

"Heaven's First Christmas"
The Musical
Written for the HCP Performing Arts Ministry 2014
By Angelique La Fon-Cox

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OPENING SONG: "SOUND OF THE ROUND"

Choir Director Angel: Well done everyone! That was beautiful! I think that song is ready to sing around the thrones of the Most High!

Angel 1: Look! Here comes Michael the Arch Angel!

All angels: What is Michael doing here? He never comes to our practices. (etc.)

Angel 2: From the look on his face, he is bringing some important news.

(Michael enters)

Michael: My Fellow Heavenly Hosts. I have come to bring you news of a very important task. It comes from the thrones of the Most High."

(All of the angels quickly sit down among the clouds to give Michael their attention and listen to what he had to say.)

Michael: As you all know, the children that Jehovah, God created on the earth are suffering. The sins of mankind are spreading rapidly and darkness is covering the world. The covenant that God made with His people to bring Him a sacrifice is no longer enough. The sins of man have become too many. Something else must be done.

The Tender Angel: Oh goodness! We all know how much God loves His children on earth, this must make Him so sad.

Michael: Yes. It does indeed.

The Spunky Angel: The sins of mankind are because of Lucifer. He's the one behind it all.

Michael: Lucifer is now called Satan on earth and yes he is the one who brings evil to the world, but still it is the choice of man to follow him. They can choose to follow God or they can choose to follow Satan. Lately... more and more people are not following God.

The Brainy Angel: Why couldn't Lucifer have just been content to be the most beautiful angel in all of heaven?

The Obedient Angel: Yes, why did he have to try and become greater than God?

Michael: That I do not know. But when God sent me to wrestle him and then he was cast down to earth, I believed he would cause problems there—and he certainly is.

Angel 3: Why couldn't he have been cast somewhere like else... the sun? Then the people of earth wouldn't have had to deal with him!

Michael: (Throwing his head back and laughing) I do not know the answer to that either. God's ways are above our ways. I trust in Him and all of His decisions. I know you all do too and we are going to trust the new decision of He and Jesus, for it is one the most important decisions ever made.

Angel 4: What is the decision?

Michael: (softly) The decision is to send Jesus to earth.

(All angels all gasp in disbelief)

All Angels: What? Send Jesus to earth? Why? What for?

The Smallest Angel: Whatever we will do without Him?

(Michael pulls up a cloud and sits down)

Michael: God and Jesus have come up with a new covenant. They are calling it: The Plan of Salvation.

The Brainy Angel: The Plan of Salvation? How will it work?

Michael (Takes a deep breath and pauses) Well... with the old covenant, man was to bring a sacrifice and offer it to God as an atonement of his sins.

The Brainy Angel: Like a lamb or an ox?

Michael: Yes, those were a couple of ways the people on earth could be forgiven, by sacrificing those animals. But now, well... because there is so much sin, their sacrifices are not enough... so... *Jesus* is going to be the sacrifice.

(The angels gasp and stare at Michael in disbelief)

The Bashful Angel: Y-y-you mean, *Jesus* will become the lamb?

Michael: Yes. Jesus is going to go to earth to die for the sins of all mankind. His blood will bring forgiveness and every lasting life for all who believe in Him. That is The Plan of Salvation.

The Tender Angel: I know that there is not supposed to be any tears in heaven, but I feel like I could start crying right now.

(All of the other angels agree)

Michael: Now, now, listen to me. I know this is hard for us to bare, having Jesus leave His throne and the glories of heaven to go to earth and die for the sins of man. But we have to trust in God's plan. Jesus agreed to do this. He *wants* to go, because He loves *all* of the people of the world so very, *very* much-- not just those who are living now but for those still yet to come. So we must be brave too and give

Him all of our support. Which brings me to the very important task God has for you.

The Obedient Angel: Anything. We will do anything for Jesus.

The Loving Angel: We love Him so very, very much.

Michael: Wonderful! What God needs is for you to prepare a song, one of the most glorious songs you have ever sung! This will be the song to announce the birth of Jesus!

(Angels all look at each other in confusion.)

The Brainy Angel: What do you mean, the birth of Jesus?

The Happy Angel: Jesus is already alive!

Michael: Ah yes, Jesus is alive here in heaven, but in order for Him to die for the sins of mankind He has to be born on earth as a baby and become a human with flesh and blood. Once He is born He will grow into a child and then into a man and then... His ministry work will begin.

The Curious Angel: Michael. How is it that Jesus will die?

Michael (Taking another deep breath) He will be beaten and a crown of thorns will be placed upon His head. He will be crucified on a cross. His body broken, His blood shed, and His life given upon a place called Calvary.

