Dinner Bell Polka

Companion to the Breakfast & Supper Bell

Patrick S. Gilmore 1829-1892 Jim Chesebrough arr.





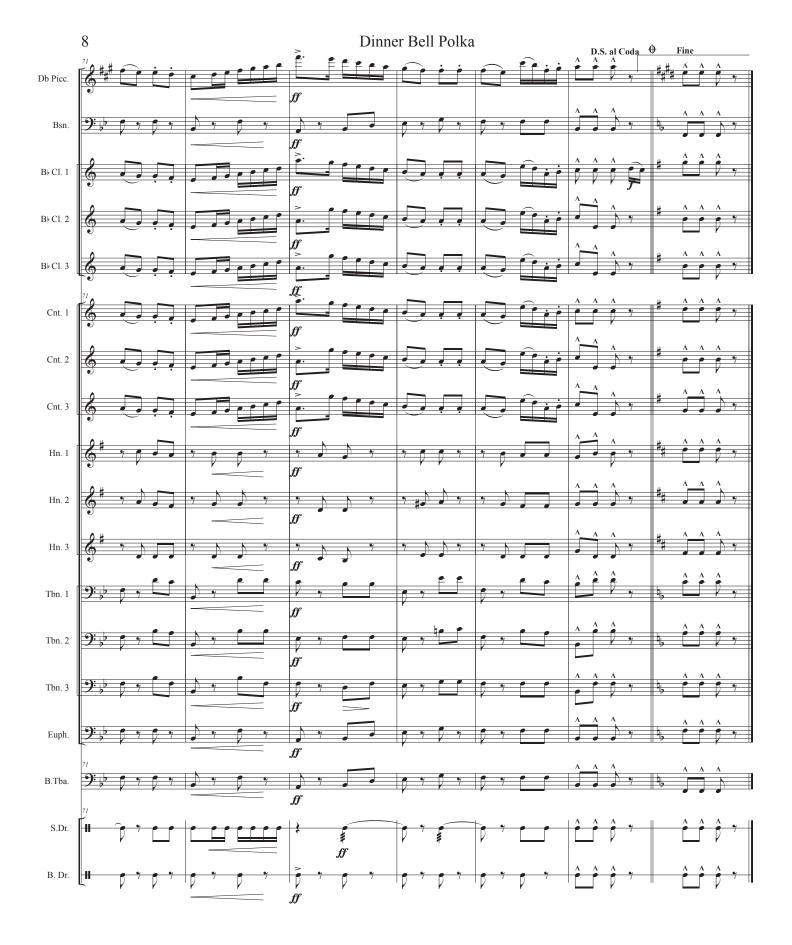












The Dinner Bell Polka by Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore (1829-1892) was composed in or before 1858 and is dedicated to Miss Ellen J. O'Neill. This arrangement is based on piano sheet music published by Russell & Tolman in Boston. It is a companion piece to the *Breakfast Bell* (1853) and *Supper Bell* (1858) *Polkas*. These dates would put the compositions in Gilmore's Boston years, first with the Boston Brigade Band (1853) and later with the Salem Brass Band (1855-1858). Indeed, each claim to be "AS PERFORMED BY GILMORE'S SALEM BRASS BAND."



Figure 1. Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore (ca. 1869)

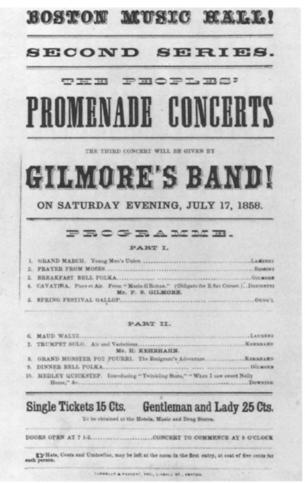


Figure 2. Advertisement, July 17, 1858, for program probably given by the Salem Brass Band, featuring the increasingly popular Gilmore name.

Although the cover shows a lithograph of the bell ringing announcement of a meal at the Crawford House in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, there is no indication that the work was written for this hotel. The original hotel was built in 1850 and destroyed by fire in 1859. It was replaced by a second Crawford House resort that was the largest hotel in the White Mountains at the time. This hotel eventually fell into disrepair and was destroyed by fire in November 1977.

The *Breakfast Bell Polka* cover lithograph shows a bell calling to a meal in an unidentified public dining room, and the *Supper Bell Polka* lithograph is of a private family dinner. It seems that the art used for sheet music was, in some cases, something commercially available for a variety of purposes or themes. However, sheet music versions of the repertoire played by the in-house bands and orchestras of the grand hotels was often offered to the guests as souvenirs. According to Catherine Amidon, former director of the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University, "The hope was that hearing the music during the off-season would inspire guests to plan return trips.

Whether written for the Crawford House or for other occasions, music like this was performed at the grand hotels by resident bands and orchestras hired by hotel managers. These ensembles were an important part of life at the hotels, and 19th-century bands were a tremendously popular form of entertainment.

To Mit Eller J O'Neill. DINNER BELL POLKA

COMPANION TO THE BREAKFAST & SUPPER BELL



AS PERFORMED BY GILMORE'S SALEM BRASS BAND.

Composed by

J.E.Buttlede Link



P. S. GILMORE.

D. B. BROOKS & BRO. Solon.

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GLAPP & COREY, Providence.