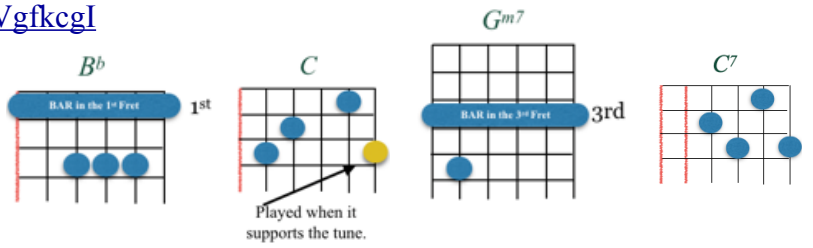
Silver Bells

J. Livingston, Ray Evans © 1951 all rights reserved

Sing along with Bob Hope & Marilyn Maxwell @ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNwGVgfkcgI



Key ~ Fmaj
Tempo ~ 102bpm
Time ~ 4/4

CHORUS

F *Bb*
Silver bells, silver bells.
C *C7* *F* *C*
It's Christmastime in the city.
F *Bb*
Ring-a-ling, hear them ring;
C *Gm7* *C7* *F*
Soon it will be Christmas Day.

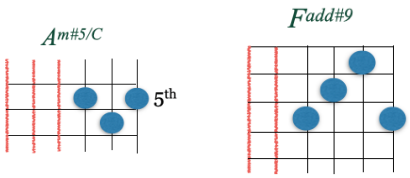
Bb *F* *Bb* *F*
City sidewalks, busy sidewalks,
Am#/C *Fadd#9* *Bb*
Dressed in Holiday style.
C
In the air there's,
C7 *F* *C*
A feeling of Christmas.
Bb *F* *Bb* *F*
Children laughing, people passing;
Am#/C *Fadd#9* *Bb*
Meet - ing smile after smile,
C *C7* *F*
And on every street corner you hear . . .

CHORUS

Bb *F* *Bb* *F*
Strings of street lights, even stop lights,
Am#/C *Fadd#9* *Bb*
Blink a bright red and green;
C
As the shoppers,
C7 *F* *C*
Rush home with their treasures.
Bb *F* *Bb* *F*
Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch,
Am#/C *Fadd#9* *Bb*
This is Santa's big scene.
C *C7* *F*
And above all the bustle you hear . . .

CHORUS

TAG
C *Gm7* *C7* *F*
Soon it will be Christmas Day.



History

Jay Livingston and Ray Evans rank as one of the most successful song writing teams in history. Their credits include *Buttons and Bow* (1st Oscar), *Mona Lisa* (2nd Oscar), *Que Sera Sera* (3rd Oscar), *Tammy*, and *Mr. Ed*.

Jay Livingston and Ray Evans, circa 1940s

Silver Bells was originally titled *Tinker Bells* and was written for a Bob Hope movie, *The Lemon Drop Kid*. Ray Even's wife prevailed upon the duo to change the name.

Silver Bells was an instant folks song for the new, post WWII America. The folks had moved to urban areas in droves during and after the war. They were experiencing the bustle of the Christmas season in cities. Livingston and Evans' descriptions of everything from stoplights blinking red and green to crowds of shoppers rushing from store to store struck a chord with millions who daily found themselves a part of that scene.

From "Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas" by Andrew (Ace) Collins, 2001, and www.filmmusicsociety.org