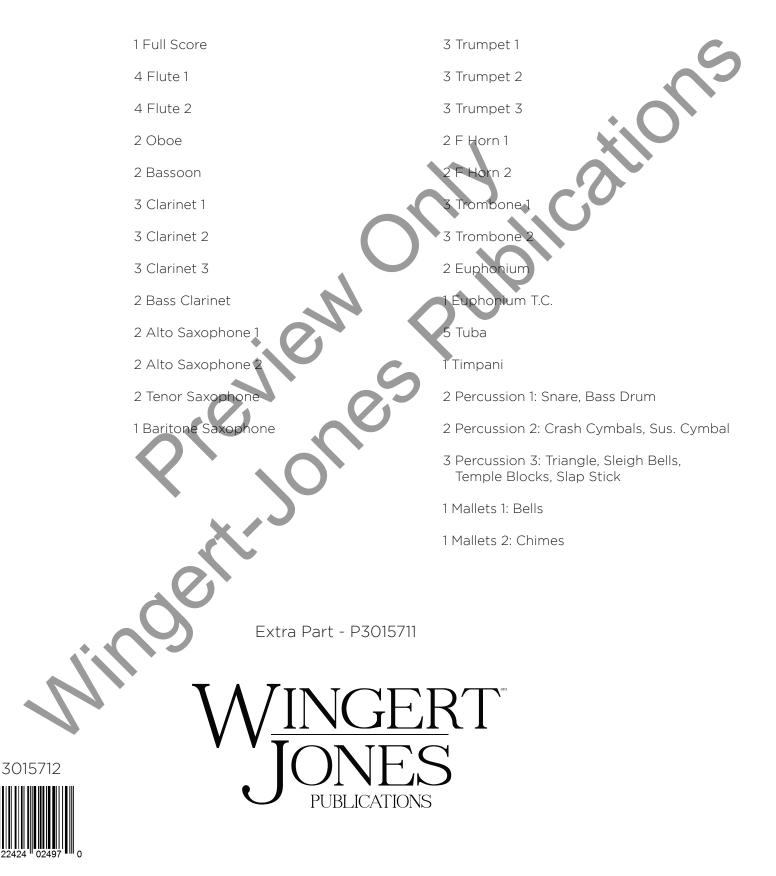
Christmas Bells Are Ringing

Darren W. Jenkins



Program Notes

Christmas Bells are Ringing is a work of three holiday songs, all with the common theme of the joy and happiness that ringing bells of the season can evoke (*Ding! Dong! Merrily on High, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, and Jingle Bells*) The piece begins with quotes from both *Ding Dong Merrily on High* and *Jingle Bells* and transitions into the first song, *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High*. This part of the work passes the melody around between different sections of the ensemble, while also including a woodwind and brass chorale portion. Be sure to bring out moving lines and any of the brief melodic quotes that are interspersed throughout this section. The piece then transitions to the slower, lyrical section of the work, based on the melody of *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. I took a little liberty with the melodic line, but I feel like the integrity of the tune is still there while also trying to give it a less traditional harmonization as well. The work then transitions into the final, livelier section featuring an all time classic, *Jingle Bells*. Once again, I took some liberties with the melodic line in spots both rhythmically and tonally, but I think it brings a little different perspective to the song while hopefully being recognizable. I interject different things here and there to "keep everyone on their toes," and then the work comes to an end with solo quotes leading the piece to a driving conclusion. I hope you enjoy the settings of these holiday songs.

About the Composer

Darren Jenkins is a native of Topeka, Kansas. He is a graduate of Washburn University and the University of Kansas, where he studied composition with James Barnes. An award-winning composer, his works have been performed and recorded by various groups across the country, as well as internationally. He has written successfully for virtually every area of instrumental music. In addition to his work as a composer/arranger, Jenkins also enjoys a successful career as a music educator.

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