The Golden Dance
Michèle Sharik, Handbell Solo Artist
Performer, Teacher, Clinician, Composer, Arranger & Publisher

Coventry Carol

From *The Pageant of the Shearmen and the Tailors*

15th century English Carol
Arranged by Kevin Holsinger & Michèle Sharik

for

Solo handbells or handchimes with lever harp;
or with cross-strung harp;
or with piano
Key: G minor
Bells Used: F#4 – D6

ASCAP Reference Number: 960762
ASCAP Title Code: 030101416

Included on the CD *Bronzewood Paedeia: Sampler*, featuring
Michèle Sharik, handbells & handchimes; and Kevin Holsinger, harp

What is included in this PDF?

- a handbell/handchime and lever harp score (lever changes are marked with diamond notes);
- a handbell/handchime and cross-strung harp (or piano) score;
- a "clean" copy (ie. no choreography) of the solo handbell part;
- a copy of the solo handbell part with suggested choreography written in;
- program notes; and
- a copy of our License Terms

If you have any questions or comments about this or any product or service from The Golden Dance, please do not hesitate to contact Michèle!

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Why do you ask for my email address?

If you provide your email address, then if additions (ie. transpositions of instrumental parts, etc.) or corrections are made to the score, you will be contacted so you can update your copies! You will be given a URL (web address) at which you can download - for no extra charge, of course - a PDF of the updated score.

We ask that if you find any errors in the score or parts that you let us know at Michele@TheGoldenDance.com! That way, we can ensure that our music is as error-free as possible. Hey, we're human, so errors do happen from time to time. Help us eliminate them!

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PROGRAM NOTES

In 15th century English villages, it was the custom for various trade guilds (similar to today's labor unions) to perform "mystery plays" that re-enacted Christmas scenes from the Bible. These plays were performed publicly in the streets instead of within churches, and - at a time when church services were conducted exclusively in Latin - were performed in English,

The Coventry Carol, one of the oldest songs extant in the English language, was sung towards the end of the "Pageant of the Shearmen and the Tailors", performed in the streets of Coventry, England. In the play the mothers of Bethlehem try to send their children to sleep lest their crying alert Herod's soldiers to their presence. Their lullaby is, however, in vain and Herod's men charge in to slaughter their children.

In many churches today, those children who were killed by Herod are commemorated on December 28, the feast day of the Holy Innocents.

(Matthew 2:16-18) "Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all the region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

> *A voice was heard in Ramah,*
> *wailing and loud lamentation,*
> *Rachel weeping for her children;*
> *she refused to be consoled,*
> *because they were no more.*"

