

*IN MEMORY OF CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI
1950-2021*



I was shocked and saddened to receive an email from Patsy Andrews-Vert on October 13th, 2021 that Cynthia Dobrinski, one of my favourite composer/arranger of handbell and chime compositions, had passed away two days ago after a short illness. Her husband, Rocky, said that her heart simply gave out. It was not COVID-19 related.

A native of Great Bend, Kansas, Cynthia received her Bachelor of Music from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She then earned a Master of Music in organ performance from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. A Fulbright Scholar, Cynthia studied organ and harpsichord at Staatliche Hochschule für Musik, Cologne, Germany. She taught for 15 years at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

She became entranced with the art of handbell ringing and began composing and arranging for handbells and chimes, publishing over 175 compositions. As her reputation grew as a handbell composer, she presented 350 workshops and festivals internationally.

It was in 1982, when I attended the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (now Handbell Musicians of America) Directors' Seminar in Minneapolis when I had the pleasure of attending a workshop given by Cynthia Dobrinski, this most elegant lady. She was later married to Rocky and as I recall it was reported that the wedding cake was in the shape of a handbell!

Over the years with my handbell groups at Oakenwald, Chancellor and Crane Elementary Schools, my Junior High aged Fort Garry Carillons, Westworth Chapel Bells, University Women's Club Handbell Choir, A'Pealing Bells and the Manitoba Guild Christmas Ringers, I often used compositions and arrangements by Cynthia Dobrinski.

In May 2007, the British Columbia Guild of English Handbell Ringers asked me to be the guest conductor at its Spring Ring in Nanaimo, BC. Upon looking at Cynthia Dobrinski's *Three Sketches*, the first movement was titled *Fiesta* or *Come Celebrate*, the second movement was *Cathedral Windows*, while the third movement was *Danse* or *Rejoice in the Lord*. Optional parts for glockenspiel, celesta, finger cymbals, and optional bar chime were also suggested.

Cynthia was inspired to compose *Cathedral Windows* after she had seen the Rouen Cathedral Series painted by the French Impressionist, Claude Monet. During February-April of 1894, Monet worked from a room on the 2nd floor of #23 Place de la Cathédrale, painting Rouen Cathedral, capturing on canvas the nuances and variations of light at different times of the day and in various types of weather. In 1895 he painted more scenes of Rouen Cathedral. In all he painted 32 façades of the Cathedral.

After doing some research on the paintings of Monet, I was able to create a DVD Video from a Power Point Presentation. Thanks to Nikki Attwell and John Whitehead for running the pictorial video which the concert audience could view as the massed handbell ringers from British Columbia played Cynthia's musical vision of *Cathedral Windows*.

Our condolences and deepest sympathy go to her husband, Rocky, and to the many aficionados of Cynthia's wide-circle of friends and musicians.

COMPOSITIONS OF CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI IN THE MBGEHR LENDING LIBRARY

SACRED MUSIC

A Joyful Alleluia	Cynthia Dobrinski	2		Agape
Rejoice!	Cynthia Dobrinski	2	2+	Agape
Amazing Grace	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5		Agape – opt. violin or flute
And Can It Be Love Divine	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Because He Lives	Wm. J. Gaither arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape - Opt. 3-5 oct. chimes
Blessed Assurance with Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	J.S. Bach arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Lake State Publ.
Capriccio in G Major (Sacred or Secular)	Cynthia Dobrinski	4	3+	Bell Tower
Crown Him with Many Crowns	Diademata arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape – with organ or brass sextet, opt. congregational singing, trumpet, timpani
Crown Him with Many Crowns	George Elvey arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5		Lake State Publ. + organ or brass quintet
Exultation	Cynthia Dobrinski	4-5	4	Agape
Fantasy on Hyfrydol	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Flammer
Gloria	Cynthia Dobrinski	4		Agape
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah	Cwm Rhondda arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	4	Agape – with organ
I Love to Tell the Story	Wm. Fischer arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape – opt. 3 oct. chimes
I Sing the Mighty Power of God	Ellacombe arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape
Joy and Elation	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape – opt. flute
Joyful, Joyful	Beethoven arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape
Let There Be Peace on Earth	Miller/Jackson arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5		Agape
Lift High the Cross	Nicholson arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape
Now Thank We All Our God	Nun Danket alle Gott arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing	Azmon arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape – opt. 3 oct. chimes
O Worship the King	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Praise the Lamb who Reigns in Glory	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape – opt. flute

