

Little Bells

Winner of the Chronos Vocal Ensemble Choral Composition Competition, 2017.

Walt Whitman

Nicholas Ryan Kelly

Andante Moderato ♩ = 80

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano

pp reverently, with awe *p*
I heard you, sol - emn - sweet pipes of the

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p *f* *p*
resonant, bell-like
ped. *ped. harmonically*

Program Note

In our fast-paced times, it is more important than ever to celebrate awareness, concentration, and perception--and to take the time to slow down and listen to our surroundings. I hope the music helps to communicate Whitman's (and my own) sense of wonder at the sounds and sensations we encounter every day.

Performance and Rehearsal Notes

Because of this piece's unusually long phrases, I recommend singing it up to tempo from the very first rehearsal. This will help to give singers a clear sense of each phrase's direction and minimize problems with breathing and breath support. Although some rubato is advisable (especially before B and after F), there should always be a clear sense of rhythmic energy - even in the slower sections!

-NRK

Little Bells

6 *pp* *p* *pp*

or - gan, _____ as last Sun-day morn_____ I pass'd the church;

or - gan, _____ as last Sun - day morn_____ I pass'd the church; I -

8 or - - - gan, as last Sun-day morn_____ I pass'd the church; I -

or - gan, _____ I pass'd the church; I

opt. baritone *pp*

12 **A** *mp*

as I walk'd the woods at

heard you, winds _____ of au - tumn! as I walk'd the woods at

8 heard you, winds _____ of au - tumn! as I walk'd the woods at

heard you, _____ winds _____ of au - tumn! as I walk'd the woods at

p (L.H.) *mp* (L.H.)

ped harmonically

Little Bells

17 *mf* *p* *pp* rit.

dusk I heard your long - stretch'd sighs up a - bove, so mourn - ful;

mf *pp*

dusk I heard your long - stretch'd sighs up a - bove;

mf *pp*

8 dusk I heard your long - stretch'd sighs up a - bove;

mf *pp*

dusk I heard your long - stretch'd sighs up a - bove;

mf *pp*

dusk I heard your long - stretch'd sighs up a - bove;

23 Slow, delicate, floating ♩ = 52 *pp* **B** *p*

ah I

pp *p*

ah ah I

pp

ah ah ah

pp

ah ah

pp *mp* *p*

(L.H.) *pp* flowing

Little Bells

30 *swift and light*

heard the per-fect I - tal - i-an ten-or, sing-ing at the op-'ra, sing - ing,

heard the per-fect I - tal - i-an ten-or, sing-ing at the op-'ra, sing - ing,

ppp sing - ing, I

ppp sing - ing, I

cresc. *mp* *p*

37 **C** *mp* *mf* sing - ing,

mp *mf* sing - ing,

heard the so - pran - o in the midst of the quar - tet, sing - ing,

heard the so - pran - o in the midst of the quar - tet, sing - ing,

mp *cresc. poco a poco*