

Les cloches [lɛ klɔʃ] (The bells)

Text by *Paul Bourget* (1852-1935), *Romance*

Set by *Claude Debussy* (1862-1918), from *Deux Romances, #1*

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| Les | feuilles | s'ouvraient | sur | le | bord | des | branches |
| [lɛ | fœ.jə | su.vrɛ | syr | lə | bɔr | dɛ | brɑ̃.ʃə] |
| The | leaves | opened | along | the | length | of-the | branches |

Délicatement.

[dɛ.li.ka.tə.mɑ̃]

delicately.

| | | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| Les | cloches | tintaient, | légères | et | franches, |
| [lɛ | klɔ.ʃə | tɛ̃.te | le.ʒɛ.rə. | ze | frɑ̃.ʃə] |
| The | bells | chimed, | lightly | and | candidly/openly, |

Dans le ciel clément.

[dɑ̃ lə sjɛl kle.mɑ̃]

in the sky mild.

(*in the mild sky.*)

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| Rythmique | et | fervent | comme | une | antienne, |
| [rit.mi. | ke | fɛr.vɑ̃ | ko. | my. | nɑ̃.tjɛ.nə] |
| Rhythmic | and | fervent, | like | a | refrain, |

Ce lointain appel

[sə lwɛ̃.tɛ̃. na.pɛl]

this distant call

| | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Me | remémorait | la | blancheur | chrétienne |
| [mɛ | rə.mɛ.mɔ.rɛ | la | blɑ̃.ʃœr | krɛ.tjɛ.nə] |
| me | reminded | of-the | whiteness | Christian |

(*reminded me of the Christian whiteness*)

Des fleurs de l'autel.

[dɛ flœr də lo.tɛl]

of-the flowers of the-altar.

(*of altar flowers.*)

| | | | | |
|------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Ces | cloches | parlaient | d'heureuses | années, |
| [sɛ | klɔ.ʃə | par.lɛ | dø.rø.zə. | za.nɛ.ə] |
| These | bells | spoke | of-happy | years, |

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| Et, | dans | le | grand | bois, |
| [e | dɑ̃ | lə | grɑ̃ | bwa] |
| and, | in | the | great | forest, |

Semblaient reverdir les feuilles fanées
[sɑ̃.blɛ rə.vɛr.dir lɛ fœ.jø fa.ne.ø]
they-seemed to-make-green-again the leaves withered
(they seemed to turn green again the withered leaves)

Des jours d'autrefois.
[dɛ ʒur do.trə.fwa]
of-the days of-another-time.
(of days long past.)

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