



Banana Passacaglia

LARRY SUE

FOR HANDBELLS (5 OCTAVES)

www.choraegus.com



Handbell Choir Version

Purchase of this version grants the privilege of maintaining up to fifteen copies for your ensemble's use. It may not be sold or distributed in any way.

A passacaglia is a series of variations on a melody. Originating in seventeenth-century Spain, the term is a combination of *pasar*, to walk, and *calle*, street. Musical tradition and compositional tendencies often mean that the variations in a passacaglia become more interesting/complex as the piece is played.

One day on Facebook, a post appeared:

Replace one word in the title with "banana." What's your favorite handbell piece?

With one reply being:
Banana Passacaglia

And then:

I would like for Larry Sue to get to work on this immediately.

So, to make a not-so-long story short, it took a couple of days to write this "passacaglia", and a couple of additional days for us to record it!

Banana Passacaglia is a not-quite serious rendition of a familiar popular melody (and a bit more) in the classical form of a passacaglia. You may choose whether to tell your audience whether you're going from a rather weird ostinato line at the beginning up to a rousing round of Frank Silver and Irving Cohn's "Yes, We Have No Bananas", followed by a closing quote from "Day-O" (aka "The Banana Boat Song", a traditional Jamaican song popularized by Harry Belafonte, among others). Personally, I think it probably will be more fun to let your audience figure out that they've been had, perhaps just describing what a passacaglia is before performing. Perhaps you might tell them to raise a hand when the get the joke!

Enjoy!

Larry

April 19, 2023

Handbell choir version

Banana Passacaglia

Five octaves of handbells

Level 4

Larry Sue



Handbell choir score for 'Banana Passacaglia' (Five octaves of handbells - Handbell choir version). The score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and consists of 25 measures, grouped into four systems of six measures each. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes a large, diagonal watermark reading 'Sample only - not for reproduction'.

Measures 9-12: Treble clef has a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. Bass clef has a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

Measures 13-17: Treble clef continues the melodic line. Bass clef has a simple accompaniment. Measure 17 includes a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking.

Measures 18-21: Treble clef continues the melodic line. Bass clef has a simple accompaniment.

Measures 22-25: Treble clef continues the melodic line. Bass clef has a simple accompaniment.

Handwritten musical score for 'Banana Passacaglia' for handbell choir. The score is written on four systems of grand staves (treble and bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes measures 26 through 39. Measure 33 includes dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte) above the treble staff, *mp* (mezzo-piano) below the bass staff, and *mf* below the bass staff. The score is overlaid with a large, diagonal watermark reading 'Sample only - Not for sale'.

This musical score is for a handbell choir version of 'Banana Passacaglia', featuring five octaves of handbells. The score is written for a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and is divided into four systems, each containing two staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes measure numbers 40 through 51. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Sample only' is overlaid across the entire page. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first system (measures 40-42) shows a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes. The second system (measures 43-45) continues this pattern with some changes in the bass line. The third system (measures 46-48) features a more sustained melody in the treble. The fourth system (measures 49-51) includes a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and shows the piece concluding with a final chord in measure 51.

40 41 42

43 44 45

46 47 48

49 50 51

mp

Handbell choir score for measures 52-54. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass. Measure 52 shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 53 continues the pattern with some rests. Measure 54 features a more complex rhythmic structure with dotted notes. The bottom of each staff has a series of plus signs indicating the octave placement for five handbells.

Handbell choir score for measures 55-57. Measure 55 includes a measure rest in the treble staff. Measure 56 continues the bass line. Measure 57 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The rhythmic patterns continue with eighth and sixteenth notes. The bottom of each staff has a series of plus signs indicating the octave placement for five handbells.

Handbell choir score for measures 58-60. Measure 58 continues the rhythmic pattern. Measure 59 features a change in the bass line. Measure 60 concludes the section with a final chord. The bottom of each staff has a series of plus signs indicating the octave placement for five handbells.

Measures 61-63 of the musical score. The music is in 3/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). The score is written for a handbell choir, with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a single bass line below. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass line provides harmonic support. Measure 61 shows a sequence of chords and eighth notes. Measure 62 continues the pattern. Measure 63 features a more complex chordal structure. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

Measures 64-66 of the musical score. Measure 64 is marked with "accel." and a tempo change to 140 bpm. Measure 65 is marked with a forte dynamic "f". Measure 66 features a complex chordal structure with multiple notes beamed together. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

Measures 67-69 of the musical score. Measure 67 is marked with a forte dynamic "f". Measure 68 is marked with a forte dynamic "f" and a tempo change to 140 bpm. Measure 69 features a complex chordal structure with multiple notes beamed together. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings.

Handbell choir score for 'Banana Passacaglia - Five octaves of handbells - Handbell choir version'. The score is written for five octaves of handbells, indicated by the 'RT' (Right Tenor) and 'V' (Vibraphone) markings. The music is in 2/4 time and features a repeating bass line in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. The score is divided into measures 70 through 78, with a final measure 79. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 70-71: The left hand plays a melodic line starting on D4, moving up stepwise. The right hand plays a repeating bass line of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5.

Measure 72: The left hand continues the melodic line. The right hand continues the repeating bass line.

Measures 73-74: The left hand continues the melodic line. The right hand continues the repeating bass line.

Measure 75: The left hand continues the melodic line. The right hand continues the repeating bass line.

Measures 76-77: The left hand continues the melodic line. The right hand continues the repeating bass line.

Measure 78: The left hand continues the melodic line. The right hand continues the repeating bass line.

Measure 79: The left hand continues the melodic line. The right hand continues the repeating bass line.

Handbell choir score for 'Banana Passacaglia' (Five octaves of handbells - Handbell choir version). The score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) and includes measures 79 through 86. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is marked with a large 'Sample Only' watermark.

Measures 79-81: The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed notes and rests. The bass staff includes a series of plus signs (+) below the notes, likely indicating specific handbell positions or octaves.

Measure 82: The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The bass staff includes a series of plus signs (+) below the notes.

Measure 83: The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The bass staff includes a series of plus signs (+) below the notes.

Measures 84-86: The music continues with a similar rhythmic pattern. The bass staff includes a series of plus signs (+) below the notes. Measure 85 is marked with a forte dynamic (*f*) and a repeat sign (*R*). Measure 86 is marked with a repeat sign (*R*) and a final measure with a repeat sign (*RT*).