



**A CHIME FOR
MANCHESTER**



Can you compose a clock chime for Manchester Cathedral?

**If so, enter our competition – the winning tune
will ring out over Manchester for years to come!**

Manchester Cathedral has a fine ring of bells, but until now it has lacked a clock chime.
We are putting that right – and want to have a chime special to Manchester.

The city is renowned for its music, old and new. Can you help celebrate our unique
culture through our new chime, with a tune that itself stands the test of time?

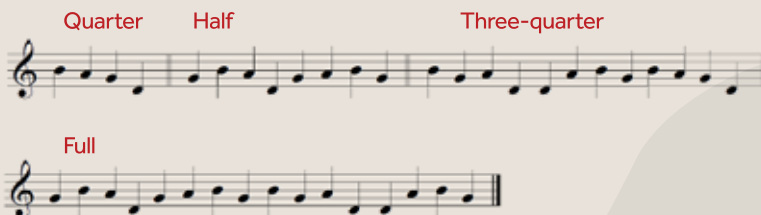
All are welcome to enter the competition for free. Full details are overleaf.

Chime Competition Rules

1. The winner will receive £250, with the winning composition used as the clock chime for Manchester Cathedral. Up to three commendations will also be made.
2. There are 13 bells available for the chime; however, the lowest of the bells will be used to strike the hour and is not to be included in the composition.
3. The twelve bells form a diatonic major scale, descending from the octave above the dominant; the thirteenth bell is a sharp octave sub-dominant. The notes (although not in the actual key of the bells) may be represented as follows, with the middle C (i.e. the lowest bell) reserved for the hour strike.



4. It is expected that the winning quarter chime will have four notes; the half, eight; the three-quarter, twelve; and the full hour, sixteen notes (plus the hour strike on the lowest bell), which are the numbers of notes in the Westminster Chime. The entrant is free to select which bells are used in the chime, without any necessity to use all or most of them. It is advisable to avoid any immediately repeated note, due to the repetition rate of the mechanical chiming hammers.
5. The entry should be made on a staff as above illustrating the full scale. Each of the four quarter chimes should be clearly identified. For instance, the Westminster Chime would be denoted as follows:



6. Entrants are encouraged to reference music in their compositions associated with Greater Manchester, either contemporary or of an earlier era. Any source melody quoted should be separately identified for purposes of acknowledgement.
7. It is a condition of winning that the entrant agrees to reasonable publicity.
8. All rights to the winning chime composition will belong to Manchester Cathedral in perpetuity.
9. Entry is free, but only one composition is allowed per entrant, which must be original and the entrant's own work.
10. Competition entries must be received by **noon on Saturday 31 January 2026**.
11. The Judges' decision is final in all matters.

Entries should be submitted by email to: canon.precentor@manchestercathedral.org, or by post to: Canon Precentor, Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX.