



## 2020 Bell Tree Composition Contest

### \$2000 Contest Prize

**Entries must be postmarked or submitted via email by August 15th, 2020**

#### TO ENTER:

Submit a cover letter, manuscript PDF and MP3 together in a single mailed packet or via email by **August 15th, 2020**. The cover letter must contain the title, performance duration, composer's name, address, telephone number and email address. The manuscript must include the title, bell used chart (if applicable), optional instruments, and separate handbell tree part. **DO NOT INCLUDE THE COMPOSER'S NAME ON ANY PAGE OF THE MANUSCRIPT.**

MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: Jane Vakoc at [jane@vakoc.com](mailto:jane@vakoc.com) or 18160 Cottonwood Rd. #259  
Sunriver, OR 97707.

1. Composition requirements:
  - a. An original composition or public domain arrangement.
  - b. Bell tree part for a moderately skilled ringer and a handbell choir part Level 2+ to 3.
  - c. Bell tree part may include C5-C7 and/or bells down to G4 and up to G7, requiring 2 mallets (or minimum use of 4 mallets).
  - d. Must include 3-5 oct handbell choir or optional 3-5 oct handchime choir or parts of both; optional additional instruments acceptable.
  - e. Performance duration guideline: 3 - 4 minutes.
2. Please use most current HMA publication Handbell Notation and Grading System as a guide for all handbell notations.
3. Composers may enter as many manuscripts as they wish but each one must be sent under a separate cover letter.
4. Decision of the judges is final and will be announced in November 2020.
5. The winning entry will be published by Jeffers Handbell Supply and will be submitted for performance at the 2021 National Seminar.
6. *Into the Forest* will request a suitable dedication line.
7. Adherence to copyright laws is expected for all compositions.

QUESTIONS: Contact Karen Van Wert from *Into the Forest* at [kvwcreations@yahoo.com](mailto:kvwcreations@yahoo.com).

## Bell Tree Composition Contest Narrative

This contest is focused on increasing compositions which will bring bell trees from the periphery into the mainstream of the handbell world.

The goal of the music is to have the bell tree and the handbell choir part interrelated, woven together musically. The bell tree part is not a descant, an ostinato, or a repeat of the handbell choir part. It is a significant part, equal with the handbell choir part. The handbell choir part is not an accompaniment to the bell tree nor a stand-alone part with the bell tree optional. Both are necessary for the whole.

The goal is to have a composition playable by the mainstream of handbell choirs, level 2+ through level 3. The challenge is to compose it with what many handbell choirs in this category have – that is, a 3-to-5 octave set of handbells and/or a 3-octave set of chimes. Other ideas will be considered, but top priority will be given to this arrangement of equipment.

The bell tree part is to be interesting and playable. It should require the skill of a moderately skilled handbell ringer but not require the skill of an advanced bell tree ringer. Compositions which limit the number of sharps and flats to 2 are encouraged. Key changes are acceptable as long as they use two sharps/flats or less. Standard setup is preferred but not required. (See *A Bell Tree Keyboard Manual*, Tree-O Publications 117.) While you are composing, be aware that many handbell choirs in this range do not have duplicate bells.

The compositions will be evaluated without identification of the composer on the manuscript. Two handbell choirs will read through the compositions, Bells of the Lakes in Minnesota, and The Bells of Sunriver in Oregon. Both handbell choirs have experienced bell tree ringers who can evaluate the bell tree part. Evaluations will be made by the ringers, the directors, and the bell tree players.

The winning composition will be published by Jeffers Handbell Supply and will be submitted for performance at the 2021 National Seminar. “Honorable Mention” manuscripts will be promoted for publication to support the goal of having more compositions for bell tree and handbell choir available.