NEWEL LABS · FREE SAMPLE

Christmas Bells Songbook

A free sample of 5 of the 17 Christmas and holiday songs in the Christmas Bells Songbook, for desk bells, handbells, color tubes and xylophone, from C to high C. The 5 song pages after this one are the book's own pages, from its printable PDF (US Letter, in color); each keeps its page number in the book.

IN THIS SAMPLE	PAGE IN THE BOOK
Jingle Bells	6
O Christmas Tree (O Tannenbaum)	12
Silent Night	18
Joy to the World	20
The First Noel	25

Why these songs are free to play

In the US, all music published before 1931 is in the public domain, and so are traditional tunes and other old music whose copyright has run out; the rules of other countries can differ. The book gives one entry per song, from the records of the song master its notes come from; here are its entries for these 5 songs. For Jingle Bells and Silent Night, the master records this basis: each tune is in a pre-1931 print named in its entry below.

Jingle Bells. Written by James Lord Pierpont and published in 1857. This version is the chorus. Checked against Heart Songs (1909), pp. 148-149; Songs the Whole World Sings (1915), p. 177; Blue Book (1928), p. 120. 50 of 51 notes. Note 24 (bar 7, note 4) is E (bell 3) here; the prints have C (bell 1) there, or C sharp, which 8 notes from C to C do not include. Ours is the form sung today. On 8 bells it is played one octave lower than the master writes it; every note is otherwise the same.

O Christmas Tree (O Tannenbaum). German folk tune; Ernst Anschütz's Christmas words 1824. Our notes follow Wikipedia score (melody line: the first part, the middle part, then the first part again). On 8 bells it is played one octave lower than the master writes it, and 4 notes are moved an octave to fit (marked ↑ or ↓ on its page). Key in this book: C major (engraved in G major).

Silent Night. Composed by Franz Xaver Gruber to words by Joseph Mohr, and first sung in 1818 in Oberndorf, Austria. Checked against Blue Book (1928), p. 67; Mutopia; Wikipedia score. 46 of 46 notes and the rhythm (the form sung today). On 8 bells, 7 notes are moved an octave to fit (marked ↑ or ↓ on its page); every other note is as the master writes it.

Joy to the World. Lowell Mason tune ANTIOCH, words Isaac Watts 1719. Our notes follow The Blue Book of Favorite Songs (Hall & McCreary, Chicago, 1928), p. 71, "Joy to the World!" (Watts / arr. Lowell Mason): published 1928, public domain in the US since 2024. Key in this book: C major (printed in D major; moved down a whole step).

The First Noel. Traditional Cornish/English carol, printed by Davies Gilbert (1823) and William Sandys (1833). Our notes follow Mutopia Project "The First Noel" (cyberhymnal transcription), soprano line; here, as in the 1928 print, the song starts with a short bar of two ½-beat notes. Key in this book: C major (printed in D major).

Made with AI. Newel Labs is a small studio run with AI tools. This book, its circles, charts, texts and drawings, the code that builds it and the tests that check it were made with AI (Claude, by Anthropic).

The full book

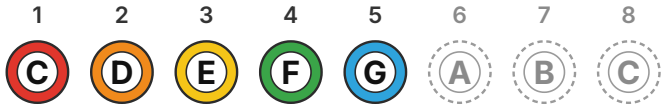
Printable PDF in five files (in color in US Letter and A4, black and white, color-tube order, group posters), in our own Etsy shop as the Christmas Handbell Songbook: **newelbyammar.etsy.com/listing/4607283735**

