



Calling All Angels

A Christmas chancel drama for
unison choir(s), soloist(s), and congregation

by Helen Kemp

Also available:

Demonstration CD (code CGCD28)

Preview Kit (includes score and demo CD, code CGK14)

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Dear Choir Director,

Calling All Angels! was conceived to be a prelude to a service of worship. The story line embraces the Annunciation, the season of Advent, and the Christmas event. To create an effective Biblical connection and to introduce the Archangel Gabriel, I suggest using a scriptural Prologue taken from Luke 1:26-38, as printed in the score before Scene 1.

As the play begins, the Angel Gabriel, as God's messenger, is now given the awesome assignment to think of a way to announce to the whole world that the Holy Child has been born.

The children's choirs become the angel host singing "Gloria in excelsis Deo!" and inspiring the congregation to join with them in the singing of the entrance hymn, *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

Throughout the decades, I have watched the faces of congregations as children sing. There is often a radiance and a sparkle in the eyes of grandparents, parents and peers. That is what I hope will happen when the singing angels act out this little Christmas chancel drama. I hope the congregations will sing the carol with child-like imagination, and that the children will "distribute delight" as they create a halo over the worship service which follows!

Helen Kemp

INSTRUMENTS

Piano: accompanies the entire musical

Table Chimes (or Wind Chimes): Always accompany the VOICE OF GOD.

Organ: enhances the congregational singing of the finale "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Gabriel's Chime (Bell or Triangle): for Gabriel's announcement. (Bell should be F or C pitch; or triangle may be substituted.)

Percussion (optional): small brass bells (about 2 inches, East-Indian-type), Finger Cymbals, and Triangle.

PROPS

Small megaphone (made of cardboard, painted silver, and decorated with streamers/ribbons)

Swivel piano stool (for Mary and the manger scene)

Simple manger crib

Baby doll (to portray the Baby Jesus)

SETTING

The action takes place in the chancel area. If balcony is available, that space may be used also. The procession uses center and side aisles and the back area of the sanctuary.

CHARACTERS

Narrator: Voice of God—An adult, male or female, with a warm, gentle but commanding speaking voice. Speaker is never visible. The voice of God may sound from the chancel area, or from the balcony.

Gabriel: Archangel—an adult soprano, who carries the storyline. She sings and speaks.

Hallelujah Choir: Angel Choir of older elementary singers (4th-6th). They sing, act and move.

Cherubim Choir: Angel Choir of younger elementary singers (K-3rd) who often echo the Hallelujah Choir.

Angel Soloist: A child from the Hallelujah Choir. Solo may be divided among several choristers.

Michael: Archangel—director of the Cherubim Choir. May be adult or high school age.

Raphael: Archangel—director of the Hallelujah Choir. May be adult or high school age.

Mary and Joseph: May be adults or high-school age children; they create the manger scene.

Heralds of the Angels' Message: The Congregation

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

The angel choir costumes may be simple or more elaborate according to what is available and appropriate for individual situations. If your choir vestments are white alb style, use them. White surplices can also be used. Squares of white fabric with a neck opening could be made. Get ideas from the costume sections of pattern books such as McCall's or Butterick.

For foot and leg gear, I suggest white leotards for girls, and white sport socks for boys (and no shoes). Since there is considerable movement for the angel choirs, the costumes should be secure and comfortable.

Angels should have halos. Look for thin-wired, silver or gold-star garlands, available in holiday decoration stores. These can be looped into double circles, secured with thin wire. They are light weight and can be placed directly on the head.

Gabriel, Michael and Raphael should wear white robes. They need halos, too!

Mary and Joseph should wear the traditional Biblical costumes—Mary in blue with draped head covering, Joseph in brown or purple tunic and sandals. Get ideas from good Biblical illustrations or from great paintings.

And don't forget, the Baby Jesus doll needs to be wrapped in swaddling clothes!

Scene 1

God's Fanfare

Mysterious and ethereal (not percussive)

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Piano

$\text{♩} = 96$

f

table chimes

Ped. _____

table chimes

Ped. _____

VOICE OF GOD:

Gabriel!

Gabriel!

(GABRIEL turns to face back balcony or wherever the Voice of God is being spoken)

Recitative

7 Freely GABRIEL:

I am here, Yah - weh! What is your bid - ding?

VOICE OF GOD:

(table chimes) Gabriel, do you remember when you appeared to young Mary and delivered the message that she would bear a Son, and that he should be named Jesus, Son of the Most High?

I Do! Yes, I Do!

Gabriel's Aria

Helen Kemp

Helen Kemp

12 Expressively ($\text{♩} = 108$)

GABRIEL:

I do! Yes, I do! What a won - der! What a

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33 *a tempo*

Child di - vine, A__ Child di - vine, A__ Child di - vine and

a tempo

39

fair. Dear God, yes I do! What a won - der, what a

44

joy to tell her of the Boy! I re - mem - ber. _____

Slower

VOICE OF GOD: *(table chimes)* Yes, Gabriel, your message was delivered with great love and tenderness. And now the time has come for the child to be born. There must be an ANNOUNCEMENT that the whole world will hear and remember. Gabriel, as my special messenger, YOU must create a glorious and heavenly event, a FANFARE fit for a King!

78

sing - ing from the sky; Sing-ing al - to -

Ped.

81

geth - er, to- geth - er, sing - ing from on high!

84 *Lyric and legato (angelic)*

We are learn - ing heav - en - ly songs, songs of joy and songs of love. _

87

Now we have to prac - tice our scales, la la

110 **Freely**

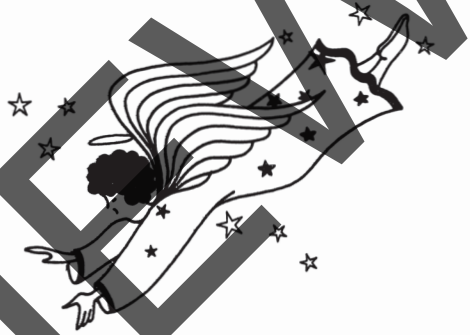
line! Call - ing all an - gels! Call - ing all an - gels!

Freely

mf *f* segue

Ped. _____

RAPHAEL: Right, left, right, left.



Scene 2 Angel Procession

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As the Angel Procession music is being played, the Angel Choirs, with Archangels Michael and Raphael, march seriously to the chancel area. Gabriel counts them, etc.

114 $\text{♩} = c. 112$

Piano

well accented

118

122

rit.