

The Sobbing of the Bells

for SATB and Piano
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$\text{♩} = 48$

Mike McFerron

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

sempre trasparente e lontano

sempre molto legato

f

p

— 3 —

Le. Le. Le.

Text from *Leaves of Grass*
by Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

The sobbing of the bells, the sudden death-news everywhere,
The slumberers rouse, the rapport of the People,
(Full well they know that message in the darkness,
Full well return, respond with their breasts, their brains, the sad reverberations,)
The passionate toll and clang--city to city, joining, sounding, passing,
Those heart-beats of a Nation in the night.

6

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3
4

4
4

SAMPLE

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cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

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Re.

Re.

11

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SAMPLE

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11

sempre legato **pp** **p** 3
ooo The sob - bing o[f],

sempre legato **pp** **p** 3
eee The sob - bing o[f],

(sempre trasparente e lontano) 3
mf **p**

mf

mf

Leo.

SAMPLE

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The musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the voice: the soprano staff uses a G clef and the alto staff uses a C clef. The bottom two staves are for the piano: the left hand staff uses a C clef and the right hand staff uses a F clef. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Dynamics are indicated above the notes, such as 'pp' (pianissimo), 'p' (piano), 'mf' (mezzo-forte), and 'f' (fortissimo). Articulation marks like dots and dashes are also present. The lyrics 'ooo' and 'eee' are written below the vocal parts, corresponding to specific notes. The piano part includes a dynamic 'p' over a sustained note. Measure numbers '11' and '12' are visible at the beginning of the page. Large, semi-transparent 'SAMPLE' and '© Red Earth Publishing' text are overlaid across the entire page.

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3 4 4 *mp>pp*

Bells, _____

mp>pp

Bells, _____

gradually change vowels eee, sob - bing of the bells,

gradually change vowels ooo, sob - bing of the bells,

mp

8va *cresc. poco a poco* (loco) *3* *3* *(sempre molto legato)* r.h. *l.h.* *(sempre molto legato)*

Red.

Red.

20

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Musical score page 20, featuring two systems of music. The top system consists of four staves: Treble, Treble, Bass, and Bass. The vocal parts sing in unison. The piano accompaniment is provided by the bass staff. The vocal line includes lyrics: "Sud - den death news" and "eee, The sud - den death news". Dynamic markings include *p* and *mp*. The bottom system continues with the same four staves. The piano accompaniment is now provided by the treble staff. Measure numbers 3 and 3 are indicated above the piano staff. The vocal line includes the word "Reo.".

28

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Musical score page 28, featuring four staves of music. The top three staves are in common time (indicated by a 'C') and the bottom staff is in 8/8 time (indicated by an '8'). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics "Peo - - - ple," are repeated three times across the top three staves, each ending with a fermata and a dynamic marking of 'p' (piano). The bottom staff also contains the lyrics "Peo - - - ple," followed by a fermata and 'p'. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid across the page. The score concludes with a dashed line and a section starting with '(8va)'. This section includes two staves in 8/8 time with a key signature of two sharps (G major). The first staff begins with a dynamic 'mp' and a measure number '3'. The second staff begins with a dynamic 'pp' and a dynamic 'p'. The bottom staff of this section starts with a dynamic 'pp' and ends with a dynamic 'p'. The score concludes with a final dynamic 'p' and a repeat sign ('Rd.') at the end of the page.

"x" = do not accent

33

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well they know the mes - sage in the dark - - - ness, Full

well they know the mes - sage in the dark - - - ness, Full

well they know the mes - sage in the dark - - - ness, Full

well they know the mes - sage in the dark - - - ness, Full

well they know the mes - sage in the dark - - - ness, Full

(8va) -

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

("x" = do not accent)

L. L. L. L.

37

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stringendo

well re - turn, re - spond with - in their breasts, _____ 3 their _____

well re - turn, re - spond with - in their breasts, _____ 3 their _____

well re - turn, re - spond with - in 3 their breasts, _____ 3 their _____

well re - turn, re - spond with - in their breasts, _____ their _____

(8^{va})

