

Mykola Leontovic  
Peter J. Wilhousk  
Roberto Di Marino

# **Carol of the Bells**

female choir (SSAA)

2021

**Score**

# Carol of the Bells

*Hark how the bells,  
Sweet silver bells,  
All seem to say,  
Throw cares away*

*Christmas is here,  
Bringing good cheer,  
To young and old,  
Meek and the bold,*

*Ding dong ding dong  
That is their song  
With joyful ring  
All caroling*

*One seems to hear  
Words of good cheer  
From ev'ry where  
Filling the air*

*Oh how they pound,  
Raising the sound,  
O'er hill and dale,  
Telling their tale,*

*Gaily they ring  
While people sing  
Songs of good cheer,  
Christmas is here,*

*Merry Christmas.*

# Carol of the Bells

female choir (SSAA)

to The Swinggirls

music by Mykola Leontovic

words by Peter J. Wilhouck

arr. by Roberto Di Marino

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 52$

Soprano 1

Soprano 2 *p*  
Hark how the bells sweet sil-ver bells all seems to say throw cares a-way. Christ-mas is here

Alto 1

Alto 2 *p*  
ding

6

bring - ing good cheer to young and old meek and the bold ding dong ding dong that is their song

*p*  
ding dong

dong ding dong ding dong

11

*p cresc.*  
Christ - mas is here bring - ing good cheer to young and old

*p*  
with joy - ful ring all ca - rol - ing. ding dong ding

*p cresc.*  
ding dong  
O

*p cresc.*  
ding dong  
O

16

*mf dim.*

meek and the bold ding dong ding dong that is their song with joy-ful ring all ca-rol-ing.

*mp* ding dong ding *p* ding dong ding

*mf dim.*

*mf dim.*

21

*p cresc. poco a poco*

Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. Oh, how they pound

*p cresc. poco a poco*

Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. Oh, how they pound

*p cresc. poco a poco*

how they rai - sing the sound how

*p cresc. poco a poco*

ding dong ding dong ding

26

*f*

rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing

*f*

rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing

*f*

they rai - sing the sound Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing

*f*

dong ding dong Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing

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songs of good cheer Christ-mas is here Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer

songs of good cheer Christ-mas is here Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer

songs of good cheer Christ-mas is here Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer

songs of good cheer Christ-mas is here Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer

36

Christ-mas is here mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry Christ - mas mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry Christ - mas

Christ-mas is here ding dong ding dong ding dong ding dong

Christ-mas is here ding dong ding dong ding dong ding dong

Christ-mas is here ding dong ding dong ding dong ding dong

41

ding

ding

*p subito*  
Hark how the bells sweet sil - ver bells all seems to say throw cares a - way. Christ - mas is here

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46

dong ding dong ding dong

dong ding dong ding dong

bring - ing good cheer to young and old meek and the bold ding dong ding dong that is their song

51

ding dong One \_\_\_\_\_ seems to hear \_\_\_\_\_ words of

ding dong

with joy - ful ring all ca - rol - ing. *p* One seems to hear words of

*p* One seems to hear \_\_\_\_\_ words of good \_\_\_\_\_ cheer from

57

good \_\_\_\_\_ cheer \_\_\_\_\_

*p* One \_\_\_\_\_ seems to hear \_\_\_\_\_

good \_\_\_\_\_ cheer One seems to hear \_\_\_\_\_ words of good \_\_\_\_\_

e - very - where \_\_\_\_\_ fill - ing the air \_\_\_\_\_ One seems to hear

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64

One seems to hear  
words of good cheer fill - ing the air  
cheer from e - very - where fill - ing the air One  
words of good cheer One

70

words of good cheer from e - very - where fill - ing the  
seems to hear words of good cheer  
seems to hear words of good cheer

76

air One seems to hear words of good  
One seems to hear words of good cheer from e - very - where  
from e - very - where  
One seems to hear words of good

83

cheer \_\_\_\_\_

fill - ing the air

fill - ing the air

cheer Hark how the bells sweet sil - ver bells all seems to say throw cares a - way.

89

ding dong ding dong ding dong

ding dong

Christ-mas is here bring-ing good cheer to young and old meek and the bold ding dong ding dong that is their song

95

*p cresc. poco a poco*  
Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale.

*p cresc. poco a poco*  
ding dong Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale.

*p cresc. poco a poco*  
ding dong Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale.

*p cresc. poco a poco*  
with joy-ful ring all ca-rol-ing. Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale.



101

Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. how  
 Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. Oh, how they pound  
 Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. Oh, how they pound  
 Oh, how they pound rai - sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell - ing their tale. ding

106

they rai-sing the sound Oh, how they pound rai-sing the sound o'er hill and dale  
 rai-sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell-ing their tale. Oh, how they pound rai-sing the sound o'er hill and dale  
 rai-sing the sound o'er hill and dale tell-ing their tale. how they rai-sing the  
 dong ding dong Oh, how they pound rai-sing the sound o'er hill and dale

112

tell - ing their tale. *ff* Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer Christ-mas is here  
 tell - ing their tale. *ff* Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer Christ-mas is here  
 sound *ff* Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here  
 tell - ing their tale. *ff* Gai - ly they ring while peo-ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here

117

Gai - ly they ring while peo - ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry,  
 Gai - ly they ring while peo - ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here ding  
 Gai - ly they ring while peo - ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here ding  
 Gai - ly they ring while peo - ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here ding

122

mer - ry Christ - mas mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry, mer - ry Christ - mas  
 dong ding dong ding dong ding dong Hark how the bells sweet sil - ver bells  
 dong ding dong ding dong ding dong Hark how the bells sweet sil - ver bells  
 dong ding dong ding dong ding dong ding dong

127

Gai - ly they ring while peo - ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here  
 all seems to say throw cares a - way. Gai - ly they ring while peo - ple sing songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here  
 all seems to say throw cares a - way. ding dong songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here  
 ding dong ding dong songs of good cheer Christ - mas is here

UKRAINIAN MUSIC HAS SLOWLY won a place for itself in the treasury of world music by its beauty and originality. Often foreign composers, recognizing the creative element of Ukraine's music, have incorporated Ukrainian melodies into their own compositions. This is the case with such famous composers as Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Chopin, Beethoven and Liszt. However, the Ukrainian ancestry of these melodies has usually been lost sight of in the entire symphony or composition.

There have been relatively few Ukrainian songs that have won widespread recognition in their own right. Undoubtedly the best known among these is Shchedryk which is popularly known as the Carol of the Bells. Every Christmas for the past twenty years this Ukrainian song has appeared in dozens of different arrangements. It has been performed on television shows such as the Julie Andrews Christmas Special, on the stage of New York's Radio City Music Hall, on radio programs, at Christmas tree lighting ceremonies of countless city halls, by church choirs and even in commercials. Renditions have appeared in many choral versions as well as in a multitude of instrumental versions.

The strange thing is that the original Ukrainian Shchedryk is not a Christmas carol. It is a shchedrivka or New Year's carol. How was it that this one song came across the ocean from Ukraine to establish itself so firmly in the Christmas repertoire of the United States and Canada? There are relatively few songs that have won a secure place beside such favorites as Silent Night from Germany.

AFTER UKRAINE BECAME INDEPENDENT in 1918 the government of the Ukrainian National Republic the following year sent out into the world as its goodwill ambassador a choir. This was the famous Ukrainian Republican Capella Choir under the leadership of the composer and director Alexander Koshetz. This choir visited almost every European capital city and later traveled across to the United States and Canada. Koshetz himself later lived in the U.S.A. and then moved to Winnipeg where he died in 1944.

The choir attracted much attention not only for its superb voices but also because of the beauty and arrangements of the songs presented. Among these songs was Shchedryk arranged by the Ukrainian composer and school teacher Mykola Leontovich (1877-1921).

Vienna, which was then the musical capital of Europe, if not of the world, marveled at the choir. One music critic wrote: "Our composers can learn from Leontovich. Shchedryk is a masterpiece, which will remain one of the most precious acquisitions in the world's treasury of choral music." The critic was proven right a half century later when the song finally became a permanent choice of the Christmas musical season.

WHEN KOSHETZ TOURED the United States with his choir, music critics often drew special attention to Shchedryk. It was an American school teacher, Peter J. Wilhousky, who was inspired by the melody to write some English lyrics for it. It was Wilhousky who transformed the Ukrainian New Year's song into an American Christmas "Carol of the Bells."

The original Shchedryk is a carol sung usually on Shchedry Vechir ("Bountiful Evening") or Malanka which is the Ukrainian New Year's Eve, January 13. Like most of these carols it expresses a wish for happiness in the form of a rich harvest. The song mentions a 'lastivka', or swallow, who will return from the south to Ukraine bringing an early Spring and the warmth of the sun. The carol wishes the farmer wealth and also a beautiful wife ("V tebe zhinka chornobrova"). Literally it says "a woman with black, or dark, eyebrows." The reason is that traditionally in Ukrainian folk songs dark eyebrows are a symbol of the beauty of women.

The English words of Peter Wilhousky do not attempt to translate the Ukrainian but they do capture some of the same joyful spirit and hope of happiness.