

## Choraegus ShareMusic®

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**Choraegus ShareMusic, P.O. Box 4444, Mountain View, CA 94040, USA**

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God bless you as you minister for His glory!

# Angels We Have Heard On High

(SSA, a cappella)

Arranged by Larry Sue (ASCAP)



The musical score is written for SSA voices and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of 120 and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The lyrics for this staff are: "An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,". The second staff starts with a dynamic marking of *mf* and includes a section labeled "A" in a box. The lyrics are: "And the moun - tains in re - ply e - cho back their joy - ous strains. Glo - - -". The third staff has the lyrics: "ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o,". The fourth staff concludes with the lyrics: "Glo - - - - - - - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis".

B

De - - - o. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous

strains pro-long? Say what may the tid - ings be which in - spire your

C

heaven - ly song. Glo - - - - -

We come to wor - ship Him with joy and sing - ing,

Bells of heaven are round us ring - ing, In - cense, gold, and myrrh we're bring - ing

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

to the cat - tle stall, in ex - cel - sis De - o. We wor - ship our Mes - si - ah come to earth and

won - der at His hum - ble birth, We con - tem - plate His marv' - lous worth, the

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.  
King and Lord of all, in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

**D** ♩ = 80

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

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

**E** ♩ = 120

See, with - in a man - ger laid, Je - sus, Lord of heaven and earth, Mar - y, Jo - seph,  
See, with - in a man - ger laid, Je - sus, Lord of heaven and earth, Mar - y, Jo - seph,

lend your aid, with us sing our Sav - ior's birth. We come to

**F**  
*f* Glo - - - - -  
 wor - ship Him with joy and sing - ing, Bells of heaven are round us ring - ing,

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis  
 In - cense, gold, and myrrh we're bring - ing to the cat - tle stall, in ex - cel - sis

De - o, Glo - - - - -  
 De - o. We wor - ship our Mes - si - ah come to earth and won - der at His hum - ble birth, We

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis  
 con - tem - plate His marv' - lous worth, the King and Lord of all, in ex - cel - sis

G

De - o. Glo - - - - Glo - - - -  
 De - o. Glo - - - - Glo - - - -  
 71 De - o. We come to wor - ship Him with joy and sing - ing,

73 Bells of heaven are round us ring - ing, In - cense, gold, and myrrh we're bring - ing

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

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

75  
to the cat - tle stall, in ex - cel - sis De - o. We wor - ship our Mes - si - ah come to earth and

won - der at His hum - ble birth, We con - tem - plate His marv' - lous worth, the

79

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o. **H** *mf* Glo - - - ri - a!

ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o. *mf* Glo - - - ri -

81  
King and Lord of all, in ex - cel - sis De - o. *mf* Glo - -

The image shows a musical score for three voices, likely soprano, alto, and tenor/bass, in a key of D major (one sharp). The score consists of three staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are 'Gloria' repeated across the staves. The first staff has the lyrics 'Glo - - ri-a! Glo - - ri-a! Glo - - ri - a!' and ends with a fermata and a fortissimo (ff) dynamic marking. The second staff has the lyrics 'a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a!' and also ends with a fermata and a fortissimo (ff) dynamic marking. The third staff starts with a measure rest marked '85' and has the lyrics 'ri-a! Glo - - - ri-a! Glo - - - ri-a! Glo - ri - a!' and ends with a fermata and a fortissimo (ff) dynamic marking. The word 'cresc.' is written above the first two notes of each staff.

*cresc.*  
Glo - - ri-a! Glo - - ri-a! Glo - - ri - a! *ff*

*cresc.*  
a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! *ff*

85 *cresc.*  
ri-a! Glo - - - ri-a! Glo - - - ri-a! Glo - ri - a! *ff*

# **Angels We Have Heard On High**

## **Choraegus ShareMusic Rehearsal Notes**

Remember what you're singing - keep the sound light and angelic!

The chorus countermelody makes rather high dictional demands, so I advise practicing the chorus sections slowly at first, then up to tempo. For more ideas on choral diction, surf over to <http://www.choraegus.com/LW/dissertations/diction/> . (Measures 29-42, 59-88)

The chorus countermelody (“We come to worship Him with joy and singing...”) runs parallel to the melody in many places, and so it’s important to differentiate the two so that the lyrics don’t become muddled. Probably the best way to do this is through “timbral differentiation”: Have the first and second sopranos sing their parts with a brighter tone, and have the alto sing the countermelody with a darker tone - but adjust your timbres to match when the parts come back together at “in excelsis Deo”. (Measures 29-42, 59-88)

The third verse is in minor key. (Measures 43-51)

The second soprano (middle part) has the melody in the fourth verse. (Measures 52-59)

Practice the ending slowly so that all the words and pitches are correct, then gradually take it up to tempo. Once you have that mastered, try adding a bit of an accelerando to measures 84-86, followed by a (big?) rallentando in measures 87-88. (Measures 84-88)

Got any other suggestions for rehearsal notes? Send them to Choraegus ShareMusic, P.O. Box 4444, Mountain View, CA 94040 USA or e-mail them to [larry@choraegus.com](mailto:larry@choraegus.com) .