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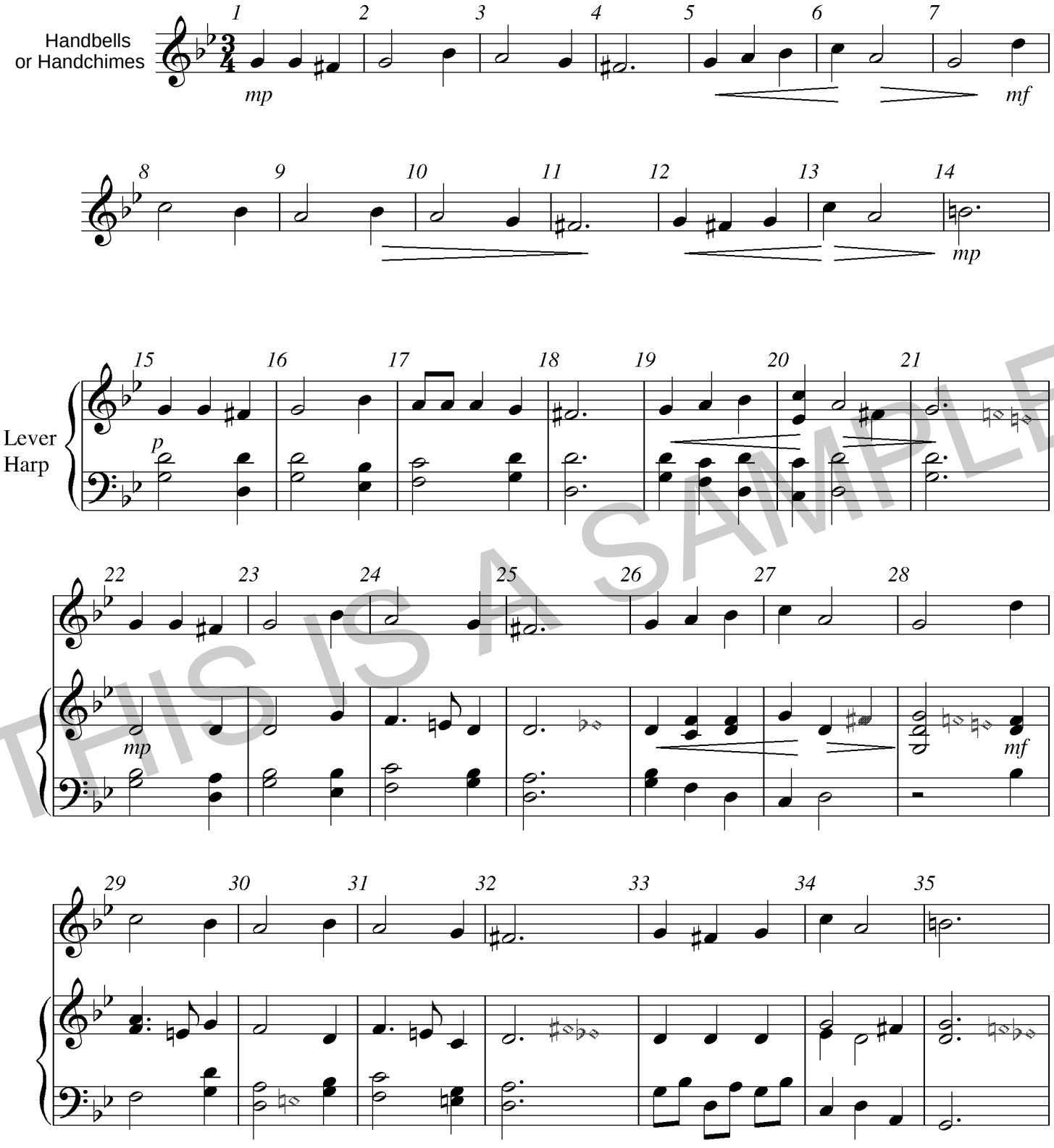
15th c. English Carol
arr. Michèle Sharik
& Kevin Holsinger



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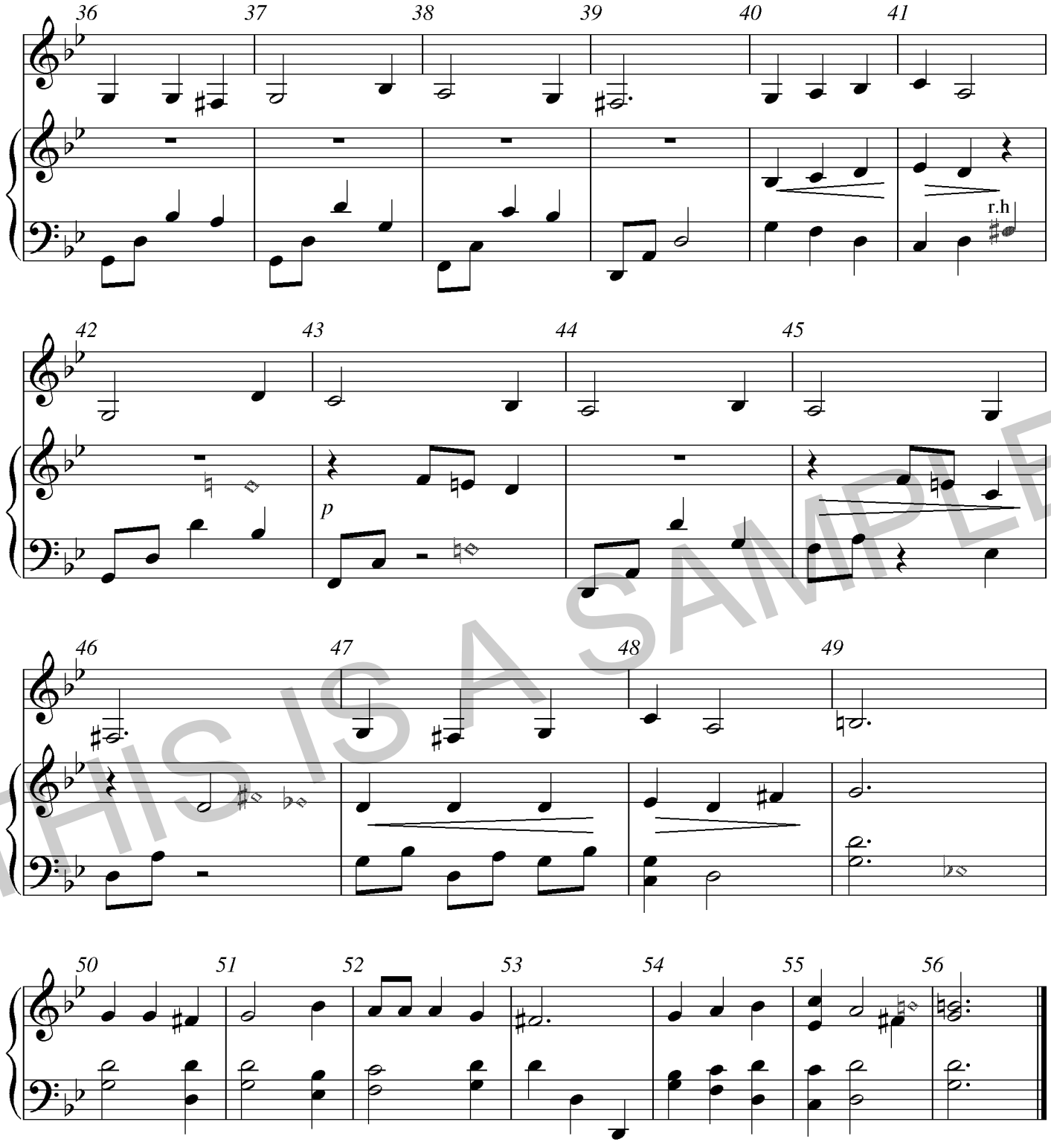

