Name: _____ Date: _____

A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

Circle group

A handbell choir makes music in a different way. In most bands, one player plays one whole instrument. In a handbell choir, each player holds just a few bells. Each bell makes only one note. One ringer cannot play a song alone.

Think of a tune that starts with three notes. Three ringers must ring their bells at just the right time. One rings the first note. The next rings the second. A third rings the last. The tune comes out only when the group works as a team.

The bells sit on long tables with soft pads. Big bells make low notes. Small bells make high notes. A ringer lifts a bell and swings it to make the sound. Then the ringer pulls it back to stop the sound. Ringers wear soft gloves. Oil from bare skin can leave marks and dull the metal.

All of the ringers read the same music. Each one watches only for the notes on his or her bells. A director keeps the beat. Handbell music teaches us to listen, to count, and to trust, since every small part is needed.

Questions

1. How many notes does one handbell make?

_____

_____

2. Why can one ringer not play a song alone?

_____

_____

3. Which bells make the low notes?

_____

_____

4. Why do ringers wear soft gloves?

_____

_____

5. What does the director do?

_____

_____

6. Why is trust part of handbell music?

_____

_____

Words to know

ringer: a person who rings a bell
dull: not shiny or bright
director: the person who leads a group of players

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

Triangle group

A handbell choir makes music in an unusual way. In most bands, each player controls a whole instrument. In a handbell choir, each player holds only a few bells, and every bell makes just one note. No single ringer can play a song alone.

Imagine a melody that begins with three different notes. Three ringers must each ring a bell at exactly the right moment. One person rings the first note, the next person rings the second, and a third person rings the last. The tune only appears when the whole group works together.

The bells are laid out on long tables covered with thick foam pads. Larger bells make low notes, and smaller bells make high notes. A ringer lifts a bell, swings it forward to make it sound, and then brings it back to the shoulder to stop the sound. Ringers usually wear soft gloves, because the oil on bare skin can leave marks and dull the shiny metal.

Everyone reads from the same sheet music, but each player watches only for the notes on his or her own bells. A director keeps the beat for the group. Handbell music teaches careful listening, counting, and trust, because every small part is needed to make the song whole.

Questions

1. How many notes does each handbell make?

_____

_____

2. Why can no single ringer play a song alone?

_____

_____

3. Which bells make the low notes?

_____

_____

4. Why do ringers usually wear soft gloves?

_____

_____

5. What job does the director do?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage say trust is part of handbell music?

_____

_____

Words to know

unusual: not common or ordinary
melody: a group of notes that make a tune
ringer: a person who rings a bell
dull: not shiny or bright
director: the person who leads a group of players

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

Square group

A handbell choir creates music in a remarkably unusual way. In most ensembles, each musician controls an entire instrument, but in a handbell choir every player is responsible for only a few bells, and each bell produces just one note. Consequently, no single ringer is able to perform a complete song alone.

Consider a melody that opens with three different notes. Three separate ringers must each sound their bells at precisely the right moment: one person rings the first note, the next person rings the second, and a third person rings the last. The tune emerges only when the whole group cooperates.

The bells are arranged on long tables covered with thick foam pads. Larger bells produce low notes, while smaller bells produce high ones. A ringer lifts a bell, swings it forward to make it sound, and then draws it back to the shoulder in order to stop the vibration. Ringers usually wear soft gloves, because the natural oil on bare skin can leave marks and dull the polished metal.

Everyone reads from the same sheet music, yet each player watches only for the notes assigned to his or her own bells, while a director keeps the beat for the entire group. Handbell music teaches careful listening, counting, and trust, because every small contribution is necessary to make the song complete.

Questions

1. How many notes does each handbell produce?

_____

_____

2. Why is no single ringer able to perform a complete song alone?

_____

_____

3. Which bells produce the low notes?

_____

_____

4. Why do ringers usually wear soft gloves?

_____

_____

5. What responsibility does the director have?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage describe trust as part of handbell music?

_____

_____

Words to know

unusual: not common or ordinary
melody: a group of notes that make a tune
ringer: a person who rings a bell
dull: not shiny or bright
director: the person who leads a group of players

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

Easier · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.6

1. Just one note.
2. Each ringer holds only a few bells, and each bell plays one note.
3. The big bells.
4. Oil from bare skin can mark and dull the metal.
5. The director keeps the beat.
6. Every ringer's part is needed, so each person counts on the others to ring on time.

Triangle: A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

This passage · 209 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. Just one note.
2. Each ringer holds only a few bells, and each bell makes only one note.
3. The larger bells.
4. The oil on bare skin can leave marks and dull the metal.
5. The director keeps the beat for the group.
6. Every ringer's small part is needed, so each person depends on the others to ring at the right time.

Square: A Handbell Choir Needs Every Ringer

Harder · 222 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 9.3

1. Just one note.
2. Each ringer is responsible for only a few bells, and each bell makes only one note.
3. The larger bells.
4. The natural oil on bare skin can leave marks and dull the metal.
5. The director keeps the beat for the entire group.
6. Every contribution is necessary, so each ringer depends on the others to sound their bells on time.