

Commissioned by The Marlin Handbell Ringers, Eleanor T. Culling, Director
for The Bavarian Bell Festival 1991, Leavenworth, Washington,
and written in memory of my German grandparents,
Anna Unruh Neufeld, Jacob Neufeld, and John Gross

A German Christmas (Fröhliche Weihnachten)

Bells used: 3 octaves (34 bells); 4 octaves (41 bells); 5 octaves (45 bells)

Musical notation for the introduction, featuring a treble and bass clef staff. The melody is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The piece concludes with a final cadence marked 'opt.' (optional).

German texts: Traditional
English texts: Margaret R. Tucker**

Five traditional German carols*
arr. Margaret R. Tucker

♩ = 76 - 80

Musical notation for the first section, labeled 'Bells'. It consists of a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music is in 2/4 time and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The notation includes a 'LV' (Lied) marking.

Musical notation for the second section, featuring vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a bell part. The vocal parts are in a key with one flat and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: "Still, still, still, while / Still, still, still, weil's". The bell part is in a grand staff with a 'LV' marking. A tempo marking *p* is present.

3 octave choirs omit notes in parentheses ().

4 and 5 octave choirs omit notes in brackets []. Exceptions are indicated in footnotes.

* The carols included are: Still, Still, Still; Ihr Kinderlein Kommet; Zu Bethlehem geboren; Kling, Glöckchen; and O du fröhliche.

** The English text for "Oh, Come, Little Children" is by Johann Christoph von Schmid, 1768-1854, alt. M.R.T.

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15

As Mar - y and Jo - seph
Ma - ri - a tut es

Je - sus_ sleeps, be __ still. _____
Kind - lein _ schla - fen _ will. _____

Mar - y and Jo - seph
Ma - ri - a tut _____

Mar - y and
Ma - ri - a

LV LV LV * LV

mp

21 watch are __ keep - ing, O'er the _ Babe, so gent - ly __ sleep - ing.
der _ sing - en, ih - re _ keu - sche Brust dar - bring - en.

their watch are keep - ing O'er _ the Babe, so gent - ly sleep - ing,
es nie - der sing - en ih - re keu - sche Brust dar - bring - en,

Jo seph, Babe now sleep - ing,
sing - en, ih - re bring - en,

mp

* LV applies to C7 and C6 only.

27

Still, — still, — still, — This — bless - ed — night, be —
 Still, — still, — still, — weil's Kind - lein — schla - fen —

33 *p*

still. —
 will. —

38

Bells

LV *rit.*

* LV applies to C6 and D6 only.

** LV applies to mm. 41 and 42. Only F6 in m. 42 should be damped.

Slightly slower (♩ = 69)

* 43 *mp*

S
A

Sleep, _____ sleep, _____ sleep, _____ O ho - ly child, now
Schlaf, _____ schlaf, _____ schlaf, _____ mein lie - bes Kind - lein

T
B

46 *p*

Ah _____

sleep. _____ Ah _____ Ah _____ Ah _____
schlaf. _____

While an - gels sing in ra - diant glo - ry,
Die Eng - el tu - an schön mu - si - zier - en,

mf

49 *mp*

Ah _____

shep - herds hear the won - drous sto - ry, Sleep, _____ sleep, _____
bei dem Kind - lein ju - bi - lier - en, Schlaf, _____ schlaf, _____

mp

* Bells may play mm. 43-53, plus smaller notes in m. 54, if SATB choir needs support. When strings are used instead of voices, either strings or bells (but not both) may play this section (beginning at measure 43). If chimes are used instead of voices, bells should play mm. 43-53.

52

S
A

sleep, _____ O ho - ly Child, now sleep!
 schlaf, _____ mein lie - bes Kind - lein, schlaf!

T
B

Bells

LV

8

poco accelerando

*

55

$\text{♩} = 12$

mf

Oh, come, lit - tle, chil - dren, Oh, come, one and all,
 Zur
 Ihr Kin - der-lein, kom - met, O kom - met doch all,

mf

LV

mf

LV

* Small notes in m. 54 are rung only if bells have played mm. 43-53.

60 *cresc.*

come to the man - ger in Beth - le-hem's stall, And see where he slum - bers, the
 Krip - pe her kom - met in Beth - le-hem's Stall, Und seht, was in die - ser hoch-

66 *decresc.*

heav - en - ly Child, — So poor and so hum - ble, so sweet and so mild.
 hei - li - gen Nacht — Der Va - ter in Him - mel für Freu - de uns macht.

72

Bells

* 5 oct. choirs omit F4 and G4, mm. 71-78 and mm. 83-85.