



Chimes in the Night

**A Christmas Musical
for Young Voices**

WORDS BY
Tom S. Long

MUSIC BY
Allen Pote

Hope Publishing Company

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Code No.

- | | |
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| 8210 | Score |
| 8211 | Listening CD |
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Hope Publishing Company

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FOREWORD

CHIMES IN THE NIGHT is adapted from the classic Christmas story, “Why the Chimes Rang,” by Raymond MacDonald Alden. Since its first appearance over one hundred years ago, the tale has inspired generations of listeners with its message of sacrificial love and giving. We’re delighted to offer it now in musical form.

Children’s choirs, youth choirs, and intergenerational groups will find this 25–30 minute version easy to perform. It requires a minimum of sets and props and is particularly well suited to church worship spaces. Since the work also includes a brief nativity pageant, it can serve as both a traditional Christmas program as well as an innovative seasonal production.

We did our best to make the musical a joyful celebration of the birth of Christ, as well as a powerful call to respond to that great gift with love. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

—Tom Long and Allen Pote

CHARACTERS

Narrator: Can be an offstage voice, a conventional narrator in contemporary dress at a lectern or podium, or a storyteller in costume on stage. *(Probably performed by an adult.)*

Marie: Child, 10–14 years old. Mature, caring, responsible for her younger sibling. *(sings a solo)*

Andrew: Child, 5–10 years old. Appropriately naive with a sense of fun.

(Marie and Andrew could be played by any combination of male or female actors—simply change the names to fit. The older child could be male and go by the name Andrew while the younger child, a girl, uses the name Marie. If two males are cast, use the names Ian and Andrew. If two females are cast, use the names Marie and Anna.)

Moneychanger: Old, gruff, greedy. Can be male or female.

Innkeeper: Selfish, loud, worldly. Can be male or female.

Reader: Reads scripture for Nativity Pageant. Can be divided between three Readers. Can be an adult.

King or Queen: Proud, noble, eloquent, a little full of himself/herself.

Chorus: Divided into three groups: *Peasants, Merchants, and Lords and Ladies*. The Chorus forms the crowds of people in the town and the congregation at the cathedral.

Nativity Scene Characters: Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Lambs, Magi, Angels. Can be played by members of the Chorus, or by a separate group of children.

Minor Roles: *Townsperson 1, 2, 3; Old woman in the snow (no lines); Herald, Choirmaster, Merchant 1; Noble 1, 2; Congregation 1, 2*

PROPS:

Small leather bag
Dull copper coins
Moneychanger's basket

Golden rings
Shiny gold coin
Box for gold coin
Tattered, patched blanket for old woman
in snow

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh for kings
in nativity scene

Folded cloth representing linen tapestries
Colored glass bottles
Silver charms
Pearl necklaces
Copper-colored jars
Shepherds' staffs for nativity scene
A jewel-encrusted crown
Bible for reader/s in cathedral
Baskets with "gems" representing diamonds
and rubies

SET:

Moneychanger's counter, with a sign on the front that says "Moneychanger"

Innkeeper's door and window

Banners and poles for cathedral

Pole stands

Benches or Risers

Altar

Manger

Stool for Mary to sit in manger scene

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CHIMES IN THE NIGHT

In a Faraway Land

TOM LONG

ALLEN POTE

NARRATOR: Long, long ago in a kingdom that does not appear on any map that I know of, there was a city.

① *With dignity*

(Townpeople enter and create a busy street scene. Some are merchants selling; some are customers buying; some are Lords and Ladies walking; some are beggars calling out for alms. They mime appropriate actions as they sing.)

⑤ *Brightly* (♩ = 92)

⑩

②
⑮

CHORUS: *mf*

In a far-a-way time in a

(20)

far-a-way land where trav-'lers sel-dom go, stood a bus-ting town full of

(25)

bus-ting streets, and roof-tops white with snow, and the peo-ple there went a -

long their way in the noise of the cit-y's hum, in the hopes that soon the

(30)

bells would tell Christ-mas Day had

3

35

somewhat detached

come! Peo - ple stop - ping, win - dow shop - ping,

mf

40

noth - ing is for free. Some will buy as oth - ers try to

legato

45

bar - gain for a fee. Lords and la - dies go pa - ra - ding,

high so - ci - e - ty. Mer - chants sell - ing, beg - gars yell - ing,