Carol of the Bells

*(2-line instrumental intro)*  
*Accented syllables in **boldface***

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**SOPRANOS:** Hark! How the bells, *sweet* silver bells, *all* seem to say, *throw* cares away.

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**SOPRANOS:** Christmas is here, *bring*ing good cheer to young and old, *meek* and the bold.

**ALTOS:** Ding... Dong... Ding... Dong...

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**SOPRANOS:** Ding-dong, ding-dong, *that* is their song, *with* joyful ring, *all* caroling.

**ALTOS:** Ding... Dong... Ding... Dong...

**BARITONES:** Ding... Dong... Ding... Dong...

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**ALL:** One seems to hear *words* of good cheer, *from* everywhere, *filling* the air.

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**ALL:** Oh, how they pound, *raising* the sound, *o'er* hill & dale, *telling* their tale.

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**ALL:** Gaily they ring, *while* people sing *songs* of good cheer, Christmas is here.

\[A7\] \[Gm\] \[A7\] \[Gm\]

**SOPRANOS:** Merry, merry, merry, *merry* Christmas, *merry* merry, merry, *merry* Christmas,

**ALTOS:** Ding... Di-i-ing, dong... Ding... Di-ing, Dong...

**BARITONES:** Ding... Di-i-ing, dong... Ding... Di-ing, Dong...

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**SOPRANOS:** Onward they send, *on* without end, *their* joyful tone, *to* every home.

**ALTOS:** Ding... Dong... Ding... Dong...

**BARITONES:** Ding... Dong... Ding... Dong...

*[1st time around - SOPRANOS Only, go immediately to the top line and sing again]*
*[2nd time around - BARITONES Only, with gradual slowdown of tempo - hold last syllable (“home...” - then brief PAUSE for ending)]*

\[Dm\] \[C\] \[Bb\] \[A7\]

**ALL (slowly, in harmony):** Ding... Dong... ding... dong...

**BARITONES:** Dong!
CAROL OF THE BELL

“Carol of the Bells” uses the melody from a Ukrainian folk song. Sing in a moderate “waltz” tempo in 3/4 time, not too fast. The practice tempo should be played a bit more slowly. For best results, each group should practice its vocal part separately, and should designate a leader and an alternate to help keep track of their respective group’s part.

Accent the beginning of each syllable on the downbeat, especially the bell refrain; sung where the bold-faced lyrics appear above.

BREAKDOWN OF EACH VOCAL GROUP PART

**SOPRANOS:** Sopranos carry the melody of the song and sing the high harmonies. Sopranos sing the melody line for the first four lines, then climb in an ascending harmony for lines 2 and 3 of the “ALL” part, and the “Merry, Merry Christmas” line; then they sing the melody for “Onward they send.” The first time around, soprano alone repeat the final “Onward they send” line, acting as the transition for repeating the verses a second time around.

**ALTOS:** Altos sing mostly the bell refrain in a descending harmony, except for an ascending harmony near the end of the song. Altos come in on the second line and sing the descending line “Ding dong, ding dong” twice, then sing “One seems to hear” as a drone, sing the melody line for “Oh, how they pound” and the drone for “Gaily they ring,” followed by “Ding, di-i-ing dong” and “Ding, dong, ding,-ding, dong” is sung with an ascending harmony.

**BARITONES:** Baritones sing the bell refrain initially an ascending harmony, then sing a descending harmony for the rest of the song. Baritones come in on the third line, singing “Ding, dong, ding dong” as an descending harmony, then “One seems to hear” as an ascending harmony, “Oh, how they pound” as a drone, and the melody line for “Gaily they ring.” The “ding, di-i-ing dong” is sung in ascending harmony, followed by “Ding, dong, ding, ding dong” in descending harmony. After all the verses have been sung twice, the baritones alone repeat “Onward they send” with a dramatic slowdown in tempo, ending with a sustained “home,” followed by a brief pause.

Then soprano, alto, and baritone harmonize, and slowly sing the final bell refrain. Baritones end the song with the bass note “dong.”

The middle verses are sung by ALL, with identical lyrics, but sung in 3-part harmony where each group takes turns singing the melody line:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LYRIC</th>
<th>SOPRANOS</th>
<th>ALTOS</th>
<th>BARITONES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“One seems to hear words of good cheer...”</td>
<td>melody line</td>
<td>one-note drone</td>
<td>ascending harmony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Oh, how they pound, raising the sound...”</td>
<td>ascending high harmony</td>
<td>melody line</td>
<td>one-note drone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Gaily, they ring, while people sing...”</td>
<td>ascending high harmony</td>
<td>one-note drone</td>
<td>melody line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>