

# Christmas Bells

A carol for SAB choir with either  
organ or piano

Poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1864

Music by Nigel Williams  
7 April 2010

*with vigour*

Soprano Alto

Baritone

Organ or Piano

Sw 8' 4' (2')

Sw to Gt 8' (4')

I heard the bells on Christ mas day their old fa mi liar

8

ca rols play, and wild and sweet the words re peat of peace on earth,good will to men. I thought how,as the

ca rols play, and wild and sweet the words re peat of peace on earth,good will to men. I thought how,as the

\* the right hand from bars 9-12 can be played as triplet crotchets, 4 per bar

14

day had come, the bell fries of all Chris ten dom had rolled a long th'un bro ken song of peace on earth,good

day had come, the bell fries of all Chris ten dom had rolled a long th'un bro ken song of peace on earth,good

20

will to men. Ah.... Ah.... Ah....

will to men. I thought how, as the day had come, the bell fies of all Christen dom had rolled a long th'un broken song of

Sw  
Gt

27

peace on earth, good will to men.

peace on earth, good will to men. And in des pair I

Sw reeds to Gt 8'  
box closed

34

bowed my head 'There is no peace on earth' I said, 'for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth good

f

40

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: 'God is not dead nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the will to men. the wrong shall fail, the

*mf* Sw 8' 4' (2')

Sw  
Gt

46

right pre vail with peace on earth good will to men.' Ah.... Ah....

right pre vail with peace on earth good will to men. Till ring ing, sing ing on its way the world re volved from night to day, a

53

Ah.... peace on earth good will to men

voice, a chime, a chant su blime of peace on earth good will to men I

61

Re mem ber Christ our Sa\_\_\_\_viour was

heard the bells on Christ mas day their old fa mi liar ca rols play, and wild and sweet the words re peat of

Sop/Alro and right hand organ can be in triplet crotchets, 4 per bar, from bar 65-67

67

born on Christ mas day! I thought how as the day had come, the bell fries of all Chris ten dom had

peace on earth, good will to men. I thought how as the day had come, the bell fries of all Chris ten dom had

73

rolled a long th'un bro ken song of peace on earth good will to men. Ah....

rolled a long th'un bro ken song of peace on earth good will to men. Till ring ing sing ing on its way the

79

Ah.... Ah.... peace on earth good will to men.  
world re volved fromnight to day, a voice, a chime, a chant su blime of peace on earth good will to men.

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with 'Ah....' and then 'Ah....' followed by the lyrics 'peace on earth good will to men.' The piano accompaniment features chords and a bass line. The second system continues the vocal line with 'world re volved fromnight to day, a voice, a chime, a chant su blime of peace on earth good will to men.' The piano accompaniment continues with similar chords and a bass line. The third system concludes the piece with a final chord in the piano part marked 'ff' (fortissimo).

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Nigel Williams  
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