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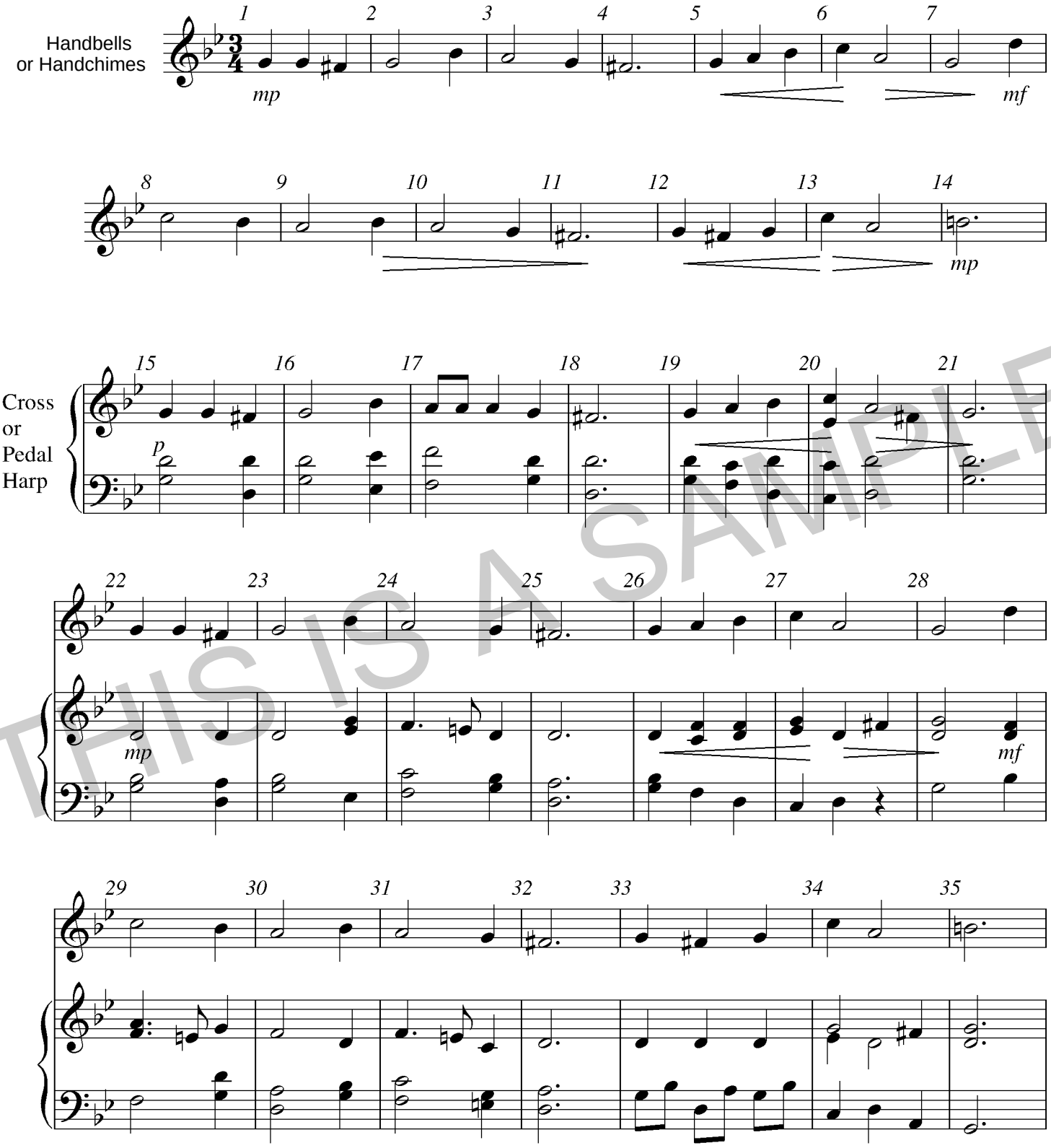