(Again the angels stared at him in disbelief)

Michael: I know it is hard to think of Jesus going through something like that, but it is because of His great love for all mankind. His blood will bring forgiveness for all their sins. When the people of the world receive the amazing gift He is giving them, they will be able to sing a brand new song. A song that none of you will be able to sing.

The Spunky Angel: What? No one sings praise to the Lord like the angels do. What is this song?

Michael: The song sung by those who will be redeemed by Jesus. He is their Savior, their Messiah and He goes to lay down His life willingly for all who will believe. That my friends is a song we do not know, the song of saving grace.

SONG: "JESUS MESSIAH" MICHAEL, OTHER ANGEL SOLOS AND ANGEL CHOIR

The Curious Angel: Who will be Jesus' mother?

The Brainy Angel: He has to have a good mother, someone who is wise.

The Loving Angel: Yes, and someone who is very loving and compassionate.

The Obedient Angel: One who loves God, is faithful and serves Him with all her heart.

Michael: Yes, yes, you all are right and God already has chosen the perfect mother on earth for Jesus. Her name is Mary. (Stands up and gazes down as if to look at earth) In fact, she is right down there.

(Angels all look as if they too can see Mary who is walking at the edge of stage left)

Michael: God is sending Gabriel to speak to her and tell her that she is going to have a baby. Look, let's watch and listen, he's about to tell her all about God's plan right now.

The Bashful Angel: Oh, I hope Gabriel doesn't scare her.

The Spunky Angel: People always are a little jumpy when they see an angel in front of them. I mean honestly, wouldn't you be?

Michael: Shhh, listen. He is with her now.

(Mary looks up and sees the angel Gabriel standing before her. She falls to her knees, her hands trembling)

Gabriel: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and you will name Him Jesus. He will be *great!* And will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever and His kingdom will never end!

The Spunky Angel: Good job Gabriel! That was direct and to the point!

All Angels: (softly) Shhh.

Mary: How can this be? Since I am not yet married.

Gabriel: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be holy. He will be called the Son of God.

Mary: I am a servant of the Lord. Let this happen to me according to your word.

SONG: "BREATH OF HEAVEN" MARY, GABRIEL AND THE ANGELS

(Gabriel smiles and then departs. All of the angels watching clapped their hands)

All Angels: Well done Gabriel! Whoo-hoo! Yay!

The Brainy Angel: Michael, who will be Mary's husband?"

Michael: God has chosen a good and honorable man named Joseph to be Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly father.

The Loving Angel: Is he a loving man?

Michael: Oh yes, he is very loving.

The Tender Angel: And kind? He must be kind too.

Michael: (Smiling) Oh yes, he is very kind and smart and obedient. He will follow the instruction of the Lord and take great care of Jesus. Do not worry.

The Curious Angel: But how will he know about God's Plan of Salvation?

Michael: God is going to speak to him through a dream. He is going to use Gabriel to tell him all about the plan of salvation and that he should not worry but take Mary as his wife. All will be well.

(Angels act relieved)

Michael: Alright now angels, you have a bit of time before Jesus will be born on earth so please, get to work on that song. Let it be joyful and full of celebration!

SONG: INSTRUMENTAL ONLY

(Michael leaves and while the music plays, the angels act like they are working and writing and singing on new songs bringing them to the choir director who stands center stage and studies them all.)

Choir Director Angel: All of these songs are wonderful! I know that you have worked very hard on them as the days have passed by and I am quite proud of you. We will use all of these songs from this day forward to celebrate the coming of Jesus to earth. But, as Michael instructed us, there could only be one to announce His birth. Therefore, I have chosen this one for the words are perfect and melody is grand.

SONG: INSTRUMENTAL PICKS BACK UP

(She shows all the angels who are excited with the choice that was made. The angels act like they are practicing and learning dances polished and ready to go, giving high fives and showing excitement they are ready)

The Brainy Angel: I have been thinking and thinking and thinking about where Jesus will be born.

The Happy Angel: I bet it is in a magnificent palace, so grand it could stand in the splendors of heaven!

The Bashful Angel: I hope it is someplace peaceful and quiet.

The Spunky Angel: I can't imagine there being any place good enough on earth for Him to be born.

The Loving Angel: Maybe in a lovely garden?

The Tender Angel: Yes, surrounded by the beautiful creations of God!

Angel 4: Look! Here comes Michael and Gabriel!

Gabriel: Greetings to you all in the Name of our Lord God!

Michael: The time has almost come for the birth of Jesus upon the earth! Are you all ready with your song of celebration?

(All angels all nod and chatter excitedly about their new song)

Michael: Excellent! Excellent!

Gabriel: Now, this is how it will work. I will go into the fields nearby the village where Jesus will be born and I will speak to the shepherds there and tell them of the Savior's birth. Then you all will be on and will sing your song of celebration!

