

My Friend, Jesus

*Incorporating "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" and
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

Arranged by
Tammy Waldrop

For All General or Special Occasions

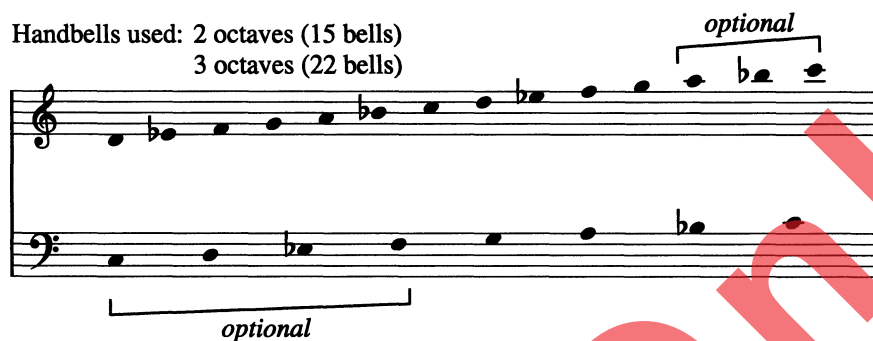
From the *Beginning Ringers Series*

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MY FRIEND, JESUS

for 2-3 Octave Handbell or Handchime Choir

Handbells used: 2 octaves (15 bells)
3 octaves (22 bells)



2 octave choirs omit notes in ().

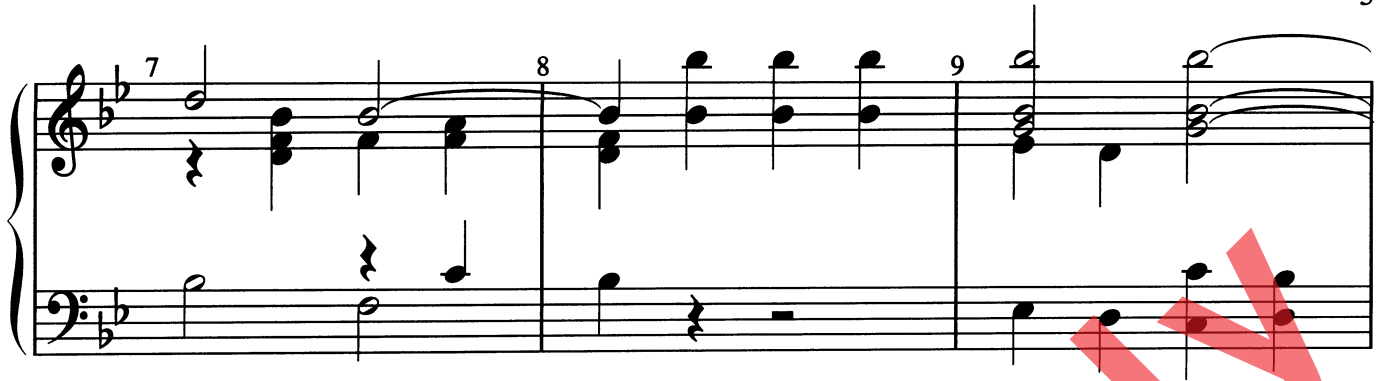
Incorporating **I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS**
and **WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**
Arranged by TAMMY WALDROP

Lilting (♩ = ca. 104-112)



