

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH: A CONCERTATO

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,
with optional congregational refrain*

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL
Arranged by JAY ALTHOUSE

Spirited (♩ = ca. 116-120), but not rushed

ACCOMP.

4 SOPRANO
ALTO
TENOR
BASS

7 An - gels we have

8 heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plain, And the moun-tains

*Part for congregational singing may be found on p. 12.

12

(+ opt. congregation)

15

in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strain.

*Glo -

16

ri - a in ex - cel - sis

20

1.

2.

(congregation tacet)

De - o. De - o.

1.

2.

*GLAW-ree-ah een ehk-SHEL-sees DEH-aw: Glory to God in the highest.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in a single system with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one flat. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

28 *mf*

Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?

mf

The second system of music includes a vocal line starting at measure 28. The vocal line is in a single system with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff with a key signature of one flat. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

32 *mf*

What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?

The third system of music includes a vocal line starting at measure 32. The vocal line is in a single system with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff with a key signature of one flat. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

36 (+ opt. congregation)

f

Glo

f

39

1. 2.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o De -

43 (congregation tacet) Slowing

Slowing

dim. poco a poco

Slower, somewhat freely

47 SOLO (S. or A.) or UNIS.

mp

Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

Slower, somewhat freely

mp

51

accel.

SOLO (T. or B.) or UNIS.

mp

Come a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

accel.

Tempo I

55

s. f

Glo

T. f

B.

Tempo I

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Sing

This block contains the vocal and piano accompaniment for measures 58 through 60. The vocal line is written in a soprano clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are "- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Sing". The piano accompaniment is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with the same key signature and time signature. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests in the vocal line.

61 SOP.
glo

ALTO
glo

TENOR
glo

BASS
glo

This block contains the vocal parts for measures 61 and 62. It features four staves for Soprano (SOP.), Alto (ALTO), Tenor (TENOR), and Bass (BASS). Each staff begins with a circled measure number "61". The lyrics for all parts are "glo". The vocal lines are written in their respective clefs with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. The music consists of a single melodic line for each voice part, with some slurs and ties.

61

This block contains the piano accompaniment for measures 61 and 62. It is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. The music features a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. A circled measure number "61" is present at the beginning of the system.

64

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De -

67

o. An - gels we have

70

heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plain, And the moun - tains

in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strain.

(+ opt. congregation)

Glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. De -

(Choir only)

84

o. Glo-ri - a, for

88

cresc. Je - sus Christ is born. *rit.* *ff* Al - le - lu - ia!

cresc. *ff* *8va*

Angels We Have Heard on High is a Christmas hymn concertato. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Isaiah 9: 1-6, Luke 2: 1-20, and Titus 2: 11-14. One basic homiletical theme is joining with the angels in singing the good news: Today Christ is born!

In rehearsal, strive for fluid, four-measure phrases in each of the verses (e.g., mm. 7-14). The eighth notes in each of the refrains (e.g., mm. 15-22) should be sung very articulately. Practice the refrains on staccato doo until each part is clearly heard and precisely aligned. Add the text while continuing to rehearse staccato. Finally, sing legato with all of the energy and precision of the staccato. In mm. 61-64 and again in mm. 69-76, the sopranos pair with the tenors and the altos with the basses. Practice first one pair and then the other until the unison octaves sparkle with good intonation and articulation.

Jay Althouse has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 350 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M. Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He currently resides in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

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for congregational singing

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

Arranged by **JAY ALTHOUSE**

Verse 1: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plain,
(Choir only) And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strain.

Refrain:
(Choir & Congregation)

Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Verse 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
(Choir only) What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain: (see above)
(Choir & Congregation)

Verse 3: Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
(Choir only) Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.
(Choir only) Sing gloria in excelsis Deo.

Verse 4: Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plain,
(Choir only) And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strain.

Refrain: (see above)
(Choir & Congregation)

Postlude: Gloria, for Jesus Christ is born.
(Choir only) Alleluia!

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