

Handbell Harmonies How-To's

For Use with Groups Aged 3 and Up

- This handbell bundle is designed to help you have so much fun with your handbells! We use and sell the **KidsPlay** brand of handbells so our chart bell colors correspond to **KidsPlay** bell colors. If you are using a different brand of bells, you could use our black and white pdf chord charts.
- We are using **chords to harmonize the songs** (guitar style) rather than having the children play every melody note.
- Give each participant a handbell and make sure each one knows the letter of his or her bell. **Each bell ringer rings his bell to the beat or melody rhythm when the letter of his bell is showing and holds it quietly against his shoulder or chest when the letter of his bell is not showing.** The children should learn to respect this instrument. They should not touch the ball or spring inside the handbell as altering the spring can affect the accuracy of the tone, and they should keep their handbell quiet except when their letter is showing. **I try to make the rules clear before I hand out the bells** and I don't allow second chances in the same song. A child's second chance can come in the next song. :)
- To use the **color or black & white pdf charts**, insert each page inside a **plastic page protector** and then place in reverse order in a **binder**. Put the spine of the binder over a chair or music stand (as in Photo 1) or inverted like an easel binder on a table (as in Photo 2). Hold each page up in turn as it is being shown and then let it drop forward. This works faster than lifting the pages upward to show them. Drop the page just a bit before the chord change so bell-ringers can react in time.
- To use the **videos**, download them to your **iPad or other portable computer** and use them straight from there. Or download to a **flash drive and use that with a TV**. Our videos show the next set of handbell chords just a split second before each chord change so that your bell-ringers can be ready to ring at the chord change.
- We have also included **master copies of the chords** (color and black & white) so that you can see the chord order at a glance.

Photo 1

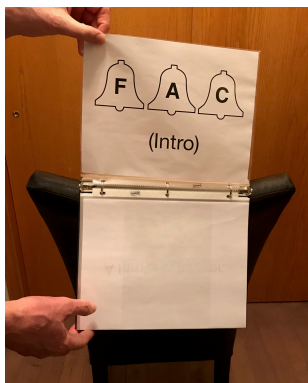


Photo 2