* *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, Indian folk song

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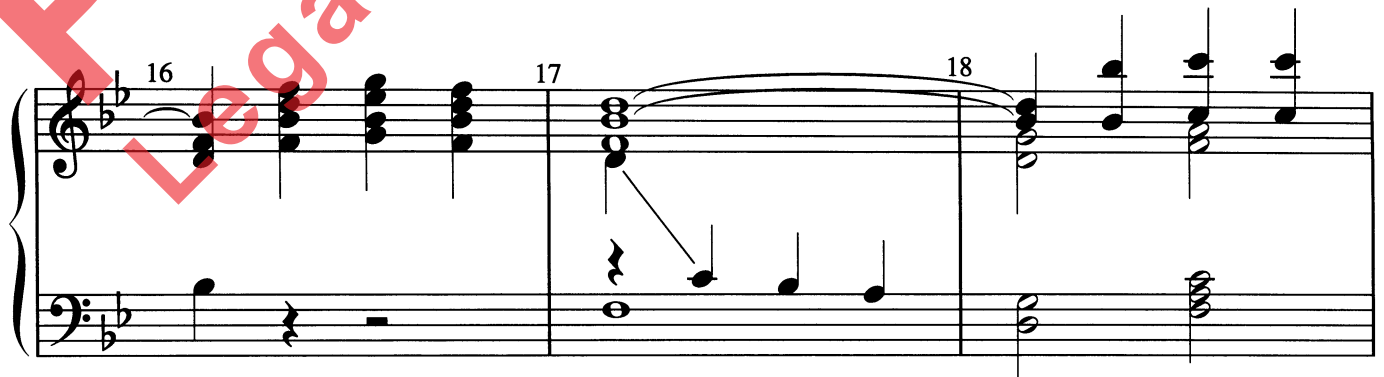
First system of musical notation, measures 7-9. The treble clef staff contains chords and single notes, while the bass clef staff contains single notes and rests. Measure numbers 7, 8, and 9 are indicated above the treble staff.



Second system of musical notation, measures 10-12. The treble clef staff contains chords and single notes, while the bass clef staff contains single notes and rests. Measure numbers 10, 11, and 12 are indicated above the treble staff.



Third system of musical notation, measures 13-15. The treble clef staff contains chords and single notes, while the bass clef staff contains single notes and rests. Measure numbers 13, 14, and 15 are indicated above the treble staff.



Fourth system of musical notation, measures 16-18. The treble clef staff contains chords and single notes, while the bass clef staff contains single notes and rests. Measure numbers 16, 17, and 18 are indicated above the treble staff.

19 20 21 TD

R (melody)

22 23 24

25 26 27

28 29 30

* Use very light martellato.

* 3 octave choirs play F4 only.

** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Music by Charles C. Converse, 1868.

* Echo all whole notes.

** D6 must ring again on beat 4.

61 62 63

R

64 65 66

TD R

67 68 69 70

mf **

2 3 4

71 72 73

Sk

f

* 3 octave choirs play F4 only.

** Echo Bb 4, D5 and F5 only.

My Friend, Jesus incorporates two familiar hymn tunes, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* and *What A Friend We Have in Jesus*, for 2-3 octave handbell or handchime choir. It is appropriate for general worship services and Young Ringers Festivals.

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus is a folk song that originated in India in the state of Assam now known as Meghalaya. William J. Reynolds discovered the tune and named it Assam. This melody first enters in measure 4 and occurs in different places throughout the piece. Always listen for the melody above the accompaniment; sometimes it occurs in the middle bells but it is marked with melody lines.

What A Friend We Have in Jesus is found in measures 37-52.

In measures 20-35, 57-60 and 65-66, where the melody occurs in the middle bells, the accompanying chords are played with TD (Thumb Damp) in the upper bells and martellato (▼) in the lower bells. It is important to remind the ringers to “follow the stem.” They must execute the articulation that is indicated above or below the stem and chord where their note occurs. In measure 60 the D6 has a TD on beat 1 but it rings normally on beat 4.

In executing the martellato (▼), hold the handbell by the handle and gently strike the entire casting of the bell horizontally on the well-padded table. Take great care to prevent damage to the bell. If using handchimes, place the index finger on the “U” of the tines to stop the sound. Do not try to execute a martellato with handchimes.

The echo (↑) found in measures 39-40, 47-48, 52 and 68 is performed by ringing the bell on the first beat, then gently and precisely touching the bell on the well-padded table on the given beats. This produces the “echo” effect.

Tammy Waldrop holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree in theory and composition from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. As a writer for handbells since 1980, she has served as Assistant Choral Editor/Handbell Editor for Word Music and presently is Handbell Editor for Ring Out! Press, the handbell publishing company she began in 1990, which is now a part of the Jeffers Publishing Group. In 1988, Tammy teamed up with Bob Burroughs to win the AGEHR national composition contest, and in 1991 she won the Area III competition. She served as Publications Chair for Area IX from 1994-1996 and presently is serving on the Greater Houston Handbell Association Board. Tammy currently resides in Kingwood, Texas, with her husband, Emanuel Holländer, and their son, Marc.

