



**I heard the bells
in distant greeting**

**Luther Orlando Emerson
(1820-1915)**

Luther Orlando Emerson was born in Parsonsfield, Maine. He originally planned to be a doctor, attending Parsonsfield Seminary and Effingham Academy. Changing his direction, he studied under the well-known music teacher Isaac Woodbury. He moved to Salem, Massachusetts, where he taught for several years. He moved to Boston as organist and musical director at the Bulfinch Street Church. He was organist and musical director in various churches in Massachusetts, and directed of about 300 musical festivals and conventions. He also became associated with the publishing house Oliver Ditson & Company in Boston. He compiled several collections of church music, and authored a number of training manuals and compilations for choirs. He died in Hyde Park, Massachusetts.

I heard the bells in distant greeting,
With whisper sweet a louder song,
Now far in mingled waves retreating,
Now pouring tides of sound along.

Then through the air came sounds of sadness,
Shivering amid the joy on high,
Thus dwells in love's pervading gladness
The secret sigh.

I heard the nightingale complaining,
With soft lament and tender moan,
Till, thrilling power and richness gaining,
The music rose to rapture's throne.

So love may hear a strain of sorrow
Circling within the heart's abyss,
Yet all will vibrate on the morrow
In surging bliss.

Andrew James Foxwell (1826–1903)

I heard the bells in distant greeting

L. O. Emerson

S *p* I heard the bells in dis - tant greet - ing, With whis - per sweet a loud - er

A *p* I heard the bells in dis - tant greet - ing, With whis - per sweet

T With whis - per sweet

B With whis - per sweet

4
S *mf* song, Now far in min - gled waves re - treat - ing, Now pour - ing *cresc.* *f*

A *mf* a loud - ersong, Now far in min - gled waves re - treat - ing, Now pour - ing *cresc.* *f*

T *mf* a loud - ersong, Now far in min - gled waves re - treat - ing, Now pour - ing *cresc.* *f*

B *mf* a loud - ersong, Now far in min - gled waves re - treat - ing, Now pour - ing *cresc.* *f*

I heard the bells in distant greeting

7 *cresc.* *ff*

S tides of sound a - long, Now pour - ing tides of sound a -

A tides of sound a - long, Now pour - ing tides of sound a -

T tides of sound a - long, Now pour - ing tides of sound a -

B tides of sound a - long, Now pour - ing tides of sound a -

10 *pp*

S long. Then thro' the air came sounds of sad - ness,

A long. Then thro' the air came sounds of sad - ness,

T long. Then thro' the air came sounds of sad - ness,

B long. Then thro' the air came sounds of sad - ness,

13 *p*

S Shiv - 'ring a - mid the joy on high, Thus dwells in love's per - vad - ing

A Shiv - 'ring a - mid the joy on high, Thus dwells in love's per - vad - ing

T Shiv - 'ring a - mid the joy on high, Thus dwells in love's per - vad - ing

B Shiv - 'ring a - mid the joy on high, Thus dwells in

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16 *f*

S glad - ness The se - - - cret sigh, Thus

A glad - ness The se - - - cret sigh, Thus

T glad - ness The se - - - cret sigh, Thus

B love's per - vad - ing glad - ness The se - cret sigh, Thus

Slow and soft.

19 *f* *pp*

S dwells in love's per-vad - ing glad - ness The se - cret sigh.

A dwells in love's per-vad - ing glad - ness The se - cret sigh.

T dwells in love's per-vad - ing glad - ness The se - cret sigh.

B dwells in love's per-vad - ing glad - ness The se - cret sigh.

p

S I heard the night - in - gale com - plain - ing, With soft la - ment and ten - der

A I heard the night - in - gale com - plain - ing, With soft la - ment

T With soft la - ment

B With soft la - ment

I heard the bells in distant greeting

26

S *mf* moan, _____ Till, thrill - ing pow'r and rich - ness gain - ing, The mu - sic *cresc.* *f*

A and ten - demoon, Till, thrill - ing pow'r and rich - ness gain - ing, The mu - sic *mf* *cresc.* *f*

T and ten - demoon, Till, thrill - ing pow'r and rich - ness gain - ing, The mu - sic *mf* *cresc.* *f*

B and ten - demoon, Till, thrill - ing pow'r and rich - ness gain - ing, The mu - sic *mf* *cresc.* *f*

29

S *cresc.* *ff* rose to rap - ture's throne, _____ The mu - sic rose to rap - ture's

A *cresc.* *ff* rose to rap - ture's throne, _____ The mu - sic rose to rap - ture's

T *cresc.* *ff* rose to rap - ture's throne, _____ The mu - sic rose to rap - ture's

B *cresc.* *ff* rose to rap - ture's throne, _____ The mu - sic rose to rap - ture's

32

S *pp* throne. So love may hear a strain of sor - row

A *pp* throne. So love may hear a strain of sor - row

T *pp* throne. So love may hear a strain of sor - row

B *pp* throne. So love may hear a strain of sor - row

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35

S Cir - cling with - in the heart's a - byss, Yet all will vi - brate on the

A Cir - cling with - in the heart's a - byss, Yet all will vi - brate on the

T Cir - cling with - in the heart's a - byss, Yet all will vi - brate on the

B Cir - cling with - in the heart's a - byss, Yet all will

38

S mor - row In surg - - - ing bliss, Yet

A mor - row In surg - - - ing bliss, Yet

T mor - row In surg - - - ing bliss, Yet

B vi - brate on the mor - row In surg - ing bliss, Yet

41

Slow and soft.

S all will vi - brate on the mor - row In surg - ing bliss.

A all will vi - brate on the mor - row In surg - ing bliss.

T all will vi - brate on the mor - row In surg - ing bliss.

B all will vi - brate on the mor - row In surg - ing bliss.

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