

Description of Work

Title: Bluebells (Hanging in There 100 Years)

I am submitting a composition written for carillon which is conceived as a piece which would be played alongside the Golden Gate Foghorns (but does not have to be). The sound and timings of the Foghorns were researched and then used to inform the ideas which form the basis of the composition for the Sather Bells. Many images of the tower depict the bridge in the distance and it is possible that the two sounds could often be heard together in various locations on a foggy day. With this in mind, I have composed a piece which works when played in conjunction with the two drones of the South Tower and Midspan horns. The concept is such that the drones do not have to align perfectly with any specific note or riff in the Bluebell piece in order for the piece to work as a whole. The piece is also inspired by and echoes a longstanding association of the Bay area to folk, rock and blues music traditions and the coming together of the many cultural traditions that continue make San Francisco a progressive, modern city and great place to live and visit.

Although the Sather Tower is older than the Golden Gate Bridge, the two iconic structures and sounds are famous throughout the world. This is why I think that a centennial celebration would not be complete without a 'happening' featuring the Sather bells and the bridge horns playing together. The concept would be called 'Around with a Bridge' (duet for the high and mighty). Ideally the horns could be played specifically for the celebration and the timings could be coordinated via internet .

Note: For the purpose of demonstration I have included two separate wav realisations, one of which includes the foghorn (timed according to the charts) placed randomly in the piece. The other wav is the piece using a bell type sample played by the computer. Therefore the example lacks the nuance and interpretation which would be greatly enhanced when played by an individual. I had hoped to perform the piece live and submit the recording for demonstration, however I did not have enough time to fulfil this prior to the September 1st deadline, hence the mechanical recording.