

Strictly speaking, change-ringing is not music at all; though when the voices of the bells used are mellow and melodious it decorates the passing time with simple, subtly-varied sound-patterns, and forms an acceptable obligato to the elemental emotions of an individual or the nation."

In Great Britain and on the continent, outside of the Low Countries, what bell ringing often comes to be is well exemplified by a petition sent in October, 1913, to the church wardens of St. Matthias Church, Richmond Hill. The petition reads:

"We, the undersigned, medical men, professional and business people, lodging-house proprietors, keepers of nursing homes, and others, being much annoyed by the frequent and unnecessary ringing of this bell on Sundays and Holy Days, earnestly request that your attention be drawn to the matter. As you are aware, the bell is rung seven times on Sundays and Saints' days, commencing as early as seven and eight o'clock in the morning. As many hard workers reside within near sound of this bell their rest is much disturbed, and the frequent ringing constitute a serious nuisance. We therefore ask you, gentlemen, kindly to discontinue the tolling at 7 and 8 a.m. and to restrict at other times the number of strokes to 60, not exceeding one minute in duration."