

# 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 continues with bell-like textures.

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 continues with bell-like textures and includes 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 *poco cresc.* marking. It also includes 'Ped.' markings and asterisks.

*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 and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics include *p* and *rit.*

Pray for them and us at last.

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment features a more complex texture with sixteenth-note patterns in the right hand. Dynamics include *pp*, *p*, and *a tempo*.

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

The third system features a vocal line with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment continues with sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *p dim.*

No moon — And a storm-y night.

The fourth system concludes the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and a dotted quarter note B4. The piano accompaniment features a final texture with sixteenth-note patterns. Dynamics include *pp*, *ppp*, and *pppp*.