

Catalog # 1071

3 octaves handbells  
for 3 to 9 ringers

Difficulty EM

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# Eighteen Bells for Christmas

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen  
In the Bleak Midwinter  
Joy to the World  
Silent Night  
Ukrainian Bell Carol



settings by

Matthew Prins

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*From the Top Music*

Albuquerque, NM

[www.FromTheTopMusic.com](http://www.FromTheTopMusic.com)

# Eighteen Bells for Christmas

As a handbell director for a decade now, I know all too well the problems that can occur when trying to prepare for the Christmas season. All too often, handbell groups are left shorthanded by ringers visiting family out of town or by responsibilities that the busy weeks of December seem to always hold.

My primary goal with this collection was to help directors who may not have a full choir to play during Christmastime, and in fact may not even know how many ringers they will have during the season until practically Thanksgiving. Each of these songs uses the same 18 bells at most: G4 through C7 in the key of Bb major or G minor. These bells can be played by as few as three and as many as nine ringers in a numerous different configurations, some of which are listed below.

- 3 ringers: G4-Eb5; F5-D6; Eb6-C7 (all three using bell trees)
- 4 ringers: G4-C5; D5-G5; A5-D6; Eb6-C7 (highest position using bell tree)
- 5 ringers: G4-C5; D5-F5; G5-Bb5; C6-F6; G6-C7
- 6 ringers: G4-C5; D5-F5; G5-Bb5; C6-D6; E6-G6; A6-C7
- 7 ringers: G4-C5; D5-Eb5; F5-G5; A5-Bb5; C6-D6; Eb6-G6; A6-C7
- 8 ringers: G4-C5; two bells every ringer D5 and above
- 9 ringers: two bells every ringer

You can, of course, adjust these to fit the strengths and weaknesses of your own choir. Many of these three- or four-bell positions can be played using either weaving or four-in-hand, with four-in-hand more likely to be necessary (or at least easier) in the higher positions. In many of these configurations, if you use four-in-hand rather than weaving, you can actually play the pieces without using tables (the British "off-the-table" style of ringing), which makes them perfect for playing in venues outside the church.

I hope that you find this collection useful and, just as important, musical.

Matthew Prins

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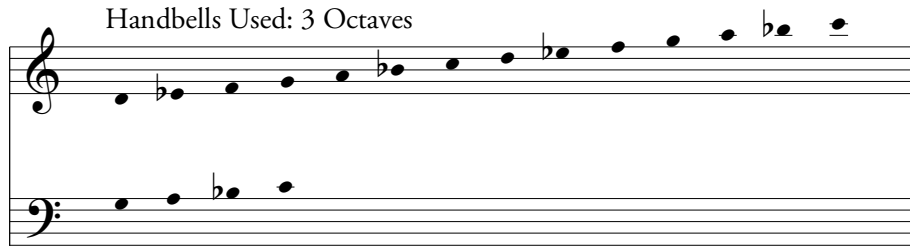
# God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

## 18 Bells for Christmas

Cat. 1071

Difficulty: EM

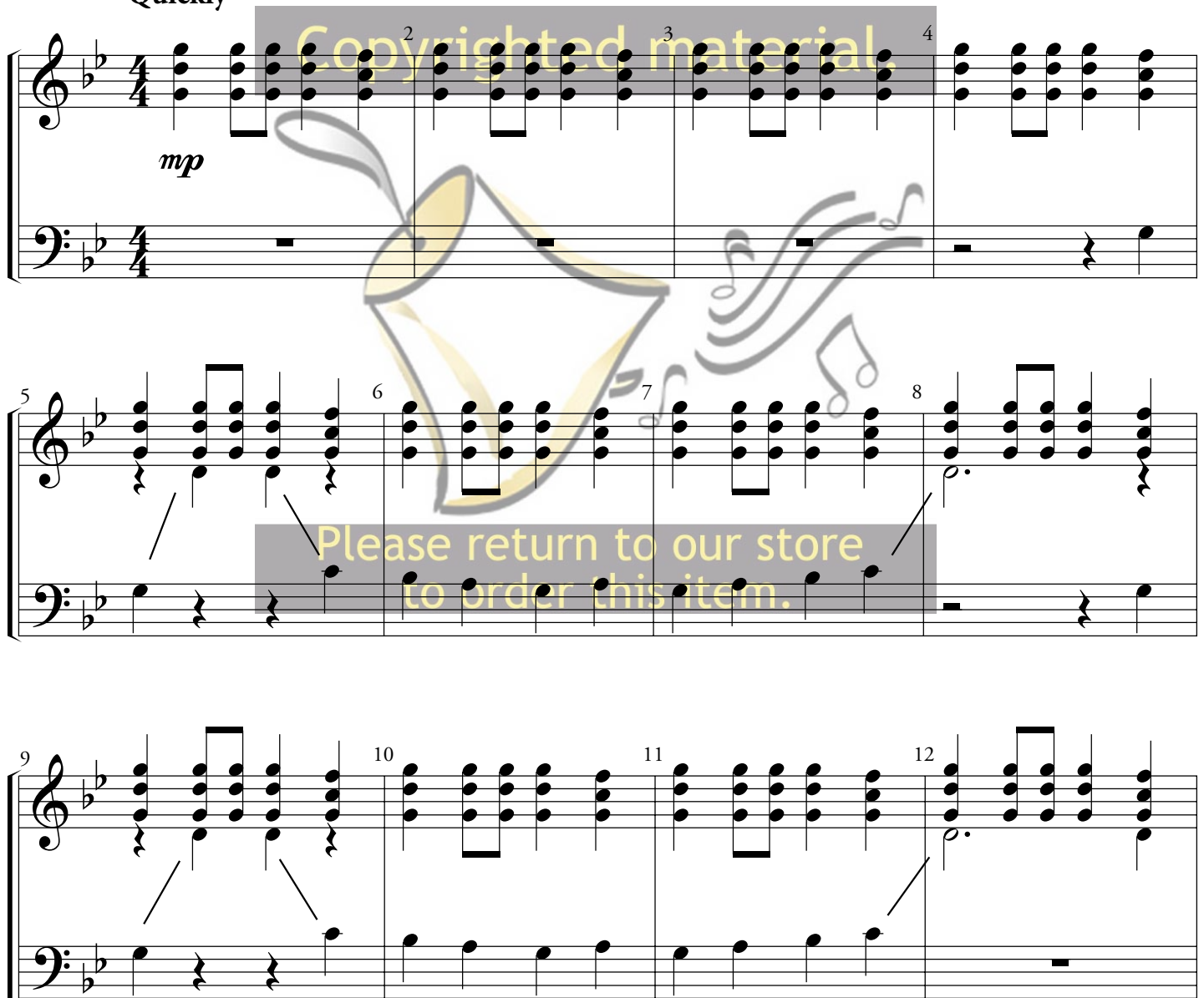
Handbells Used: 3 Octaves



*Optional:* Entire piece may be played with mallets.

*music from traditional English  
arranged by Matthew Prins*

**Quickly**



Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is written for piano in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or F minor). The right hand (treble clef) features a series of chords and eighth-note patterns. The left hand (bass clef) provides a simple accompaniment with quarter notes and rests. Measure numbers 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated above the staff.

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score continues from the previous system. A large watermark reading "Copyrighted material." is overlaid across the middle of the system. The musical notation follows the same style as the previous system.

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score continues from the previous system. A large watermark reading "Please return to our store to order this item." is overlaid across the middle of the system. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 23. The musical notation follows the same style as the previous system.

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score continues from the previous system. The musical notation follows the same style as the previous system.

29 30 31 32

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The treble clef part features a melody of quarter notes and eighth notes, while the bass clef part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

33 34 35 36 37

Musical score for measures 33-37. The treble clef part has a melody with some rests, and the bass clef part has a steady accompaniment. A large watermark is overlaid on the score.

38 39 40 41 42

Musical score for measures 38-42. The treble clef part continues the melody, and the bass clef part has a consistent accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is present in measure 41. A watermark is overlaid on the score.

43 44 45 46 47

Musical score for measures 43-47. The treble clef part features a melody with some rests, and the bass clef part has a steady accompaniment. A watermark is overlaid on the score.

48 49 50 51 52

*f* *p* *ff*

This system contains measures 48 through 52. The music is in a minor key. Measure 48 features a half note in the treble clef and a quarter note in the bass clef. Measure 49 has a quarter note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 50 has a quarter note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 51 has a quarter note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 52 has a half note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Dynamics include a crescendo leading to *f* in measure 48, *p* in measure 51, and *ff* in measure 52.

53 54 55 56 57

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This system contains measures 53 through 57. Measures 53-57 feature dense chordal textures in the treble clef. The bass clef has a few notes. A large watermark is overlaid on the score.

58 59 60 61 62

*p*

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This system contains measures 58 through 62. Measure 58 has a half note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 59 has a half note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 60 has a quarter note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 61 has a quarter note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. Measure 62 has a quarter note in the treble and a quarter note in the bass. A dynamic of *p* is indicated in measure 59.

63 64 65 66

*ff*

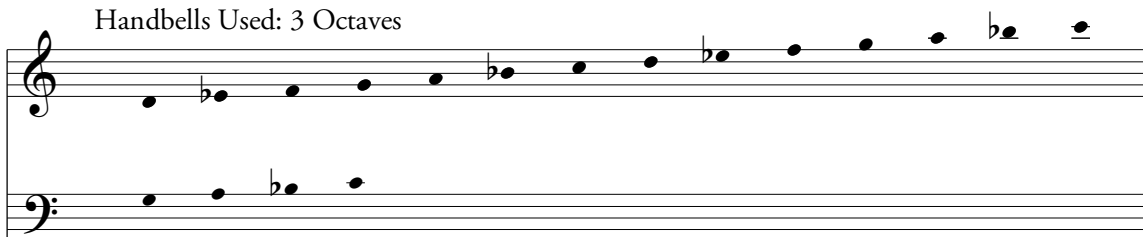
This system contains measures 63 through 66. Measures 63-66 feature dense chordal textures in the treble clef. The bass clef has a few notes. A dynamic of *ff* is indicated in measure 63.

# In the Bleak Midwinter

Cat. 1071  
Difficulty: EM

18 Bells for Christmas

Handbells Used: 3 Octaves



music by Gustav Holst, 1906  
arranged by Matthew Prins

Tenderly



\* LV applies to all notes in the measures throughout. However, it is recommended that the melody be rung with a 'delay damp' as needed to ensure clarity in the melody.



13 14 15 16

LV LV LV

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. Measure 13: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 14: Treble clef has a quarter note G5, quarter note F5, quarter note E5, quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note Bb4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 15: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 16: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a whole rest. The label 'LV' is placed below the treble clef in measures 13, 15, and 16.

17 18 19 20

LV LV LV LV

Musical score for measures 17-20. Measure 17: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 18: Treble clef has a quarter note G5, quarter note F5, quarter note E5, quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note Bb4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 19: Treble clef has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 20: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. The label 'LV' is placed below the treble clef in measures 17, 18, 19, and 20. A large watermark 'Copyrighted material.' is overlaid across the score.

21 22 23 24 25

*p* R LV *rit.* LV LV *a tempo* LV *mf*

Musical score for measures 21-25. Measure 21: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 22: Treble clef has a whole rest. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 23: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 24: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 25: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. The label 'p' is below the treble clef in measure 21. The label 'R' is below the treble clef in measure 22. The label 'LV' is below the treble clef in measures 23, 24, and 25. The label 'rit.' is below the treble clef in measure 23. The label 'a tempo' is above the treble clef in measure 25. The label 'mf' is below the treble clef in measure 25. A large watermark 'Please return to our store to order this item.' is overlaid across the score.

26 27 28 29 30

LV LV LV LV LV

Musical score for measures 26-30. Measure 26: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 27: Treble clef has a quarter note G5, quarter note F5, quarter note E5, quarter note D5, quarter note C5, quarter note Bb4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 28: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a whole rest. Measure 29: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. Measure 30: Treble clef has a dotted quarter note G4, eighth note A4, quarter note Bb4, quarter note C5, quarter note D5, quarter note E5, quarter note F5, quarter note G5. Bass clef has a dotted quarter note G3, eighth note A3, quarter note Bb3, quarter note C4, quarter note D4, quarter note E4, quarter note F4, quarter note G4. The label 'LV' is placed below the treble clef in measures 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

31 32 33 34 35

LV LV LV LV LV rit.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31 through 35. The music is in a minor key. Measures 31 and 32 feature a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a single note. Measure 33 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. Measure 34 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. Measure 35 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. The dynamic markings 'LV' are placed above the treble clef in measures 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35. A 'rit.' marking is placed above the treble clef in measure 35. A large watermark is visible across the middle of the page.

