

Fincham: *Ring the bells*  
SSAA a cappella

DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆☆

# Paul Fincham

## Ring the bells

for SSAA a cappella

BOOSEY & HAWKES

## Composer's note

The original SATB version of *Ring the bells*, of which this is an upper-voice arrangement, was commissioned by the London Philharmonic Choir and first performed by them at the Royal Albert Hall in December 2017 conducted by Toby Purser. With lively outer sections, a more contemplative middle section based around a chorale theme and a cheeky bow to *The Holly and the Ivy*, the piece should be easily manageable by any good amateur choir. *Ring the bells* has been adopted by the UK homeless charity Crisis to which all composer royalties have been pledged. I would like to thank Tess Bartley who assisted with the text for the chorale whilst providing encouragement and the exchange of ideas throughout the composition of this piece.

Supporting



## Text

Ring the bells for Christmas, for Christmas is near.  
Hear the bells for Yuletide, for Yuletide is near.

In Bethlehem is born a child,  
Brightly shining star.  
His name shall be Emmanuel, the Son of God on earth.  
Let angels praise Him evermore, Alleluia.

Ring the bells for Christmas, for high days and holy days, for holly and the ivy days.



Photo: © Henrietta Garden

## Paul Fincham

Paul started composing at an early age, composed a rock opera at school and went on to read music at Cambridge University where he was music director of Cambridge Footlights. After a first career unrelated to music he returned to composing in 2012. He has since composed an award winning film score and has recently completed a full length youth opera called *The Happy Princess* with a libretto by Jessica Duchon (after Oscar Wilde) to a commission from Garsington Opera, premiered at Wormsley Park in summer 2019. *Ring the bells* is his first Christmas carol.

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Music setting derived from the composer's original by Raimonds Zelmenis

# RING THE BELLS

Words and music by  
PAUL FINCHAM  
(b 1959)

**Con moto, leggiero**  $\text{♩} = 66$

**SOPRANO**

*mf* Ring the bells, the bells for Christ-mas, ring the

*p* Ring the bells for

**ALTO**

*mf* Ring the bells, the bells for Christ-mas,

*mf* Ring the bells, the bells for Christ - mas, ring the

**PIANO**  
(for rehearsal only)

**Con moto, leggiero**  $\text{♩} = 66$

**S**

Christ-mas, for Christ-mas, ring the bells for Christ-mas, for

bells, the bells for Christ-mas, ring the bells, for

**A**

*p* ring the bells, for

bells, the bells for Christ - mas, ring the bells, for

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11

*p*

S Christ-mas is near. Hear the bells for Yule-tide, for

*p*

S Christ-mas is near. Hear the bells, the bells for

*p*

A Christ-mas is near. Hear the bells, the bells for

*p*

A Christ - mas is near. for Yule - tide, \_\_\_\_\_

16

*mf*

S Yule-tide, hear the bells for Yule-tide, for Yule - tide is near.

*mf*

S Yule - tide, hear the bells, for \_\_\_\_\_ Yule - tide is near.

*mf*

A Yule - tide, hear the bells, for \_\_\_\_\_ Yule - tide is near.

*mf*

A \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Yule - tide is \_\_\_\_\_ near.

21

*mf* *p*

S  
bells for Yule - tide, — hear the bells for

*mf* *p*

bells for Yule - tide, hear the

*mf*

A  
Hear the bells, the bells for Yule - tide,

*mf* *p*

Hear the bells, the bells for Yule - tide, hear the

26

S  
Yule-tide, for Yule - tide, hear the bells for Yule-tide, for

bells, the bells for Yule - tide, hear the bells, for

*p*

A  
bells for Yule - tide, — for

bells, the bells — for Yule - tide, — hear the bells, for

31 *mf cresc*

S Yule - tide is near. bells for

*mf cresc*

S Yule - tide is near. Ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas, for

*marcato mf cresc*

A Yule - tide is near. Ring the bells, the bells for

*marcato mf cresc*

A Yule - tide is near. Ring the bells, the bells for

36 *(cresc) ff* *d. =*

S Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is

*(cresc) ff*

S Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is

*(cresc) ff*

A Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is

*ff*

A Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is

*d. =*



SEMI CHORUS (optional)  
**Andante con moto** (♩ = 66)

41 = ♩ *molto* **p dolce legato**

S  
 near. In Beth-le - hem is born a child, Bright - ly shin - ing

A  
 near. In Beth - le - hem is born a child, Bright - ly shin - ing

**Andante con moto** (♩ = 66)

46 *p*

S  
 star. Al - le - lu - ia, His

A  
 star. His name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, Al - le - lu - ia, His



51

*mp*

S name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth. Let an - gels praise him

*mp*

A name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth. Let an - gels praise him

*mp*

A name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth. praise him

name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth.