(All angels look at him with confused expressions)

The Happy Angel: What do you mean shepherds? Aren't you going to announce it to the kings of the land that Jesus is born?

The Brainy Angel: Yes, won't we be singing for masses of people so they all will know that their Messiah has finally come?

Michael: (Shakes his head) No, no, that is not the plan. God does not want people to come to Jesus because we tell them to. He wants them to come to Jesus because they *choose* to. So we are going to announce it to those in the fields nearby the stable where Jesus will be born in the town of Bethlehem.

The Spunky Angel: What?! A *stable*?! You're kidding right? Please tell me you are not serious?

The Tender Angel: Jesus is going to be born in a dirty little stable?

The Brainy Angel: Did God send down a cleaning crew first to sanitize that place and deal with all of the livestock, germs and I'm quite sure bugs in that place?

Michael: (Raising his hands to calm the angels down) Listen, listen to me. I know you all love Jesus dearly and feel that He deserves the birth of the Royal and Almighty King that He is... but that is *not* part of The Plan of Salvation. You see, if Jesus was born in a grand palace or a place full of splendor, not everyone would feel worthy of coming to Him. So God chose for Jesus to be born in a stable with all of the animals and all of the germs so everyone can come to Him. Trust in God, the baby Jesus will be just fine.

Gabriel: God chose a humble place for Jesus to be born so that all people, the rich, the poor and all those in between can come to Him and receive His gift of salvation. It just goes to show us all once again how amazing our God is and how much He loves His children on earth.

(All angels listen to the words of Michael and Gabriel and understand, their hearts full of love for Jesus)

Michael: (Gazing down upon the earth) Oh! Look, look! It's happening! Jesus is being born in the town of Bethlehem.

Angel 5: Michael. Where will Jesus sleep?

Michael: In a manger little one. Mary will wrap Him in swaddling clothes and Jesus will sleep in a manger full of hay.

(Angels watch as the Son of God lies in a dirty little stable and laid in a manger. Their hearts full of joy, the baby angels then enter wanting to see the baby Jesus too)

The Loving Angel: Oh look, all of the baby angels have come to see the baby Jesus too!

(Get baby angels placed in position on the stage)

Gabriel: Now, watch this. God has been working on a special star to shine tonight, you know, to mark where the newborn King is. It will shine brighter than any other star in the sky! Just watch, it will start to shine any moment now!

SONG: "Away In A Manger" Huggabear Cubs

(As the song ends, the star comes on)

The Happy Angel: Wow! Look at that!

Angel 6: I've never seen a star shine like that before!

The Brainy Angel: It is the grandest construction of celestial illumination I have ever beheld!

(Gabriel receives the news cell phone? Time to go and deliver the news to the shepherds)

Gabriel: Alright angels, this is it! I will go and announce that Jesus is born and then you will finally get to sing your song of celebration!

Choir Director Angel: Sing with all of your heart like you have never sung before! The people of the world need to rejoice, for their Messiah has come!

(Cue the shepherds then Gabriel goes to them. They are sore afraid. ☺)

Gabriel: Do not be afraid! For I bring to you great tidings of great joy which will be unto all people! For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

All Angels: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace! Good will toward men!

SONG: "GLORIA!" Gabriel and other angel solos with angel choir

SONG: INSTRUMENTAL FOR SHEPHERD'S AND WISE MEN TO COME TO THE MANGER

(After song all angels celebrate on stage. The shepherds leave to go to the manger. After that the wise men come. Angels looked upon the Baby Jesus, His mother Mary and His earthy father Joseph they marvel at the gift of love.)

The Smallest Angel: Michael

Michael: Yes?

The Smallest Angel: Today is Jesus' birthday isn't it?

Michael: Yes, it is.

The Smallest Ange: Happy Birthday Jesus, we love you.
Angel 7: What will the people on earth call this day?
Michael: They will call it Christmas.
Angel 7: Christmas. That sure is beautiful.
The Happy Angel: Merry Christmas everyone! MERRY CHRISTMAST!!!
(Other Angels join in)
Choir Director Angel: Come on angels! Let's sing some of these Christmas songs you all worked so hard on and worship Jesus Christ! This is Heaven's First Christmas!

SONG FINALE: "A TAPESTRY OF CAROLS"

The End



Cast for Heaven's First Christmas

Mary

Michael

Gabriel

The Tender Angel

The Happy Angel

The Brainy Angel

The Smallest Angel

The Spunky Angel

The Curious Angel

The Choir Director Angel

The Obedient Angel

The Bashful Angel

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Shepherd 3

Wise man 1

Wise man 2

Wise man 3

Little Angel 1

Little Angel 2

Little Angel 3

Little Angel 4

Little Angel 5

Little Angel 6

Little Angel 7

25 speaking parts available