

# Noël

*Louis-Claude Daquin*



*Arranged by*  
***Fred Gramann***

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Albuquerque, NM  
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# Noël

During John Finney's tenure as organist at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, he delighted the congregation by concluding every Christmas Eve with Louis-Claude Daquin's joyous "Noël X". In response to this beloved tradition, *The Hills Bells* asked that this commissioned handbell piece be centered around this set of variations by Daquin.

The foremost French organist of the 18th century, Daquin was famous for his improvisations, delighting congregants on Christmas Eve with his inventive variations on popular carols, known as "Noëls". His playing drew so many listeners that the entrances and exits of the church were strictly monitored to keep the crowds under control.

Daquin published twelve sets of variations on popular Christmas tunes, perhaps hoping to increase sales by noting on the cover page that they were "for the organ and harpsichord, and most could be played on violins, flutes, oboe, etc."

The melody of Number 10 of the set was originally a drinking song, later paired with sacred lyrics:

<i>Quand Dieu naquit a Noël dedans la Judée, .....</i>	When God was born at Christmas in Judea,
<i>On vit ce jour solonnel la joie inondée; .....</i>	This solemn day was one of extreme joy.
<i>Il n'était petit ni grand, qui n'apportât son présent ....</i>	There wasn't a single person, neither young nor old
<i>Et n'o, n'o, n'o, n'o, et n'offrit, frit, frit,</i>	who didn't generously offer their riches.
<i>Et n'o, n'o, et n'offrit sans cesse toute sa richesse.</i>	

The tongue-twister in the middle ("Et n'o, n'o, n'o", etc.) is reflected in the music, as in the end of measure 19 through measure 22.



For John Finney, in gratitude for his thirty-eight years of service as Minister of Music  
at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts,  
commissioned by The Hills Bells

# Noël

Cat. 20780  
Level 3

Handbells Used: 3 - 5 Octaves



3 octaves omit ( )  
4 octaves omit [ ]  
5 octaves omit < >

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 74$

NOËL X BY LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN  
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH  
GOOD KING WENCESLAS  
DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

Arranged by Fred Gramann



*mp* *f* *mf*

5 octaves double top note 8va

2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

5 octaves double top note 8va

Musical score for measures 11-15. Measure 11 is marked with 'LV'. Measure 12 is marked with 'R'. Measures 12 and 13 have an asterisk (\*) below them. Measure 14 has a line pointing to a specific note. Measure 15 has a line pointing to a specific note. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one flat.

Musical score for measures 16-20. Measure 18 has a flat symbol (b) below it. Measure 19 has a flat symbol (b) below it. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one flat.

5 octaves double top note 8va

Musical score for measures 21-25. Measure 21 is marked with 'TD'. Measure 24 has a flat symbol (b) below it. Measure 25 has a flat symbol (b) below it. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one flat.

Musical score for measures 26-29. Measure 26 is marked with 'LV' and 'mp'. Measure 27 is marked with 'mp'. Measure 28 is marked with 'f'. Measure 29 has an asterisk (\*) below it. The score is in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one flat.

\* mm. 12-13: C5 scored in treble clef  
mm. 29-38: C5 scored in treble clef

30 LV LV LV LV LV R

34 LV LV LV LV LV *f* R

38 39 40 41 42 LV LV LV LV

43 LV 44 R 45 46

\* mm. 30-38: C5 scored in treble clef

47 48 49 50 51 Sk

52 53 54 55 Sk

56 57 58 59 60

61 62 63 64

\* mm. 49: C5 scored in treble clef

65 Sk ~ 66 67 68 69

70 71 72 73

74 75 Sk ~ 76 77

78 79 80 81 82



5 octaves double top note 8va

83 84 85 86

loco LV R

87 88 89 90

91 92 93 94

5 octaves double top note 8va

Sk Sk

ff

LV

95 96 97 98 99

100 R 101 LV 102 R 103

104 LV LV LV LV 106 R 107

108 109 110 111 112

5 octaves double top note 8va Slower

113 114 115 116 117 Sk



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