56

*mf*

S e - ver - more, Al - le - lu - ia,

*mf* *p*

A e - ver - more, Al - le - lu - ia, let an - gels praise him e - ver - more,

*mf* *p*

A e - ver - more, Al - le - lu - ia, let an - gels praise him e - ver - more,

*mf* *p*

Al - le - lu - ia, praise him e - ver - more,



61 **TUTTI**  
*pp* **Poco adagio** ♩ = 100

**S**  
Al - le - lu - - - ia.

*pp* *p sempre legato e sostenuto*  
Al - le - lu - ia. Ring the bells, the bells for Christ - mas,

**A**  
*pp* *p sempre legato e sostenuto*  
Al - le - lu - ia. Ring the bells, the bells for Christ-mas,

*pp* *p sempre legato e sostenuto*  
Al - le - lu - - - ia. the bells for Christ - mas,

**Poco adagio** ♩ = 100

66 *p sempre legato e sostenuto*

**S**  
Ring the bells for Christ-mas, bells for Christ - mas, ring the bells for

ring the bells, the bells for Christ - mas, ring the

**A**  
ring the bells for Christ - mas, ring the

ring the bells, the bells for Christ - mas, ring the

71

S  
Christ - mas, for High days and Ho - ly days, for

*cantabile*

— bells, the bells — for High days and Ho - ly days, for

A  
bells, the bells — for Christ - mas, Ho - ly days,

bells, the bells for Christ - mas, — Ho - ly days,

75

**rall**

S  
Hol-ly and the I - vy days, Ring the bells — for Christ-mas.

*pp*

A  
Hol-ly and the I - vy days, Ring the bells for Christ - mas.

*pp*

Hol-ly and the I - vy days, Ring the bells for Christ-mas.

*pp*

Hol-ly and the I - vy days, Ring the bells for Christ - mas.

**rall**

**a tempo (andante con moto), risoluto**  $\text{♩} = 66$

80

*f*

S In Beth-le - hem is born a child, Bright-ly shin - ing star.

*f*

In Beth-le - hem is born a child, Bright-ly shin - ing star.

*f*

A In Beth-le - hem is born a child, Bright-ly shin - ing star. His

*f*

In Beth-le - hem is born a child, Bright-ly shin - ing star. His

**a tempo (andante con moto), risoluto**  $\text{♩} = 66$

85

S ah \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia. His name shall be Em -

ah \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia. His name shall be Em -

A name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, Al - le - lu - ia. His name shall be Em -

name shall be Em - ma - nu - el, Al - le - lu - ia. His name shall be Em -

90

S  
-ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth. Let an - gels praise him e - ver - more,

A  
-ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth. praise him e - ver - more,

-ma - nu - el, the Son of God on earth.

**Allargando e sostenuto**

95

S  
*ff* Al - le - lu - ia, *Tutti pp dolcissimo* Al - le - lu -

A  
*ff* Al - le - lu - ia, *Solo p dolce* Let an - gels praise him e - ver - more, *Tutti pp dolcissimo* Al - le - lu - ia.

A  
*ff* Al - le - lu - ia, *Solo p dolce* Let an - gels praise him e - ver - more, *Tutti pp dolcissimo* Al - le - lu - ia.

A  
*ff* Al - le - lu - ia, *Solo p dolce* praise him e - ver - more, *Tutti pp dolcissimo* Al - le - lu -

**Allargando e sostenuto**



110 *p sub*

S Christ - mas is near. Hear the bells for Yule-tide, for

*p sub*

A Christ - mas is near. Hear the bells, the bells for

*p sub*

Christ - mas is near. Hear the bells, the bells for

*p sub* *p*

Christ - mas is near. for Yule - tide, \_\_\_\_\_

115 *p sub*

S Yule-tide, hear the bells for Yule-tide, for Yule-tide is, Christ - mas is,

*p sub*

A Yule - tide, hear the bells, for Yule-tide is, Christ - mas is,

*p sub*

Yule - tide, hear the bells, for Yule-tide is, Christ - mas is,

for Yule - tide is, -

120

*f*

S Christ-mas is near. Ring the bells for Christ-mas, bells for

*f*

Christ-mas is near. Ring the bells, for Christ-mas, for

*f*

A Christ-mas is near. Ring the bells, the bells for

*p* *f*

Christ - mas is near. Ring the bells, the bells for

125

*ff*

S Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ-mas, for Christ - mas is...

*ff*

Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ-mas, for Christ - mas is...

*ff*

A Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ-mas, for Christ - mas is...

*ff*

Christ - mas, ring the bells for Christ-mas, for Christ - mas is...

130 *p*

S ★ Ding! \_\_\_\_\_

A ★ Ding! \_\_\_\_\_ Dong! \_\_\_\_\_

★ Ding! \_\_\_\_\_

★ Ding! \_\_\_\_\_ Dong! \_\_\_\_\_

134 *ff* **poco rall**

S Ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is here.

A Ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is here.

Ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is here.

Ring the bells for Christ - mas, for Christ - mas is here.

**poco rall**

★ bars 130–3 move to 'ng' sounds immediately

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