

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The beginning of the piece should be played freely with no real rush or sense of perfect tempo. The beginning of the ostinato in measure 14 signals the start of a true tempo. All handbell choirs omit the notes in the ( ) when using a C instrument. Bass bells can be used in measures 30–40 if no bass chimes are available.



**Julie Stitt** grew up in San Bernardino, CA where she began ringing handbells at an early age at First United Presbyterian Church. She spent most of her childhood summers in northern Minnesota and after graduating from high school, received her Bachelor's Degree from Bemidji State University in Elementary Education and Elementary Music. Her graduate work at B.S.U. included a certificate in Learning Disabilities. She completed a Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota in Educational Psychology in 1985, and a license to teach vocal and classroom music K-12. Julie's 35 years of teaching experience include assignments in special education, 2nd–4th grades, elementary music and 6th grade science and math. She is currently a 6th grade science teacher in Independent School District 15, a district in the northern Minneapolis Metro area where she resides.

Julie has been composing and arranging for handbells more than 15 years. She has published handbell pieces in print with several publishing companies. Several pieces have been performed at area festivals around the United States. Her original composition, "La Paix," was performed at the Loire Valley Handbell Festival in France in 2004 by Twin Cities Bronze. She was a member of this community auditioned choir during that time. Strikepoint Handbell Ensemble from Duluth, MN commissioned "Glory on Their Wings" in 2005 and included the piece in their repertoire for several years. It was published in 2009. As the Director of Handbells for 15+ years at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in East Bethel, MN, she is responsible for a beginning children's handbell choir, an experienced inter-generational handbell choir, and a small handbell ensemble. She also rings with the experienced ensemble group and the small ensemble, and has been a member of the church for more than 25 years.

# Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

for 3-5 (6) octaves of Handbells with optional Handchimes and Flute (or C Instrument)\*

Handbells used: 34, 44, 50, 51

Musical notation for Handbells, showing two staves (treble and bass clef) with notes and rests. An optional section is indicated by a bracket and the word "optional" above the notes.

Handchimes used: 27

Musical notation for Handchimes, showing two staves (treble and bass clef) with diamond-shaped notes and rests.

3 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).  
4 octave choirs omit notes in [ ].  
4 and 5 octave choirs omit notes in < >.

Music by Marty Haugen  
Arranged by JULIE STITT

Musical notation for Flute, showing three staves (treble, middle, and bass clef). The top staff is labeled "FLUTE" and "Freely". The middle staff has notes with plus signs and numbers 1, 2, 3, 4. The bottom staff has notes with diamond shapes. Dynamics include "mp" and "R".

\* To purchase a full-length recording of this piece, go to [alfred.com/downloads](http://alfred.com/downloads).  
Part for Flute (or C Instrument) is on page 11.  
\*\* Notes under bracket should ring only in absence of solo instrument in measures 4-6 and 9-10.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 5 has a vocal note with a '5' above it. Measures 6-8 feature piano accompaniment with chords marked with '+' signs. Measure 8 includes a vocal note with an 'R' above it.

Musical score for measures 9-12. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 9 has a vocal note with a '9' above it. Measures 10-12 feature piano accompaniment with chords marked with '+' signs. Measure 12 includes a vocal note with a '+' sign above it.

Moderato (♩ = 72)

Musical score for measures 13-16. The system includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. Measure 13 has a vocal note with a '+' sign above it. Measure 14 has a vocal note with 'IV' above it and 'mp' below it. Measure 15 has a vocal note with '15' above it. Measure 16 has a vocal note with 'LV' above it. The piano accompaniment includes a chime symbol (⊕) labeled '(chimes)' in measure 15.

17 *mf* LV LV LV

21 LV LV

25 (Flute tacet to m. 49) LV R LV

Musical score for measures 29-32. The right hand (RH) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes a trill in measure 30. The left hand (LV) starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piece is in a minor key, indicated by the key signature of one flat.

Musical score for measures 33-36. The right hand (RH) continues with a melodic line, and the left hand (LV) provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamics are marked as *mf* and *f*.

Musical score for measures 37-40. The right hand (RH) features a melodic line with a trill in measure 39. The left hand (LV) has a bass line with a trill in measure 39. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 40.

LV

R

FLUTE

\* Notes under bracket should ring only in absence of solo instrument in measures 49-56.

53 *(Flute tacet to m. 65)*

53 54 55 56

57 58 59 60

61 62 63 64

LV

The image shows a musical score for piano and flute. The top staff is for the flute, starting at measure 53 with a melodic line. A bracket above it indicates it is tacet from measure 65 onwards. The piano accompaniment is shown in two systems of grand staff notation (treble and bass clefs). The first system covers measures 53-56, and the second system covers measures 57-60. The third system covers measures 61-64. The music is in a minor key, indicated by the key signature of three flats. A large, diagonal red watermark is overlaid across the entire page, reading 'Preview Only! Legal use Requires Purchase'.

Slower (♩ = 69)

65 FLUTE *rit.*  
*ff*

3 octave choirs play bottom note only of upstem treble clef

65 *rit.*  
*ff*

66 67

68 69 70 71

72 *molto rit.*  
*mp*

72 73 74 75 *mf*

*mp*  
*molto rit.*

LV R LV R LV R



*a tempo*

*rit. poco a poco*

*p*

*p*

*rit. poco a poco*

*pp*

R

\* Upstem treble: 5 octave choirs play top notes only;  
3 and 4 octave choirs play bottom notes only