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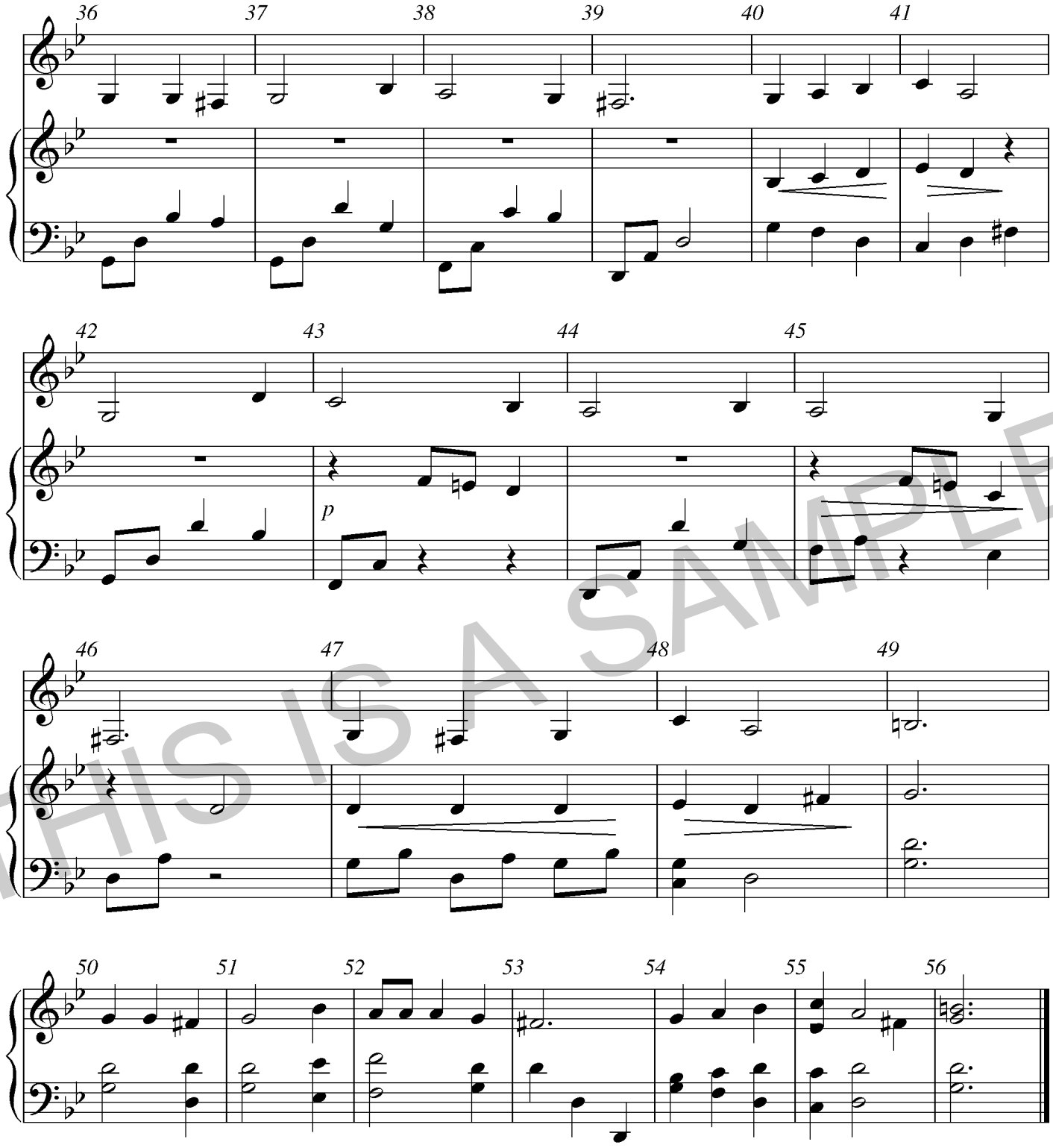

