

Handbell Ringing is a “percussive art form”. Experience the musical artistry from a view of a professional percussionist. Explore handbell ringing (or malleting) with a percussionist’s view to creating music with sensitive dynamics, phrasing and proper/alternative malleting technique. Recommended for all ringers and rhythm loving people.



Workshop Presenter

DAMIEN’S percussion career includes performing with the Singapore Armed Forces Central Band (Principal Timpanist/Percussionist), Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Singapore Youth Orchestra, Singapore Pops Orchestra, Singapore Wind Symphony, World Youth Wind Orchestra (Austria), HeartBeat Percussion Band, Four-4 Percussion Team as well as in musical theater productions including *HONK!* (George Stiles & Anthony Drewe), *The Wizard of Oz* and *They’re Playing Our Song* (Marvin Hamlisch), just to name a few. He also played in the bands that accompanied artistes including Lea Salonga (*Miss Saigon*, *Les Miserables*), Kit Chan, Olivia Ong, Dick Lee & David Tao (HK).

Damien is Founder & Principal Conductor of the award-winning **MINISTRY OF BELLZ**, Singapore only independent & premier handbell team. Percussion & Handbells has led him to perform, teach & adjudicate in 23+ countries, including Egypt, Austria, Japan, New Zealand, Turkey, Ireland, USA, Canada, UK & Australia. Damien holds a Master in Music (Performance & e-Teaching) from the London College of Music - University of West London (UK), and is currently pursuing his 2nd Master in Music Leadership at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music – National University of Singapore. Damien was admitted as a Fellow (FRSA) with the Royal Society of the Arts (UK) & a Fellow of the London College of Music (UK – FHEQ Level 7) in 2015. He presently directs 6 school ensembles & is consultant to 8 others. He also serves in the Handbell Ringers of Singapore Guild as its Executive Director.

Damien’s philosophy in (arts) education in the 21st century is: *An Innovative Artiste-Educator, who Connects With and Gives Every Child a Chance to Learn, to Discover & to Enjoy Making Music.*

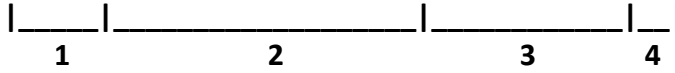
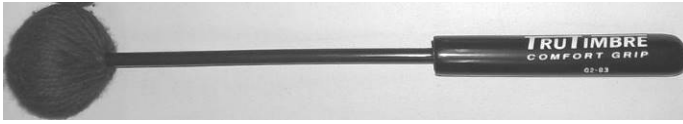
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Part 1: Plink! Percussive

- 1) **Percussion** (definition): _____ . Handbells being a member of the percussion family. (ie: Clapper STRIKES casting, producing a sound / malleting....etc)
- 2) **Mallet.....4Ws: Which mallet to use? Wrenching the mallet? Where to use? What “sound/tone” is suitable for the music?**

3) Which mallet to use

- **Flexible or Stiff shafts (Personal Pref VS Practicality)**
- **Recommended Range of Use for Safety**
- **Parts of the Mallets**



Wrenching the mallet

- **Holding (Gripping/French/German)**



Gripping (Rear View)



French Grip



German Grip



Where to use

- **Striking Point**



What "sound/tone" is suitable

- **Stroke (Arm / Wrist / Finger)**

- 4) Action & Reaction. How "on time" should you be?
- Looking up while malleting.



- **STRIKING "TOGETHER" ON TIME practice**



Part 2: Plank! **PRECISION (Practice Propositions)**

- 5) Clarity. Every wonder why sometimes, the left hand hits softer than the right? Consistent striking point on the bell. (Different parts of casting produces different tones)
- **STRIKE THE HANDLE** practice: Accuracy & Consistent Tonal Production
 - **REPEATED** Striking Point VS Level Ringing
 - **BALANCE OF LH & RH** (avoid 2-RH syndrome)
- 6) Miss the beat? Miss the point? Because you were looking at the conductor?
- Getting used to your setup
 - When to look down & when to look up (1 or 2 bar rule)



Part 3: Plunk! **PERSUASION (Performance & Presentation)**

- 7) Body movements (**awareness**) in percussion translated into handbell ringing movements (**stage presence**).

