

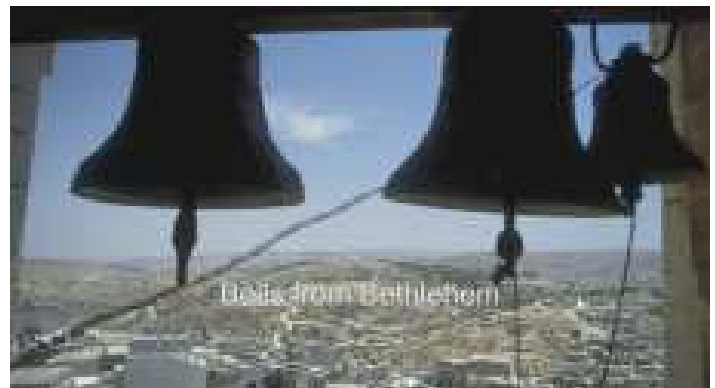
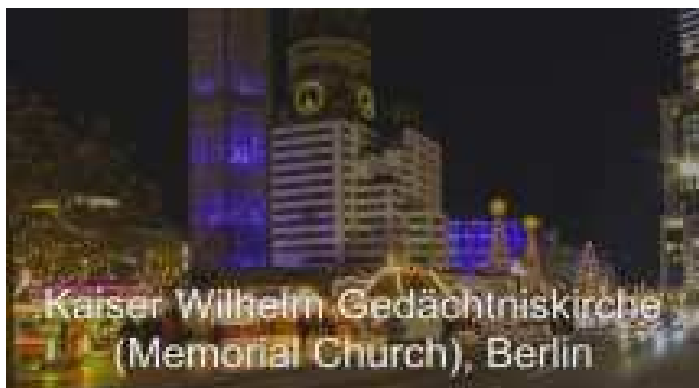
Church Bells At Christmas

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

From his second Christmas album *Weihnachten & James Last* from 1998, the late great James Last plays his orchestral composition **Church Bells At Christmas** (Kirchenglocken zur Weihnachtszeit), composed by him in 1973. The official video shows audio clips of bells ringing from various major churches in Germany and bells from Bethlehem. In between, the orchestra plays various themes in a very slow beat-rimshot rhythm.

In my MIDI processing the parts with the original church bells are indicated by the "Tubular Bells" sound from *Wersi-Pegasus* - in other, modern instruments the sampled bell sounds could be used here.

Note: There were numerous Christmas concerts of James Last in Hamburg's Michaelsdom, and the James Last memorial service in July 2015 also took place here.



MWP-Special edition

Disco-Beat, T=125

The musical score is divided into two sections: Main 1 and Main 2. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Strings:** In Main 1, the strings play a low octave (8va tiefer) with a sustained chord. In Main 2, they play a similar sustained chord with a guitar accompaniment (Str.+Git.).
- Guitar:** In Main 1, there is a rest. In Main 2, it provides accompaniment for the strings.
- Bass:** In Main 1, it plays a low octave (8va tiefer) with a sustained chord. In Main 2, it plays a rhythmic line labeled 'Kontrabass'.
- Bells:** In Main 1, they play a rhythmic pattern labeled 'Tubular Bells'. In Main 2, there is a rest.
- Drums:** In Main 1, they play a pattern labeled 'BD' (Bass Drum). In Main 2, they play a pattern labeled 'HH-sticked' (Hi-Hat) and 'Rimshot'.

Programming instruction

An unusual style programming can be realized here. The original recording consists of "indefinable" church bells and in between some free and rhythmic orchestral passages. For the rhythmically-free parts the Main1 is meant, whereas for the style-playing "rhythmically-free" doesn't really apply, so: there only the bass drum gives the basic beats and in addition the bass and the very deep strings as a frame. The main sound there is "Tubular Bells", whereas in my Wersi-Pegasus this tubular bell sound is the only one that resembles a church bell. Happy here is who can integrate real, sampled church bells into his style programming (all OAS and OAX instruments and other sample sound devices). The Main2 part is the main rhythm, a slow beat with rimshot lookup, for all style rhythmic parts with full accompaniment.