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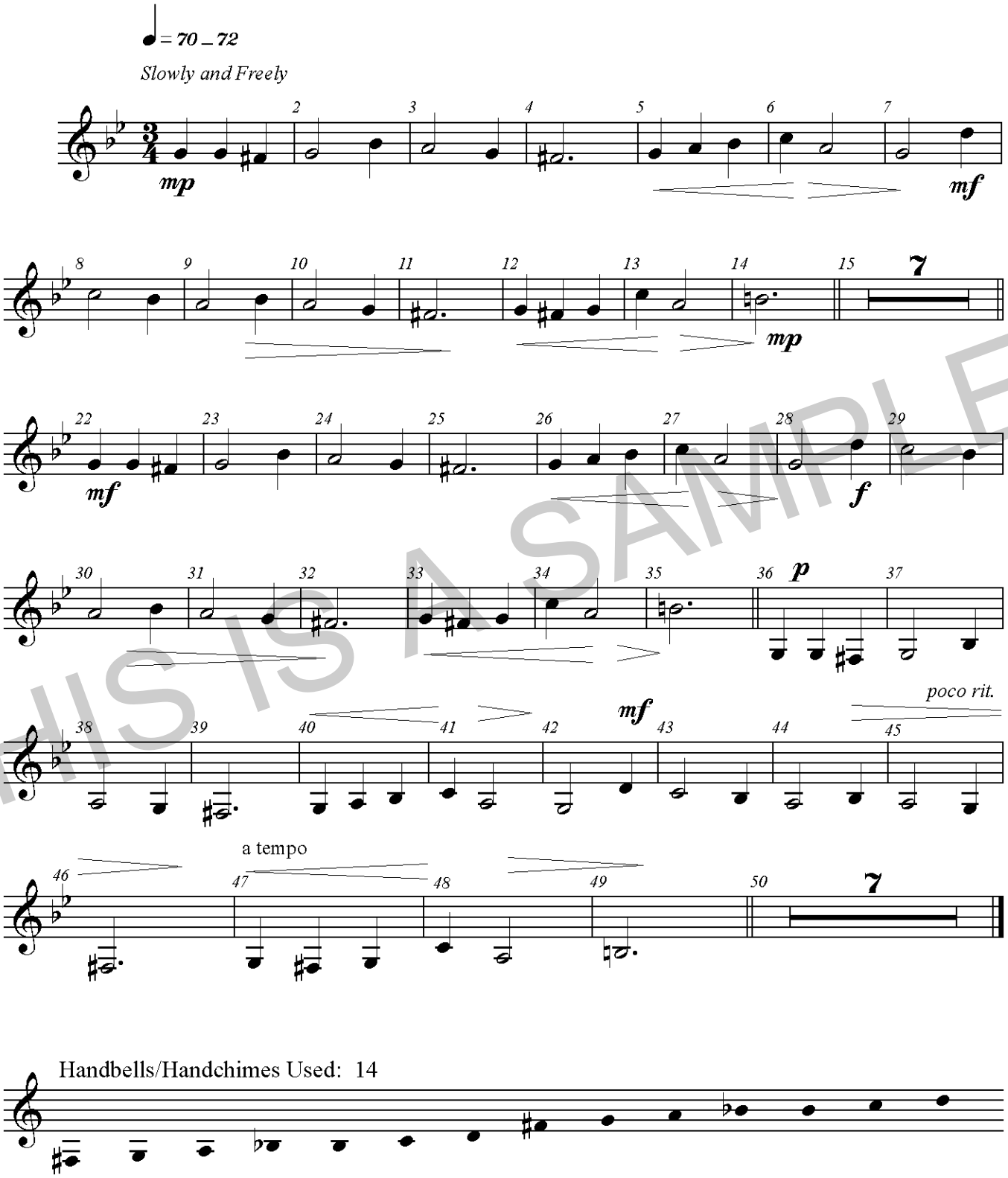
Handbells
or Handchimes