Paperback, 8.5 × 11 in, in color, on Amazon: **amazon.com/dp/B0HQXV2FMY**

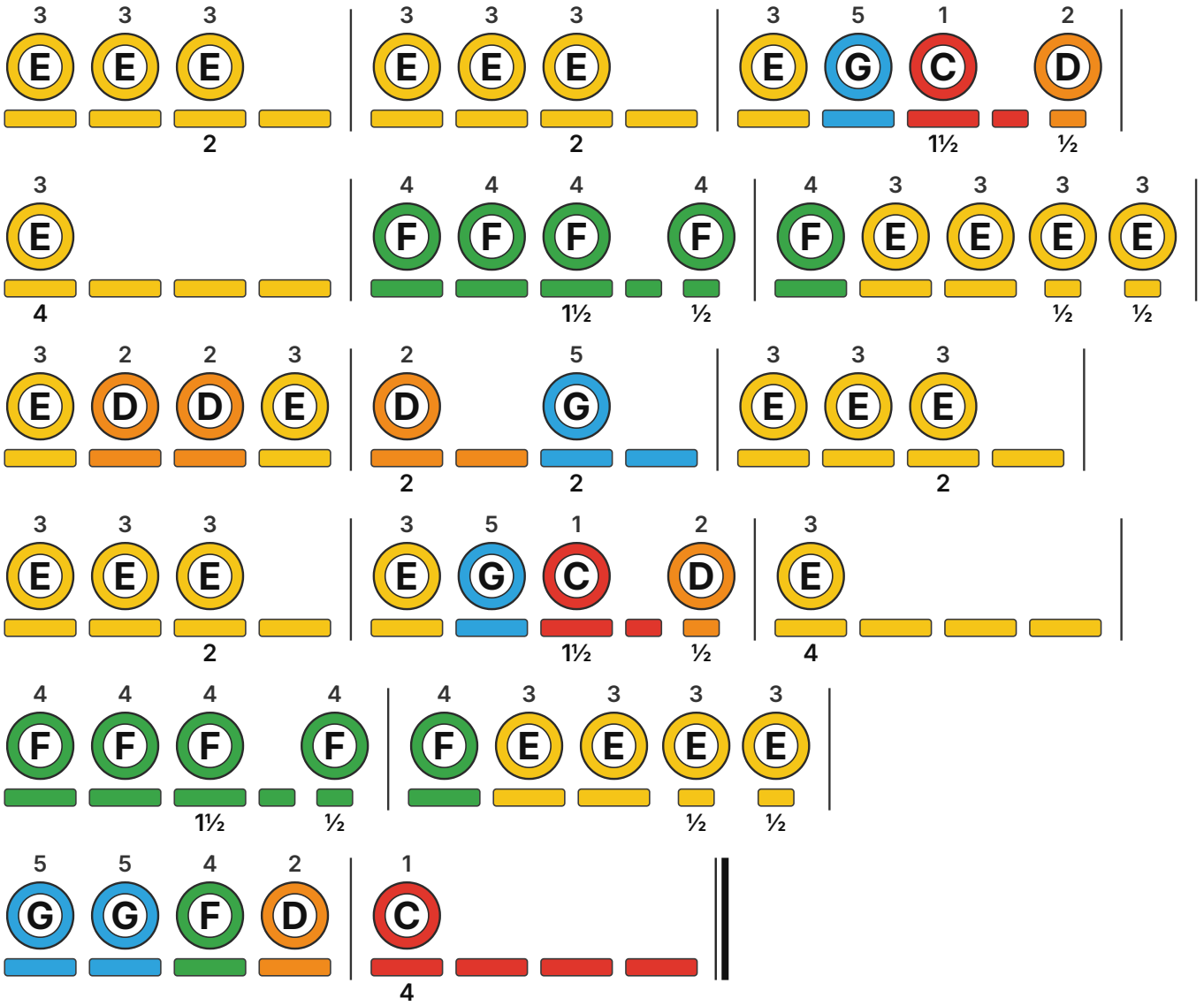
The paperback uses the colors of the leading 8-note color-tube set, so some colors differ from this sample's.

Jingle Bells

Written by James Lord Pierpont and published in 1857. This version is the chorus.

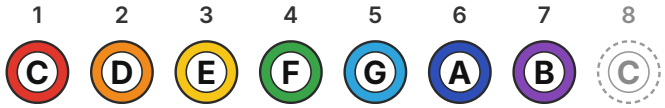


5 of the 8 bells, in color on the chart
4 beats in each bar
Speed: about 132 beats a minute
51 notes

