

# What Child Is This?

GREENSLEEVES

for 2–3 Octaves of Handbells or Handchimes

Handbells/Handchimes used: 15–22

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optional

optional

2 octaves omit notes in ( ).

In reflection (♩ = 104)

16th century English Melody  
Arranged by DEREK K. HAKES (ASCAP)

mp

vib.

R

vib.

R

\* melody

\* Bring out melody line.

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Musical notation for measures 18 through 23. The piece is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The right hand features a complex texture with many beamed notes and slurs, while the left hand plays a steady bass line. Measure numbers 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 are indicated above the staff.

Musical notation for measures 24 through 29. Measure 24 has a fermata. Measure 25 is marked *mf* and contains a tremolo section labeled "Sk" with a downward arrow and the number "2". Measure 26 has a fermata and is marked "R". Measure 27 has a fermata. Measure 28 has a fermata. Measure 29 has a fermata. The right hand continues with complex textures, and the left hand has a bass line with some triplets.

Musical notation for measures 30 through 35. Measure 30 has a fermata. Measure 31 has a fermata. Measure 32 has a fermata. Measure 33 has a fermata. Measure 34 has a fermata and is marked "R". Measure 35 has a fermata. The right hand continues with complex textures, and the left hand has a bass line with some triplets. A dynamic marking of *f* appears in measure 33.

Musical notation for measures 36 through 41. Measure 36 has a fermata. Measure 37 has a fermata. Measure 38 has a fermata. Measure 39 has a fermata. Measure 40 has a fermata. Measure 41 has a fermata and is marked *mf*. The right hand continues with complex textures, and the left hand has a bass line with some triplets.

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Musical score for measures 42-47. The score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). Measure 42 features a treble clef with a series of sixteenth notes. Measure 43 has a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measures 44-46 show complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed notes. Measure 47 has a dynamic marking of *mf* with an asterisk.

Musical score for measures 48-52. Measure 48 has a dynamic marking of *mp* and a double asterisk (\*\*). Measures 49-52 continue with complex rhythmic patterns and beamed notes.

Musical score for measures 53-57. Measures 54 and 55 have circled notes. Measures 56 and 57 have dynamic markings of *mp*.

Musical score for measures 58-62. Measure 61 has a circled note. Measure 62 has a dynamic marking of *mp* and a circled note. A large red 'R' is written in the bass clef staff of measure 62.

\* Thumb damp, pluck or mallet.

\*\* Mallets on Suspended Bells is optional.

63 64 R 65 Sk 66 R 67 68

69 70 71 72 73 Sk

74 R 75 76 77 78 (.)

79 80 81 82 (.) 83 84 vib.

*mf molto ritard.* *mp* *vib.*

**What Child Is This?** is a reflective setting by Derek Hakes of the 16th century English melody, Greensleeves. This works equally well for bells or chimes or a mixture of both (see performance notes below). It is a good length for Christmas or Epiphany worship services or seasonal concert or festival.

**Performance notes:**

- When this selection was recorded for the marketing CD (2008), the group rang measures 1–46 entirely on chimes. Then, on beat 1 of measure 47, they changed to handbells EXCEPT for the dotted half-notes in the bass clef—these were rung on chimes from measures 47–63. On beat 1 of measure 64 all notes were rung on bells. Try this or experiment with your own combination of chimes and bells.
- The Vib. or Vibrato technique is scored at the beginning of the piece and the final measure. Handbells—ring the bell, then, with the wrist, gently move it from side to side to produce a wavering sound. Handchimes—ring the chime, then repeatedly tap the lowest part of the U shaped slot on the side of the chime with the index finger to create a undulating sound.
- In measures 48–63, in the high treble clef the cross sign (+) appears above up-stemmed notes. This indicates that the bell should be held in the air and lightly struck with a mallet. If mallets are unavailable, the notes may be lightly rung.
- Please note that the melody appears in upper and lower registers. Be careful to balance out the volume of each part so the melody is heard.

**Derek Hakes** is currently the director of Tintinnabulations!, a citywide youth handbell ensemble housed out of Carmel United Methodist Church in Carmel, Indiana. Mr. Hakes also works for the Carmel-Clay school system as an instructional assistant and is a vocal coach and private piano teacher. In addition to serving as Area V District Leader for the Indianapolis area and former President of the Choristers Guild Central Indiana Chapter, he is also a published handbell and choral composer, with numerous compositions in print. He is currently working on an English Education degree with a minor in Mathematics.