

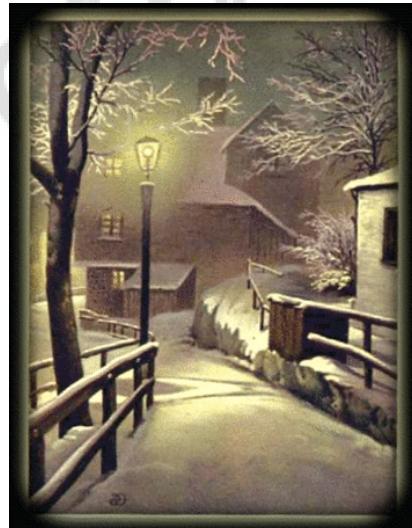


CAROL BARNETT

CHRISTMAS EVE, BELLS

*for SSSAAATTBB Chorus*

Text by Alfred, Lord Tennyson



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CAROL BARNETT  
CHRISTMAS EVE, BELLS  
*for SSSAAAATTBB chorus*

Text by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Commissioned by the Dale Warland Singers

Premiered December 5, 1991  
by the Dale Warland Singers  
at Orchestra Hall  
Minneapolis, MN

c. 4 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE:

*Christmas Eve, Bells* was written in 1991 for the Dale Warland Singers' *Echoes of Christmas* concert. I set the first three stanzas from Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *In Memoriam, canto XXVIII*, imagining the voices as bells ringing the changes – exploring the variations of their tunes – from “four hamlets round, from far and near, on mead and moor,” the background hum always present in their combined overtones, and a sense of wistful nostalgia for days gone by.

*In Memoriam*

XXVIII

The time draws near the birth of Christ:  
The moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist.

Four voices of four hamlets round,  
From far and near, on mead and moor,  
Swell out and fail, as if a door  
Were shut between me and the sound:

Each voice four changes on the wind,  
That now dilate, and now decrease,  
Peace and goodwill, goodwill and peace,  
Peace and goodwill, to all mankind.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892)

*Commissioned by the Dale Warland Singers.*

# Christmas Eve, Bells

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Carol Barnett

$\text{♩} = 56$

The musical score consists of eight staves. From top to bottom: Soprano (G clef), Soprano 2 (G clef), Alto (G clef), Alto 2 (G clef), Tenor solo (G clef), Tenor (G clef), Bass (F clef), and Piano (for rehearsal only) (G clef/B clef). The vocal parts sing sustained notes with dynamic marks 'pp' and 'hum'. The piano part provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. The score is set in common time (indicated by a '3'). A large, faint watermark reading 'For personal use only beady eyes Publishing' is diagonally across the page.

Soprano

(hum)

Soprano 2

(hum)

Alto

(hum)

Alto 2

(hum)

Tenor solo

Bass

Piano (for rehearsal only)

## Christmas Eve, Bells

**Freely**

The musical score consists of eight staves. The top five staves represent vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto 2 (S 2), Alto (A), Alto 2 (A 2), and Tenor solo (T solo). The Tenor solo staff includes lyrics: "The time draws near the birth of Christ:". The bottom three staves represent instrumental parts: Bass (T) and Piano (Pno.). The piano part is shown with two staves: one for the treble clef (G-clef) hand and one for the bass clef (F-clef) hand. Measure numbers 1 through 6 are indicated above the staves. Time signatures change frequently, including 2/4, 3/4, and 5/4. Dynamics like **p** (piano) are marked. The piano part concludes with a fermata over the final measure.

Soprano (S)

Alto 2 (S 2)

Alto (A)

Alto 2 (A 2)

Tenor solo (T solo)

Bass (T)

Piano (Pno.)

**Freely**

The time draws near the birth of Christ:

1 2 3 4 5 6

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10

S

S 2

A

A 2

T solo

T

B

Pno.

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$\text{d} = 56$

zm

zm

zm

zm

The moon is hid; the night is still;

(hum)

$pp$

$pp$

$\text{d} = 56$

zm

## Christmas Eve, Bells

15

Soprano (S) vocal line consists of eighth-note patterns. Alto 2 (A2) has a similar eighth-note pattern. Tenor solo (T solo) starts with rests, then enters with eighth notes. Bass (B) provides harmonic support with sustained notes. Piano (Pno.) accompaniment features eighth-note chords.

The lyrics for the Tenor solo part are:

The Christ-mas bells from

15

20

Soprano (S) vocal line consists of eighth-note pairs connected by slurs, with 'zm' (zum) lyrics below each pair.

Alto 2 (A2) vocal line consists of eighth-note pairs connected by slurs, with 'zm' lyrics below each pair.

Tenor solo (T solo) vocal line includes lyrics: 'hill to hill, zm to hill zm An - swer,' with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*.

Bass (B) vocal line consists of eighth-note pairs connected by slurs, with 'zm' lyrics below each pair.

Piano (Pno.) accompaniment consists of eighth-note chords in the treble and bass staves.

## Christmas Eve, Bells

26

S

S 2

A

A 2

T solo **p**

T

B

Pno.

an - swer each oth - er in the mist.

(hum)

32

Soprano (S): Treble clef, 8th note. Notes: open, open, open, open, open, open, open, open. Rests: short, zm, short, zm, short, zm, short, zm, short, zm.

