

INTRODUCTION TO HANDBELLS/CHIMES FOR YOUR MUSIC CLASSROOM

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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

Shake hands with your neighbor

Look

Look at how your hand is gripping your neighbor's hand

Pick up

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

Lift the bell/chime up parallel to your shoulder! The bell should balance on your open hand.

Close

Gently close your index finger and thumb around the handle/chime – no tight grip – just enough pressure to hold on to bell/chime!!

LET'S RING THAT BELL OR CHIME

Wait!! Let's look at the three parts of ringing a bell

Preparation

Strike

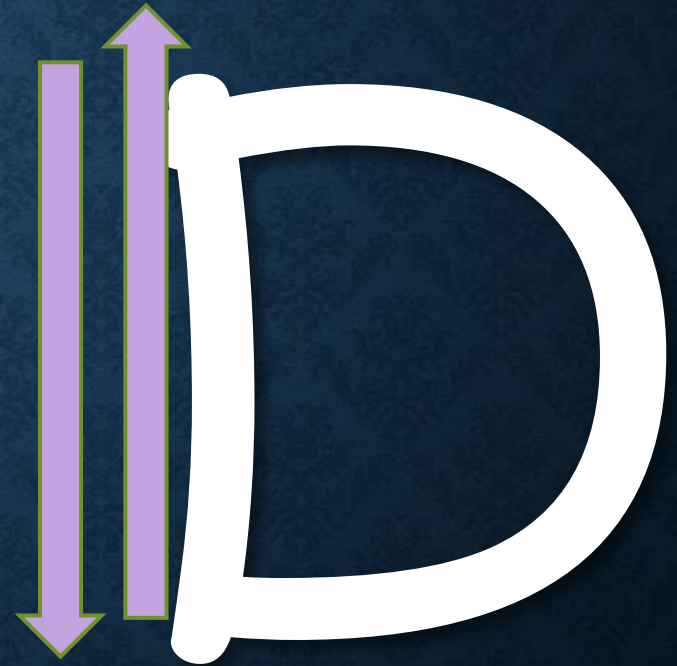
Follow Through

Each part is very important!



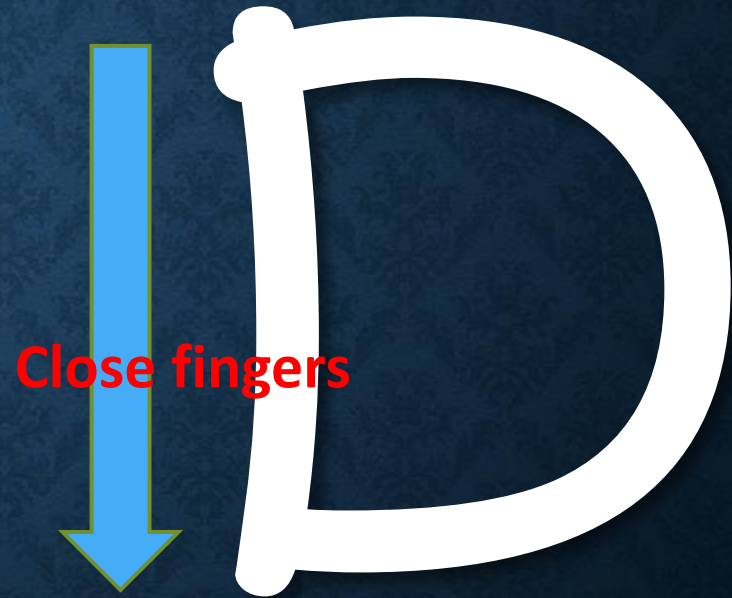
PREPARATION

1. Imagine an upper case letter “D” in front of you with the straight part of the letter next to your body.
2. Lower and then raise your bell/chime down the straight part of the D and see how it moves.
3. Hold your instrument just above eye level and lower until your hand is parallel to the floor. Don't ring.
4. 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 and squeeze 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 :
 - 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?

YOU ARE RIGHT!

THE SOUND COMES FROM THE BODY NOT THE CLAPPER!

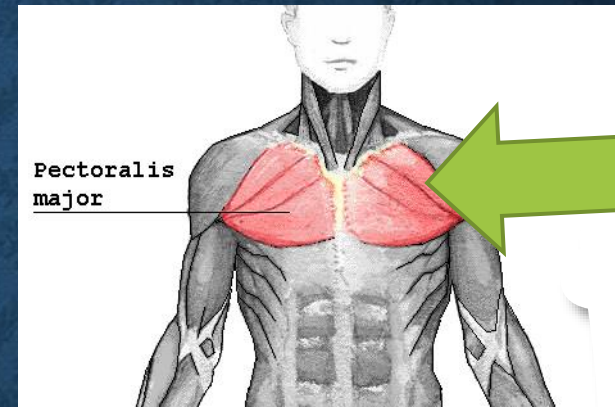


The Body of the
bell or chime



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.



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

PRACTICE DAMPING

FIND THE NOTE NAMES ON YOUR BELLS OR CHIMES



Note Name



**NOW FIND YOUR
NOTE NAMES IN
THE
CHORD CHART**

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

INTRODUCTION OF NOTE VALUES



The quarter note at beginning of each chord song indicates playing on each beat or pulse.



A half note at the beginning means that you play on every two beats or pulses



Remember to “damp” as your note changes

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

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

1 1 1 2 | 1 1 1 _ ||

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 - ||

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

A musical score for handbells on a grand staff. The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The notes are arranged in a sequence across four measures. The notes in the treble staff are D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6, A6, B6, and C7. The notes in the bass staff are C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, and C5. The notes are connected by a brace on the left side of the grand staff.

Measure	Treble Staff Notes	Bass Staff Notes
1	D5, E5, F5, G5	C4, D4, E4, F4
2	A5, B5, C6, D6	G4, A4, B4, C5
3	E6, F6, G6, A6	
4	B6, C7	

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) above the treble staff. The music is written in 4/4 time and consists of chords represented by groups of notes on the staff lines. The notes are arranged in a way that suggests a specific chord structure for each measure, such as triads or dyads. The overall layout is clean and professional, typical of a music manuscript.

America the Beautiful continued

This image displays a musical score for the song "America the Beautiful," specifically the continuation of the piece from measure 9 to measure 16. The score is presented in two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The music is written in a style that uses dense, repetitive rhythmic patterns, likely representing a vocal line or a specific instrumental texture. The notation includes various note values and rests, with some notes appearing as vertical stems with dots or small circles. The measures are numbered 9 through 16, with measure 16 ending with a double bar line. The overall appearance is that of a printed musical manuscript.

My Country Tis of Thee

The image displays a piano accompaniment for the hymn "My Country 'Tis of Thee". The score is written in 3/4 time and consists of 14 measures, organized into three systems. Each system contains two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The music is primarily composed of chords, with some melodic lines in the treble staff. The measures are numbered 1 through 14. The first system contains measures 1-5, the second system contains measures 6-10, and the third system contains measures 11-14. The notation includes various chord symbols and rhythmic markings.

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

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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