36 37 38 39

LV LV mp LV LV

*a tempo*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36 through 39. The music is in a minor key. Measures 36 and 37 feature a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a single note. Measure 38 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. Measure 39 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. The dynamic markings 'LV' are placed above the treble clef in measures 36, 37, 38, and 39. A 'mp' marking is placed above the treble clef in measure 37. A 'rit.' marking is placed above the treble clef in measure 36. A 'a tempo' marking is placed above the treble clef in measure 37. A large watermark is visible across the middle of the page.

40 41 42 43

rit. LV LV LV p

*a tempo*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 40 through 43. The music is in a minor key. Measures 40 and 41 feature a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a single note. Measure 42 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. Measure 43 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. The dynamic markings 'rit. LV' are placed above the treble clef in measure 40. 'LV' markings are placed above the treble clef in measures 41, 42, and 43. A 'p' marking is placed above the treble clef in measure 42. A 'a tempo' marking is placed above the treble clef in measure 42. A large watermark is visible across the middle of the page.

44 45 46 47

rit. mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 44 through 47. The music is in a minor key. Measures 44 and 45 feature a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a single note. Measure 46 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. Measure 47 has a treble clef with a sixteenth-note pattern and a bass clef with a whole note. The dynamic markings 'rit.' and 'mf' are placed above the treble clef in measure 46. A large watermark is visible across the middle of the page.

# Joy to the World

18 Bells for Christmas

Cat.1071  
Difficulty: EM

Handbells Used: 3 Octaves

Handbell notation for 3 octaves, showing a sequence of notes on a treble clef staff and a few notes on a bass clef staff.

music by Lowell Mason (1839)  
arranged by Matthew Prins

With Joy!

Piano accompaniment for 'Joy to the World', arranged by Matthew Prins. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It features a large watermark reading 'Copyrighted material.' and 'Please return to our store to order this item.' The music is marked with dynamics *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). The score is divided into measures 1 through 14. Measure 7 includes markings 'LV' and 'R'. The piece concludes with a final chord in measure 14.

15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23

*p*

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24 25 26 27

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28 29 30 31

*mp* *pp*

\* If played on table, pluck all bass clef and treble clef stems-down notes m. 21-28  
 Or if not using tables, ring with very light TD for a modified stopped sound.

32 *mp* 33 *p* 34 35

Musical score for measures 32-35. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 32 starts with *mp*. Measure 33 has a whole rest. Measure 34 starts with *p*. Measure 35 has a whole note.

36 37 38 39 40

Musical score for measures 36-40. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 36 has a whole note. Measure 37 has a whole note. Measure 38 has a whole note. Measure 39 has a whole note. Measure 40 has a whole note.

41 *mf* *f* 42 43 44

Musical score for measures 41-44. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 41 starts with *mf*. Measure 42 has a whole note. Measure 43 has a whole note. Measure 44 has a whole note.

45 46 47 48

Musical score for measures 45-48. Treble clef, bass clef, key signature of two flats. Measure 45 has a whole note. Measure 46 has a whole note. Measure 47 has a whole note. Measure 48 has a whole note.

49 50 51 52 53

*p* *f*

This system contains measures 49 through 53. The treble clef staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass clef staff provides a simple accompaniment. Dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *f* (forte) are placed above the staff between measures 50 and 52.

54 55 56 57

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This system contains measures 54 through 57. The treble clef staff has a melody with some rests, and the bass clef staff has a steady accompaniment. A large watermark reading "Copyrighted material." is overlaid on the score.

58 59 60 61

*p* *f*

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This system contains measures 58 through 61. The treble clef staff continues the melody, and the bass clef staff continues the accompaniment. Dynamic markings *p* and *f* are present. A watermark reading "Please return to our store to order this item." is overlaid on the score.

62 63 64 65 66

This system contains measures 62 through 66. The treble clef staff features a melody with some rests, and the bass clef staff has a steady accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line.

