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RING YE THE BELS

A Celebration

adapted from EPITHALAMION
by Edmund Spenser, ca. 1552–1599

Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the towne,
And leave your wonted labors for this day:
This day is holy; doe ye write it downe,
That ye for ever it remember may.
Ring ye the bells, to make it weare away,
And bonefiers make all day,
And daunce about them, and about them sing,
That all the woods may answer, and your eccho ring.

Let no lamenting cryes, nor dolefull teares,
Be heard all night within nor yet without:
Ne let false whispers, breeding hidden feares,
Breake gentle sleepe with misconceived dout.
Let no deluding dreames, nor dreadful sights
Make sudden sad affrights;
Let none of these theyr drery accents sing;
Ne let the woods them answer, nor theyr eccho ring.

Never had man more joyfull day than this,
Make feast therefore now all this live long day,
This day for ever to me holy is,
Poure out the wine without restraint or stay.
Poure not by cups, but by the belly full,
Poure out to all that wull.
The whiles the maydens doe theyr carroll sing,
To which the woods shal answer and theyr eccho ring.

Let not the shriech Oule, nor the Storke be heard,
Nor the night Raven that still deadly yels,
Nor damned ghosts cald up with mighty spels,
Nor griesly vultures make us once affeard,
Ne let th'unpleasant Quyre of frogs still croking
Make us to wish theyr choking.

Let none of these theyr drery accents sing;
Ne let the woods them answer, nor theyr eccho ring.

Harke how the Minstrels gin to shrill aloud
Their merry Musick that resounds from far,
The pipe, the tabor, and the trembling Croud,
That well agree withouten breach or jar.
The praise of the Lord in lively notes,
The whiles with hollow throates
Sing ye, sweet Angels, Alleluya sing,
That al the woods may answer and theyr eccho ring.

adapted from
Epithalamion by
Edmund Spenser
c.1552-1599

Ring ye the bells

Jonathan Willcocks

With energy
♩. = c.68

f

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

f Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the
f Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the
f Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the
f Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the

Orch. reduction

5

S.
A.
T.
B.

towne, and leave your won - ted la - bors for this day:
towne, and leave your won - ted la - bors for this day:
towne, and leave your won - ted la - bors for this day:
towne, and leave your won - ted la - bors for this day:

S. Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the towne, this

A. Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the towne, this

T. 8 Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the towne, this day is ho ly,

B. Ring ye the bells, ye yong men of the towne, this day is ho ly,

S. day is ho-ly, this day is ho-ly, *mf cresc.* doe ye write it downe,

A. day is ho-ly, this day is ho-ly, *mf cresc.* doe ye write it downe,

T. 8 this day is ho-ly; *mf cresc.* doe ye write it downe, that ye for

B. this day is ho-ly; doe ye write it downe, that ye for

17

S. — that ye for ev-er it re - mem - ber may. Ring ye the bells.

A. — that ye for ev-er it re - mem - ber may. Ring ye the bells,

T. 8 ev-er it re mem - ber may. Ring ye the

B. ev-er it re mem - ber may. Ring ye the

21

S. to make it weare a-way, and bone-fiers make all day,

A. — to make it weare a-way, and bone-fiers make all day,

T. 8 bells, to make it weare a-way, and bone-fiers make all day, and

B. bells, to make it weare a-way, and bone-fiers make all day, and

32 *mf cresc.*

S. ans - wer, and a - bout them sing,

A. - bout them sing, that all the woods may ans - wer,

T. *mf cresc.* and a - bout them sing, that all the woods may

B. that all the woods may ans - wer, and a -

35

S. that all the woods may ans - wer,

A. sing, may ans - wer,

T. ans - wer, that all the woods may

B. bout them sing, that all the woods may

57

S. *mp* be heard all night,

A. yet with-out *mp* be heard all night, Ah

T. *mp* be heard all night,

B. *mp*

60

S. *mp* Ne let false whis - pers, breed - ing hid - den feares,

A. *mp* Ne let false whis - pers, breed - ing hid - den feares,

T. *mp* Ne let false whis - pers, breed - ing hid - den feares,

B. *mp* Ne let false whis - pers, false whis - pers, breake

S. breake gen - tle sleepe with mis - con - cei - ved dout.

A. breake gen - tle sleepe with mis - con - cei - ved dout.

T. breake gen - tle sleepe with mis - con - cei - ved dout.

B. gen - tle sleepe with mis - con - cei - ved dout.

mp

S. *mp* Let no de - lu - ding dreames, nor dread - ful sights

A. *mp* Let no de - lu - ding dreames, nor dread - ful sights

T.

