

Stasis
for choir with handbells

Jordan Nobles

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STRUCTURE

SECTION 1

- ring handbells in any order, very sparsely at first and then gradually more and more

SECTION 2

- begin humming any pitch of the handbells in any octave as long as it is soft and quiet
- do not hum melodies, just a single tone for one whole breath
- choose a different pitch to hum on the next breath
(continue ringing handbells as well)

SECTION 3

- gradually one after another stop ringing handbells and begin using 'singing bell' technique
(i.e. rubbing a wooden dowel on the rim of the bell to create a constant tone, like a crystal glass)
This may be very difficult with the lowest and highest bells but just try to get as many to ring as possible
(continue humming pitches as well)

SECTION 4

- when all players are using 'singing bell' technique gradually a few players may whistle any of the tones present as long as it is soft and quiet, again just a single tone for each breath
(continue 'singing bell' technique and humming pitches)

SECTION 5

- on cue, cease humming and whistling and lift dowels off the bells letting the tones decay on their own

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freely and calmly

8va

INSTRUCTIONS

- Only use handbells that match the given tones above. As many as possible. Basically G minor with no B \flat , E \flat , G \sharp , F \sharp , C \sharp and no low A \flat , E \flat or F \flat
- singers may be either together on stage, or preferably, spatially separated throughout the performance space
- all performers should follow the structure of the piece as outlined on the next page
- performers sing or ring any note in any order
- avoid playing any recognizable pulse
- sing only the notes sounded by the handbells (but in whatever octave is most comfortable)
- no vibrato should be used at all
- each note should last as long as a single breath, handbells should ring until they decay naturally
- all notes, whether sung or rung, should be soft and quiet throughout the piece
- each singer sings or rings notes in his/her own time but conscious of and responsive to the other singers

DURATION: whatever desired