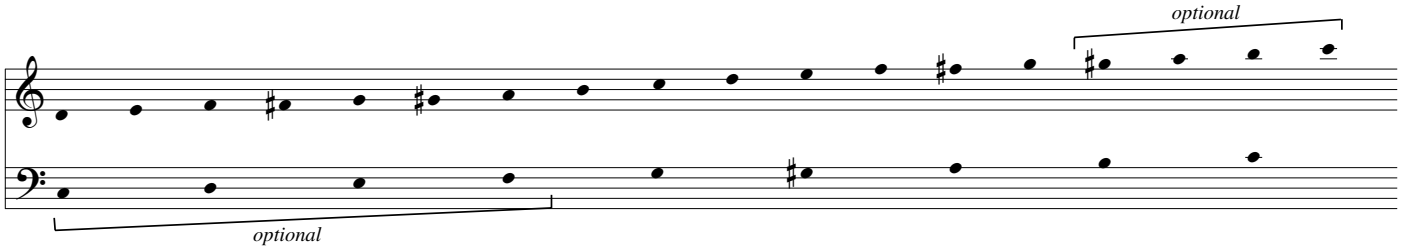
Good King Wenceslas

(Gentle Mary Laid Her Child)

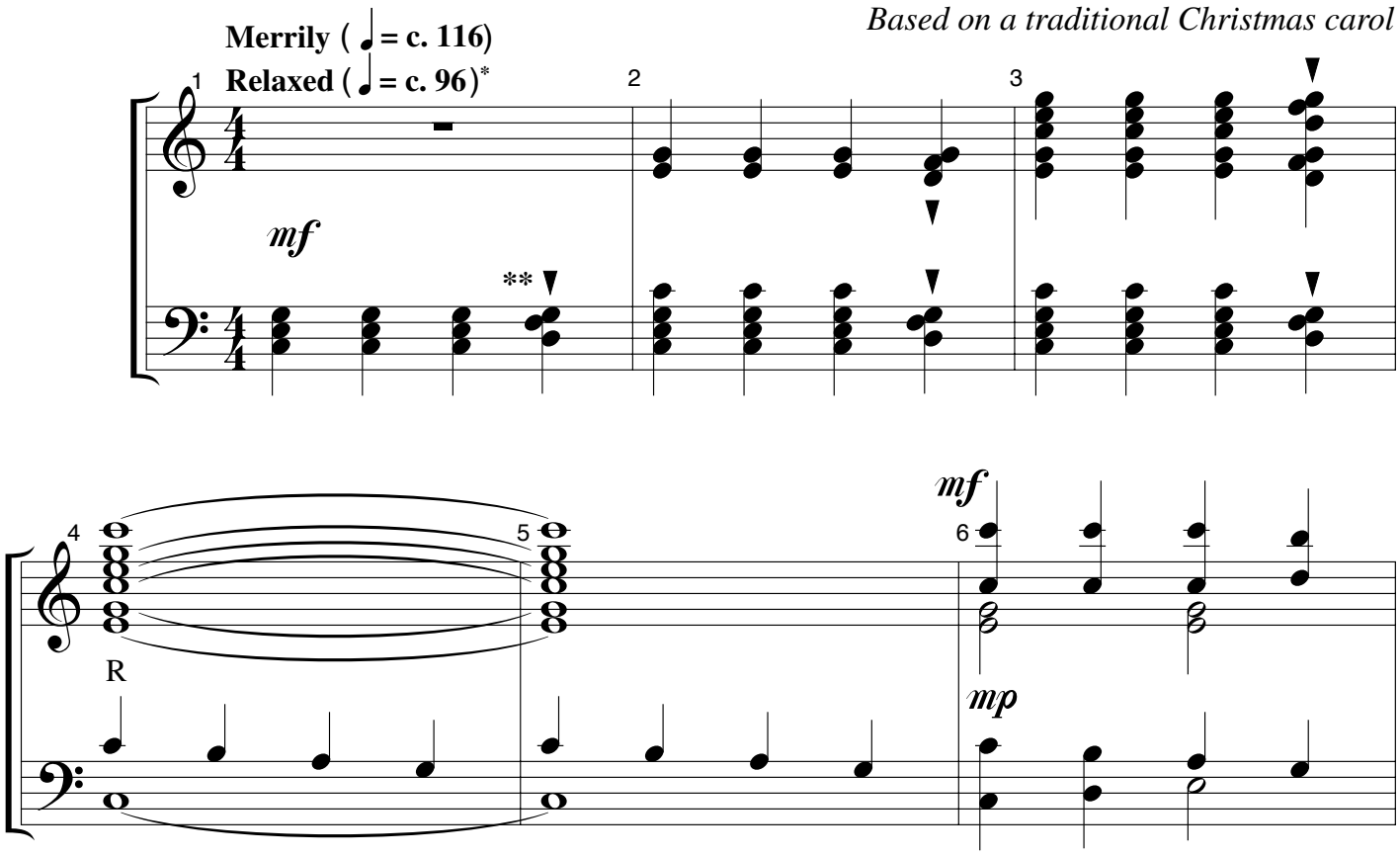
for Handbells or Handchimes (2 or 3 octaves)

