About the arranger

Cathy Mklebust has developed and directed handbell music programs since 1993, and has played bells since childhood. With her dynamic, positive approach and skilled, expressive conducting, she is in great demand as a handbell clinician and festival conductor. As one of today’s most popular handbell composers, she has been commissioned to write music for many festivals and other events, as well as for individual handbell ensembles, including several for the Ringeing Ringers. Because of her beautifully creative and innovative writing style, many of her compositions and arrangements reach bestseller status. Since beginning to write for handbells in 1997, Cathy has been the recipient of the Donald E. Allard Composition Award in 2000, the 2006 “Composer of the Year” award from Jeffers Handbell Supply, and has won an ASCAP Writer’s Award every year since 2001. In 2007 she was a guest conductor for the National Residential Ringing Week at Kingston University, Kingston-upon-Thames, UK.

Ms. Mklebust began her musical career as a public school instrumental music instructor in South Dakota. She is an active percussionist, and has performed as principal or section percussionist with several professional bands and orchestras throughout the upper Midwest. Cathy has played in and conducted several church and community handbell ensembles in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa. Since 1999, she has worked in the music retail and publishing industry, and currently operates a music editing and engraving service with her husband, David.

Cathy earned both her B.A. (Music/Percussion 1982) and M.Ed. (Teacher Education/Music 1988) at South Dakota State University, in her hometown of Brookings, SD. Her handbell education began in middle school with the Towan Handbell Choir at First Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD, under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Bernsma.

Ms. Mklebust and her husband reside in rural Eagle Grove, Iowa, on her husband’s 116 year-old family farm. They are the proud parents of 4 grown children and currently have two grandchildren (with hopes for more).

Visit Cathy’s website at http://www.cathytmklebust.net.

Included in this collection

Morning Praise (BUNESSAN • RAITSCBON • LAUDES DOMINI)
Prayer to the Lord, Our God and King (LOBE DEN HERREN • LAUDA ANIMA • LASST UNS ERFREUEN)
O Jesus, My Shepherd and Lord (NYLAND • RESIGNATION • REPTON)
In Service, Faith, and Grace (LYONS • OLIVET • NEW BRITAIN)
Humbly, Let Us Break Bread (ADORO TE DEVOTE • PICARDY • BREAK BREAD TOGETHER)
Our Foundation, Help, and Fortress (AURELIA • ST. ANNE • EIN FESTE BURG)