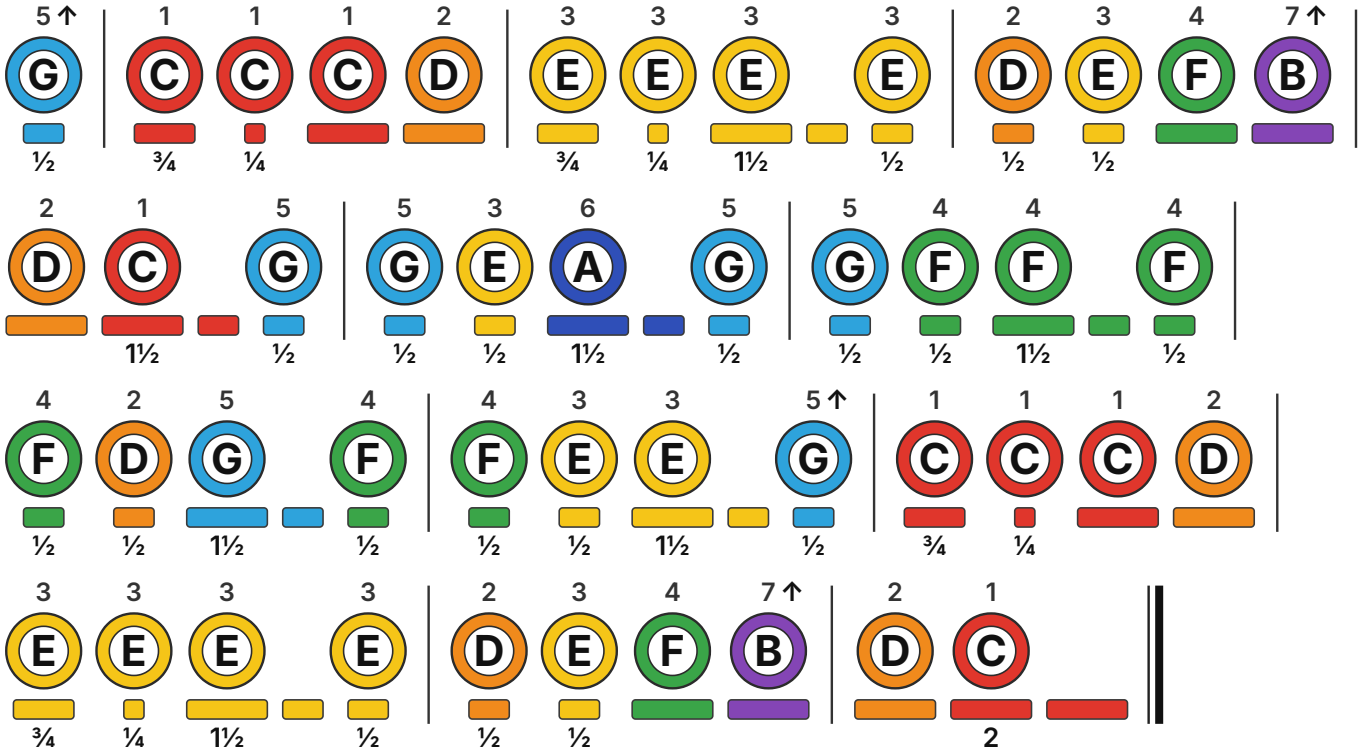


O Christmas Tree (O Tannenbaum)

A German folk tune. Ernst Anschütz wrote the Christmas words in 1824.

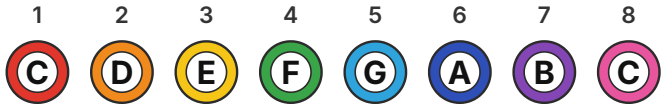


7 of the 8 bells, in color on the chart
3 beats in each bar
Speed: about 96 beats a minute
46 notes · covers the whole tune
Adapted for 8 bells: 4 notes moved an octave, marked ↑ or ↓

