

# WHEN THEY RING THE GOLDEN BELLS

Traditional Gospel Song- Words Unknown, music by Dion De Marbelle 1818-1903; **DATE:** 1887; **CATEGORY:** Early Gospel Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Country Gentlemen; Emmylou Harris; Mac Wiseman; **OTHER NAMES:** When They Ring Those Golden Bells; **NOTES:** Born in Seville, France, Daniel de Marbelle (sometimes called Dion De Marbelle) worked on a whaling ship in the early 1800's, then joined the American Navy and served during the Mexican War (1847). After that, he toured America as a musician and actor with an opera company, later organizing his own theatrical troupe. At the invitation of Bailey (of Barnum and Bailey fame), he became the very first circus clown. Later, he managed his own circus, but lost everything in a fire while touring Canada. Then, he helped Buffalo Bill Cody set up his famous Wild West Show. De Marbelle could play almost any instrument, and wrote many songs. He was a ventriloquist, organized a brass band, and sang in a Methodist choir in Elgin, Illinois. He also called the figures in local square dances. He claimed he could make an eloquent speech on any subject, without preparation! The royalties from all his songs were stolen from him, and he died penniless, near starvation. This version can be played in 6/8 time also. Alfred G. Karnes version from 1928 is in 6/8 time.

There's a land be-yond - the riv - er, That we call the sweet for - ev - er, And we  
 on - ly reach that shore by faith's de - cree, One by one we'll gain the por - tals, There to  
 dwell with the im - mor - tals, When they ring the gol - den bells for you and me.  
 yond the shin - ing riv - er, When they ring the gol - den bells for you and me.

*Chorus*  
 Don't you hear the bells now ring - ing? Don't you hear the an - gels sing - ing? 'Tis the  
 glo - ry Hal - le - lu - jah Ju - bi - lee, In that far - off sweet for - ev - er, Just be

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When our days shall know their number, And in death we sweetly slumber,  
 When the King commands the spirit to be free;  
 Nevermore with anguish laden, We shall reach that lovely aiden,  
 When they ring the golden bells for you and me. *Chorus*