

Curriculum Goals for Children's and Youth Handbell Choirs at FUMC, Dallas

Cymbala Ringers (Grades 4 - 5 beginners)

Goals:

1. Help ringers to begin to read music by helping them identify their assigned notes on the staff.
2. Help ringers to become familiar with basic rhythmic notation (whole, half, quarter and eighth notes).
3. Help ringers to begin to associate individual bells with their corresponding pitches on the staff (e.g. G5 is the second line on the treble staff, C5 is middle C, etc.)
4. Help ringers to learn to track their assigned notes throughout an entire piece of music.
5. Help ringers to learn proper handbell technique for basic ringing and damping.
6. Introduce ringers to time signatures and key signatures and help them to recognize the accidentals associated with a given key.

Steeple Ringers (Grades 5 - 6)

Goals:

1. Help ringers to continue to develop note reading skills by introducing accidentals.
2. Introduce ringers to more advanced time signatures and key signatures and help them to recognize the accidentals associated with a given key.
3. Introduce ringers to the practice of making bell changes.
4. Help ringers to continue to develop their rhythmic skills through exercises and more rhythmic repertoire.
5. Introduce the concepts of melody and accompaniment and associated dynamics with emphasis on proper ringing techniques required to achieve dynamic contrasts.

Tower Ringers (Grades 7 - 9)

Goals:

1. Same as above for youth who do not read music when they join the youth bell choir.
2. Help ringers become more proficient in music reading skills as pertains to rhythm by incorporating more complicated rhythmic passages in repertoire and /or exercises. (Including dotted half/quarter, dotted quarter/eighth, as well as triplets).
3. Help students to continue to develop their technical ringing skills by learning more advanced ringing techniques and the associated notation. (e.g. mart., TD, use of mallets, etc.)
4. Help ringers to learn to recognize and emphasize the "melody" when ringing their pieces, giving emphasis to a broad range of dynamics and the technique required to achieve them.
5. Give ringers opportunities to do "outreach" performances such as Community Christmas, C.C. Young, etc. as well as performing during the Variations' annual tour.

Carillon Ringers (Grades 10 -12)

Goals:

1. Help ringers continue to develop their music reading skills with more challenging repertoire that incorporates multiple keys, accidentals and more advanced rhythmic patterns (triplets, dotted eighth/sixteenth, etc.)
2. Help students to continue to develop their technical ringing skills by using more advanced ringing techniques with emphasis on "musical" ringing.
3. Help ringers to learn to ring differing styles of music with emphasis on proper ringing techniques appropriate to each style.
4. Give ringers opportunities to do "outreach" performances such as White Rock Marathon, Community Christmas, C.C. Young, etc. as well as performing during the Variations' annual tour.