

I heard the bells on Christmas day

Jean Baptiste Calkin, 1872

Waltham
L.M.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The music features a melody in the upper staff and a harmonic accompaniment in the lower staff. A fermata is placed over the final note of the upper staff in the fifth measure, and a '5' is written above it. The system concludes with a double bar line.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. Like the first system, it ends with a double bar line.

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Till ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Henry W. Longfellow