

Catalog # 20559

3 - 7-1/2 Octaves Handbells

Level 3-

Meditations
on the
Theme of Peace



by
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Albuquerque, NM
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As I write these words, the world is recovering from another act of terrorism. Unfortunately, these acts have become all-too-numerous, inundating television news reports, regardless of the time of day. These have left many people wondering, “Is there any place safe anymore? When will enough finally be enough?”

Meditations on the Theme of Peace comes out of an idea I had in my early 20s when I became fascinated with the idea of musical cryptograms – ways to spell out ordinary words using only the letters of the musical alphabet.

As I began developing the idea, I soon discovered the word “Peace” musically spells itself out almost naturally. Using the French system (where H=A, I=B, J=C, and so on), the letter “P” was assigned the musical letter B. For roughly 15 years, I only had a five note theme.

Fast forward to age 40, when the world itself was becoming increasingly violent and perilous. After hearing about a recent attack in Nice, France on Bastille Day, I heard this five note theme once again. At that point, I felt God pressing on my heart to write these notes down and knew I could no longer let these five notes sit. Yet I had no idea how I should structure this simple five note theme into a greater whole. Then I heard it: the Latin phrase “Dona nobis pacem” (“Grant us peace”). The final puzzle began placing itself together.

While the original five note motif is a central musical theme in the composition, I also wanted the Latin word “pacem” (“peace”) to be featured by itself in isolation. The E-flat pedal tone represents those voices who are crying out for peace. At the end of the composition, the “pacem” theme joins the “peace” theme as a way of suggesting that those voices are indeed heard.

With the exception of a few places, this composition uses the concept of perfect harmony in the accompaniment, where no extra harmonic tones are permitted to be heard (for example, all A-flat major chords have only those three notes present which make up the triad).

All royalties from this composition will go towards *Seeds of Peace*, an organization that teaches young children in several parts of the globe how to end the scars of hate and violence and instead harvest and spread the message of peace. You can find more information about this wonderful organization at seedsofpeace.org.

In this time of uncertainty, the most important gift we have is each other.

Let there be peace on earth, and indeed, let it begin with each of us.

Derek K. Hakes (Indianapolis, IN)

Dedicated to all the victims of violence and terrorism worldwide

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." *Mother Teresa*

Meditations on the Theme of Peace

Cat. 20559

Level 3-

Handbells Used: 3 - 7 or 7-1/2 octaves handbells

Handchimes Used: 3 Octaves

Performance Notes

Three octave ensembles omit notes in ()

Four octave ensembles omit notes in []

Three and four octave ensembles omit notes in < >

Five octave ensembles omit notes in { }

Rubato; slowly at first

Derek K. Hakes
(ASCAP)

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With expression; legato (♩ = ca. 68)

* LV placed in center of staff system applies to stems-down treble and stems-up bass notes

10 11 12

mp LV LV LV

Musical notation for measures 10, 11, and 12. Measure 10 starts with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The notation includes treble and bass staves with various note values and rests.

13 14 15

LV LV LV

Musical notation for measures 13, 14, and 15. Measure 13 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A large watermark is overlaid across the middle of this system.

16 17 18

LV LV LV

Musical notation for measures 16, 17, and 18. Measure 16 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A large watermark is overlaid across the middle of this system.

19 20 21

LV LV LV

Musical notation for measures 19, 20, and 21. Measure 19 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notation includes treble and bass staves with various note values and rests.

22 23 24

LV LV LV LV

Musical score for measures 22-24. The key signature has three flats. Measure 22: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 23: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 24: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A).

25 26 *piu mosso* 27

LV (D - O - N - A) LV

Musical score for measures 25-27. Measure 25: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 26: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 27: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A).

28 30

LV LV (N - O - B - I - LV LV

Musical score for measures 28-30. Measure 28: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 29: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 30: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A).

31 32

LV S) *mf* LV LV

Musical score for measures 31-32. Measure 31: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Measure 32: Treble clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A). Bass clef has a dotted half note chord (F, A, C) and a half note chord (D, F, A).

34 36

LV LV LV *poco a poco cresc. e rit.*

This system contains measures 34, 35, and 36. The music is in a minor key. Measure 34 starts with a treble clef and a bass clef. The treble staff has a half note chord, followed by quarter notes. The bass staff has a half note chord, followed by quarter notes. Measure 35 continues with similar patterns. Measure 36 features a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes. The instruction 'poco a poco cresc. e rit.' is written below measure 36.

Copyrighted *a tempo* material.

37 38 39

LV LV *f* LV LV

This system contains measures 37, 38, and 39. Measure 37 has a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes. Measure 38 has a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes. Measure 39 has a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes. The instruction '*f*' is written below measure 38.

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40 41 42

LV LV LV

This system contains measures 40, 41, and 42. Measure 40 has a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes. Measure 41 has a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes. Measure 42 has a treble staff with a half note chord and quarter notes, and a bass staff with a half note chord and quarter notes.

43 44 45

LV LV *decresc. e rit.* LV LV

Slower; reflectively (♩ = ca. 62)

Copyrighted material.

46 47 48 49

p (P-A-C-E - M)

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50 51 52

LV

Faster; with greater urgency (♩ = ca. 70)

53 *mf* LV 54 LV 55 LV

56 LV 57 LV 58 LV

59 LV *decresc. e rit.* 60 61 *(lunga)*

Slower (♩ = ca. 64)

62 * 63 64 65

mp LV

66 68 *a tempo*

mf LV *rit.* *mp* R

69

rit. LV

* C5 scored in treble clef in measure 62 for ease of notation

Slow (♩ = ca. 58)

73 74 75 76 77

mp

Broadly; expressively (♩ = ca. 64)

78 79 80

LV cresc. e rit. *ff LV* *LV*

81 82 83

LV *LV* *LV*

*If the Eb7 is available, omit the Eb6 (measures 76 and 77)

84 85 86

LV

LV

LV

Detailed description: This system contains measures 84, 85, and 86. Measure 84 features a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 85 has a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 86 has a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

87 88 89

LV

LV

LV

Detailed description: This system contains measures 87, 88, and 89. Measure 87 features a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 88 has a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 89 has a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

90 91 92

LV

LV

LV

Detailed description: This system contains measures 90, 91, and 92. Measure 90 features a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 91 has a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Measure 92 has a treble clef with a melodic line of quarter notes and a bass clef with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

93 94 95 * 96

LV LV LV *mf* LV LV

97 98 ** 99 100

mp LV LV LV LV *rit.*

101 102 103 104

LV

*If the Db7 is available, omit the Bb6

**Three and four octave ensembles play the *Nobis* theme one octave lower through measure 101