# Silent Night

18 Bells for Christmas

Cat. 1071

Difficulty: EM

Handbells Used: 3 Octaves

Handbell notation for 3 octaves, showing a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a bass clef staff with a key signature of one flat. The melody is written in a simple, stepwise fashion.

music by Franz Gruber, ca. 1820

arranged by Matthew Prins

Adagietto

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is Adagietto. The first measure is marked *p* LV. A large watermark 'Copyrighted material.' is overlaid on the score.

Musical notation for measures 5-9. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is Adagietto. The first measure is marked *p* LV. A large watermark 'Please return to our store to order this item.' is overlaid on the score. The notation includes a *rit.* marking and a *a tempo* marking. The first measure is marked *p* LV. The second measure is marked *R*. The third measure is marked *rit.* The fourth measure is marked *a tempo*. The fifth measure is marked *LV mp/*.

Musical notation for measures 10-13. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The tempo is Adagietto. The first measure is marked *LV*. The second measure is marked *\**. The third measure is marked *LV*. The fourth measure is marked *LV*.

\* Continue the phrasing indicated by the voice leading lines (VLL) in all similar eighth note patterns throughout.

14 15 16 17

LV LV

18 19 20 21

LV LV

22 23 24 25

LV LV

26 27 28 29

LV R rit. a tempo



30 31 32 33

LV *mf* LV LV LV

34 35 36 37

LV LV LV LV

38 39 40 41

LV LV LV LV

42 43 44 45

LV LV LV LV

46 47 48 49

LV LV LV LV

50 51 52 53

LV LV R *rit.* LV *a tempo*

54 55 56 57 58

*rit.* LV *a tempo* LV *p* *p* *p*

59 60 61 62

*molto rit.* R *mf* *mf*

# Ukrainian Bell Carol

18 Bells for Christmas

Cat. 1071  
Difficulty: EM

Handbells used: 3 octaves

music by Mykola Leontovych (1916)  
arranged by Matthew Prins

**Lightly**

6

11

15

20 21 22 23 24

LV LV LV LV LV

25 26 27 28 29 30

*f* R LV

31 32 33 34 35

LV LV LV LV

36 37 38 39 40

LV LV *mp*

41 42 43 44 45

LV  
*pp*

46 47 48 49

LV LV *ff* R

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50 51 52 53

LV

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to order this item.

54 55 56 57

LV LV

58 59 60 61

LV LV LV LV

62 63 64 65

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*p* LV *molto rit.*

66 67 68 69

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R

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# From the Top Music

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<b>Ah! So Pure</b> from <i>Martha</i> by von Flotow	Solo arr. by Fred A. Merrett	Difficulty E
<b>Incline My Heart</b>	Solo arr. by Erin & Gail Downey	Difficulty M
<b>Glory Bound</b>	Solo arr. by Carol Smith & Jane Patty	Difficulty M
<b>He Is Born</b>	Solo w/piano accomp. by Sue Garton	Difficulty M
<b>Old Time Religion Medley</b>	Solo arr. by Carol Smith & Jane Patty	Difficulty M
<b>Plink, Plank, Plunk</b> by Leroy Anderson	Solo arr. by Carol Smith & Jane Patty	Difficulty M
<b>The Typewriter</b> by Leroy Anderson	Solo arr. by Carol Smith & Jane Patty	Difficulty M
<b>Welsh Folk Song</b>	Solo arr. by Fred A. Merrett	Difficulty E
<b>Be Thou Still</b>	Duet by Matthew Prins	Difficulty EM
<b>O Christmas Tree</b>	Trio by Gail Downey	Difficulty E
<b>Prayer Time</b>	Trio by Gail Downey	Difficulty M
<b>All Day, All Night/Swing Low, Sweet Chariot</b>	Quartet by Gail Downey	Difficulty EM
<b>Angels From the Realms of Glory</b>	Quartet by Gail Downey	Difficulty M
<b>Bethena</b>	Quartet arr. by Matthew Prins	Difficulty MD
<b>Prelude in c Minor</b> by J.S. Bach	Quartet arr. by Erin Downey & Thomas E. Parsons	Difficulty D
<b>Reflections</b>	Quartet by Gail Downey	Difficulty M
<b>Roundup</b> by Andre Previn	Quartet arr. by Erin Downey	Difficulty D
<b>Ring Christmas Joy</b>	4-in-Hand by Gail Downey	Difficulty D
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