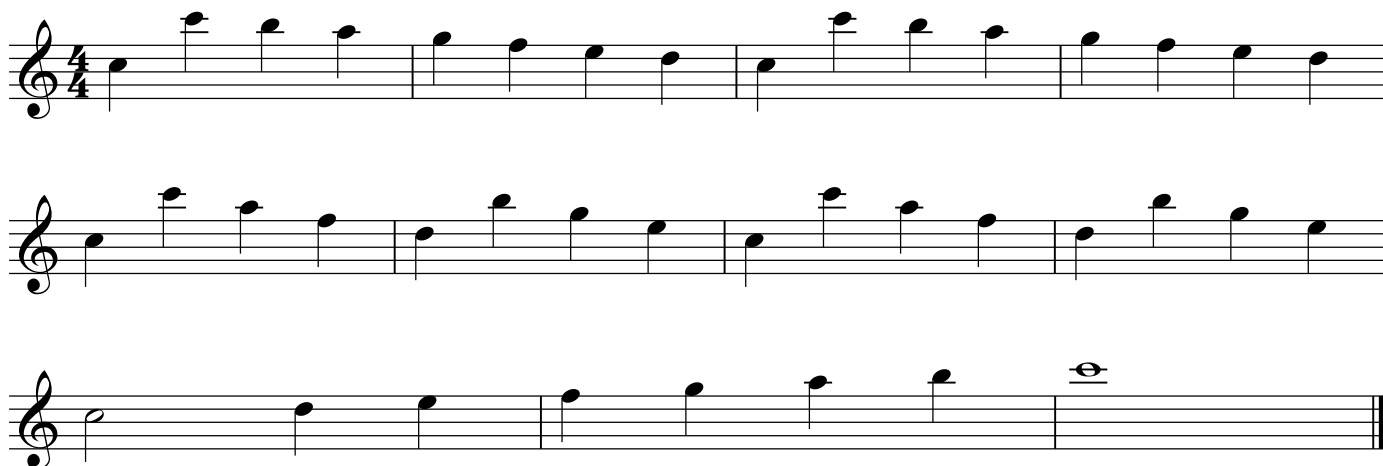


# Easy Bell Tree Peal



## Ideas:

The first two measures are primarily ringing each bell as you mallet "left-right" down the bell tree. That's repeated.

Starting on measure 5, you ring all the bells going down one side of the bell tree. Then you ring all the bells going down the other side of the bell tree. On the last line, you ring every bell going up left-right.

You can add a chime chord at the beginning of each measure. I would add these chimes for the peal above: C D E G A (1 2 3 5 6). Chimes sound terrific with a bell tree. You could try the chimes in different octaves and see which chimes sound the best.

You can play it to introduce a hymn. It's helpful to play it in the same key as the hymn is in (i.e., if the hymn is in the key of F, the bottom note is F, and all the other bells are the notes above it in that key.) If adding chimes, for the key of F, the chimes would be F G A C D (1 2 3 5 6).

Hymns that work well with this peal are *Joy to the World* and *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*. It also can be used on many upbeat, joyful hymns.

It can be used with organ and other instruments also doing the peal. You could start the peal. As you repeated the peal, they could join in.

You can use it to introduce a concert. Or a speaker. Or a special event.

If you want to add more bells, you could find 4 ringers to ring 2 bells each, ringing by hand in a row. You could find a lower octave and have them ring the same peal as you do.

If you want to be adventuresome, you could have several groups of 4 ringers spread around the room, ringing the bell peal by hand, with 1 bell in each hand. (A duplicate high or low bell might be needed for this.) If the octave with the low bells plays the peal once, the next higher octave would begin when they have completed the peal. The first octave continues to repeat the peal as the next octave up rings its peal. The peal continues as each new octave joins in. The last one to join the peal would be the bell tree ringer. The whole room doesn't have to stay together, but each group of 4 ringers needs to stay together and ring the whole peal each time. It can sound like you're in a town which has several church towers ringing this peal from their separate towers. All the towers aren't together, but it can be pretty awesome.

You can find this peal used in several publications. William Payn used the above in his *Overtone* article titled "Ring-in of Christmas Morning." Margaret Cowen has used it in her music titled *Joy to the World* which is written as a duet with two bell trees and flute. (Psaltery BP-03). It's a popular peal which you will find used in a variety of ways. Perhaps you will be the one to find a new way of using it!