

## SPRING RING 2009 Rehearsal Notes

**GENERAL NOTES:** Remember to follow all dynamics, tempo changes, crescendos, decrescendos, and markings that will dictate style and musicality. Any changes or highlights will be mentioned below.

***Adeste Fideles:*** As written, with all dynamics, ritardandos and a tempos. The more challenging section is m. 34-41. Spend a little more time here as the bells are solo.

***Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken:*** Remember there are two distinct moods in this piece. While the beginning and end are very grandiose and majestic, the middle section is slower, soft and melodic. Again the brass drop out as does the organ, and the bells in all their beauty get to shine!! So, shine, my friends!

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness:*** Observe carefully the tenutos (holds) in m. 2 and 3. Add another at the end of m. 5 on beat 3. At the half note on m. 65, add a hold. Put a cut after the hold in m. 67. Add another tenuto on beat 3 of m. 68.

***I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry (optional piece):*** The beginning might be a bit confusing. Once the bells written are played, they begin to random ring until the director gives a cue for the dotted half note hold in m. 3. Remember to keep this very soft. Mallets on the table beginning at m. 12. Suspended mallets beginning m. 36. If you do not have chimes in this section, is it alright to play bells. If we have enough chimes at the festival, we will use them and no bells in this section.

### **Group I:**

***God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (Brethren, We Have Met to Worship):*** Practice the techniques in m. 1-19. There is only 1 mart lift per measure. The marts on beats 3 and 4 should be clean with no pitch following into the next beats. It should sound like a half note, 8<sup>th</sup> note, 8<sup>th</sup> rest, 8<sup>th</sup> note, 8<sup>th</sup> rest.

***Meditation on 'Lord, I Want to Be a Christian:*** Beautiful piece. Keep in mind, a violin or oboe would also be lovely as a solo instrument for this. M. 41 and 42 – insert a decrescendo to piano. Crescendo m. 43 to mp to allow the two-measure crescendo of m. 44-45 to arrive at a nice forte at the end of m. 46.

### **Group II:**

***Great is Our God (Psalm 66):*** This is a very celebrative piece for bells and choir and brass. Enjoy this piece with great gusto!

***O Little Town of Bethlehem:*** Note the molto ritardando at the end of m. 66 thru m. 68.

***Renaissance:*** This piece is one of contrasts. Work hard on the dynamic differences to get the full effect of all the drama in this piece. The molto crescendo at m. 56 should start softly and build to “blasto profundo!!!” Note you only have to m. 63 to enjoy that dynamic. All but the melody go down to piano and at m. 67, EVEN SOFTER!! Morendo–dying away! Only to be contrasted by m. 69! Magnificent! Heads up at m. 89 for the molto ritardando!!