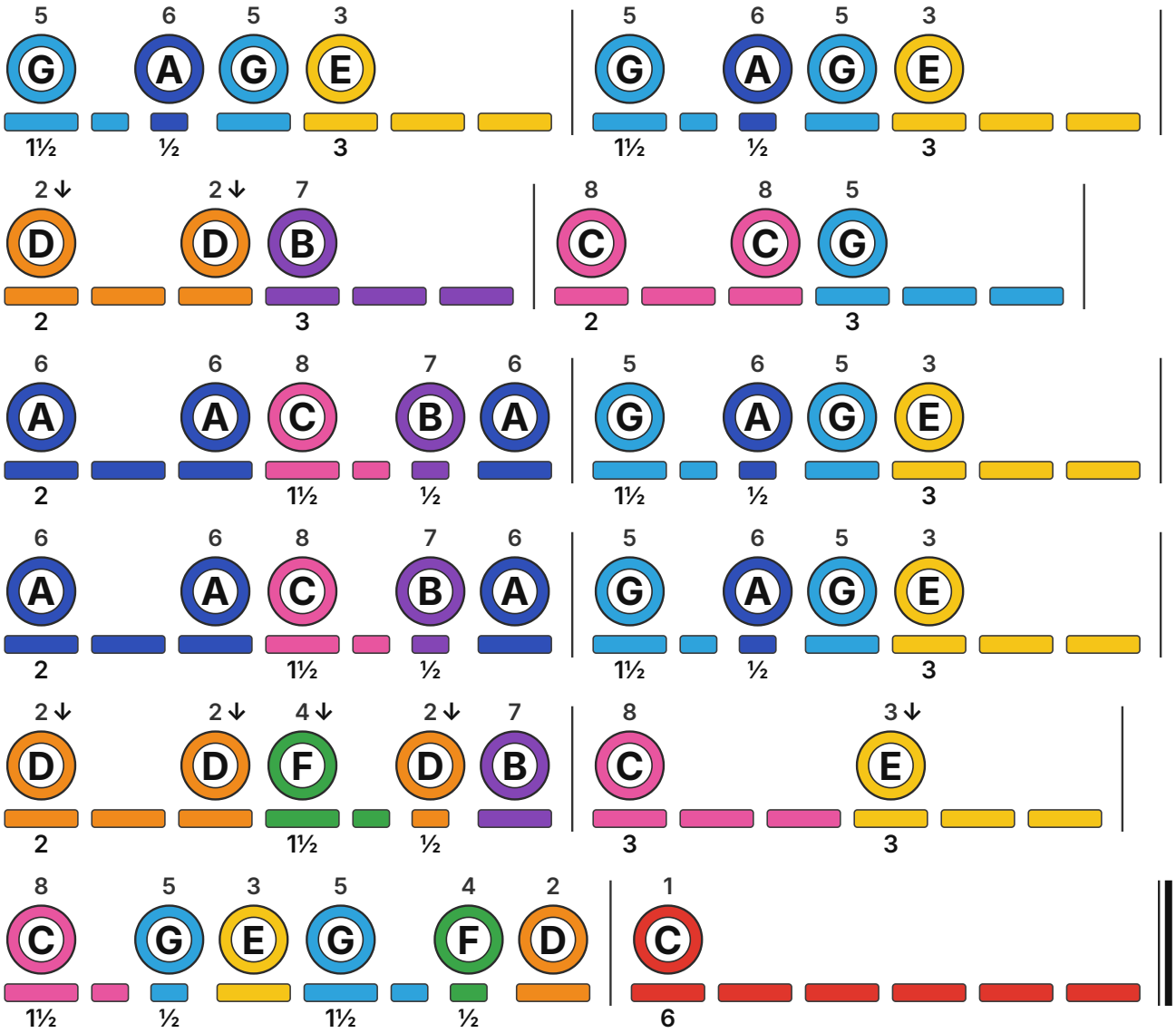


Silent Night

Composed by Franz Xaver Gruber to words by Joseph Mohr, and first sung in 1818 in Oberndorf, Austria.

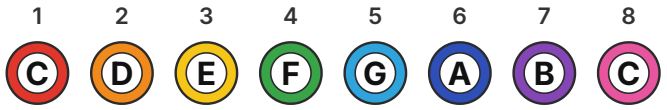


All 8 bells, in color on the chart
6 beats in each bar
Speed: about 150 beats a minute
Groups of 3 beats: about 50 a minute
46 notes
Adapted for 8 bells: 7 notes moved an octave, marked ↑ or ↓

