

Level
3

THE JASON W. KRUG
HANDBELL SERIES

HOPE Publishing
Company

Since 1892

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Johnny Marks

*Arranged for 3-7 octave handbells
with optional 3-4 octave handchimes by*

Jason W. Krug

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I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
December 25, 1863

The song “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” is based on the above poem from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The poem itself was written on Christmas Day, 1863, in the midst of the American Civil War, and less than a month after Longfellow’s son (who enlisted without his father’s knowledge or blessing) was seriously injured in battle. While the most well-known verses are the first three and the last two, I based this arrangement on all seven verses of the poem, with a discordant middle section meant to portray the “cannon thunder[ing] in the South” and the heartache of war that would lead the author to proclaim, “There is no peace on earth.”

Realizing that not every ensemble will wish to portray this sentiment during the Christmas season, I have also included the option to cut from the end of measure 44 over to measure 59, both allowing for a shorter version of the piece, as well as omitting the more dissonant verse.

Jason W. Krug

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

For 3-7 Octave Handbells with Optional B♭1 and Optional 3-4 Octave Handchimes

Handbells used: 3 oct. (37 bells);
4 oct. (47 bells);
5 oct. (55 bells);
6 oct. (60 bells);
7 oct. (63/64 bells)

optional

optional
Handchimes used: 3 oct. (23 chimes);
4 oct. (24 chimes)

opt.

3 octave choirs omit notes in ().
4 octave choirs omit notes in [].
5 octave choirs omit notes in < >.

Joyously (♩ = 80)

5, 6, 7 Octave choirs may double top note 8va

Johnny Marks
Arranged by Jason W. Krug (ASCAP)

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9 10 11 12

(LV) *p*

p *mf* *p*

(melody)

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13 14 15 16

*

[2] [3]

17 18 19 20

LV

5, 6, 7 Octave choirs may double top 2 notes 8va

21 22 23

mp *R* *LV*

LV LV LV

*D4 in measure 14 for 3-octave ensembles only.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

24 25 26

LV LV LV LV LV LV

5, 6, 7 Octave choirs may double up-stem notes 8va

27 28 29 30

LV LV LV LV LV LV

R *mp* LV

cresc. poco a poco

31 32 33 34

accel.

35 36 37

Flowing (♩ = 85)

LV LV LV LV

mf

R *mf*

LV LV

*Malleted notes in measures 36–45 should be damped, but not strictly in rhythm, allowing for some overlap between notes.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 38-40) features a treble and bass staff with a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 41-44) continues the piano part, with a 'f riten.' marking at measure 44. The third system (measures 45-48) includes a 'Mallet' part at the bottom, marked 'f', and a piano part with 'f riten.' at measure 45 and 'mf' at measure 46. The tempo is marked 'Insistently (♩ = 95)' at measure 46. The score is watermarked 'HOPE Publishing Company Since 1892' and 'PREVIEW COPY - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE'.

*If a shorter version is desired, cut from the end of measure 44 to the sign at measure 59; if full version is desired, omit measure 44 and proceed from measure 43 to 45.

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49 50 51

52 53 54

55 56 57 58

molto rit.

R
p

59 60 61 62

With great despair (♩ = 70)

(p) LV **LV** **LV** **LV**

R

*B♭6 chime on beat 1 of measure 54 for 3-octave ensembles only.

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[illegible]

*Bring out all chime notes in measures 77 through 84.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

79 80 81

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82 83 84

cresc. *rit.* R *riten.*

Molto maestoso (♩ = 80)

85 86 87 88

ff

89 90 91 92

*

*5-octave ensembles double B♭6 up one octave.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

5, 6, 7 Octave choirs may double up-stem notes *8va*

93 94 95 96

LV rit. LV

a tempo ff LV

Sk

97 98 99

R LV

100 101 102 103

rit. R fff

*Bring out chime notes in measures 99 through 101.

