

# **Outta My Way Blues**

*for Low Ding Zone, the World's First Bass Handbell Ensemble*

**By Larry Sue**

Sample only -  
do not reproduce

Welcome to the "Outta My Way Blues". It's a Low Ding Zone gimmick piece that came into being when I noticed that LDZ had four clarinetists. That really set the wheels turning... and after one thing led to another, we had a score for what perhaps is one of the most outlandish pieces in the handbell world.

We premiered it at the AGEHR (now Handbell Musicians of America, but always "The Guild") Area XII (now "Area 12", presumably because someone got tired of Roman numerals) biennial conference at Riverside, California in 2008. The venue full of handbell musicians lent itself to some additional bizarre stuff, such as Lisa Arnold appearing to steal bells from Christine Anderson's table... but I'm getting ahead of myself.

You'll probably want to see what actually happened so that you can get a handle on the shtick we used; it's on YouTube (search for "outta my way blues"). This was the sequence of events:

1. Carol Smith introduced us, and we ran up. Wil, Kendra, JC, and I had the navy blue mallets. The four of us contrived to shut Gretchen and Lisa out of the bass bells.
2. Karen and Julie invited Gretchen to play chimes with them. Lisa, downcast, wandered off (audience reponse: "Awwwww...").
3. The four mallet-wielders started the twelve-bar blues line (one note per player on each chord, by the way - this is moderately tricky at first!). One repeat later, the chime group joined in. Lisa walked over to Christine's table and "stole" some bells from it, and then went to the opposite end of the table from the chimes.
4. Lisa started the solo handbell line (the melody) on the next repeat.
5. On the entry to the next repeat, Gretchen, armed with the yellow mallets gave Wil a push ("Outta my way!") and started playing his bells, Wil bumped into me, I bumped into JC, and JC bumped into Kendra. Kendra picked up her clarinet and started to play the part labeled "Bb Instrument 1".
6. On the entry to the next repeat, Gretchen pushed Wil again ("Outta my way!"), Wil bumped into me, and I bumped into JC, who picked up his clarinet and started playing "Bb Instrument 2". Gretchen was now playing two mallet assignments.
7. Gretchen did it again ("Outta my way!"), and I ended up playing "Bb Instrument 3" on my clarinet. Now Gretchen was playing three mallet assignments.
8. Gretchen did it one more time ("Outta my way!"), and Wil started playing "Bb Instrument 4". Now Gretchen had all of the malleted bells.
9. We did an additional repeat after this, and on the final chord, the four clarinetists each picked up bells while still playing their last chord (which is voiced so it can be played left handed) and on the last note added a final D4-F4-G4-B4 martellato (with rock band jump thang!). (For those of you who play C instruments, the transposed instrumental parts are provided, but may or may not work with the marts).

Of course, your mileage may vary... but the important thing is that you have fun with this piece. Use our shtick or make up your own as you please!

Larry Sue  
February 2014

# Outta My Way Blues

Malletted Blues Line, One Staff

Larry Sue (ASCAP)

G2 B2 G3 C3 A3 D3 Bb3 F3 B3 E3 F#3

Repeat eight times

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

13 14 15

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Chimes

Larry Sue (ASCAP)



Tact first two times, repeat six more times



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# Outta My Way Blues

## Bb Instrument 1

Tacit first three times, repeat five more times

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first three staves are marked 'Tacit'. The melody is as follows:

- Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter).
- Staff 2: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter).
- Staff 3: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter).
- Staff 4: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter).
- Staff 5: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), then a whole rest.
- Staff 6: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), then a whole rest.
- Staff 7: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), then a whole rest.

The final staff contains a bass line with the following notes: G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter). The instruction '+ martellato D4 bell' is placed above the final measure of this staff.

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## Bb Instrument 2

Tacit first four times, repeat four more times

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in the key of B-flat major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The first four staves are marked 'Tacit'. The fifth staff begins with a repeat sign. The sixth staff continues the melody. The seventh staff includes the instruction '+ martellato F4 bell' above the staff.

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# Outta My Way Blues

## Bb Instrument 3

Tacit first five times, repeat three more times

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Sample only! do not reproduce" is overlaid across the entire page. The score concludes with a double bar line.

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## Bb Instrument 4

Tacit first six times, repeat two more times

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first six staves are marked 'Tacit' and feature a melodic line with a long first note, a quarter note, and a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes. The seventh staff features a 'martellato B4 bell' effect, indicated by a '+' sign above the staff.

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# Outta My Way Blues

## C Instrument 1

Tacit first three times, repeat five more times

The musical score consists of seven staves. The first six staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first three staves begin with a double bar line and repeat sign, indicating a first ending. The first three staves are marked 'Tacit'. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff has a whole rest in the first measure. The sixth staff continues the melody. The seventh staff is in bass clef and contains a whole note chord marked with a '+' and the text 'martellato D4 bell'. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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## C Instrument 2

Tacit first four times, repeat four more times

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first four staves are marked with a 'T' for tacet. The fifth staff begins the main melodic line. The sixth staff continues the melody with a slur over the final four notes. The seventh staff contains a rest followed by a note marked with a bell symbol. The eighth staff continues the melody. A dynamic marking '» martellato F4 bell' is placed above the seventh staff.

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## C Instrument 3

Tacit first five times, repeat three more times

The musical score consists of seven staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first five staves are marked 'Tacit'. The sixth staff contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The seventh staff contains a bass line with a 'martellato G4 bell' instruction above the final measure.

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## C Instrument 4

Tacit first six times, repeat two more times

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first six staves are marked 'Tacit' and feature a melodic line with a long slur over the first six notes. The seventh staff continues the melodic line. The eighth staff features a single note marked '+ martellato B4 bell'.

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