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape – opt. flute
To God Be the Glory	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	4	Agape – single or double HB choir, opt. organ or brass, timpani

EASTER MUSIC

Christ Arose!	Robert Lowry arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape - Opt. 3- 4 oct. chimes
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THANKSGIVING MUSIC

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come	George Elvey arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape
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SECULAR MUSIC

Alexander's Ragtime Band	Irving Berlin arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape
Aria	Cynthia Dobrinski	2	2+	Agape

SACRED CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Angels From the Realms of Glory	Henry T. Smart arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-6	3-	Agape
Away in a Manger	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3		Agape
Angels We Have Heard on High	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape – with organ, opt. trumpet, timpani, & choir
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Christmas Joy	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape
God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape
He is Born	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape
How Great Our Joy – including While By My Sheep, Joy to the World	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
In the Bleak Midwinter	Gustav Holst arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2	Agape
Lo, How a Rose	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3,4,5	2+	CG – opt. chimes and/or violin
Love Came Down at Christmas with Of the Father's Love Begotten	Trad. Irish melody, 13th c. plainchant arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape – opt. flute
O Come, Let Us Adore Him, includes O Come, All Ye Faithful and Fairest Lord Jesus	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape

O Holy Night	Adam arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-6	3-	Agape – opt. flute or violin
O Little Town of Bethlehem	Redner arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-6	3	Agape – opt. 3-6 chimes, opt. flute
Silent Night	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape – opt. flute
Sing We Now of Christmas (Now the Green Blade Riseth)	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-7	3+ Or 4-	Agape – opt. 3-6 chimes, flute, tambourine
The First Noel	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2+	Agape
The Shepherd's Song	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5		Agape
The Snow Lay on the Ground	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3-	Agape – opt. 3-5 oct. chimes
Ukrainian Bell Carol Fantasy	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape
We Three Kings	Hopkins, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
What Child is This?	Greensleeves arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	2-4	2+	Agape – opt. 3 oct. chimes
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks	Handel arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-6	3	Agape 0 opt. 3 Or 5 oct. chimes

CHRISTMAS SECULAR

Christmas Joy	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape
Jolly Old St. Nicholas	Trad. arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	2	Agape – opt. 3 oct. chimes
Let's Deck the Halls	Trad. Welsh arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Flammer
We Wish You a Merry Christmas	Arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape – opt. chimes
White Christmas	Berlin arr. Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3+	Agape

HANDBELL MUSIC WITH NARRATION, DRAMA, COSTUMES ETC.

Immanuel (Advent or Holy Week)	Cynthia Dobrinski	3-5	3	Agape with narration
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HANDBELL QUARTETS

Aria	Cynthia Dobrinski	2	D	Purchased download
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BELL TREES AND PROCESSIONALS

A CHRISTMAS TAPESTRY: O Come, All Ye Faithful Joy to the World Angels We Have Heard on High	Cynthia Dobrinski	4	2	Agape – brass quartet & timpani
TWO EASY SEASONAL PROCESSIONALS: An Advent Prayer O Come, O Come, Emmanuel A Christmas Tapestry O Come All Ye Faithful Joy to the World Angels we Have Heard on High	Cynthia Dobrinski		2	Agape

MEMBERS OF THE MANITOBA GUILD OF ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS 2021-2022

Patsy Andrews-Vert	Trinity Lutheran Handbells, Starbuck
Sandra Brown Day	Jubellation, Faith Lutheran Church, Winnipeg
Dr. Cathy Doerksen	Belles of Balmoral Hall, Winnipeg
Klaus Froese	Good Neighbours Handbells, Winnipeg
Margaret Granger	Cheery Chimers, Prairie Spirit United Church, Winnipeg
Fred Merrett	Honorary Life Member, Edmonton
Morna-June Morrow	Honorary Life Member, Winnipeg
Karen S. Peters	Steinbach Mennonite Church Handbells, Steinbach
Susan Stevenson	Broadway-First Baptist Handbells, Winnipeg
Val Thompson	Minnedosa United Church, Minnedosa
Ron Vert	Starbuck
Karen Wall	A Cabella Bells, Brandon
Gloria J. Zirk	Bells of Praise, Thalberg/Stead

Due to the continuing pandemic, some of the handbell groups have not reconvened as yet. However, some groups are rehearsing again and bringing the ring back into listener's ears.

If you wish to say when you are performing during the upcoming Christmas season, kindly send the information to the editor so MBGEHR members may be aware of these opportunities.
m-jmorrow@shaw.ca



Do you recognize these masked organ pipes?