This is an easy bell tree peal. The first two measures are primarily ringing each bell as you go down the bell tree. That’s repeated. On the second line, you ring all the bells going down one side of the bell tree. Then you ring all the bells going down the other side of the bell tree. On the last line, you ring every bell going up.

You can add a chime chord at the beginning of each measure. I would add these chimes for the peal above: C D E G A. Chimes sound terrific with a bell tree. You could try the chimes in different octaves and see which chimes sound the best.

You can play it to introduce a hymn. It’s helpful to play it in the same key as the hymn is in (a music director can help you with this). If the hymn is in the key of F, the bottom note is F, and all the other bells are the notes above it in that key. If adding chimes, for the key of F, the chimes would be F G A C D.

Hymns that work well with this peal are Joy to the World and Jesus Christ Is Risen Today. It also can be used on many upbeat, joyful hymns.

It can be used with organ and other instruments also doing the peal. You could start the peal. As you repeated the peal, they could join in.

You can use it to introduce a concert. Or a speaker. Or a special event.

If you want to add more bells, you could find 4 ringers to ring 2 bells each. You could find a lower octave and have them ring the same peal as you do. (You might have to find a duplicate bell for this.) If you want to get real daring, you could have several groups of 4 ringers around the room. If the low bells do one round of the peal, then the higher bells join in (one group at a time), the bell tree would be the last to do the peal. The whole room doesn’t have to stay together, but each group of 4 ringers needs to stay together and ring the whole peal each time. It can sound like you’re in a town which has several church towers ringing this peal from their separate towers. All the towers aren’t together, but it can be pretty awesome.

You can find this peal used in several publications. William Payn used it in his Overtones article titled “Ringing-In of Christmas Morning.” Margaret Cowen has used it in her music titled Joy to the World which is written as a duet with two bell trees and flute. (Psaltery BP-03). It’s a popular peal which you will find used in a variety of ways. Perhaps you will be the one to find a new way of using it!
Your Membership in AGEHR...

...is an investment in Education, Community & Communication

- There are many opportunities to attend educational Festivals and Seminars at the local, area, and national levels, featuring top clinicians, massed ringing, and concerts by the best ensembles in the country.
- AGEHR publishes a variety of materials including everything from Resource Books to our members-only Priority Music Club.
- The Members Only section of our Website features ringer and director resource articles, electronic versions of Overtones with Tips & Tools and more.
- Be among the first to see and hear AGEHR Publishing’s new music in our New Releases mailing, which includes sample scores and a complimentary Enhanced CD, which includes recorded performances and PDF files of score excerpts.
- Receive substantial discounts on many AGEHR Resource materials and state of the art Finale® and Sibelius® music notation software.
- There is something for everyone in Overtones, our bimonthly journal, which includes educational articles, news, and feature stories from the handbell world as well as free music and how-to articles in our exclusive Tips & Tools publication.

You may join or renew right now at www.AGEHR.org

- [ ] Regular Membership .......................................................... $65
  Our most popular membership level for individuals and groups. Director and choir members share all benefits. Includes voting privilege.
- [ ] Ringer Membership .......................................................... $30
  Must be affiliated with a Regular Member Choir. This is a personal, not group, membership. Ringer members are not eligible to vote.
  Affiliated Membership number:
- [ ] Senior Citizen Membership (65+) ........................................ $40
  This is a personal, not group, membership. May not represent an organization or bring a choir to events but may attend as an individual. Includes voting privilege.
- [ ] Full-time Student Membership ............................................ $30
  Send a copy of current student ID when applying/renewing. This is a personal, not group, membership. May not represent an organization or bring a choir to events but may attend as an individual. Student members are not eligible to vote.
- [ ] Business Membership ....................................................... $130
  Includes privileges to AGEHR and The Handbell Industry Council (HIC).
- [ ] Platinum Membership* ...................................................... $1,000
  Regular membership benefits, a tax-deductible donation of $870 to the AGEHR fund of your choice, year-long recognition at selected events and in print, a complimentary one-year gift Regular Membership, free shipping on all AGEHR Guild Store purchases.
- [ ] Gold Membership* .......................................................... $500
  Regular membership benefits, a tax-deductible donation of $370 to the AGEHR fund of your choice, year-long recognition at selected events and in print, and a complimentary one-year gift Regular Membership.
- [ ] Bronze Membership .......................................................... $175
  Regular membership benefits plus a tax-deductible donation of $110 to the AGEHR fund of your choice.
- [ ] Sterling Membership .......................................................... $130
  Regular membership benefits plus a tax-deductible donation of $85 to the AGEHR fund of your choice.