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Handbell Music

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Composer / Arranger</u>
1694	ALADDIN (3-5 oct.)	Menken/Arr. Wagner
1328	ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND (3-5 oct.)	Berlin/Arr. Dobrinski
1616	THE BEATLES! (A medley of "Yesterday," "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," & "The Long and Winding Road" (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
1617	BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
2673	CALL ME MAYBE (3-5 oct.)	CARLY RAE JEPSEN/Arr. Anderson
1102	CHARIOTS OF FIRE (3-5 oct.)	Vangelis/Arr. Wilson
2569	CLOCKS (3-5 oct.)	COLDPLAY/Arr. Keith Richards
2083	DRY BONES (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Hart Morris
57	EDELWEISS (3 oct.)	Rodgers/Arr. Wilson & Weck
2654	FIREWORK (3-7 oct.)	KATY PERRY/Arr. M. J. Glasgow
1486	FROSTY THE SNOWMAN (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
1392	GOD BLESS AMERICA (3-5 oct.)	Berlin/Arr. Wilson
2954	HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS (3-6 oct.)	Martin & Blane/Arr. Raney
2674	HALLELUJAH (3-5 oct.)	LEONARD COHEN/Arr. Joel Raney
2187	HOLIDAY FAVORITES FOR HANDBELLS (3-5 oct. Collection)	Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
2814	A HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS (3-5 oct.)	Johnny Marks/Arr. Joel Raney
2808	I'M A BELIEVER (3-7 oct.)	Neil Diamond/Arr. Sandra Eithun
2761	IT'S THE MOST WONERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR (3-6 oct.)	Pola & Wyle/Arr. Raney
2447	JAZZ PIZZICATO (3-5 oct.)	Leroy Anderson/Arr. M.L. Thompson
1326	JINGLE BELLS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
1494	JINGLE BELL ROCK (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
1296	JOLLY OLD ST. NICHOLAS (2-3 oct.)	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
2271	JOLLY OLD ST. NICHOLAS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
2700	JOLLY OLD ST. NICHOLAS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Joel Raney
2596	JUST DANCE (3-6 oct.)	LADY GAGA/Arr. Keith Richards
2802	THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY (3-5 oct.)	Davis, Onorati & Simeone/Arr. Raney
2135	MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Mary Kay Parrish
1609	MY FAVORITE THINGS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Douglas E. Wagner
2686	OVER THE RAINBOW (3-5 oct.)	Harburg & Arlen/Arr. Kamakawewe'ole/Arr. Peck
1453	PARADE OF THE TIN SOLDIERS (3-4 oct.)	Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
2456	PARADE OF THE TIN SOLDIERS (4-6 oct.)	Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
1556	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (3-5 oct.)	Andrew Lloyd Webber/Arr. Wagner
2367	PLINK, PLANK, PLUNK (3-5 oct.)	Leroy Anderson/Arr. M.L. Thompson
2628	THE PRAYER (3-5 oct.)	Sager & Foster/Arr. Joel Raney
2680	ROAR (3-5 oct.)	KATY PERRY/Arr. Chris Peck
2627	ROLLING IN THE DEEP (3-7 oct.)	ADELE/Arr. Nicholas A. Hanson
2647	SET FIRE TO THE RAIN (3-6 oct.)	ADELE/Arr. Chris Peck
1187	SHENANDOAH (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Hal H. Hopson
2570	SHENANDOAH (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Jason Krug
1568	SILVER BELLS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
2336	SLEIGH RIDE (5-6 oct.)	Leroy Anderson/Arr. M.L. Thompson
2695	SOME NIGHTS (3-6 oct.)	FUN.: Antonoff, Hasker, Dost & Ruess/Arr. Anderson
2747	Suite from "DOWNTON ABBEY" (5-7 oct.)	John Lunn/Trans. William Payn
2587	SWAY (Quien Sera) (3-6 oct.)	Pablo Beltran Ruiz/Arr. Sandra Eithun
2493	THE SYNCOPATED CLOCK (3-5 oct.)	Leroy Anderson/Arr. M.L. Thompson
2556	THE TENNESSEE WALTZ (3-5 oct.)	Stewart & King/Arr. Joel Raney
2555	THE TENNESSEE WALTZ (5-7 oct.)	Stewart & King/Arr. Joel Raney
2662	TIME OF YOUR LIFE (3-5 oct.)	GREENDAY/Arr. Keith Richards
1674	UNDER THE SEA from <i>The Little Mermaid</i> (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Kevin McChesney
2055	UP ON THE HOUSETOP (3-6 oct.)	Arr. Arnold B. Sherman
2624	VIVA LA VIDA (3-5 oct.)	COLDPLAY/Arr. Kevin McChesney
1925	WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
2448	WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Valerie Stephenson
2702	WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD (3-6 oct.)	Weiss & Thiele/Arr. Eithun
2882	WINTER WONDERLAND (3-5 oct.)	Felix Bernard/Arr. Joel Raney
2592	YOU RAISE ME UP (3-5 oct.)	JOSH GROBIN/Arr. Joel Raney
1770	ZEKIEL'S GOT SHOES (3-5 oct.)	Arr. Hart Morris

