



Choraegus

# A SPARROW ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

ARRANGED BY LARRY SUE

FOR HANDBELLS (3-5 OCTAVES)  
AND HANDCHIMES (3 OCTAVES)

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Handbell Choir Version

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This Finnish carol tells of a sparrow that has run out of food on Christmas day. A young girl offers him a seed to eat, which he gladly accepts. And then the sparrow tells her that he actually is her deceased younger brother who has come from heaven to visit her.

Snow has already covered the flowers in the valley  
The wave of a lake has frozen in the winter frost  
A little sparrow has eaten its summer food  
The wave of a lake has frozen in the winter frost

On stairs of little house stood deargirl:  
Come, sparrow, joyfully, take this seed from me!  
It's christmas, my homeless sparrow is miserable  
Come, sparrow joyfully, take this seed from me!

The dear sparrow flew joyously to the girl  
Gratefully I do take the seed from you  
God will want to reward you once  
Gratefully I do take the seed from you

I'm not, my child, bird from this land  
I'm your little brother, I came from Heaven  
The tiny seed, which you gave to the poor  
Got your little brother from the land of angels

Position 11 (B67 C78) plays the part of the sparrow in this arrangement:

- 25-31: "Sparrow shivering", as symbolized by the shakes.
- 48-55: "Sparrow eating", happily consuming the seed given him.
- 72-83: "Sparrow singing", in response to her gift. The note pattern in each P11 phrase is based on the song of the American sparrow.
- 84-85: "Sparrow sleeping", as the contented sparrow falls asleep.

Handbell choir version

# A Sparrow on Christmas Morning

Three to five octaves of handbells

Level 3+

"Varpunen jouluaamuna", Finnish carol  
Arr. Larry Sue (ASCAP)

Handbells used:



Handchimes used:



Four-octave choirs omit notes in [1]

In bars 1-7, 5-octave choirs may play 8va  
or alternate bells may be used

1  $\text{♩} = 66$  2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9

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Measures 10-15 of the handbell choir score. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Measures 10-15 show a melodic line in the treble and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass. The bass line features a consistent pattern of eighth notes with a '+' sign above them, indicating a handbell strike.

Measures 16-21 of the handbell choir score. The music continues in the same key and time signature. Measures 16-21 show a melodic line in the treble and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass. The bass line features a consistent pattern of eighth notes with a '+' sign above them, indicating a handbell strike. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present in measure 21.

Measures 22-26 of the handbell choir score. The music continues in the same key and time signature. Measures 22-26 show a melodic line in the treble and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass. The bass line features a consistent pattern of eighth notes with a '+' sign above them, indicating a handbell strike. Above the treble staff, the text "Sparrow shivering" is written, with "Sk" (shivering) written above measures 24, 25, and 26.

Measures 27-30 of the handbell choir score. The music continues in the same key and time signature. Measures 27-30 show a melodic line in the treble and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass. The bass line features a consistent pattern of eighth notes with a '+' sign above them, indicating a handbell strike. Above the treble staff, the text "Sk" (shivering) is written above measures 27, 28, 29, and 30.

Handbell choir score for "A Sparrow on Christmas Morning". The score is written for three to five octaves of handbells and is in the key of B-flat major (two flats). It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The piece begins at measure 31 with a fermata and a dynamic marking of *Sk*. The first system covers measures 31-35. The second system covers measures 36-40, with a dynamic marking of *mf* at measure 40. The third system covers measures 41-45, with a dynamic marking of *mp* at measure 44. The fourth system covers measures 46-49, with a dynamic marking of *mf* at measure 48. Measure 48 includes a performance instruction: "TD Sparrow eating". The score concludes with a final chord in measure 49.

This musical score is for the piece "A Sparrow on Christmas Morning" in a handbell choir version. It is written in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a piano accompaniment and a handbell part. The piano part uses a grand staff (treble and bass clefs), while the handbell part is written in a single treble clef. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. The handbell part consists of a single melodic line. The score includes measure numbers 50 through 65. A large, semi-transparent watermark "Sample Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

50 51 52 53

54 55 56 57

58 59 60 61

62 63 64 65

66 LV 67 LV 68 LV *mf* 7

69 LV 70 LV 71 LV 7

72 Sparrow singing R 73 *mf* 74 75

76 R 77 78 79

The musical score is written for a handbell choir and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. The first system (measures 66-68) features piano accompaniment with 'LV' (Left Hand) markings and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second system (measures 69-71) continues the piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 72-75) is labeled 'Sparrow singing' and features a single melodic line with 'R' (Right Hand) markings and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The fourth system (measures 76-79) continues the 'Sparrow singing' line. The score is in a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or F minor) and a common time signature. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'Sample only do not reproduce' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

The image shows a musical score for a handbell choir. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the handbells and a bass clef staff for piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is numbered 80 through 85. Above the treble staff, there are notes for the handbells, with some notes marked with a 'p' for piano. The piano part features a decrescendo hairpin from measure 80 to 81, followed by a 'p' dynamic marking in measure 82. A fermata is placed over the piano part in measure 85. Text annotations include 'molto rit. ....' above measure 84, 'Sparrow sleeping' above measures 84 and 85, and 'Allow chord to die out' below the piano part in measure 85.

80 81 82 83 84 85

*p*

*molto rit. ....*

Sparrow sleeping

Allow chord to die out