

Introduction to Ensemble Ringing

- What is Ensemble ringing?
 - Smaller number of ringers usually covering more than 2 bells each.
 - Can be one, two, or more ringers.
- Differences from full choir ringing:
 - Bell assignments
 - Specific bells not usually assigned to single ringer.
 - Multiple ringers may play a specific bell at different time.
 - Usually a ringer's notes are designated by stem direction. For example:
 - Ringer 1 plays stems up, top staff
 - Ringer 2 plays stems down, top staff
 - Ringer 3 plays stems up, bottom staff
 - Ringer 4 plays stems down, bottom staff
 - Sometimes each ringer has a separate sheet of music.
 - Bell placement
 - Placed closer together.
 - Put bells back in their place after ringing. Someone else may need that bell.
 - Sometimes bells placed out of chromatic order.
 - Usually no director
 - Must listen/follow each other.
 - Gloves
 - To wear or not to wear?
 - Music Location
 - Stands
 - On the table
 - Books and risers tend to use too much table space.
 - Table damp used extensively

- Techniques:
 - Weaving – A technique to play a succession of bells by alternately playing a bell in 1 hand while you put down the bell in your other hand and pick up a new bell. Then play the new bell in your second hand while you put down the 1st bell and pick up another bell. DO NOT CROSS YOUR ARMS!!!!
 - Table damp – Damping a bell on the table instead of on your body.
 - Passing bells – Handing a bell to another ringer while playing. The bell may be ringing as it is passed.
 - 4-In-Hand – Same as in a full choir

- Music
 - Ensemble Music Notation
 - l – left hand
 - r – right hand
 - 1-r – move bell from left hand to right hand
 - r-l – move bell from right hand to left hand
 - 1-2 – pass bell from ringer 1 to ringer 2
 - Grading
 - AGEHR Levels (1,2,3, etc) not typically used
 - Most music graded Easy, EM, Medium, MD, Difficult
 - Resources
 - Web
 - Jeffers Handbell Supply (www.handbellworld.com)
 - Music Stores
 - AGEHR Festivals
 - Lake Junaluska