B.

mp *mp*

69

mp cresc. *cresc.*

S. make sud-den sad af frights, make sud - den, sud-den sad af-

mp cresc. *cresc.*

A. make sud-den sad af frights, make sud - den, sud-den sad af-

cresc.

T. make sud-den sad af frights, make sud - den, sud-den sad af-

mp cresc. *cresc.*

B. make sud den sad af-frights, — make sad af frights, make sud den sad af -

72

f

S. frights;

A. frights;

T. frights;

B. frights;

f *dim.*

80

S. ec - cho, Let none of these they dre -

A. Let none of these they dre -

T. ec - cho ring, Let none of these they dre -

B. Let none of these they dre -

mp

83

S. - ry ac - cents sing, Ah their *mf*

A. - ry ac - cents sing, Ah their *mf*

T. - ry ac - cents sing, Ah their *mf*

B. - ry ac - cents sing, Ne let the woods them ans - wer and their ec - cho sing.

16 86

S. *p*
ec - cho, ec - cho ring.

A. *p*
ec - cho, ec - cho ring.

T. *p*
ec - cho, ec - cho ring.

B. *mf* *p*
theyr ec - cho, ec - cho ring.

90 with energy ♩ = c.118

S.

A.

T. *f*
Ne-ver had man more joy - - - full,

B. *f*
Ne-ver had man more joy - - - full,

107 *mp legato e sostenuto*

S. live long day this day for ev - er to me ho - ly is,

A. live long day this day for ev - er to me ho - ly is,

T. 8 feast all this day, this day for ev - er to me ho - ly is,

B. feast all this day, this day for ev - er to me ho - ly is,

mp

110 *f with life*

S. ho - ly is, ho - ly, Poure out the wine with - out re - straint or stay,

A. ho - ly is, ho - ly, Poure out the wine,

T. 8 ho - ly is, ho - ly, Poure out the wine with out restraint or

B. ho - ly is, ho - ly, Poure out the

f

121

S. wine! *gliss.*

A. wine! *gliss.*

T. wine! *gliss.* *f* Poure not by cups,

B. wine! *gliss.* *f* Poure not by cups, but

ff *f*

125

S.

A.

T. but by the bel - - ly full,

B. by the bel - - ly full,

f

137

S. poure out to all, to all that

A. - ly full, poure out to all, to all that wull.

T. poure out to all, to all that

B. - ly full, poure out to all, to all that wull.

f

141

S. wull. *mf* Thewhiles the may-dens doe theyr car-roll sing, *f* the

A. *mf* the whiles the may - dens doe their car-roll sing, *f* to which the

T. wull. *mf* Thewhiles the may-dens doe theyr car-roll sing, *f* the

B. *mf* the whiles the may - dens doe theyr car-roll sing, *f* to which the

f

24 144

S. woods may ans - wer, the woods may ans - wer,

A. woods may ans - wer, the woods may ans - wer,

T. woods may ans - wer, the woods may ans - wer,

B. woods may ans - wer, the woods may ans - wer,

148

S. and they ec-cho, ec-cho, they ec-cho ring.

A. and they ec-cho, ec-cho, they ec-cho ring.

T. and they ec-cho, ec-cho, they ec-cho ring.

B. and they ec-cho, ec-cho, they ec-cho ring.

no rit.

f

no rit.

171

S. cro- king, cro - - king, — makes us to wish theyr cho- king, —

A. cro- king, cro - king, — makes us to wish theyr cho- king, —

T. *mf* cro- king, — cro- king, makes us to wish theyr cho king,

B. *mf* cro- king, — cro- king, makes us to wish theyr cho king,

mf *mp*

174

S. *mf* sing, sing,

A. *mf* sing, sing,

T. *mp cresc.* Let none of these theyr drea - ry ac - cents sing, *mf cresc.* let none of

B. *mp cresc.* Let none of these theyr drea - ry ac - cents sing, *mf cresc.* let none of

cresc.

