

# Ceremonies of Bells

SSA with Piano, Vibraphone, Chimes, Orchestra Bells and Sleigh Bells\*

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)  
Robert Browning (1812-1889)

James McCray

## I. Prelude: Still Bells

Gently ♩ = c. 54

Chimes

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto

Optional Piano

*f*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

How still the Bells in Steep - less stand Till

How still the Bells in Steep - less stand Till

How still the Bells in Steep - less stand Till

How still the Bells in Steep - less stand Till

How still the Bells in Steep - less stand Till

4

S

S

A

4

Pno.

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

swol - len with the Sky They leap up - on their Sil - ver Feet in fran - tic

swol - len with the Sky They leap up - on their Sil - ver Feet in fran - tic

swol - len with the Sky They leap up - on their Sil - ver Feet in fran - tic

swol - len with the Sky They leap up - on their Sil - ver Feet in fran - tic

\*Percussion parts are available separately from the publisher; catalogue number 30/1797R.

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6 Joyfully ♩. = c. 60

O. Bells  
Vib.

*f* *pressing forward cresc.*

S

*f*

mel - o - dy! \_\_\_\_\_

S

*f*

mel - o - dy! \_\_\_\_\_

A

*f*

mel - ol - dy! \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

6 Joyfully ♩. = c. 60

*f*

8

O. Bells  
Vib.

*ff*

Ch.

*ff*

10

O. Bells  
Vib.

Ch.

12

O. Bells  
Vib.

Ch.

14

O. Bells  
Vib.

Ch.

*rit.*

16

O. Bells  
Vib.

Ch.

*Permit blur sounds, then on cue,  
stop blur and retain E Major chord.*

18

O. Bells  
Vib.

Ch.

*let sound decay*

18

S

*freely, as chant*  
***p***

The air broke in - to a mist with bells.

A

***p***

The air broke in - to a mist with bells.

# II. Silver Bells!

Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1849)

### Rhythmic and Fast

Sleigh Bells

Soprano I

Soprano II

Alto

S. Bells

S

S

A

S. Bells

S

S

A

Lis - ten, hear the sil - ver bells!

Lis - ten, hear the sil - ver bells!

Lis - ten, hear the sil - ver bells!

Sil - ver bells:

Sil - ver bells:

Sil - ver bells:

call - ing, call - ing Rip - pling sounds of laugh - ter

Hear them call - ing, Rip - pling sounds of laugh - ter

Rip - pling sounds of laugh - ter

Tempo (3+2+2+2)

11 *rit.*

S. Bells

Ch.

*f*

Tempo

S

fall - ing on the mid - night air.

S

fall - ing on the mid - night air.

A

fall - ing on the mid - night air.

14 (3+3+2)

S. Bells

Ch.

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

Pno.

*mf*

*p*

S

14

*p*

Lis - ten, lis - ten.

17 (3+2+2+2) (3+3+2) (2+2+2+2)

S. Bells

Ch.

*cresc.*

*mf*

*pp*

*ppp*

Pno.

*mf*

*p*

S

17

*pp*

A

Hear the sil - ver bells.

20 (3+3+2)

S. Bells

*mf*

Ch.

*p*

Pno.

S

Lis - ten, lis - ten —

S

Lis - ten, lis - ten —

A

Lis - ten, lis - ten —

23

S. Bells

*cresc.*

*p*

O. Bells Glock.

*f*

Pno.

*cresc.*

*f*

*mf*

S

*f*

Hear the sil - ver bells.

S

*f*

Hear the sil - ver bells.

A

*f*

Hear the sil - ver bells.

26

S. Bells

O. Bells Glock.

Pno.

S

*f*

*mf*

*f*

Keep - ing time, time, time,

29

O. Bells Glock.

Pno.

S

A

*p*

*p*

*pp*

*p*

in a sort of \*Run-ic rhyme, To the

time, time, time, To the

32

S. Bells

Pno.

S

A

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

tin - tinn - a - bu - la - tion that so mus - i - cal - ly swells from the

tin - tinn - a - bu - la - tion that so mus - i - cal - ly swells from the

\*Runic = to invoke thoughts of the past.

34

S. Bells

Pno.

*f* *pp*

S

bells. *f* *p* *f*

S

bells. *f* *p* *f*

A

bells. *f* *p* *f*

37

S. Bells

*stop sound*

Pno.

*f* *stop sound*

S

*voiced whisper mf*  
Lis - ten!

S

*voiced whisper mf*  
Lis - ten!

A

*voiced whisper mf*  
Lis - ten!



# III. Ding, Dong, Bell

William Shakespeare (1564-1616)  
Edgar Allen Poe (1809-1849)  
Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

**Slowly**

Chimes  
*ff* *f* *accel.*  
*mf* *accel.*

Soprano I  
Let us all ring Fan - cies knell. We be - gin it;

Soprano II  
Let us all ring Fan - cies knell. We be - gin it;

Alto  
Let us all ring Fan - cies knell. We be - gin it;

Piano  
*mf* *accel.*

**Jubilant** ♩ = c. 76

Vib. *f* Vibraphone

S *f*  
Ding, dong, bell. —

S *f*  
Ding, dong, bell. —

A *f*  
Ding, dong, bell. —

Pno. *f*

7

Vib. *mf* close to "ng" close to "ng"

S. Ding, dong, bells.

A. *mf* close to "ng" close to "ng"

Ding, dong, bells.

10

Vib. *pressing forward* (♩. = c. 84)

Ch. *f* LV *pressing forward*

S. *pressing forward*

A. *pressing forward*

Pno. *f* *f* *mf*

14

Pno. *mp* *p*

18

Pno.

21 *mp*

S  
On a wave of tune-ful rap-ture to the moon with the skies.

A  
On a wave of tune-ful rap-ture to the moon with the skies.

Pno. *mp*

24

Pno. *sub. p* *pp*

28 *p cresc. poco a poco* *mp*

S  
From the sound-ing cells up wing-ing Flash the tones of joy-ous sing-ing

S  
From the sound-ing cells up wing-ing Flash the tones of joy-ous sing-ing

A  
From the sound-ing cells up wing-ing Flash the tones of joy-ous sing-ing

Pno. *p cresc. poco a poco* *mp*

Vibraphone and Orchestra Bells

32

Vib. *mf* *ff*

Ch. *ff*

S *mf* *ff*

S *mf* *ff*

A *mf* *ff*

Pno. *mf* *ff* *p cresc. poco a poco*

Ris - ing, fall - ing bright - ly call - ing Ding, dong, bell.

Ris - ing, fall - ing bright - ly call - ing Ding, dong, bell.

Ris - ing, fall - ing bright - ly call - ing Ding, dong, bell.

36

Vib. *f*

Ch. *f*

S *f*

S *f*

A *f*

Pno. *f*

Ding, dong, bell. Ding, dong, bell.

Ding, dong, bell. Ding, dong, bell.

Ding, dong, bell. Ding, dong, bell.