three fingers and follow the curved part of the D back to the top of the straight part of the D.



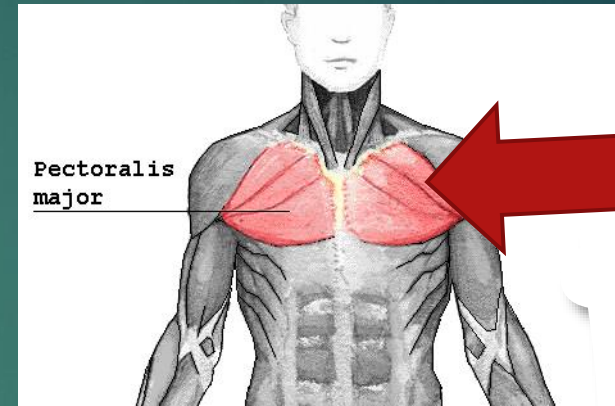


# Where does the sound come from!

- ▶ What makes the bell or chime make a sound?
- ▶ What part of the bell or chime does the sound come from?
- ▶ Exercise 1:
  - Ring the bell and listen to the end of the bell where the clapper is
  - Turn the bell upright and listen to the body of the bell
  - Do the same with the chime.
- ▶ Where does the majority of the sound come from?

# Damping – Stopping the Sound

- ▶ After the follow-through, at the top of the “D” touch the rim and body of the bell to your pectoral muscle, the soft tissue between your shoulder and your collar bone.
- ▶ You must roll chime to it's side in order to damp.



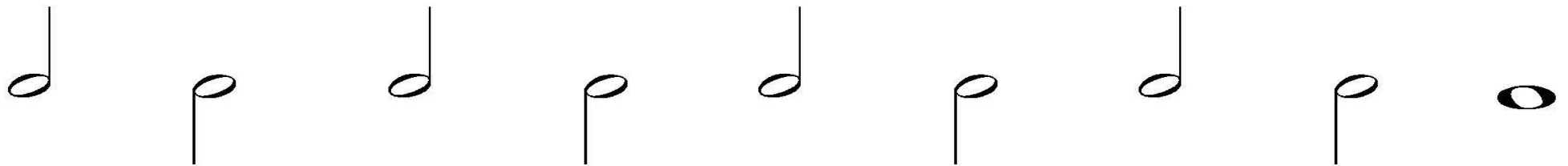


# Practice Damping

Damp chimes when there is a rest or when  
your note changes



ring damp ring damp ring damp ring damp ring damp ring



RH LH RH LH RH LH RH LH RH

# Find the note names on your bells or chimes



Note Name



# Now find your note names in the chord chart below

1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

3 = All F's A's and C's

4 = All D's F#'s A's and C's

5 = All G's B's and D's



# Chord Songs

## Row, Row, Row Your Boat

1 = All C's E's and G's

♪ 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 1 -||

2 = All G's B's D's & F's

## Mary Had a Little Lamb

♪ 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 1 1||

## Skip to My Lou

♪ 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 2 2 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 1 1||

1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

# He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Intro

Song

♪ 1 1 1 2 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 |

2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 |

2 2 2 2 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 - - - ||

# Kum Ba Yah

Intro

Song

♪ 1 1 1 3 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 3 | 1 1 1 1 |

1 1 1 1 | 2 2 2 1 | 1 1 1 3 | 1 1 1 3 |

1 1 1 2 | 1 1 1 \_ ||

1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

3 = All F's A's and C's



# More Chord Songs

1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

3 = All F's A's and C's

4 = All D's F#'s A's and C's

## Jingle Bells

♪ 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 3 3 1 1 | 4 4 2 2 |

1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 3 3 1 1 | 2 2 1 - ||

## This Old Man

♪ 1 - 1 - | 1 - 1 - | 3 - 3 - | 2 - 2 - | 1 - 1 - | 1 - 1 - | 2 - 2 - |  
1 2 1 - ||

1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

3 = All F's A's and C's

4 = All D's F#'s A's and C's

5 = All G's B's and D's

## This Old Man

♪ 1 - 1 - | 1 - 1 - | 3 - 3 - | 2 - 2 - | 1 - 1 - |  
1 - 1 - | 2 - 2 - | 1 2 1 - ||

## Yankee Doodle

♪ 1 - 1 - | 1 - 5 | 1 - 3 - | 2 - 1 - | 3 - 3 - | 1 - 1 - | 3 - 3 - | 1 2 1 1 ||

# Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

♩ 1- 1- | 5- 5- | 3- 3- | 1- - - | 3- 3- | 1- 1- | 2- 2- | 1- - - |  
1- 1- | 3- 3- | 1- 1- | 5- - - | 1- 1- | 3- 3- | 2- 2- | 5- - - |  
1- 1- | 5- 5- | 3- 3- | 1- - - - | 3- 3- | 1- 1- | 2- 2- | 1- - - ||

