

The Bell-Man

(Stratford, April 23, 1616*)



As the Bell-Man approaches, the clock strikes three.

Past three o'clock—Past three o'clock—No moon—And a stormy night.

Through the darkness and the rain
I go by and come again;
With my lanthorn and my bell
I stand watch, and all is well.

Good folks who are fast asleep,
God ye save and God ye keep!
One His watch forever taketh,
Till the day in glory breaketh.

Good folks all who lie awake,
Do no sin for His sweet sake!
And if any souls this night have passed,
Pray for them and us at last.

The clock strikes four. The Bell-Man's voice is heard faintly in the distance.

Past four o'clock—Past four o'clock—No moon—And a stormy night.

*Shakespeare's death-day.

THE BELL-MAN

(Stratford, April 23, 1616)

Words and Music by
CECIL FORSYTH



(Original Key, Eb)

(like a bell)

Moderato, con moto

PIANO

p una corda

p cresc. poco a poco

Musical notation for the piano introduction, featuring a treble and bass clef in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bass line includes a 'Ped.' marking and an asterisk. The treble line features bell-like textures.

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the first two lines of lyrics. The vocal line starts with a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and includes lyrics: "Past three o'- clock, — Past three o'- clock, — No". The piano accompaniment includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic.

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the second two lines of lyrics. The vocal line includes lyrics: "moon — And a storm - y night." The piano accompaniment includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. It features a 'Ped.' marking and an asterisk.

Vocal line and piano accompaniment for the final line of lyrics. The vocal line includes lyrics: "Thro' the dark-ness and the rain I go by and come a - gain; With my". The piano accompaniment includes a mezzo-forte (*mp*) dynamic and a piano crescendo (*poco cresc.*). It features a 'Ped.' marking and an asterisk.

mf

lan-thorn and my bell I stand watch, and all is well.

mf

Good folks who are fast a - sleep, God ye save and

f *poco allarg.*

God ye keep! One His watch for - ev - er tak - eth Till the day in

mp a little slower

glo - ry break-eth. Good folks all who lie a-wake,

rit. *dim.* *p*

p rit.

Do not sin for His sweet sake! And if an-y souls this night have pass'd,

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are "Do not sin for His sweet sake! And if an-y souls this night have pass'd,". The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The piano part begins with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* and *rit.* (ritardando). A *poco* (poco ritardando) marking is present in the piano part.

pp

Pray for them and us at last.

The second system of music continues the vocal line with the lyrics "Pray for them and us at last." The piano accompaniment features a dense texture of chords and arpeggios. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). A *a tempo* marking is present in the piano part.

mp

p

Past four o'- clock, — Past four o'- clock, —

The third system of music features the vocal line with the lyrics "Past four o'- clock, — Past four o'- clock, —". The piano accompaniment consists of a steady rhythmic pattern of chords. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p dim.* (piano diminuendo).

pp

ppp

No moon — And a storm-y night.

The fourth system of music features the vocal line with the lyrics "No moon — And a storm-y night." The piano accompaniment features a dense texture of chords and arpeggios. Dynamics include *pp dim.* (pianissimo diminuendo) and *pppp* (pianississimo).