

Conductors Notes – Bound for South Australia.

.....**Suzanne Maslen**

standing in for Carmel Daveson of the HSA (Handbells of Australlia)

Bound for South Australia is a rousing sea shanty – and the tall ships and rugged ships used/use bells for many purposes. We will try to create the significance of bell sounds on the big seas. The composer has included some of these effects in the music – but the symposium expanse of bells is a great opportunity to extend the effect to a large expanse of ocean, not normally possible for a single bell team in a concert setting.

- The singing bowl effects across the expanse of the assembled bellringers – creating an eerie effect as each ship explores the seas – including in misty weather when it is hard to see any other vessels –bells ring out to let everyone know of their own presence.
- Starting the singing bowl by “winding” the bells gives a picture of the sailors coiling ropes and winding up anchors.
- Swinging bells – as the sailors hoist the sails, lower the sails etc. and generally work hard to handle all the different sea conditions. To get maximum effect they pull together with their team – and possibly sing together “Heave away, haul away”.
- Singing sailors

SETTING THE SCENE

- The overall tempo of the single team performance team will be reduced from **Rousing** ♩=120 to a more shanty tempo of about 100 bpm to enable rope pulling and “heave away” in a “tall ships” setting.
- It is hoped we might get some of the audience joining in the singing but we will aim to split the singing of measures of 54-62 possibly with different corners of the bells assembly – or across the aisles etc. More important than the pitch difference indicated in the score is a location difference – to be decided once we meet together. Do please be prepared to sing – not all sailors are wonderful singers.
- Added percussion. Mallet clicks from the bellplayers are indicated in measures 54-62. My team will hope to bring aboriginal sticks for their contribution to this percussive effect. Others might like to bring their own additional sticks – if you don’t have these most certainly use mallet sticks.

•. REPETITIVE OPENING.

Please be prepared to allow for

- Measures 1 & 2 being repeated from various sections of the hall - with singing bowls keeping the sound going once activated (LV)

Then

- Measures 3 & 4 featuring bell swings to be repeated from various sections of the hall – SB continuing
- Measure 5 being repeated and enhanced across the hall, the sound of the added bells giving a great crescendo until all bellringers are ringing and ON A CUE all singing loudly “Bound for South Australia” before handing over to our accompanying percussionist(s) to lead us onboard. Once percussion starts SB and LV stop (smoothly).

There are no difficult rhythms in the work – because arranger Alex has created a very comfortable sea passage for us all – we must RING and SING and PULL together to enable us all to get to South Australia in good spirits. Thanks, Alex.

This is quite a unique experience encapsulating the vast expanse of sailors at sea with the very special vast Aberdeen expanse of bellringers joining the sailors with collaboration of many years – BELLS AT SEA.