Bells Will Be Ringing  

One of our first experiences with bells when we are young, the famous "cow bells" are square metal noise makers which sit around the cow's neck to warn of their presence and is used to sound for supper time on television shows. In life, these specific bells were to locate and herd cattle in night, fog, or large pastures. But they too are a part of music inclusive instrumentation, ceremonies, and sports. Our second is typically in recognition of the 1751 "Liberty Bell" on display at Liberty Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with its honest crack along a side from the 19th century 'recast' as it bore a crack from the time of its initial test ring. As a symbol of anti-slavery & freedom, the Liberty Bell suffices and peaks curiosity as most of us disconnect from the thoughts of bells and exactly where such noisy creations stem from.

Thirdly, we can identify with the communal ringing of local church bells indication of time most welcomed reminder of the time(s) to pray. Church bells are most notable history in Egypt and Israel and have rung globally since 400 A.D. as Bishop Paulinus of Nola (Italy) used them to call people to worship. Pope Sabinian, in 604 A.D., implored use of bell rings for services, daily prayers or "canonical hours."

These metal bells are thought to have been created in ancient China and used for religious purposes. As they were installed outside temples and a part of Catholic church mass. In Italian, bells are "campana" and Bell Tower is "campanile" as Bell casting took place from Campania region of Italy. Italy represented Bell use in Christian churches.

By Middle Ages, Europeans used bells as a tool for communication for religious matters, secular fairs, markets, war acknowledgements and wedding announcements. These bells were typically hung within steeples or bellowers visible to the public whom often search for them high up upon hearing them ring out into a large area. They are either in a fixed position, "hung dead" or "headstock" from a pivoted beam as a single or collection. The two forms enable chimed hand ring or a random swinging ring through an arc or full circle.

The creation of the mechanical clock included use of bells for time. The noon bells are socially the "Angelus Bell" in reminder of noon day prayer the Angelus Domini or the Lord's Prayer. And in death, at times, the number of bell rings denotes the age of



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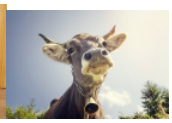
the deceased.    (Cowbell, Swiss bells, a cow's bell)

Keeping it 100, we call upon the Biblical text and its inspiration for worshipers to "make joyful noise unto the Lord" in Psalms 100. As a musical instrument, bells were a comparable expression to singing as noise. We all contribute in the spirit of worship. This understanding is also relayed through Pagan winter celebrations during which bells rung to drive out evil spirits as it is termed the "apotropaic power" (apetre'paik) of bells, Sanctus bells.

The rules inside religious bells were established and sanctioned through Ecgbert, Archbishop of York 750 A.D., for priest to use "ringers" at specific time to warn of canonical hours of devotion. In 975 A.D. again, Archbishop of Canterbury enforces bell use for churches of his jurisdiction. Summon community to services, special occasions, funerals and the hours of the day, 6AM, 12Noon, and 6PM are specified. This was said to have been influenced through the Jewish practice of praying three times daily just as the bells resemble Islamic tradition of "adhan" using a "minaret" to summon prayer.

As Christianity and the church became dominant in Europe, it was an intricate focal zone from birth until death founded through Irish missionaries. In the Roman Catholic Church among others, the "Baptism of Bells" or blessing of the bells is a systematic event as ceremonial blessing with holy water by the bishop him or herself prior to an official anointing with "oil of the infirm." A sacred object vested in alerting church goers of their responsibility of prayer and regular church service attendance.

Outside of the rightful church bell identity, illusionary spectators spiraled onto the superstition of bell ringing casting supernatural powers as they'd ring mysteriously by themselves in the presence of ghost or spirits. Some still sought answers to that famous inquiry as to "For Whom the Bell Tolls," in historical revelation. It is said that citywide church bells rang out for a variety of reasons such as driving away evil demons, marking days of execution, biological healings, well wishes of newlyweds and calmed storms protecting souls of the dead. "Bell Ringing" was supported inside the employ of "Bell Ringers."

In 1644 Netherlands, the Hemony brothers, Pieter (Pierre) and Francois created a new method for bell construction which enable a variation of tones and harmonies. Then, Richard Duckworth and Fabian Stedman's book "Tintinnalogia the Art of Ringing and Stedman's Campanalogia are literary keys to developing such talent. Together, they formed use of patterns and compositions which became controversial. Against a fallen



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interest, “The Cambridge Camden Society" was formed to clean up the Church and Bell Ringing.

In Czech Republic Brno 1645 siege, the bells of the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul rung out at 11a.m. instead of noon in trickery to foul their Swedish adversaries into retreat by noon during wartime. And in Belgrade, their 11a.m. bell is in commemoration of the 1456 victory against the Ottoman Army. This distinction in use of city bells for 'war' we assume inspired Winston Churchills stand against war time bells. In 1943, he determined a NO church bells regulation against war time through the adaptation of his "Control of Noise (Defence)" order allowing church bells to ring in summonce of the people to Sunday service, Good Friday and Christmas Day only.




In 1950, the release of the famous Christmas carol "Silver Bells," was as a track (Livingston & Evans) for the Bob Hope motion picture "The Lemon Drop Kid" from 1951. It has since become a favorite past time holiday caroling song. Though cliché', it is ironic that this tune was used to lighten the actual theme of the film in distraction using holiday cheer and sight of Santa Clause bells on New York City street corners. In actuality, it was a desk top bell belonging to the actual sheet musician and song writer. In fact, there is a "Silver Bells in the City" festival each December, up-state New York and Lansing, Michigan.

The inspiration for bells furthered in 1960 is release of "Please Come Home For Christmas (Charles Brown for King Records)which remains too a seasonal relic in song. It denotes the welcome, unity, and love expressed during the holiday season as coming home brings forth the happiness once again. It's famous theme line, "Bells will be ringing the glad glad news, what a Christmas to have the blues," are sentimental in the deep tone of the artist we've all become accustomed to hearing as bells chime throughout its length. These bells recognize the communal "marriage", the holiday celebration and the calling to church service as intended in use and words of no sorrow, grief, or pain.

The symbolism denoted in use of "bells" and "bell ringing" is not just limited to its biblical and religious orientation, it goes beyond interest in song, historical sprites and as a multipurpose sound wave for specific times, observances, and holidays. Here I've outlined a few unique uses of bells in both our historical and modern-day world.



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Unique Uses for Bells:

a. Nursery Rhymes Churches in City of London & Oranges and Lemons referencing the bells of several churches. 1744




b. Bow Bells (Norman Arches) are a set of bells in the steeple of St. Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, London. If born in hearing range of these bells, they are a "true Cockney."

d. Sanctus Bell: Mass when the bread and wine are consecrated

e. Easter & Christmas services

f. During COVID-19 pandemic bells rung at night 8pm thanking healthcare workers for their efforts

g. Signaled curfew of 8pm as people should put out their fires and is custom in some English towns today. Law is abolished

h. English poet Letitia Elizabeth Landon poem "Bells"

i. The Village Bells, a poetical illustration by J. Franklin

j. In Canton of Zurich, the community awakens once per night due to church bells noise

k. Netherlands has lawsuits introduced to the courts regarding church bells noise pollution

l. Bell Sound Meditation: Sooth Your Soul
https://youtube/Mrq2xHnSbbE?si=sjkOlakRD6rlY3l1

m. Buddhist Sound Therapy
https://youtube/IPmXzg0ZL80?si=FYVkdpYCQ7LaT8K3



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