Alto 2 (A 2): Treble clef, 8th note. Notes: b, b, b, b, b, b, b, b. Rests: zm, zm, zm, zm, zm, zm.

Tenor solo (T solo): Treble clef, 8th note. Notes: open, - (rest), - (rest), - (rest), - (rest), - (rest). Rests: short, zm, short, zm, short, zm.

Alto (A): Treble clef, 8th note. Notes: b, b, b, b, b, b, b, b. Rests: zm, zm, zm, zm, zm, zm.

Tenor (T): Treble clef, 8th note. Notes: 8, 8, b, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8. Rests: short, zm, short, zm, short, zm, short, zm.

Bass (B): Bass clef, 8th note. Notes: open, open, open, open, open, open, open, open. Rests: short, zm, short, zm, short, zm.

Piano (Pno.): Treble and Bass staves. Treble staff: 8th note. Notes: b, b, b, b, b, b, b, b. Bass staff: 8th note. Notes: open, b, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8.

## Christmas Eve, Bells

$\text{♪} = 120$

37      ***p***

S      Four voic - es of four ham - lets round, round, \_\_\_\_\_ four voic - es, \_\_\_\_\_

S 2      Four voic - es of four ham - lets round, \_\_\_\_\_

A      Four voic - es of four ham - lets round, \_\_\_\_\_

A 2      Four voic - es of four ham - lets round, four voic - es, \_\_\_\_\_

T      From far \_\_\_\_\_ and  
n.

B      n.

Pno.      ***p***

37       $\text{♪} = 120$

41      *cresc. poco a poco*

S      four voic - es, mead,

S 2      four voic - es, four voic - es, moor,

A      four voic - es, four voic - es, moor,

A 2      four voic - es, mead,

T      near, on mead and moor, on mead and moor, *mf*

B      - - - - - 6 8 - - - - - Swell

Pno.      41 - - - - - 6 8 - - - - -

The musical score consists of seven staves. The top six staves represent vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto 2 (A 2), Bass (B), Tenor (T), Alto (A), and Soprano 2 (S 2). The bottom staff represents the Piano (Pno.). The music begins with a dynamic of *cresc. poco a poco*. The vocal parts sing "four voic - es, mead," "four voic - es, four voic - es, moor," "four voic - es, four voic - es, moor," "four voic - es, mead," and "near, on mead and moor, on mead and moor." The piano part starts with a sustained note, followed by a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. In the second ending (41), the piano part continues with a similar pattern, leading to a swell effect.

46

S

*f dim. poco a poco*

mead, mead, zm

S 2

*f dim. poco a poco*

moor, moor, zm

A

*f dim. poco a poco*

moor, moor zm

A 2

*f dim. poco a poco*

mead, mead, zm

T

*f dim. poco a poco*

mead, moor, mead, moor, zm zm

B

*cresc.*

*f dim. poco a poco*

out, swell out and fail, as if a door were shut be -

Pno.

46

mead, mead, zm

moor, moor, zm

moor, moor zm

mead, mead, zm

mead, moor, mead, moor, zm zm

out, swell out and fail, as if a door were shut be -

52

**S**

**S 2**

**A**

**A 2**

**T**

**B**

**Pno.**

**pp**  $\text{♩} = 56$

**p**

**zm**

Each

Each voice four chang - es on the

Each voice four chang - es on the

Each voice four chang - es on the wind, (close to "n")

tween me and the sound: (close to "n")

**pp**  $\text{♩} = 56$

**p**

## Christmas Eve, Bells

56

S voice four chang-es on the wind, (close to "n") That now di - late, and now de - crease, and

A wind, (close to "n") That now di - late, and now de - crease, and

T *p* zm zm zm zm

B Each voice four chang-es on the wind, (close to "n")

Pno.

rit. poco , a tempo

S now di - late, and now de - crease, Peace and good - will, good - will and

A now di - late, and now de - crease, Peace and good - will, good - will and

T zm zm zm zm Peace and good - will, good - will and

B zm Peace and good - will, good - will and

Pno.

rit. poco , a tempo

65

S solo *floating*

S *mp* ...to all man - kind.

S 2 *mp* peace, Peace and good - will. *zm*

A *mp* peace, Peace and good - will. *pp*

A 2 *mp* peace, Peace and good - will. *zm* *più p*

A 3 *mp* peace, Peace and good - will. *zm* *più p*

T *mp* peace, Peace and good - will.

B *mp* peace, Peace and good - will.

Pno. { 65

70

S solo

S

S 2

A

A 2

A 3

T

B

Pno.

dim. poco a poco a niente

zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm —

dim. poco a poco a niente

zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm —

dim. poco a poco a niente

zm —

dim. poco a poco a niente

zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm —

dim. poco a poco a niente

zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm — zm —

zm —

70

This musical score page contains eight staves of music for a vocal ensemble and piano. The vocal parts are labeled S solo, S, S 2, A, A 2, A 3, T, and B. The piano part is labeled Pno. The music begins with a measure of silence followed by sustained notes. The vocal parts enter with eighth-note patterns, each marked with 'dim. poco a poco a niente'. The piano part consists of sustained chords. Performance instructions 'zm' (zum) are placed below the notes in several measures. Measure numbers 70 are indicated above the staves.