40

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A Tempo

Musical score page 40 featuring four staves of music. The first staff (treble clef) starts with ***ff***. The second staff (treble clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics ***8*** and ***8***. The third staff (treble clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics ***b2:*** and ***8***. The fourth staff (bass clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics ***8*** and ***8***. The vocal line consists of the words "brains, _____" repeated across all staves. The piano part features sustained notes and chords. The vocal part has a dynamic marking ***p solo*** at the end of the first measure. The piano part ends with a dynamic marking ***ooo***. The vocal part continues with the words "The sad" followed by a blank line.

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Musical score page 40 continuation featuring five staves of music. The first staff (treble clef) starts with **(8^{vna})**. The second staff (treble clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics **>** and **>**. The third staff (treble clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics **>** and **>**. The fourth staff (bass clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics **>** and **>**. The fifth staff (bass clef) starts with ***ff*** and includes dynamics **>** and **>**. The vocal line consists of the words "Lev. _____ Lev. _____ Lev. _____ Lev. _____ Lev." repeated across all staves. The piano part features sustained notes and chords. The vocal part ends with a dynamic marking ***p solo***.

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45

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Musical score page 45. The vocal parts are labeled with lyrics: "re-ver-ber-a-tions," "stagger breathing," "gradually change vowels," and "ooo, oh, eee, eee, ooo,". The piano accompaniment has dynamics "ppp" and "pp". The score includes a large "SAMPLE" watermark and a copyright notice "© Red Earth Publishing".

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Musical score page 45. The vocal parts are labeled with dynamics "p sempre" and "loco". The piano accompaniment has dynamics "p sempre" and "loco". The score includes a large "SAMPLE" watermark and a copyright notice "© Red Earth Publishing".

Loc.

50

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p *tutti stagger breathing*
gradually change vowels
ooo, _____ eee, _____ ooo, _____ the pas - sion - ate toll _____

p
ooo, _____ the pas - sion - ate toll _____

p
eee, _____ the pas - sion - ate toll _____

p *stagger breathing*
gradually change vowels
ooo, _____ eee, _____ the pas - sion - ate toll _____

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8va -
3 3
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Re.

54

4
4

p

and clang., eee, ci - ty to ci - ty,

p

and clang., ah, join - ing,

p

and clang., ooo, ci - ty to ci - ty,

p

and clang., oh, join - ing,

(8va)

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

Leo. *Leo.*

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58

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$\frac{3}{4}$ Rallentando

Musical score page 58 featuring vocal and piano parts. The vocal part consists of three staves: soprano, alto, and bass. The piano part is in the bottom half of the page. The vocal parts sing lyrics in three-measure phrases, with the piano providing harmonic support. Measure 1 starts with the soprano and alto. Measures 2 and 3 continue with the soprano and alto, followed by the bass entry. The piano part features eighth-note chords and sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 8 begins with a dynamic change to *mp*. The vocal parts continue their rhythmic pattern, and the piano part maintains its harmonic function. The score concludes with a repeat sign and a dynamic marking of *Lev.*

sound-ing, pas sing, Those heart-beats of a

pas sing, Those heart-beats of a

,

sound-ing pas sing, Those heart-beats of a

pas ing, Those heart-beats of a

(8^{va})

mp

mp

Lev.

62

4
4

poco meno mosso

corta

3

Na - tion in the night.

corta

3

Na - nation in the night.

(8va)

corta

pp

3

poco rit.

morendo

Lockport, IL
February, 2004

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The musical score consists of five systems. The first four systems are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in common time, with the bass in 8th note. The vocal parts sing "Na - nation in the night." with "corta" slurs and "3" overbeats. The piano part (8va) has eighth-note patterns with "corta" slurs and "3" overbeats. The fifth system starts with "(8va)" and continues the piano pattern with "corta" slurs and "3" overbeats, followed by "poco rit." and "morendo". The score is from Red Earth Publishing.