

# **A Carol of the Bells Adventure**

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**For Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble**

**An arrangement  
by J. Aaron Stanley**

*Winner, "Best Arrangement", in the  
2005 Northop Brass Band Composition Competition.*

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**"A Carol of the Bells Adventure"  
for Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble**

**Instrumentation:**

Piccolo  
Flute 1 & 2  
Oboe 1 & 2 (Ob. 2 opt.)  
Bassoon 1 & 2 (Bsn. 2 opt.)  
Contrabassoon (opt.)

Clarinet 1 & 2 in Bb  
Clarinet 3 in Bb  
Eb Alto Clarinet (opt.)  
Bass Clarinet in Bb  
Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb (opt.) /  
OR Contrabass Clarinet in Bb (opt.)

Alto Saxophone 1 & 2  
Tenor Saxophone  
Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1 & 2 in Bb  
Trumpet 3 & 4 in Bb  
Horn 1 & 2 in F  
Horn 3 & 4 in F  
Trombone 1 & 2  
Bass Trombone  
Euphonium  
Tuba

Mallet 1 (Glockenspiel, Vibraphone)

Mallet 2 (Xylophone, Marimba)

Chimes  
Suspended Cymbal

Timpani

## **Program Notes for "A Carol of the Bells Adventure"**

Carol of the Bells is one of my favorite Christmas carols. It's minor mode, contrapuntal motivic figures, and fast tempo all make for a fun and exciting carol.

This arrangement captures the dramatic yet festive nature of this melody with fanfares, cross-rhythms, close harmonies, and a classical development section in the middle.

I originally wrote this arrangement for brass quintet in 2000, and it has been a staple of my Christmas repertoire during caroling season ever since. Later, I scored it for brass band. That version won "Best Arrangement" in the 2005 Northop Brass Band Composition Competition.

In 2010, I finally adapted it for Symphonic Band / Wind Ensemble—something I'd been meaning to do for ages. This version adds chimes, glockenspiel, vibraphone, xylophone, and marimba to the texture to enhance the festive nature of the piece.

This arrangement is structured as follows...

- Introductory Fanfare (to "A")
- 1st Setting ("A" to "E")
- 2nd Setting ("E" to "H")
- Development Section ("H" to "N")
- 3rd Setting ("N" to "Q")
- Coda ("Q" to end)

# A Carol of the Bells Adventure

for Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble

J. Aaron Stanley, arr.

**Prestissimo** (♩ = 76)

**A**

Piccolo

Flute 1, 2

Oboe 1, 2  
(Ob. 2 Optional)

Bassoon 1, 2  
(Bsn. 2 Optional)

Contrabassoon  
(Optional)

Clarinet 1, 2 in B♭

Clarinet 3 in B♭

Alto Clarinet in E♭  
(Optional)

Bass Clarinet in B♭

Contra Alto Clarinet in E♭  
(Optional)

Alto Saxophone 1, 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1, 2 in B♭

Trumpet 3, 4 in B♭

Horn 1, 2 in F

Horn 3, 4 in F

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium in B♭

Tuba

Glockenspiel

**Mallet 1**

Vibraphone

Xylophone

**Mallet 2**

Marimba

Chimes

Suspended Cymbal

Timpani

*fp* *f* *mf* *f* *pp* *f* *p*



30 **D**

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Cl. 1, 2

Cl. 3

Alto Cl.

B. Cl.

C. A. Cl.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax. *mf*

**D**

Tpt. 1, 2 *mf*

Tpt. 3, 4 *mf*

Hn. 1, 2 *f* *fp* *fp* *f*

Hn. 3, 4 *f* *fp* *fp* *f*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tbn. 1 *mf*

**D**

Glock. *mf*

Vib.

Xyl.

Mar.

Chim.

Cym. *p* *mf*

Timp. *f*

45

**E** **F**

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Cl. 1, 2

Cl. 3

Alto Cl.

B. Cl.

C. A. Cl.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

**E** **F**

Tpt. 1, 2

Tpt. 3, 4

Hr. 1, 2

Hr. 3, 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

**E** **F**

Glock.

Vib.

Xyl.

Mar.

Chim.

Cym.

Timp.

*mp* *mf* *f*

**G**

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *f*

Bsn. 1, 2 *f*

Cbsn. *f*

Cl. 1, 2 *f*

Cl. 3 *f*

Alto Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

C. A. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *mf* *f*

B. Sax. *f*

**G**

Tpt. 1, 2 *f*

Tpt. 3, 4 *f*

Hr. 1, 2 *f*

Hr. 3, 4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

**G**

Glock. *mp*

Vib.

Xyl.

Mar. *mf*

Chim.

Cym. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Timp. *f*



89

**J** **K**

Picc. *mf*

Fl. I, 2 *mf*

Ob. I, 2 *mf*

Bsn. I, 2 *mf*

Cbsn. *mp* *mf*

Cl. I, 2 *mp* *mf*

Cl. 3

Alto Cl.

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

C. A. Cl. *mp* *mf*

A. Sax. I, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax. *mp* *mf*  
Cbsn. / C. A. Cl.

Tpt. I, 2 *mf* *mf*

Tpt. 3, 4 *mp* *mf*

Hrn. I, 2 *f* *mp* *mf*

Hrn. 3, 4 *mp* *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp*

B. Tbn.

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mp* *mf*

Glock. **J** **K**

Vib. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Xyl.

Mar. *mp* *mf*

Chim.

Cym. *pp* *mf*

Timp. *mp* *mf*



118

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *f*

Bsn. 1, 2 *f*

Cbsn. *f*

Cl. 1, 2 *f*

Cl. 3 *f*

Alto Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

C. A. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1, 2 *f*

Tpt. 3, 4 *f*

Hrn. 1, 2 *f*

Hrn. 3, 4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

Glock. *mf*

Vib. *mf*

Xyl. *mf*

Mar. *mf*

Chim. *mf*

Cym. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Timp. *ff* *f*

**L** **M** **L** **M** **L** **M**



147

P Q

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1, 2 *mf*

Ob. 1, 2 *mf*

Bsn. 1, 2 *mf*

Cbsn. *mf*

Cl. 1, 2 *mf*

Cl. 3 *mf* *f*

Alto Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

C. A. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

Tpt. 1, 2 *mf* P Q

Tpt. 3, 4 *mf* *f*

Hr. 1, 2 *mf*

Hr. 3, 4 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

B. Tbn. *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Glock. *mp* P Q

Vib. *mf*

Xyl. *mf*

Mar.

Chim. *mf*

Cym. *p* *mf* to drum stick *mp* drum stick to yarn mallets *p* *f* yarn mallets

Timp. *p*

162

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *f*

Ob. 1, 2 *f*

Bsn. 1, 2 *f*

Cbsn. *f*

Cl. 1, 2 *f*

Cl. 3 *f*

Alto Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

C. A. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1, 2 *f*

Tpt. 3, 4 *f*

Hn. 1, 2 *f*

Hn. 3, 4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

Glock. *mf*

Vib. *f*

Xyl. *f*

Mar. *f*

Chim. *f*

Cym. *p* *f*

Timp. *f* *ff* *p* *f*