1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

3 = All F's A's and C's

4 = All D's F#'s A's and C's

5 = All G's B's and D's



1 = All C's E's and G's

2 = All G's B's D's and F's

3 = All F's A's and C's

4 = All D's F#'s A's and C's

5 = All G's B's and D's

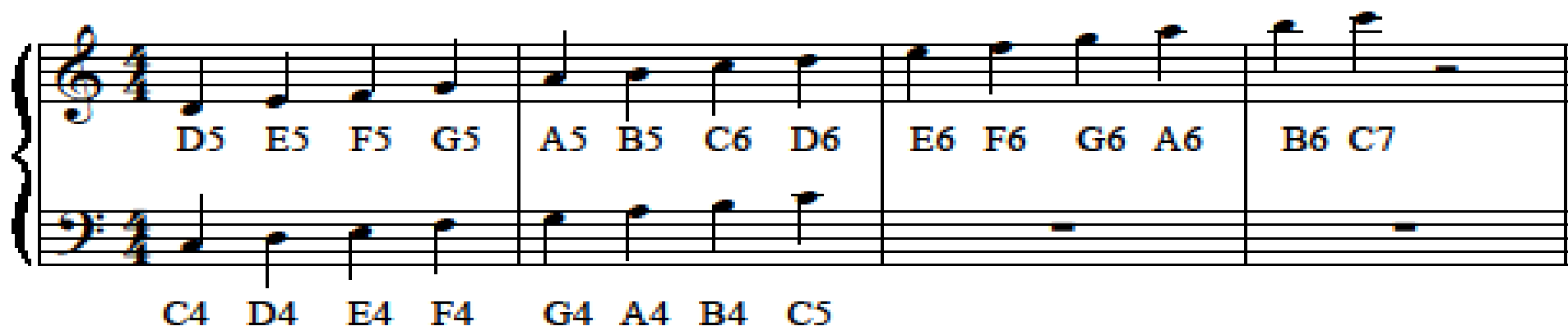
## America the Beautiful

♩ 1 - 1 - | 5 - 5 - | 2 - 2 - | 1 - 1 - | 1 - 1 - | 5 - 5 - |  
5 - 4 - | 2 - 2 - | 1 - 1 - | 2 - 2 - | 2 - 2 - | 1 - 1 - |  
3 - 3 - | 1 - 1 - | 3 - 2 - | 1 - - - ||

# Your bell/chime on the Grand Staff

Look at your bell/chime and find the Letter name and the Octave number  
Find your letter and number on the Grand Staff

## Handbells on the Grand Staff



# Chord Songs on the Grand Staff

America the Beautiful

The image displays a musical score for the song "America the Beautiful" on a grand staff. The score is organized into two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 8. Each measure is marked with a number (1-8) and contains a chord symbol. The chords are: 1. C major (C4, E4, G4), 2. F major (F3, A3, C4), 3. C major (C4, E4, G4), 4. F major (F3, A3, C4), 5. C major (C4, E4, G4), 6. F major (F3, A3, C4), 7. C major (C4, E4, G4), 8. F major (F3, A3, C4). The chords are written in a simplified notation where the notes are represented by small circles on the staff lines. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4.



# America the Beautiful continued

This image displays a musical score for the song "America the Beautiful," specifically measures 9 through 16. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, while the Bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and bar lines. The measures are numbered 9 through 16, indicating the sequence of the music. The score is presented in a clear, black-and-white format, suitable for educational or performance purposes.

Measure 9: Treble staff has a half note G4, a half note A4, and a half note B4. Bass staff has a half note E2, a half note F2, and a half note G2.

Measure 10: Treble staff has a half note C5, a half note D5, and a half note E5. Bass staff has a half note A2, a half note B2, and a half note C3.

Measure 11: Treble staff has a half note F5, a half note G5, and a half note A5. Bass staff has a half note D3, a half note E3, and a half note F3.

Measure 12: Treble staff has a half note B5, a half note C6, and a half note D6. Bass staff has a half note G2, a half note A2, and a half note B2.

Measure 13: Treble staff has a half note E6, a half note F6, and a half note G6. Bass staff has a half note C3, a half note D3, and a half note E3.

Measure 14: Treble staff has a half note A6, a half note B6, and a half note C7. Bass staff has a half note F2, a half note G2, and a half note A2.

Measure 15: Treble staff has a half note D7, a half note E7, and a half note F7. Bass staff has a half note B2, a half note C3, and a half note D3.

Measure 16: Treble staff has a half note G7, a half note A7, and a half note B7. Bass staff has a half note E3, a half note F3, and a half note G3.

# My Country Tis of Thee

Musical score for the hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee". The score is written for piano and voice, featuring a treble and bass staff for the piano and a single staff for the voice. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into 14 measures, numbered 1 through 14. Measures 1 through 10 are marked with a 1, indicating a first ending. Measures 11 through 14 are marked with a 2, indicating a second ending. The score includes a variety of musical notation, including chords, single notes, and rests.

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14

# Some Resources for Handchimes and Handbells

## **Handbell Musicians of America Area 4 website**

- Chime Loan Application and Information
- Chime Resources List

## **Chimeworks.com – a new website for teaching chimes**

- Instructions on “How to”
- Downloadable lesson plans for using chimes in the classroom
- An alphabetized and leveled list of published songs suitable for chimes

## **Jeffers Handbell Supply- [handbellworld.com](http://handbellworld.com)**

All your needs for bells or chimes!



# Have a great time incorporating bells or chimes into your classroom!!

Get in touch if you have questions.

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