

# HANDBELL NOTATION — GUIDE —

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## RINGING

R

### RING

Ring and damp normally, according to note values and rests

LV

### LET VIBRATE

Allow bells to continue ringing, regardless of note values or rests

HB

### HANDBELLS

Play part with handbells

HC

### HAND CHIMES

Play part with hand chimes



### CHIME NOTATION

Square noteheads instead of round



### MARTELLATO

Hold handle and gently strike full body of bell horizontally on (padded) table

# RINGING



## HAND MARTELLATO

Hold the outside of the bell and gently strike the full body of the bell horizontally on (padded) table



## MARTELLATO LIFT

Hold handle and gently strike full body of bell horizontally on (padded) table, then lift quickly to prolong sound



## MUTED MARTELLATO

Place one or two fingers on outside of bell and gently strike with mallet

PL

## PLUCK

Lay bell on (padded) table and move clapper manually to create sound. May also be marked with a staccato dot.

PL·↑

## PLUCK LIFT

Lay bell on (padded) table, move clapper manually to create sound, then lift quickly to prolong sound

# DAMPING



## DAMP SIGN

Begin damping normally. This sign may also be used to indicate selective damping of specific notes (the damp sign will appear on the stem of the note(s) to be dampened).

**BD**

## BRUSH DAMP

Brush ringing handbell downward against chest to create a sudden reduction in volume (like *fp*)

**RB**

## RIM BRUSH

Ring normally on beat one, hold horizontally over (padded) table on beat two, then lay bell on table and pull toward you on beat three

**RT**

## RING TOUCH

Ring bell close to shoulder, then touch to shoulder immediately to stop sound

**TD**

## THUMB DAMP

Place thumb on outside of bell as it is rung to create a stopped sound. May also be marked with a staccato dot.

**HD**

## HAND DAMP

Place (gloved) hand on (larger) bell as it is rung to create staccato effect



## TABLE DAMP

Ring bell normally, then damp by laying bell on (padded) table

# SPECIAL TECHNIQUES



## MALLET ROLL: SUSPENDED

Use a mallet in each hand to create a drum roll effect on suspended bell



## MALLET ROLL: TABLE

Use a mallet in each hand to create a drum roll effect on a bell resting on a padded table



## MALLET

Hold bell by handle and strike with mallet



## MALLET: TABLE

Lay bell on padded table and strike with mallet



## MALLET LIFT

Lift bell off table immediately after striking it to prolong sound



## SWING

Ring normally, then do a full arm swing back and forward as it sounds. The arrows indicate which beats to swing on.



## SINGING BELL

Using a 1-inch thick wooden dowel, lightly tap the lip of the bell to start the sound, then, quickly rub the rim of the bell with the stick, applying a certain amount of pressure, to begin the “singing”



## SHAKE

Shake bell rapidly back and forth

# SPECIAL TECHNIQUES



## **BELL TREE**

Three or more bells with interlocked handles, played with a mallet

*tr*

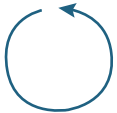
## **TRILL**

Quickly alternate ringing two bells of adjacent pitches or shake both simultaneously

*vib.*

## **VIBRATO**

Ring bell, then gently roll side to side (using the wrist) to create a wavering sound



## **GYRO**

Ring bell, then hold upright and slowly rotate



## **ECHO**

Ring on the beat, then lightly touch the bell to the (padded) table on the counts shown

**CD**

## **CONTROLLED DIMINUENDO**

Slide gloved hand on the outside of ringing handbell toward rim