I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Words: H.W. Longfellow, 1864
Music: J.B. Calkin, 1872
Arr: Merv Rowley, 2008

Tuning: D-F#-A
For diatonic dulcimer

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day their
old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the
words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men!

2. I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th' unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

3. And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth not sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"

5. Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

(Try playing/singing the last verse at a slower tempo, for a more forceful conclusion and resolution.)