

Bells in the High Tower

(Hungarian folk carol, with English lyrics by Howard Box)

SATB and piano

Elizabeth Alexander

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Bells in the High Tower

SATB and piano

Howard Box

(♩ = 92)

clear and bell-like throughout

Hungarian carol "Krisztus Urunknak"

Arrangement by Elizabeth Alexander

Piano

mp

Ped.

4

S
A

p clear, articulated

Bells in the high tow'r, ring - ing o'er the white hills,

T
B

p clear, articulated

Bells in the high tow'r, ring - ing o'er the white hills,

Ped.

7

S
A

mock - ing the win - ter, sing - ing like the spring rills, Bells in the high tow'r

T
B

mock - ing the win - ter, sing - ing like the spring rills, Bells in the high tow'r

Ped.

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10

S
A

T
B

in the cold fore - tell - ing spring's green up - well - ing.

7/4

12

S
A

T
B

mf brightly m.d. 5
5 4 2 1 1 2 5
m.s. 7

7/4

14

7 7

4/4

4

16 *mp*

S
Bells in the old tow'r, bright as morn - ing chat - ter

A
Bells in the old tow'r, bright as morn - ing chat - ter

(*mp*)

18

S
from dart-ing song - birds; sum - mer - long they gath - er;

A
from dart-ing song - birds; sum - mer - long they gath - er;

(*mf*)

20

S
Bells in the old tow'r, now the wine is brim - - ming,

A
Bells in the old tow'r, now the wine is brim - - ming,

7

6
27 *mf*

T
8
Bells in the stone tow'r, ech - o - ing the soft sound

B
mf
Bells in the stone tow'r, ech - o - ing the soft sound

(mf)

29

T
8
of au - tumn's mill wheel, as the wheat is spun (n) round;

B
of au - tumn's mill wheel, as the wheat is spun (n) round;

(mf)

31 *sfz* *mf*

T
8
Bells, see, the bread is yeast - ing

B
sfz
Bells in the stone tow'r, see, the bread is yeast - ing

(mf)

33

T
8
for time of feast - ing.

B
mf
for time of feast - ing.

for time of feast - ing.

sfz
Ped. Ped.

35

Ped. Ped.

36

Ped. Ped.

37

Ped. Ped. Ped.

8

38 *f*

S A
Bells in the cold tow'r, 'midst the snow of win - ter, _____

T B
Bells in the cold tow'r, 'midst the snow of win - ter, _____

sfz *pealing*

f

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

42

S A
— sound out the spring song that we may re -

T B
— sound out the spring song that we may re -

mp

Ped. Ped. Ped.

46

S A
mem - ber, _____ Bells in the cold tow'r, af - ter bit - ter

T B
mem - ber, _____ re - mem - ber af - ter bit - ter

marcato

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

Solo:
58 *p* still, pure

B

Bells in the cold tow'r, _____ af - ter bit - ter snow - ing _____

mp crystalline

Tutti:
63 *p* match tone and dynamic of the soloist

B

_____ come months of grow - - - -

67 *ppp*

S

(ng)

A

ppp

(ng)

T

ppp

(ng)

B

- ing. _____ (ng)

11

72

S niente

A niente

T niente

B niente

pp

Bells in the high tower, ringing o'er the white hills,
 Mocking the winter, singing like the spring rills;
 Bells in the high tower, in the cold foretelling
 Spring's green upwelling.

Bells in the old tower, bright as morning chatter
 From darting songbirds, summerlong they gather;
 Bells in the old tower, now the wine is brimming,
 New life beginning.

Bells in the stone tower, echoing the soft sound
 Of autumn's mill wheel, as the wheat is spun round;
 Bells in the stone tower, see, the bread is yeasting
 For time of feasting.

Bells in the cold tower, 'midst the snow of winter
 Sound out the spring song that we may remember;
 Bells in the cold tower, after bitter snowing
 Come months of growing.

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 the author and the Unitarian Universalist Association.*

In 1958, while serving as minister of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, Canada, Howard Box befriended Thomas Legrady, a Hungarian refugee who had fled his native country following the overthrow of its democratic government. Box was inspired to write English lyrics for several of Legrady's beloved Hungarian carols, songs which became the centerpiece for the church's Christmas celebration that year.

Box has been a lifelong advocate of rational discourse between science and religion, serving as president of the Unitarian Universalist humanist organization, HUUmanists, and as treasurer of the UU Peace Fellowship. As minister emeritus of Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church, Box remains active in environmental and social issues, enjoys playing the organ, and recently fulfilled his lifelong dream of becoming a licensed radio operator.