* Platinum and Gold members, please include name, address, email, and phone information for the organization or individual to whom you are gifting a membership.

Canadian membership please add $15 to all memberships for First Class postage. Note: All dues payable in U.S. dollars. All returned checks incur a $25 processing fee.
AGEHR Members may find more peal information on our web site. On our home page at the bottom you can use the Google search on “peal” to find items like:

- The Tips and Tools Section of the May / June 2009 Overtones,
  Bell Peal in G, available on-line here:

Bell Peals in AGEHR History:

*The love and enthusiasm for handbells in America sprang from the hands of Margaret Shurcliff of Boston, Massachusetts. In 1902 she became the first American woman to ring a complete peal on tower bells in England. She also rang **TWO PEALS ON HANDBELLS**, and she was presented with a set of eight Whitechapel English handbells, which she continued to expand. Margaret was also honored with a membership in the Ancient Society of College Youths, England’s oldest and most respected ringing society. She introduced many friends to the joys of handbell ringing, and her Beacon Hill Ringers, consisting of five of her six children and several friends, became well known for their annual Christmas caroling on Beacon Hill. More History available here:*

[http://www.agehr.org/PROUD_TRADITION/HISTORY.ASP](http://www.agehr.org/PROUD_TRADITION/HISTORY.ASP)

Would you like to listen to a variety of handbell peals? Then check out this site!

[http://www.changeringing.co.uk/HANDBELLS.HTM](http://www.changeringing.co.uk/HANDBELLS.HTM)

There is even a video of one of the peals being rung here:

[http://www.changeringing.co.uk/HANDBELLVIDEO.HTM](http://www.changeringing.co.uk/HANDBELLVIDEO.HTM)
Bold New Initiatives to Move the Guild into the Future

AGEHR president, John Pfeiffer’s keynote address at National Seminar 2009 indicated the need for AGEHR to move in a bold, new direction. During the next year, our National Board utilizing input and ideas gathered from all levels of AGEHR membership focused on creating a plan to achieve that move. Then the following year at Pinnacle 2010 the Board announced major changes which will serve to transform the face of AGEHR and become the catalyst for handbell musicians to build “a lifetime of ringing.” As a result, AGEHR will invest in the future of our organization by concentrating on three areas.

First will be a COMPLETE OVERHAUL OF TECHNOLOGY, which will bring our handbell community together in exciting new ways. A software solution has already been identified and is undergoing customization to serve the unique needs of our membership. Completion of this phase of the plan is scheduled for June 2011.

Second is a MAJOR REBRANDING effort. This rebranding has been designed to guide us towards our goal of claiming our rightful place in the music world. A big part of new initiatives being undertaken by AGEHR is to recognize ourselves as musicians and to be taken seriously by the music world. And the name of the organization will reflect that attitude. As of October 1, 2011, we will be known as the...

**Handbell Musicians of America**
(for short: The Guild).

Third will be a NEW MEMBERSHIP FEATURES which includes the introduction of faith-based, educational and community emphases from which members can choose to get expanded content specific to their needs. *The basic membership benefits that all members currently receive will remain the same.* However, these new features will expand our benefits to include optional access to robust and interest-based resources. The target date for the introduction of this phase is October 1, 2012.

For these changes to be successful, we need YOU to be part of the process. You can become involved in several ways:

- Follow our progress as we implement each phase at [www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org).
- While visiting [handbellmusicians.org](http://handbellmusicians.org), download the “I’m On Board” form and tell us how you want to be involved.
- Give us your feedback. Tell us what resources and tools we can provide that will add value to your membership.
- By making a contribution to the New Initiatives Campaign, invest in our future.

More details available [www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org)