Handbells used: 19, (27)



PERFORMANCE NOTES:
2 octave choirs omit notes in ( ).

VALERIE W. STEPHENSON
Based on a traditional Christmas carol



* See performance notes page 6.

** Handchime choirs omit martellatos and mart-lifts.

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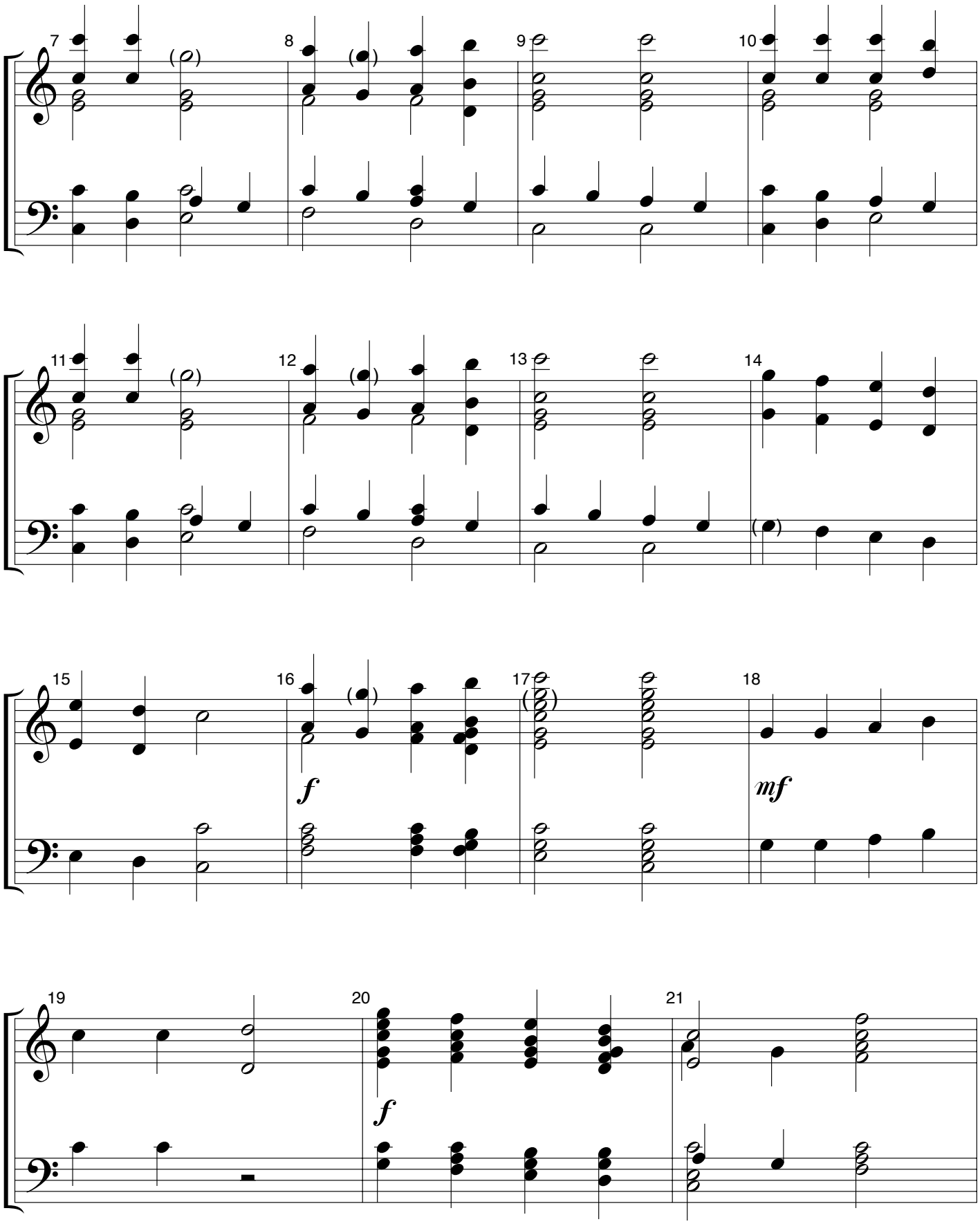
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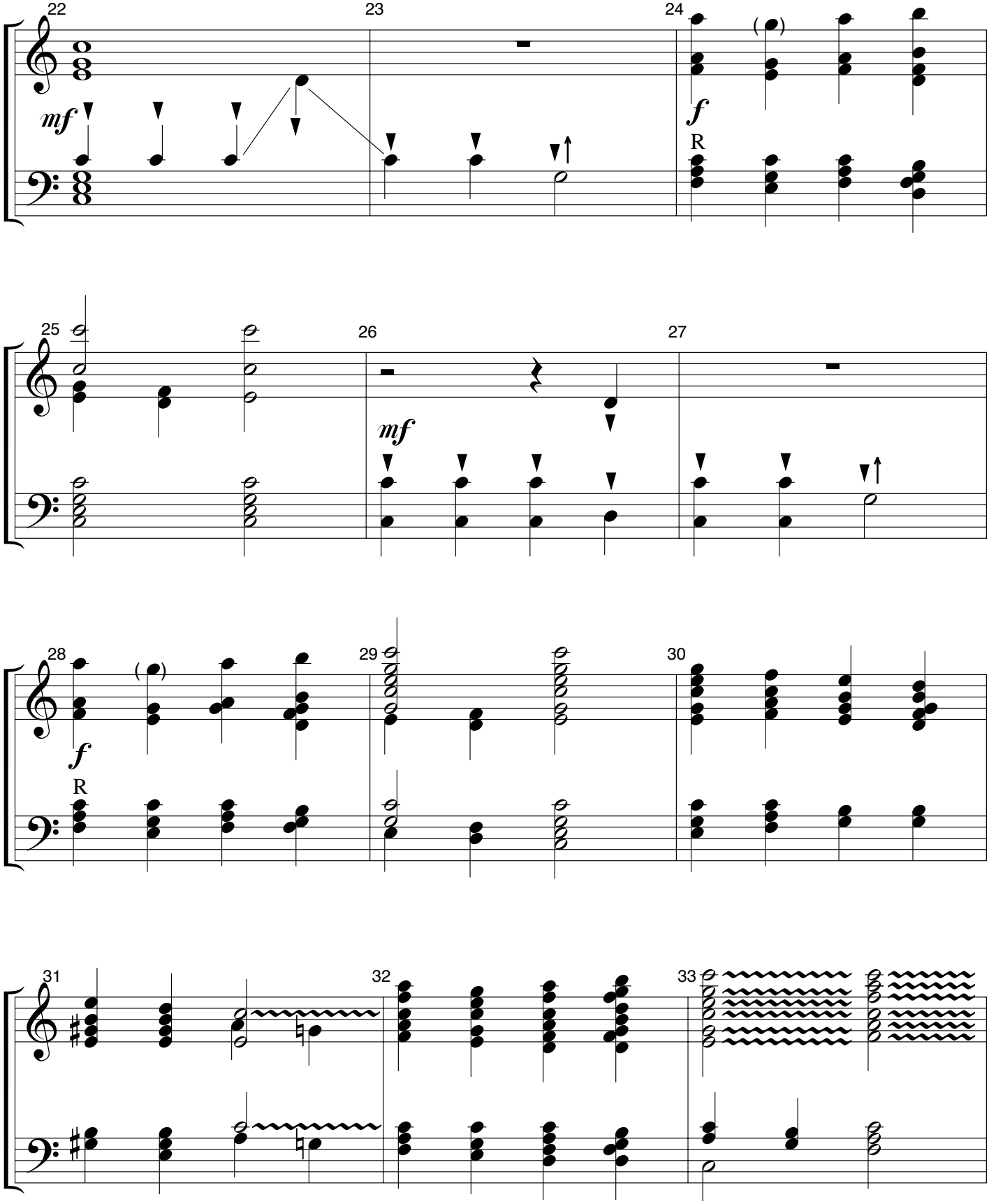
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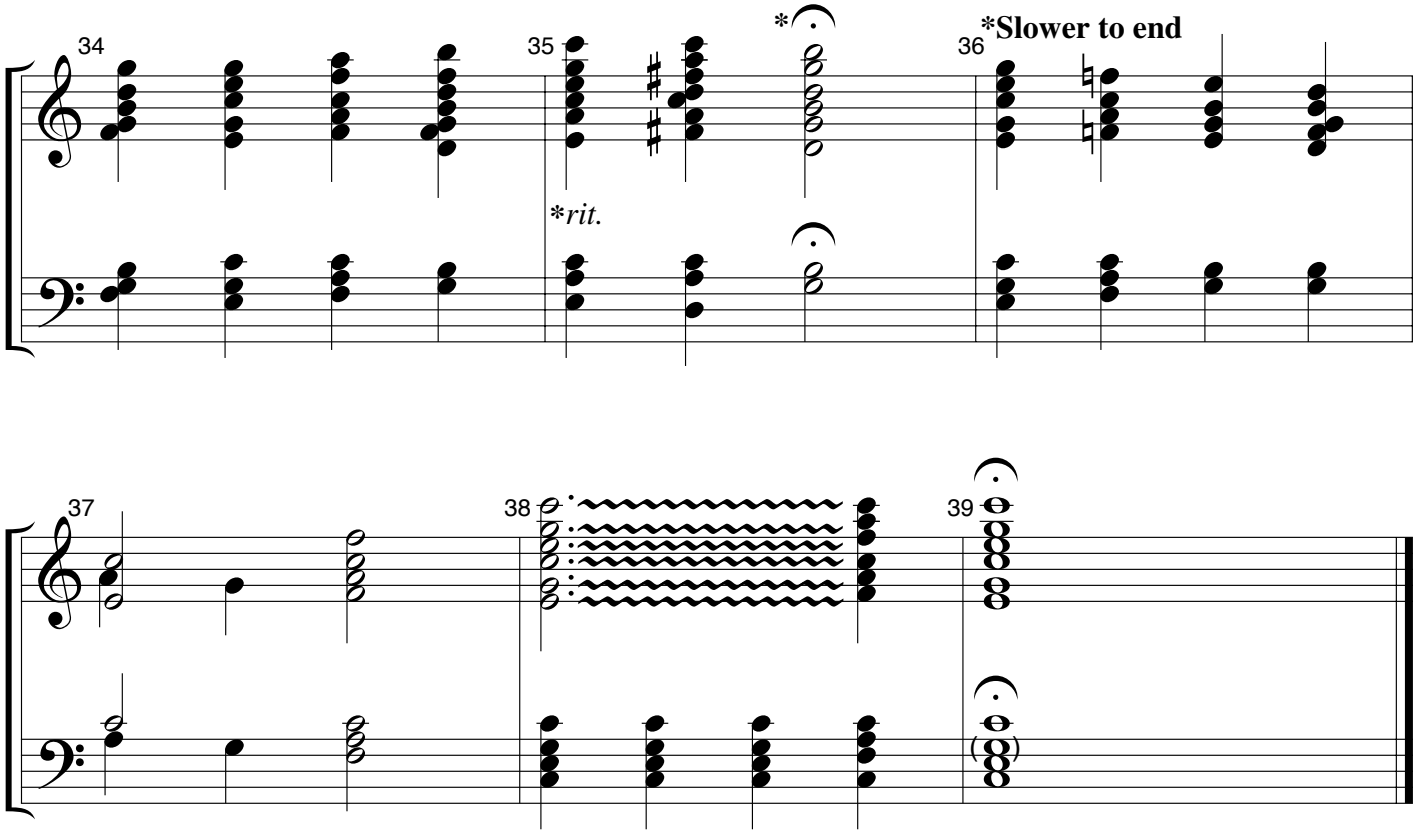

*Optional, see performance notes.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

If yours is a handbell choir that is not yet ready for martellatos or mart-lifts (mm. 1-3, 22-23, 26-27), then you may omit them. Handchime choirs should omit them entirely.

Should you choose to use the alternate title, 'Gentle Mary Laid Her Child', then the mood of the work should reflect that change. Omit the martellatos and mart-lifts, slow the tempo and reduce the dynamics. If you choose to perform 'Good King Wenceslas', pep it up!

In measures 31 and 35, it might be preferable to assign the sharps to ringers who are not busy in those measures unless the ringers in those positions are able to make the changes.

From measure 35 until the end, you may choose to keep a relatively steady tempo throughout. Although this would be perfectly acceptable, the performance would be enhanced by including the ritard, fermata, and final tempo change.

Most of all, enjoy! VWS