“4 inches more” makes a difference between a good performance & a **FANTASTIC** performance” (McChesney, 2008)

- **Semibreve, Minim, Crotchet (BOP & STRIKE ON TIME, ARM/WRIST)**
- **Freedom of Movement (WAIST, LEGS, ARMS)**
- **Quavers / Semiquavers (CLARITY, FOCUSED, WRIST/FINGER STROKING)**
- **Rolls (LEGATO, LINK)**



- 8) COMMON ERRORS / BAD HABITS
- Holding Mallets too close to the butt or mallet head
 - Improper grip, causing lack of clarity of tone
 - Using wrong mallets (Brands, Marimba Mallets...etc)
 - Crossing Hands

Part 4: Plus! **NEW**

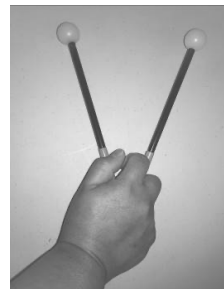
- 9) Single/Double Suspended Bell Malleting (PPP Part II – if time permits)
- Double Bell (1 Mallet + 2 Bells)
 - Double Bell (2 Mallets + 2 Bells)



(A) Shelley Hold.



(B) Opposite Hold



(C) 2 Mallets Traditional Grip



For classroom purposes at the 20th International Handbell Symposium (Nashville, TN, USA), 2022
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*This presentation is based on the personal experience & opinions of the presenter himself. TRIED & TESTED EFFECTIVELY & SAFELY. It **DOES NOT** necessarily conform to or reflect the recommendations of the instrument manufacturers. Please use with discretion.*

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10) Q & A



“LIKE” the **MINISTRY OF BELLZ** on



& **MINISTRYOFBELLZ** on



Workshop Reviews:

- ... so informational & inspirational (Calgary, Canada, 2011)*
... is there a Part 2? I wish to learn more. There's so much more to learn. (Calgary, Canada 2011)
... so professional & educational. (Liverpool, UK 2012)
... probably the best workshop I've attended. (Liverpool, UK 2012)
... Enjoyed myself thoroughly! Thank U for all the fun & information (Fremantle, Australia 2013)
... Great! (Jeju, South Korea, 2014)
... I didn't know there's so much one can do with the mallets (Jeju, South Korea, 2014)
... You knew what you wanted to do & knew how to do it (Adelaide, Australia, 2015)
... I was very lucky to choose 2 good workshops this morning (Adelaide, Australia, 2015)
... Nice Job! Wonderful! Fantastic! Life-Saver! Informative! Awesome! (Edmonton, Canada, 2019)

Plink Plank Plunk has been conducted at the following events:

- Ringling Link, Calgary, Canada 2011
SingBellz Fest, Singapore 2012
15th International Handbell Symposium, Liverpool, UK 2012
27th Australasian Handbell Festival, Fremantle, Australia 2013
Mackay, Queensland Australia, 2014
16th International Handbell Symposium, South Korea 2014 (Shorter Version)
1st East Zone COECA Handbell Festival, Singapore 2015
Hong Kong Visit, September 2015
28th Australasian Handbell Festival, Adelaide, Australia, October 2015
17th International Handbell Symposium, Vancouver, Canada, July 2016
Residential Ringing Week 2017, Sheffield, UK, Aug 2017
2nd Singapore Handbell Festival, Singapore 2018
18th International Handbell Symposium, Cairns, Australia, Aug 2018
ALGEHR Handbell Festival, Edmonton, Canada, Oct 2019
Singapore Schools e-CCA, Jun – Nov 2020
ALGEHR Online Workshop, AB, Canada, May 2021
HMA Area 10 Online Workshop, USA, June 2021

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