

Catalog 20684-M

5 - 6 octaves handbells
optional flute and percussion
(wind chimes, snare drum, sus. cymbal, triangle)

Level 3+

Frolic Flight of the Hummingbird



Kurt Meyer



From the Top Music
Albuquerque, NM
www.FromTheTopMusic.com

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for Handbells and optional Flute and Percussion
(wind chimes, snare drum, sus. cymbal, triangle)



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Level 3+

Handbells Used: 5-6 Octaves (plus optional F2)

5 octave choirs omit notes in < >
Table mallet all bass clef staccato notes
TD (thumb damp) all treble clef staccato notes

Gloriously; with majesty ♩ = 76-80

KURT MEYER

A. Nesting and Preparation

ASCAP

Handbells

Flute

Percuss

Wind Chimes

* LV centered between staves applies to stems-down treble and stems-up bass notes only
Groups are encouraged to carefully observe the 'damp' markings on individual notes in LV passages.
Delay damp (DD) can be used in lieu of LV to keep the sound from becoming too dense.

3 4

LV

Sk

mp

5 6

LV

Sk

mf

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7 8

Sk

LV

mf

A bit faster ♩ = 92-98 B. Birth

9 10 11 12

LV

no rit.

(fledging)

3 (fledging)

Whimsically; with motion ♩ = 120-130 *C. The Flight*

13 *mp* 14 15 *mf*

Snare Drum
p

16 17 18 *R*

19 20 21 *mf*

The musical score is arranged in three systems. The first system (measures 13-15) features a piano part with a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef, both in a key with one sharp (F#). The piano part starts with a *mp* dynamic and ends with a *mf* dynamic. The bass line consists of chords. The snare drum part is in the bottom staff, marked *p*, with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and rests. The second system (measures 16-18) continues the piano and bass parts. Measure 18 includes a triplet of eighth notes in the piano part and a fermata over a chord in the bass part. The snare drum part continues its rhythmic pattern. The third system (measures 19-21) features a new melodic line for the piano part in the bottom staff, marked *mf*, while the upper piano and bass parts continue. The snare drum part concludes with a final rhythmic pattern.

22 23 24

poco rit.

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 22 to 24. It features a treble and bass clef staff. Measure 22 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. Measure 23 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. Measure 24 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. A 'poco rit.' marking is present above measure 24. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

3

This block contains the continuation of the first system, showing a treble clef staff with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 23 and a bass clef staff with chords. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

25 26 27

More relaxed ♩ = 116-120

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 25 to 27. It features a treble and bass clef staff. Measure 25 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. Measure 26 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. Measure 27 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. A 'More relaxed ♩ = 116-120' marking is present above measure 25. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

Wind Chimes

This block contains the continuation of the second system, showing a treble clef staff with a long note and a bass clef staff with chords. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

28 29 30

This block contains the third system of the musical score, covering measures 28 to 30. It features a treble and bass clef staff. Measure 28 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. Measure 29 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. Measure 30 has a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

mp

This block contains the continuation of the third system, showing a treble clef staff with eighth notes and a bass clef staff with chords. A large watermark is overlaid across the page.

31 32 33 34

Musical score for measures 31-34. The piano staff (top) features a triplet of eighth notes in measure 31, followed by eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff (bottom) provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

35

Musical score for measure 35. The piano staff (top) has a triplet of eighth notes. The percussion staff (bottom) shows a measure with a suspended cymbal effect, marked with a dynamic of *p*.

36 37 38

Musical score for measures 36-38. The piano staff (top) continues with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bass staff (bottom) features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes.

Musical score for measures 39-41. The piano staff (top) has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The percussion staff (bottom) shows a measure with a dynamic marking of *mf*.

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39 40 41 42

Musical score for measures 39-42. The piano part features a complex texture with multiple voices in both treble and bass clefs. The bass clef part has a prominent melodic line in the lower register. The piano part is marked with a *mp* dynamic.

43 44 45 46

Musical score for measures 43-46. The piano part continues with a similar texture. The bass clef part has a melodic line. The piano part is marked with a *mf* dynamic.

43 44 45 46

Musical score for measures 43-46. The piano part continues with a similar texture. The bass clef part has a melodic line. The piano part is marked with a *mf* dynamic.

43 44 45 46

Musical score for measures 43-46. The piano part continues with a similar texture. The bass clef part has a melodic line. The piano part is marked with a *mf* dynamic.

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Wind Chimes

Sk

mf

mp

mf

mp

Snare Drum

mp

47 RT RT 48 RT RT 49 RT RT 50 Sk

rit.

Calmly; with introspection $\text{♩} = 90-94$ *D. Drinking and Feeding*

51 52 53 54

mp LV LV

(R)

Wind Chimes

55 56 57 58 3

(R) LV LV

mp

59 60 61

LV

mp

62 63 64

LV

mp

65 66 67

R

mp *mf*

V

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 59-61) features a piano staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef, both in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano part includes a 'LV' marking. The second system (measures 62-64) continues the piano and bass parts, with a 'mp' dynamic marking. The third system (measures 65-67) shows a piano staff with a treble clef and a bass staff with a bass clef, both in a key signature of one sharp. The piano part includes a 'R' marking and dynamics of 'mp' and 'mf'. A 'V' marking is present at the end of the system.

