

chimes

for unaccompanied SATB choir (divisi)

Leah Tracy

"Chimes" by Alice Christiana Gertrude Meynell (1847-1922)

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Brief on a flying night,
From the shaken tower,
A flock of bells take flight,
And go with the hour.

Like birds from the cote to the gales,
Abrupt—oh, hark!—
A fleet of bells set sails,
And go to the dark.

Sudden the cold airs swing:
Alone, aloud,
A verse of bells takes wing
And flies with the cloud.

British essayist and poet Alice Meynell was born to educated parents in 1847. She and her sister, a painter, spent their bohemian childhood partly in Italy. Meynell published *Preludes* (1875), her first book of poems, under her maiden name, Thompson. A convert to Roman Catholicism, Meynell and her husband, Wilfrid Meynell, edited the *Weekly Register*, a Catholic paper, and founded the magazine *Merry England*. Meynell regularly contributed essays to periodicals, wrote poetry, and raised a large family—seven children survived childhood. She worked for women's suffrage, and her poems show her feminist concerns as well as her reactions to the events of World War I. Both Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Coventry Patmore admired her work, which included the volumes *Poems* (1893), *Later Poems* (1902), and the posthumous *Last Poems* (1923). (Source: poetryfoundation.com)

Performance Notes



Boxed musical ideas followed by arrows indicate that the singer should repeat the musical idea until something else (a note, a rest, or another boxed musical idea) appears in the score. These stemless notes should be sung at each singer's own pace to create a layered texture. Singers should not follow the pace of singers around them.

Bell sounds are indicated with italicized text. All bell sounds should allow a moment for vowels to sound before closing to the "m".

The vowel sound in *bohm* and *dohm* should be sung like the vowel sound in the word "cold"; IPA: [ɔ]

The vowel sound in *dim* should be sung like an "ee" sound with round lips, like in the French word "une"; IPA: [y]

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Alice Meynell

Leah Tracy

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano *mf* Brief on a fly-ing

Alto *p* *dim dohm dim dohm*

Tenor *p* *dim dohm dim dohm*

Bass *p* *bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm*

Piano (rehearsal only)

8

S. night, from the sha-king tow-er, a flock of bells take flight, and go with the *mp*

A. *dim dohm dim dohm*

T. *dim dohm*

B. *mp* *bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm*

Pno.

14

S. ho - ur. Like birds from the cote to the gales, to the gales, a-brupt, o, hark! *f*

A. *p* *mf* *f*
dim dohm dim dohm dohm O, hark! O,

T. *p* *mf* *f*
dim dohm dim dohm Birds from the cote to the gales, a-brupt, oh, hark!

B. *p* *mf* *f*
bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm O, hark! bohm

Pno.

20

S. Hark! *ff* A fleet of bells set sails, and go to the dark.

A. hark! *ff*
bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm

T. *ff*
bohm bohm bohm bohm A fleet of bells set sails, and go to the dark.

B. *ff*
bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm

Pno.

27 *mp*

S. *dim* *dim dohm*

A. *mp* *dim dohm* *mf* *dohm* A

T. *mp* *dim dohm*

B. *mf*

Pno.

Sud-den the cold airs swing: a - lone, a-loud.

34 *mf* *ff*

S. *dim dohm* *dohm dohm* *A verse of bells take wing, and flies with the*

A. *f* *ff* *mf*

T. *mf* *dim dohm* *dohm dohm dohm*

B. *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno.

verse of bells takewing, a verse of bells takewing, a verse of bells takewing. *dohm dohm*

bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm

4 Bell song ♩=.

41 *mf*

S. cloud.

A. *mp*
dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm

T. *mp*
dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm

B. *mp*
bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm

Pno.

47 *mp*

S. dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dim

A. dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm

T. dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm

B. bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm

Pno.

51

mf

S. *dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dim*

A. **mf** *dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm*

T. **mf** *dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm*

B. **mf** *bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm*

Pno.

55

f

S. *dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dim*

A. **f** *dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm dim dohm dohm dohm*

T. **f** *dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dim dohm*

B. **f** *bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm bohm*

Pno.

59 **accel.**

S. *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim*

A. *dim* *dohm dohm* *dohm* *dim* *dohm dohm* *dohm* *dim* *dohm dohm* *dohm*

T. *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dohm* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim*

B. *bohm* *bohm* *bohm* *bohm* *bohm* *bohm*

Pno.

62 **ff** $\text{♩} = 80$

S. *dim* *dim* *dim* *dohm* *dim* *dim* *dohm*

A. *dim* *dohm dohm* *dohm* *dim* *dohm* *dim* *dim* *dohm*

T. *dim* *dim* *dim* *dim* *dohm* *dim* *dohm* *dim* *dim* *dohm* *dohm*

B. *bohm* *bohm* *ff* *bohm* *bohm* *bohm*

Pno. $\text{♩} = 80$