

Wassail!

medley of English wassail songs
arr. Sheena Phillips

START WITH HANDBELLS or other tuned percussion. It works well if about 6 - 12 singers each have one bell. Bells only for ~ 10 seconds.

BELLS

in any sequence, any timing

keep going until The Ending (see below)

NOW ADD VOICES. (Bells keep going). Sing independently. Any phrase(s), any octave. Repeat playfully. Process from a distance. Keep going for about a minute.

strong, lively, happy

VOICES

We've been a while a-wand-er-ing a-mong the leaves so green Was - sail!

For it's your was - sail! Was - sail, O was-sail, all o - ver the town!

Here we come a - was - sail-ing a - mong the leaves so green!

And it's our was-sail! For it's Christ-mas time, when we tra - vel far and near...

Was-sail, was - sail! But now we come a-was-sail-ing so plain-ly to be seen

THE ENDING

At a first signal, singers finish their current phrase and hold the last note (bells continue)
At a second signal, singers stop (bells continue)
Now let the bells gradually converge on a pulse given by the conductor
And finally, signal the bells to stop.