

# THE BELLS (LES CLOCHES)

65

PAUL BOURGET (1852- )  
Translated by Isabella G Parker

(Original Key)

ACHILLE CLAUDE DEBUSSY  
(1862 - )

Andantino quasi Allegretto *p*

PIANO *p e leggiero*

The leaves on the  
Les feuil - les sou -

green boughs gen - tly are swing - ing, O - p'ning si - lent - ly,  
vraient sur le bord des bran - ches, Dé - li - ca - te - ment,

*meno cresc.*

The bells with their mu - sic air - i - ly ring - ing, 'Neath the smil - ing  
Les clo - ches tin - taient, lé - gè - res et fran - ches, Dans le ciel clé -

sky.  
ment.

*p*

Slow - ly breath - ing like an an - them of  
Ryth - mique et fer - vent comme une an - ti -

*rit.* *a tempo*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The vocal line is in a single staff with lyrics in English and French. The piano accompaniment is in two staves (treble and bass clef). The tempo is marked 'Andantino quasi Allegretto' and the dynamics range from piano (p) to piano-crescendo (meno cresc.) and piano (p). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. The lyrics are: 'The leaves on the green boughs gently are swing-ing, O-p'ning si-lent-ly, Les feuil-les sou-vraient sur le bord des bran-ches, Dé-li-ca-te-ment, The bells with their mu-sic air-i-ly ring-ing, 'Neath the smil-ing Les clo-ches tin-taient, lé-gè-res et fran-ches, Dans le ciel clé-sky. ment. Slow-ly breath-ing like an an-them of Ryth-mique et fer-vent comme une an-ti-

warn - ing, A - far through the air, Bring - ing mem - 'ry  
 en - ne, Ce loin - tain ap - pel Me re - mé - mo -

sweet of lil - ies a - dorn - ing Ho - ly al - tar  
 rait la blan - cheur chré - tien - ne Des fleurs de lau -

*rit. e dim.*

fair.  
 tel.

*poco meno mosso*  
 (peu plus lent)

*p*

*dolce ed espress.*  
 (doux et expressif)

Those bells tell of hap - py years now o'er -  
 Ces clo - ches par - laient d'heu - reu - ses an -

shad - - - ed And with sol - emn  
né - - - es, Et dans le grand

The first system of music consists of a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves (treble and bass clefs). The vocal line has a long note value for the first two words, followed by a series of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass line and chords in the treble line.

tone. Once more they re - fresh the leaves that are  
bois Sem - blaient re - ver - dir les feuil - les fa -

*mf*

*cresc.*

The second system continues the vocal and piano parts. The vocal line has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano accompaniment includes a *cresc.* marking and features a more active bass line with eighth notes and chords in the treble.

fad - - - ed, The years that are  
né - - - es, Des jours d'au - tre -

*rit.*

*rit.*

The third system shows the vocal line with a *rit.* marking. The piano accompaniment also has a *rit.* marking and features a more sparse texture with fewer notes in the bass line.

gone.  
fois.  
*a tempo*

*pp* R.H. L.H. R.H. L.H. *ppp*

The fourth system begins with the vocal line and a *a tempo* marking. The piano accompaniment is divided into four measures, with alternating *pp* and *ppp* dynamics and labels for the right hand (R.H.) and left hand (L.H.).