181

S. *p* ec - cho, ec - cho, ec - cho,

A. *p* ec - cho, ec - cho, ec - cho,

T. *f* ec - cho, theyr ec - cho, nor theyr ec - cho,

B. *f* ec - cho, theyr ec - cho, nor theyr ec - cho,

183

S. *p* nor theyr ec - cho ring.

A. *p* nor theyr ec - cho ring.

T. *f* nor theyr ec - cho ring.

B. *f* nor theyr ec - cho ring.

30 *tempo primo*
f = c.68

S. Harke how the Min strels gin to shrill a - - loud,

A. Harke how the Min strels gin to shrill a - - loud,

T. Harke how the Min strels gin to shrill a - - loud,

B. Harke how the Min strels gin to shrill a - - loud,

190

S. their mer - ry Mu - - sick, mer - ry mer - ry

A. their mer - ry Mu - - sick, mer - ry mer - ry

T. their mer - ry Mu - - sick, mer - ry mer - ry mu - - sick

B. their mer - ry Mu - - sick, mer - ry mer - ry mu - - sick

32 197

S. *f* the pipe, the ta - bor,

A. *f* the pipe, the ta - bor,

T. *f* the pipe, the ta - bor,

B. *f* the pipe, the ta - bor,

f (oboes) (snare drum)

201

S. *mf* the pipe, the ta - bor, —

A. *mf* the pipe, the ta - bor, —

T. *mf* the pipe, the ta - bor,

B. *mf* the pipe, the ta - bor, —

206

S. *mf* ————— *f*
and the trem-bling Croud,

A. *mf* ————— *f* *mf cresc.*
and the trem-bling Croud, that well a-

T. *mf* ————— *f*
and the trem-bling Croud,

B. *mf* ————— *f* *mf cresc.*
and the trem-bling Croud, that well a-

210

S. *mf cresc.*
that well a-gree, that well a-gree, a-gree withouten breach or jar.

A. *mf cresc.*
gree, that well a-gree, well a-gree withouten breach or jar.

T. *mf cresc.*
that well a-gree, that well a-gree, a-gree withouten breach or jar.

B. *mf cresc.*
gree, that well a-gree, well a-gree withouten breach or jar.

220 *f*

S. Mu - sick, mer-ry mer-ry Mu - - sick that re -

A. Mu - sick mer-ry mer-ry Mu - - sick, Mu - - sick that re -

T. *f* mer-ry mer-ry Mu - - sick, mer ry Mu-sick that re -

B. mer - ry mer - - - ry Mu-sick that re -

222 *mf*

S. sounds from far, The prai - ses of the Lord,

A. sounds from far, The prai - ses of the Lord,

T. sounds from far,

B. sounds from far.

f *mf*

236

S. — of the Lord in notes, in li - - vely notes, in li - - vely

A. — of the Lord in li - - vely notes, in li - - vely, li - vely

T. — of the Lord in notes, in li - - vely notes, in li - - vely

B. — of the Lord in li - - vely notes, in li - - vely, li - vely

f

239

S. notes, the whiles with hol-low throates Sing ye, sweet An - gels,

A. notes, the whiles with hol-low throates Sing ye, sweet An - gels,

T. notes, the whiles with hol-low throates Sing ye, sweet An - gels,

B. notes, the while with hol-low throates Sing ye, sweet An - gels,

sostenuto

f

f rhythmically

S. Sing ye, sweet An - gels, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le -

A. Sing ye, sweet An - gels, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le -

T. Sing ye, — sweet An - gels, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le -

B. Sing ye, sweet An - gels, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le -

S. lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya.

A. lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya, Al - le - lu - ya.

T. lu - ya, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ya, Harke how the Min strels

B. le - ya, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ya, Harke how the Min strels

S. — mer-ry mer-ry Mu - - sick, sing ye sweet an - gels,

A. — mer-ry mer-ry Mu - - sick, sing ye sweet an - gels,

T. *sostenuto*
8 Mu - - sick, — mer-ry Mu-sick, sing ye sweet an - gels,

B. *sostenuto*
Mu - - sick, — mer-ry Mu-sick, sing ye sweet an - gels,

S. that al the woods may ans-were, may- an -swere

A. that al the woods may ans-were, may- an -swere

T. *f*
8 Al-le-lu - ya, sing, al-le-lu- - ya, sing,

B. *f*
Al-le-lu - ya, sing, al-le-lu- - ya, sing,

S. *ff* *pp*
and their ec - cho ring, al le lu - ya, al le lu - ya,

A. *ff* *pp*
and their ec - cho ring, al le lu - ya, al le lu - ya,

T. *f* *ff* *pp*
and their ec - cho ring, al le - lu - ya, al le - lu - ya,

B. *f* *ff* *pp*
and their ec - cho ring, al le - lu - ya, al le - lu - ya,

pp *p cresc.*

S. *ff* *resolutely* *rall.*
and their ec - cho ring.

A. *ff* *resolutely*
and their ec - cho ring.

T. *ff* *resolutely*
and their ec - cho ring.

B. *ff* *resolutely*
and their ec - cho ring.

f *f cresc.* *rall.* *ff*