

Bell Tree Creativity

Hymn Embellishments Made Easy!



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Exploring 3 Concepts

- Pentatonic
- Ostinato
- Open Fifths

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Pentatonic Scale

WHY?

High success rate
Little technical knowledge
Encourage creativity
Reinforce BT skills

RESOURCES

- [Pentatonic Scale](#) – video
- [Circle of Fifths](#) – PDF
- [List of Pentatonic Melodies](#)

WHAT?

5-note scale (sans 4th & 7th)

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Choose a Hymn – Where to start?

Pentatonic Hymn – see list
Key of C, F or G (No flats/sharps; 1b, 1#)
Limited accidentals

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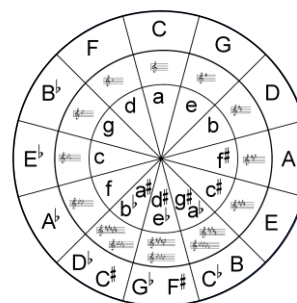
1st String (C6-C7) & Pentatonic

Come Let Us Eat
Love Comes Down at Christmas
There is a Happy Land
And if you meet with troubles
Jesus Loves Me
Jesus in the Morning
Leave it There
Come Thou Font of Every Blessing
Amazing Grace
I've Got Peace Like a River
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus
Steal Away

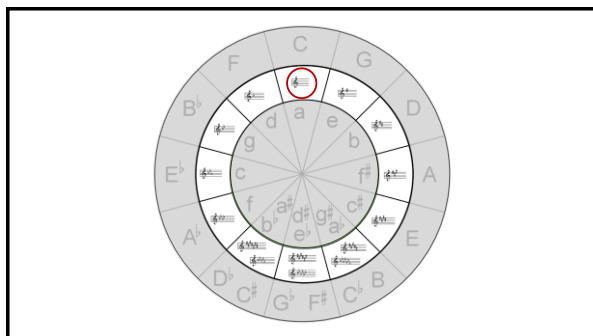
A Va De
Garton
Happy Land
Heavenly Amour
Jesus Loves Me
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the Morning
Leave it There
Nettleton
New Britain
Peace Like a River
Plainfield
Steal Away

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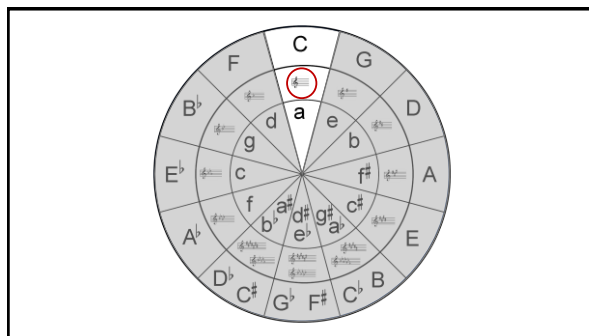
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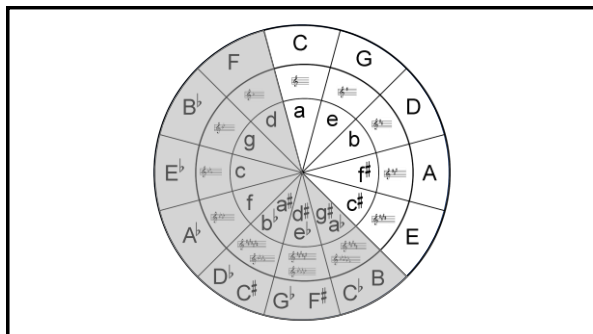
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Now What?

- Random ring
- Improv Ring
- Ring a repeated pattern aka ostinato
- Duet with one ringer playing melody on C6-C7 and second ring "embellishing" on C5-B6
- Duet – take turns by verse or phrase
- Processional with BT & chimes or lower bells
- Have fun and do what is pleasing to your ear

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Ostinato

WHY?

High success rate
Little technical knowledge
Encourage creativity
Reinforce BT skills

WHAT?

Repeated phrase/rhythm

RESOURCES

- Hal Hopson Series – Handbells in Worship I & II

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Melodic Phrase

2-4 measures

Melody

Similar melody (same key & time signatures)

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Rhythmic Phrase

2-4 measures

Melody

Bass line

Similar melody (same key & time signatures)

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Open Fifths

WHY?

Little technical knowledge

Reinforce BT skills

Step toward lead sheet

RESOURCES

WHAT?

1st & 5th note in Chord

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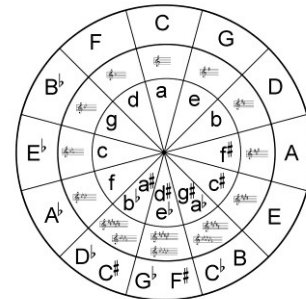
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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

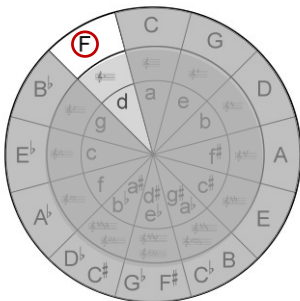
Charles Wesley

Rowland Hugh Prichard

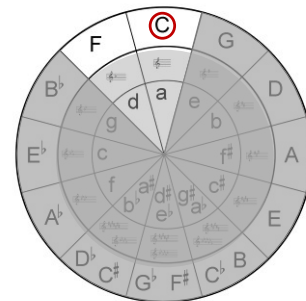
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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Charles Wesley Rowland Hugh Prichard

No Impact	5 th Up	5 th Down
C C ⁷	Caug	Cdim
Cm Csus	C+	Cm ^{b5}
C- Cadd	Cm ^{#5}	

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Apply Open Fifths

- 1st on beat 1 and 5th on beat 3
- Both 1st & 5th on beat 1
- Simple rhythmic pattern
- Duet potential with melody on C6-C7 BT and Fifths on C5-B6 BT

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Helpful Hints for Hymn Embellishments

- Always check with keyboardist
 - Hymn tune
 - Key signature
 - Verses
 - Intro/Bridge
 - Cues

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Resources

- Belltree-I Google Group <https://groups.google.com/u/2/g/belltree-1>
- Bell Tree Repository - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XTaeYY-Ag53Nvk-3tN4WrvYsnULd-vdE?usp=sharing>
- <http://Hymnary.org>
- The Creative Use of Handbells in Worship & No 2; Hal Hopson - Hope Publishing Company
- The Creative Use of Descants in Worship; Hal Hopson - Hope Publishing Company

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Resources

Area 7 Handbell Musicians of America Bell Tree Loan Program
contact CHIME Chair, Michelle Finlon
Information available on Area 7 website

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QUESTIONS

?

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