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68 *f rit.* *ff* *lunga*

Suspended Cymbal *pp rit.* *mf* *lunga*

A bit slower; contemplatively ♩ = 86-90 *E. Rest (Perched)*

70 *mf* *RSk

71 72

73 74 75 (TD)

Triangle *mp*

*Note: Random shake (RSk), randomly alternating between shaking and straight ringing.

76 77 78

LV LV

Wind Chimes

This system contains measures 76, 77, and 78. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. Measure 76 shows a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes in the treble and eighth notes in the bass. Measure 77 continues this pattern with some rests. Measure 78 features a long, sustained note in the treble and a melodic line in the bass. A percussion line at the bottom includes a 'Wind Chimes' effect in measure 78. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

79 80 81

R LV LV

Triangle

This system contains measures 79, 80, and 81. Measure 79 has a melodic line in the treble and a bass line with some rests. Measure 80 continues the bass line. Measure 81 features a melodic line in the treble and a bass line. A percussion line at the bottom includes a 'Triangle' effect in measure 80. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

82 83

LV LV R

This system contains measures 82 and 83. Measure 82 has a melodic line in the treble and a bass line. Measure 83 continues the bass line and has a melodic line in the treble. A percussion line at the bottom has a long, sustained note. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

84

LV

85

LV rit.

R

Suspended Cymbal

pp *mf*

Whimsically; with motion ♩ = 120-130 *F. The Flight*

86

87

88

mp *mf*

Snare Drum

p

89

90

91

3

92 93 94

95 96

mf

mp

3

3

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Musical score for piano and violin/viola. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The first system contains measures 97, 98, and 99. The second system contains measures 100, 101, and 102. The piano part features complex chordal textures and triplets. The violin/viola part includes melodic lines with triplets and slurs. Performance markings include *f*, *ff*, and *fp*. Technical markings include *RT* (Right Hand), *Sk* (Slur), and *3* (triplet). A large watermark is present across the score: "Copyrighted material. Please return to our store to order this item."

COMPOSER NOTES



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Frolic Flight of the Hummingbird is an original handbell composition, and includes optional flute and percussion parts. It is a sonic representation of the journey of a hummingbird. Often found drinking nectar from flowers or feeders, this little creature is quite fast in flight! With a distinctly unique hovering and flying pattern, it is unlike most other birds. Blink and you might just miss it zipping away and flying off!

Musically, this composition utilizes a jaunty Lydian–esque mode and is characterized by a sixteenth note neighbor tone motif. Gliding in to combine with these patterns is an ascending stepwise melody, helping to envision the whimsicality and wing pattern of a hummingbird’s flight.

The piece is comprised of six sections, which are listed below, along with some insight to each section:

A. Nesting and Preparation (*mm. 1 – 8*)

- ▶ The stately melody is introduced in C Lydian, and then modulates up to E-flat Lydian, signifying the beginning of the hummingbird’s journey. We can imagine the mother bird’s activities in building the nest, laying, and incubating the eggs.

B. Birth (*mm. 9 – 12*)

- ▶ With another modulation to G Lydian, this section represents the hatching of the eggs and the newly born hummingbird. At the end of measure 12, the handbell shake that occurs in the music is a text-painting representation of the fledgling’s wing-flapping.

C. The Flight (*mm. 13 – 50*)

- ▶ This section introduces the sixteenth note motif as the main “flight” theme. Measures 20 – 24 incorporate call-and-response motifs, as the hummingbird encounters another avian friend! The music then modulates back to E-flat Lydian, in a calm and transparent texture, as the hummingbird relaxes in its journey.

D. Drinking and Feeding (*mm. 51 – 69*)

- ▶ Once again transitioning back to G Lydian, quartile harmonies in the interior texture musically signify water and nectar, with a reintroduction and variation of the opening melody in “A. Nesting and Preparation”.

E. Rest (Perched) (*mm. 70 – 85*)

- ▶ Set in E Lydian, the initial “random shake” emulates the slowing of the hummingbird’s flight as it gets ready to perch and rest. This often occurs right after the bird drinks and feeds. The melody is a variation of the earlier sixteenth note motif but set at a slower tempo. At the end of measure 85, a handbell shake reoccurs signifying wing-flapping as the bird completes its rest and prepares for yet another flight.

F. The Flight (*mm. 86 – 102*)

- ▶ In G Lydian, the music reprises at the earlier tempo, setting, and motifs from the “C. The Flight” section.

It is my hope that this composition musically captures the essence and spirit of a hummingbird, from the style of its quick and energetic flight pattern, to its frolic and imaginative encounters with other birds...and even with human bird-watchers alike. Enjoy!

–Kurt Meyer