

# LEARNING TO RING

## RHYTHM SKILLS FOR RINGERS

The following exercises are taken from Lessons 3 through 11 of the *Learning to Ring* Director's Manual. They are presented in a sequence designed to secure basic ringing skills before introducing more challenging patterns. Full directions for each exercise and "Teaching Tips" for their use are included in the individual lessons of the Director's Manual.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Notes are presented in a rhythm line; no pitch designation is given.
- Each ringer should have two bells (unless otherwise directed).
- The lower-pitched bell should be in the ringer's left hand (placing the bells in keyboard order for the ringers).
- Ringing patterns are marked "L" (left) and "R" (right). When a third bell is introduced, it is marked "C" (center).
- All bells are to be shoulder damped unless otherwise indicated.
- Table damps are marked with a downward arrow (↓).
- Counts are written under the notes in some of the exercises. The count on which the bell plays is written in larger print.
- All ringers should count OUT LOUD in each exercise.
- Ring the exercises slowly at first, working toward a clean and accurate line. As skill increases, ring the exercises at a faster tempo.
- Varying the tempo *within* any given exercise adds variety and challenge for the ringers.
- Some exercises have "Challenge Patterns." These may be too complex for beginning ringers, but should challenge ringers with more musical background.

## LESSON III

## EXERCISE 1 — WHOLE NOTES AND WHOLE RESTS

Bells must ring for four full counts. Damp on the first beat of the following measure.

$\frac{4}{4}$  beat 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 ||

a. L/R\*      \_\_\_\_\_ L/R      \_\_\_\_\_ L/R      \_\_\_\_\_ L/R      \_\_\_\_\_

b. L\*\*        \_\_\_\_\_ L        \_\_\_\_\_ L        \_\_\_\_\_ L        \_\_\_\_\_

c. R\*\*\*       \_\_\_\_\_ R        \_\_\_\_\_ R        \_\_\_\_\_ R        \_\_\_\_\_

d. L           \_\_\_\_\_ R           \_\_\_\_\_ L           \_\_\_\_\_ R           \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*“L/R” indicates both bells ring together

\*\*\*“L” indicates Left hand plays

\*\*\*\*“R” indicates Right hand plays

## EXERCISE 2 — WHOLE NOTES

$\frac{4}{4}$  beat 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 4 ||

a. L/R      L/R      L/R      L/R      L/R      L/R      L/R      L/R

b. L        R        L        R        L        R        L        R

c. L        L        R        R        L        L        R        R

d. R        R        L        L        R        R        L        L

When the same bell rings twice (or more) in a row, there is no damping between notes.

## EXERCISE 3 — RINGING A SCALE

3-OCTAVE RANGE	C Major scale	C4-C7 (all natural notes)
2-OCTAVE RANGE	G Major scale	G4-G6 (all natural notes except F#5 and F#6)

- Starting with the lowest bell, have ringers play a scale using whole notes. (Each ringer plays Left for 4 beats, then Right for 4 beats.) The damp on beat 1 and the snap of the next bell must be simultaneous.
- Variation 1 — Ring the scale in parallel thirds. Have each ringer play the L-R hand pattern twice. The second ringer begins when the first ringer repeats the pattern. Continue up (or down) the scale until all ringers have played the sequence. The last two bells will complete the pattern alone.
- Variation 2 — Ring the scale in parallel fifths. Have each ringer play the L-R hand pattern three times. Add a new position with each repeat. This creates parallel fifths.

EXERCISE 4 — HALF NOTES AND HALF RESTS

4/4 :||

- a. L/R    —    L/R    —    L/R    —    L/R    —    L/R    —    L/R    —    L/R    —    L/R    —
- b. L        —    L        —    L        —    L        —    L        —    L        —    L        —    L        —
- c. R        —    R        —    R        —    R        —    R        —    R        —    R        —    R        —
- d. L        —    R        —    L        —    R        —    L        —    R        —    L        —    R        —

Damp precisely on beat 3 in each measure.

EXERCISE 5 — HALF NOTES

4/4 ||

- a. L    R    L    R    L    R    L    R    L    R    L    R    L    R    L    R
- b. L    L    R    R    L    L    R    R    L    L    R    R    L    L    R    R
- c. L    L    R    L    L    L    R    L    L    L    R    L    L    L    R    L
- d. R    R    L    R    R    R    L    R    R    R    L    R    R    R    L    R

Challenge Patterns

- e. L    L    R    L    L    R    L    L    R    L    L    R    L    L    R    L
- f. R    R    L    R    R    L    R    R    L    R    R    L    R    R    L    R

EXERCISE 6 — REVIEW

4/4 ||

- a. L            R    L        —————    R    L    R            ——— L    R        —    L
- b. L            R    R        —————    L    L    R            ——— L    R        —    L
- c. R            R    L        —————    L    R    R            ——— L    L        —    R

## LESSON V

### EXERCISE 7 — DOTTED HALF NOTES IN 3/4 METER

- |    |     |     |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| a. | L/R | L/R | L/R | L/R |
| b. | L   | R   | L   | R   |
| c. | L   | R   | R   | L   |
| d. | L   | L   | R   | R   |
| e. | L   | L/R | R   | L/R |
| f. | R   | L/R | L   | L/R |

## LESSON VI

### EXERCISE 8 — QUARTER NOTES AND QUARTER RESTS

- |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. | L | — | R | — | L | — | R | — | L | — | R | — | L | — | R | — |
| b. | R | — | L | — | R | — | L | — | R | — | L | — | R | — | L | — |
| c. | L | — | L | — | L | — | R | — | L | — | L | — | L | — | R | — |
| d. | R | — | R | — | R | — | L | — | R | — | R | — | R | — | L | — |

### EXERCISE 9 — QUARTER NOTES IN 4/4 METER

(Beats are not marked; ringers must continue to count.)

- |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R |
| b. | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L | R | L |
| c. | L | L | R | R | L | L | R | R | L | L | R | R | L | L |
| d. | R | R | L | L | R | R | L | L | R | R | L | L | R | R |
| e. | L | R | R | L | L | R | R | L | L | R | R | L | L | R |
| f. | R | L | R | R | R | L | R | R | R | L | L | R | R | L |
| g. | L | L | R | L | L | R | L | L | R | L | L | R | L | L |

EXERCISE 10 — QUARTER NOTES IN 3/4 METER



- a. L L R L L R R L L R L L  
b. L R L R L R L R L R L R

EXERCISE 11 — REVIEW OF WHOLE, HALF, AND QUARTER NOTES

(1)

$\frac{4}{4}$  | ♩ ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ ||

L R L R — L R — L R L R L — R L R

(2)

$\frac{3}{4}$  | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ ||

R L R L R L L R L L R L R L R L R

(3)

$\frac{4}{4}$  | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ | ♩ ||

a. L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R  
b. L R L L/R L R L R L R L L/R L R L L/R L R L R

(4)

$\frac{4}{4}$  | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ | ♩ ♩ ||

a. L R L L R L R R L R L L R R L L R R L R L  
b. L L/R L L L/R L R L/R R R L/R R L L R R L L R R L L/R L

Variations 3 and 4 require ringers, after playing both bells together, to damp one bell while re-ringing the other one. Pay close attention to accurate damping.