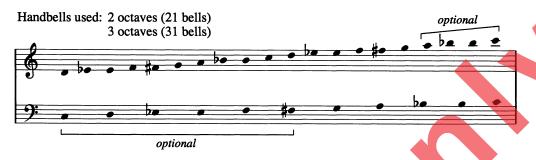
## GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

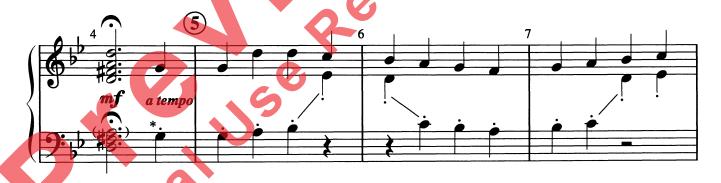
for 2-3 Octaves Handbell Choir



Two octave choirs omit notes in ( ); three octave choirs omit notes in <>.





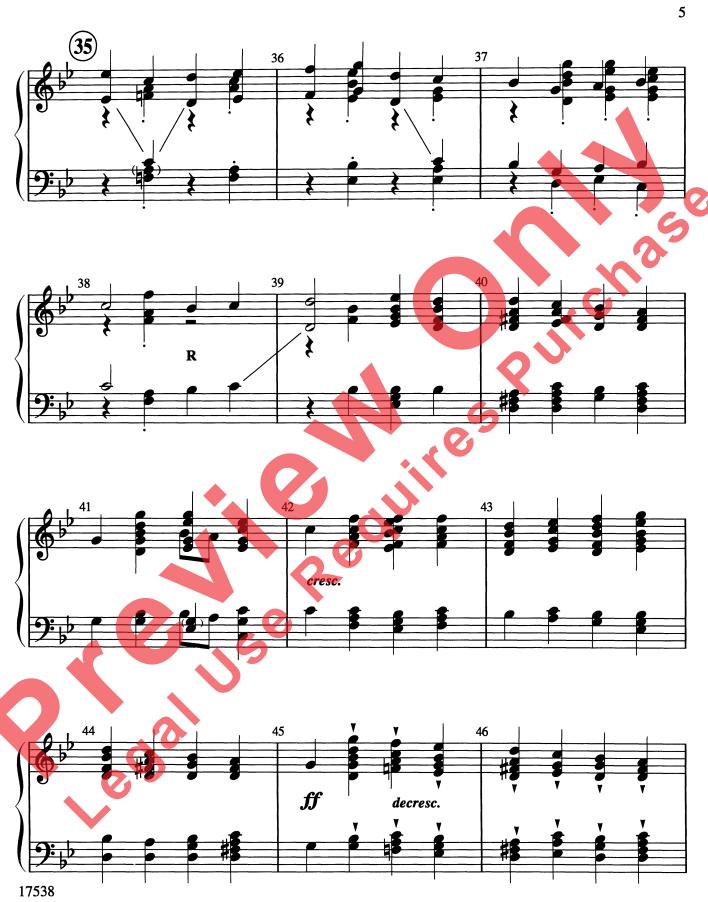


\* Staccato notes may be played throughout by plucking, thumb damping or malleting the bells on a well-padded table unless otherwise indicated.

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God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen is a festive arrangement of the beloved English Christmas carol for 2-3 octaves handbell choir. It will delight all who hear it rung during the Christmas season.

As your ringers first look at this piece, have them check the music to see where the melody notes appear with relation to the accompaniment. Since the melody moves around throughout the texture, the ringers can use this piece to develop their skills in making the distinction between melody and accompaniment.

Following the four measure introduction, the melody begins in the treble while the accompanying line has staccato notes. You may pluck, mallet or thumb damp these staccato notes, and strive for absolute precision in executing the articulations. Remember when executing a martellato (measures 45-46 and 75-78) keep the bell casting close to the well-padded table to avoid damage to the bell.

Strive for precision throughout, ring musically, and listen to each other for an exciting, energetic performance.

Linda R. Lamb received a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Carson-Newman College with a minor in music. She is the Music Director at the Lexington Park Baptist Church in Lexington Park, Maryland.



