

Candlelight Christmas

A Christmas Program
for Unison or 2-Part Voices

Written & Arranged
by Ruth Elaine Schram & Scott Schram

Reproducible Pages Included

C o n t e n t s

WHAT DO I NEED?

▼ I WANT TO REVIEW THIS PROGRAM...

Preview Pack:

Includes one preview booklet (vocal lines and script) plus a Listening CD recording (full performance only-with voices).

▼ I'M READY TO PERFORM THIS PROGRAM...

Songbook:

Script plus full piano/vocal version of songs, programming and staging suggestions, plus REPRODUCIBLE Singer's Pages (vocal lines and script).

▼ I WANT TO PERFORM WITH PROFESSIONAL RECORDINGS AND SAVE MONEY...

CD Kit:

A money-saving pack which includes a Songbook and an Accompaniment/Performance CD.

▼ ALSO AVAILABLE...

Accompaniment/Performance CD:

A professional recording featuring a full performance of the musical, including script, followed by orchestrated accompaniment tracks.

Listening CD:

A full performance recording (with voices and dialog). Designed to preview and/or help teach the program.

▼ FOR A COMPLETE COMPONENT AND PRICE LIST, PLEASE SEE THE BACK COVER.

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Performance Time—Approximately 20 Minutes

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FOREWORD

Candlelight Christmas Garden is a celebration of the coming of Jesus, who is God's Light. His birth signals a rebirth for all people, the fulfillment of the promise of salvation and eternal life. As His glory shines, warming the cold, dark earth, flowers herald His coming with a burst of seasonal splendor.

“Let heaven and nature sing!”

Seasonal customs from around the world and Christmas plants inspire us in our celebration. Santa Lucia enters first, wearing an evergreen crown and carrying candles in the Swedish tradition. Next, we light seasonal candles, encircled by holly in the ancient Roman tradition, as we recall the words of the prophet Isaiah.

Christmas roses bloom throughout Europe as the angel Gabriel appears to Mary, announcing God's good news. In Mexico, the poinsettia's leaves turn from green to red as a special gift to the Christ Child. And, in the United States, children place white and gold Chrismons upon the Christmas tree, reflecting the purity and majesty of God's Son.

“Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light!”

As our story unfolds, the choir and congregation/audience joyfully sing medleys of traditional hymns and carols, many with specially-crafted new lyrics. **Candlelight Christmas Garden** concludes with a beautiful candlelighting ceremony as God's people join with the heavenly angels, softly singing a lullaby to the Babe who is the Lord of Light and Life.

Performance Suggestions

Arranged for unison or 2-part singers of all ages, this program may be presented in its entirety, lasting approximately 20 minutes, or as individual suites throughout the season. It is ideal for incorporation into regular worship or Sunday school presentations, with costumes and simple staging. However, it may also be presented as a concert or chapel program with minimal or no staging or costumes. Directors may employ a single choir or different groups of singers representing various classes or age groups. We encourage directors to freely adapt this program, including adding vocal or instrumental solos, additional characters or dialog, and Christmas customs that are particular to their locales. **Reproducible Singers' Pages** are included beginning on page 29.

Staging Suggestions

Create four areas with traditional greenery throughout. At center stage, set a small table with a wreath or circle of holly holding four unlit candles (optional, place an unlit white Christ candle in the center). In a second area, display an array of red poinsettias and hang above them a star that can be lit internally or externally. In a third area, arrange pink Christmas roses and, nearby, an angel (Gabriel) that can be illuminated at the appropriate time. Finally, decorate a Christmas tree with white twinkle lights and Chrismons (preferred), and/or white and gold balls. Please see page 40 for a list of resources in the making of Chrismons.

OVERTURE & LUCIA CHORUS

(As the *Overture* begins, the choir processes in and gradually takes its position. During the *Lucia Chorus*, Lucia/s enter. They are wearing white robes with red sashes, and their heads are adorned with crowns of greenery. The crowns may include four battery-powered candles, NOT real candles! OR, if preferred, the Lucia/s may carry a single candle, either real or battery-powered. Whenever real candles are used, we recommend that fire extinguishers be immediately available!)

OVERTURE

Arranged by
RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM (ASCAP)
 and **SCOTT SCHRAM** (ASCAP)

*O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL
 Majestic (♩ = ca. 92-96)

ACCOMP. *mf*

4 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

SPEAKER #1: As Christmas approaches in the cold north of Sweden, the winter sun
 ⑨ (or Narrator)

8 *mp*

12 is low in the sky. Days pass in total darkness, and the people yearn for light and warmth.

* Traditional plainsong.