

## TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

### Non-Readers

These directions assume you have already taught proper grip, ringing stroke and damping.

1. Working with one color group at a time, ring the chord striving to
  - a. Use good, circular strokes
  - b. Strike together
  - c. Damp cleanly
    - i. Ring 4 strokes, damping only after the 4<sup>th</sup> stroke
    - ii. Ring 4 strokes again, damping on signal after each stroke
  - d. Repeat this short drill with the other two colors
2. Teach them to how to ring a note that continues for 3 beats, the duration needed for ringing *Silent Night*.
  - a. While counting out loud **1-2-3 1-2-3 etc.**, demonstrate striking the sound on beat 1 and moving the circle through beats 2 and 3 so that the bell is ready to ring again on the next beat 1.
  - b. Repeat this 2-measure exercise but DAMP on beat 1 of the non-existent 3<sup>rd</sup> measure.
  - c. Repeat this short drill with the other two colors.
3. Expand this 2-measure drill to include two color groups by ringing each of the patterns shown below, one at a time. Tell them the sequence of colors and **remind them to damp on beat 1 of the color change.**
  - a. R 2-3 R 2-3 G 2-3 G 2-3
  - b. R 2-3 R 2-3 Y 2-3 Y 2-3
  - c. G 2-3 G 2-3 R 2-3 R 2-3
  - d. Y 2-3 Y 2-3 R 2-3 R 2-3
  - e. R 2-3 G 2-3 R 2-3 R 2-3
4. Let them ring the entire sequence from the capital letter sheet.
5. Ask them to look for the patterns in each line and down the page.
6. Have them say the letter sequence as they ring until they have memorized it.
7. Train them to watch you for the beginning of the next verse. (Coordinated with organist)

### Music Readers

1. Use the "ringers score" for the version that fits your needs.
2. Learn the music without worrying about the chord colors; the color sequence has been **intentionally** omitted from the ringers score.
3. Learn the optional rhythm for verse 3 *if desired*.
4. Switch to the CAPITAL LETTER sheet.
5. Say the letter sequence while ringing until the ringers have memorized it.
6. If changing to bells before the last verse, explain the interlude and practice making the change. (Think the last line: R G R R)
7. Practice waiting for the extra beats between verses. (Coordinated with the organist)