

I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day

SATB, handbells (4-6 octaves)

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

J. David Moore

Brisk (♩ = 108)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor *mf* bouncy

Bass

Handbells *f* **Swing*** *L.V.*

I Heard the Bells on Christ - mas Day Their

* Each bell is rung, swung down, and swung back up over the course of three beats. For example, the A5/D6 bells ring on beat one, swing down and back on beat two, and back up on beat three in preparation for the next downbeat. The D5/G5 bells ring on beat two, swing down on beat three, and back up on beat one, ready to ring again one beat two. Each finger will be required to make adjustments in their swing when this effect comes to an end. During sections marked **Sw**, *L.V.* should be observed.

6

T

old fa-mil-iar car-ols play, And wild and sweet the words re-peat Of

10 *mf* *bouncy*

S/A *legato* *bouncy*

T *legato* *bouncy*

8 peace on earth, — good will to men! And

14

S/A thought how, — as the day had come, The bel - fies of all Chris - ten - dom Had

T thought how, — as the day had come, The bel - fies of all Chris - ten - dom Had

18 *legato*

S rolled a - long — the un - brok - en song Of peace on earth, — good

A rolled the song — Of peace on

T rolled a - long — the un - brok - en song peace on earth, —

8

FOR PERUSAL ONLY
FRESH AYRE MUSIC

21

S will to men!

A earth.

T — good will to men.

R

(Sw)

26

R

(♩ = ♩ = 108)

31

S

A

T

B

pp

I

pp

I

pp

I

mp

(♩ = ♩ = 108)

And in des - pair I bowed

L.V.

mp

36

S bowed my head; "No peace" I said. *mf*

A bowed my head: "No peace, — For hate is strong and *mf*

T bowed my head: "No peace, For hate is strong and *mf*

B — my head; "There is no peace on earth," — I said, "For hate is strong and *mf*

R

f

40

S

A mocks the song Of peace on earth." *mp legato*

T mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to — men!" — *mp legato*

B mocks the song Of peace on earth, — good will to men!" — *mp legato*

R

mp

FOR PERUSAL ONLY
 FRESH AYRE MUSIC

45

mp (♩ = ♩)

S Then pealed the bells more

A Then pealed the bells more

T

B (n)

3 3

(♩ = ♩) Swing

R

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

FRESH AIRE MUSIC

50

S loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor

A loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor

T "Peace on earth"

B "Peace on earth" "Good will"

R

mp

poco

2 2

53

S doth he sleep; — The Wrong shall fail, — the right pre-vail, With *mf*

A doth he sleep; — The wrong shall fail, — the right pre-vail, With *mf*

T "Peace on earth" — The wrong shall fail, — the right pre - vail, With *mf*

B "Good will" The wrong shall fail, the right pre-vail, With *mf*

FOR PEARUSA!
FRESH AYRE MUSIC

58

S peace, good will to men." Till *mp* *rit.* *unis. f*

A peace on earth, good will to men." *rit.*

T peace, good will to men." Till, *rit.* *f*

B peace, good will to men." *rit.*

Sw R *mp* R *rit.*

64 *a tempo*

S ring-ing, sing-ing, on its way, The world re-volved from night to day, A

A Till, ring-ing sing-ing, on its way, The world re-volved from night to

T ring-ing sing-ing, on its way, The world re-volved from night to day, A

B Till, ring-ing sing-ing, on its way, The world re-volved from night to

Sw

f a tempo

68

S voice, a chime, a chant sub-lime ² Of peace on earth, ——— good will to men! ———

A day, a chime, a chant sub-lime peace on earth, ——— good

T voice, a chime, a chant Of peace ——— on earth, ——— good will to

B day, a chime, a chant ——— sub - lime ——— peace on earth, ——— *unis.*

R

Sw

73

S

A

T

B

mf

mf

mf

will — to men! Peace — on —

men! — Peace — on —

peace — on —

79

S

A

T

B

earth!

earth!

earth!