Coventry Carol

15th c. English carol
arr. by Kevin Holsinger (ASCAP)
& Michèle Sharik (ASCAP)



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Performance Suggestions

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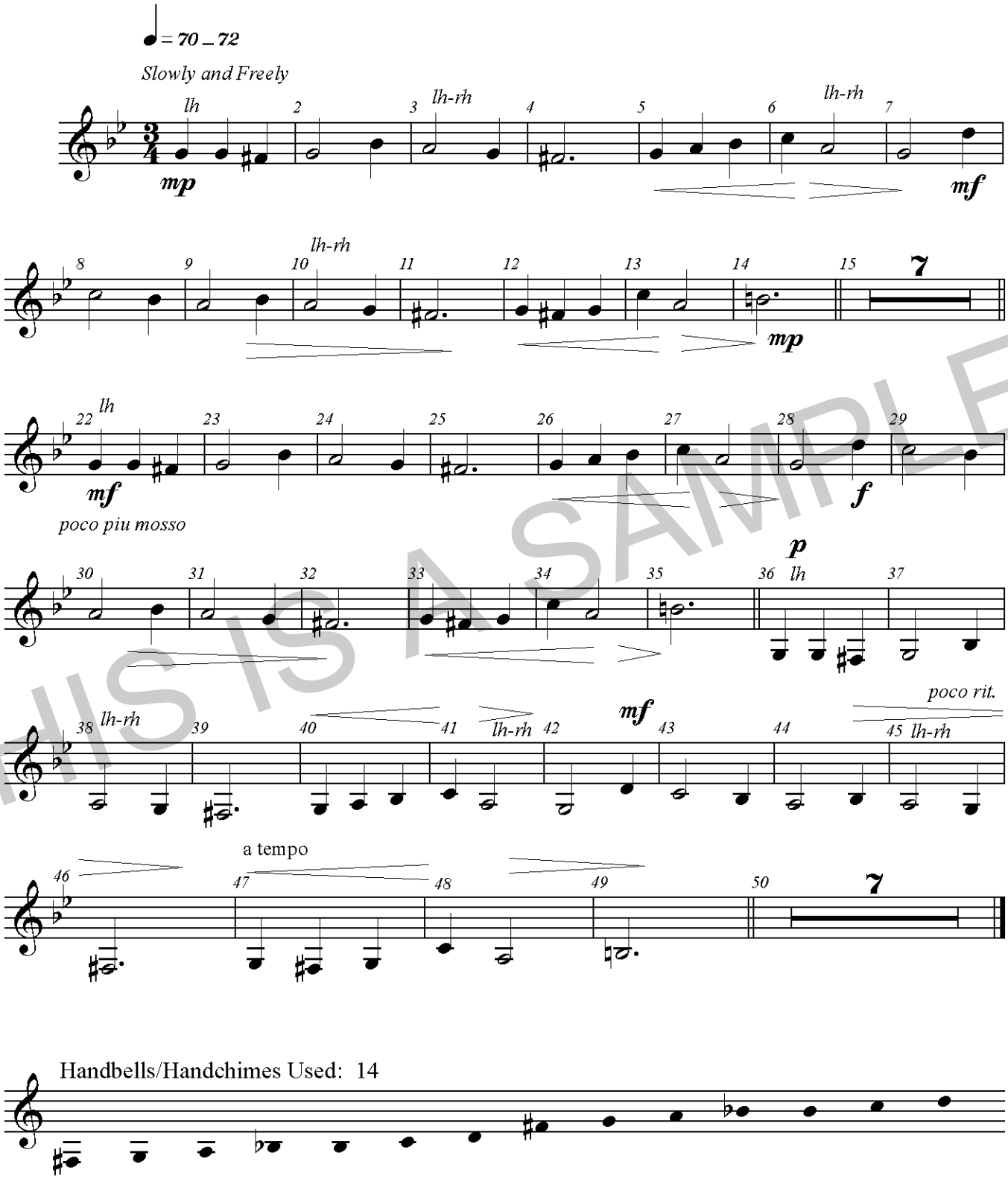

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