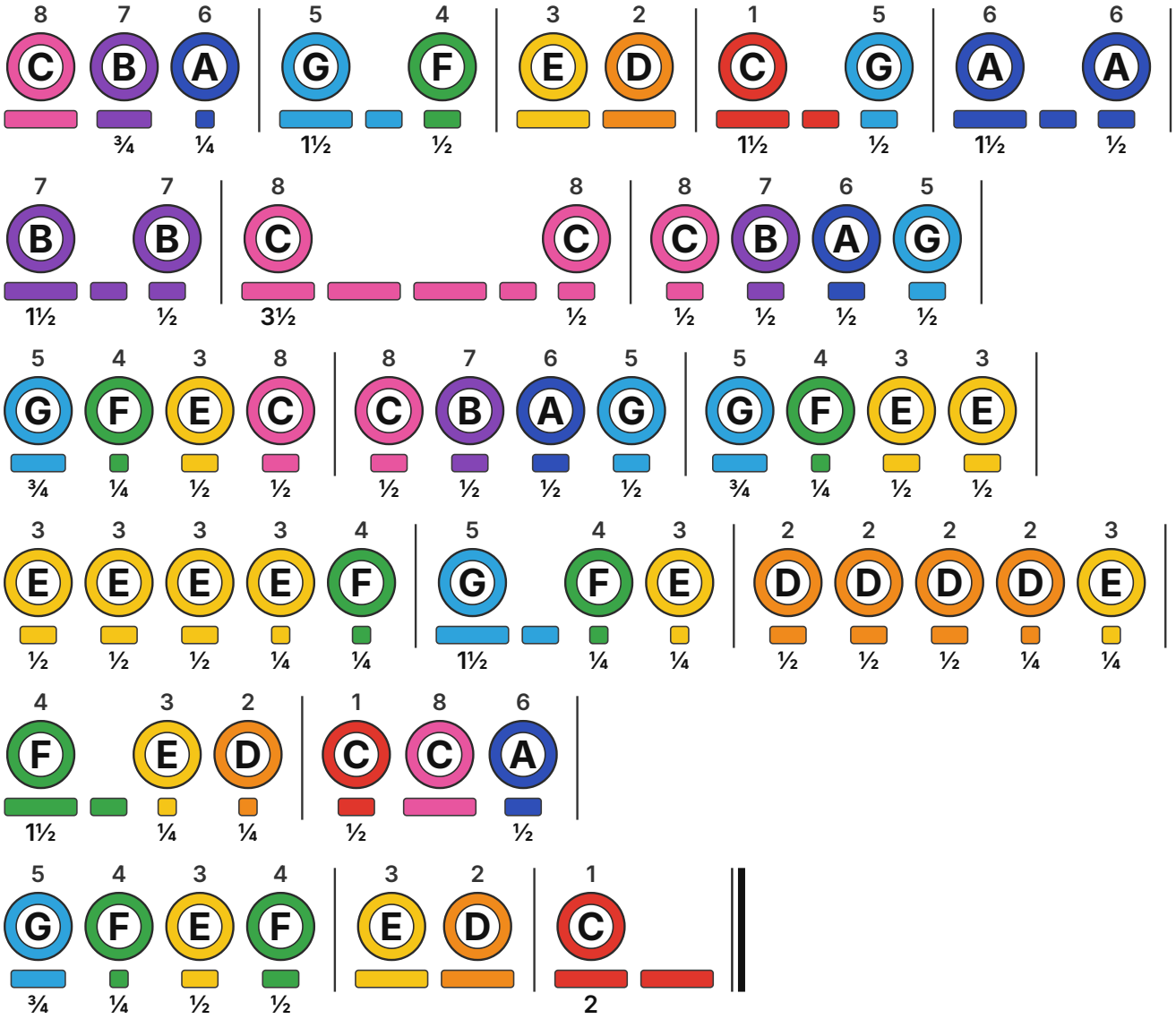


Joy to the World

Isaac Watts wrote the words in 1719. The tune, known as Antioch, is an arrangement by the American composer Lowell Mason (1792–1872) and has long been credited to Handel.

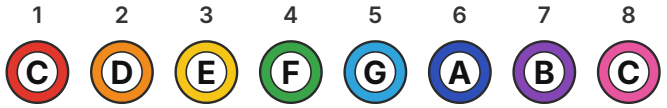


All 8 bells, in color on the chart
2 beats in each bar
Speed: about 96 beats a minute
57 notes · covers the whole tune



The First Noel

A traditional English carol from Cornwall, in print since 1823.



All 8 bells, in color on the chart
3 beats in each bar
Speed: about 112 beats a minute
72 notes · covers the verse and the refrain

