

Ring ing, Virtually

Taking your Handbell,
Handchime or
Belleplate group rehearsals
online

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Scene setting - no "one right way" -
there are different tools, different
ideas of what works

Consider what ringers look forward
to in a rehearsal:

- * social aspect,
- * making music together,
- * aiming for a future
performance - whether
virtual or in-person



Experience of Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ensembles:

No-instruments air ringing, rhythmic taps; alternative instruments available or when use of Handbells/Handchimes/Belleplates available

See/hear music via Musescore, pdfs, images, YouTube

Making recordings and sharing for virtual performance

Social elements – chat, quizzes, talks/presentations, refreshments from afar!

Experience of Scottish Regional
online event:

no-instruments air ringing, rhythmic
taps

Social elements – chat, quiz,
break into small-group
refreshments time from afar!

Use of text chat for funny question
prompts



Because of time delays between individuals speaking or making a sound with a musical instrument and being received by others across a digital platform like Zoom (even though it's only microseconds) in digital virtual platforms (as well as the technical settings of these digital platforms which are designed to accentuate voice and cancel out other noise, even if that is music) it's not considered possible to have music performances live in the way we'd all normally expect

However with a bit of creativity there are things which we can do which provide collective music making opportunities - to misquote Star Trek's Bones to Captain Kirk, "It's music, **Jim, but not as we know it**"



- Choice of short piece of music for virtual rehearsal (music selected being one which has permission to have score transcribed online and shared): SLOW first time then speed up second time
- Step 1 - going through non-handbell read-through, just listen/watch recording without seeing music (May be audio only or YouTube performance);
- Step 2 - share score on-screen (whether pdf or in MuseScore) and listen through again while conductor highlights points such as crescendo, rit, key change etc;
- Step 3 - everyone taps their part on table/PC/lap as music recording played through again (conductor beating time, saying occasional bar numbers, highlighting changes in dynamics etc);
- Step 4 – if ringers doing this in own team at another time perhaps use own scores take 3 minutes to mark up issues anywhere for them THEN all air-ring (cameras on, mics off) along with recording and with conductor encouraging change in movement for greater volume etc.
- NOTE: ringers do not need actual handbells/handchimes/belleplates to take part - can use whatever is available or "air-ring"
- Using on-screen MuseScore audio and music of score to highlight beats automatically on screen). After once through, then challenge everyone on second time to read-ahead two bars at a time, to memorise them, and to look at conductor by second beat of first bar in each pair of bars





Overview of 2 free platforms (there are other options):

Microsoft Teams – handy if file sharing also needed; no time limit; can access video meeting by shared link

Zoom – no need for account for participants; option for audio-only phone-in; time limit in free account