

TIME TO SING

(A play for Christmas)

By
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Radius

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LIST OF CHARACTERS

Angels

Archangel Michael

Gabriel

Raphael

Archoirangel (Director of Music)

Junior Angel 1

Junior Angel 2

Junior Angel 3 (sings the descant)

Other Angels – All ages and sizes (all should be able to sing, preferably in parts)

All angels, including those with speaking parts, can be male or female so long as the singing effect is balanced.

Humans

Mary**

Joseph**

Three people of Bethlehem (male/female)

Three shepherds

**Mary and Joseph are non-speaking parts

Scene 1: Heaven - Choir rehearsal room

The angelic choir is being rehearsed by Archoirangel. They are singing 'Holy, holy, holy.'

Archoirangel

Right. A little more bass, please, in 'almighty'. And you, sopranos, watch your enunciation. Not quite so much hissing on those 'is's'.

JA3

Please can I try my descant this time?

Archoir

Have you practised it enough?

JA1

Practised it enough? We've heard nothing else, all day and every day this past week, all over heaven. Anyone got some earplugs they can lend me?

JA3

You're just jealous 'cos you've never been asked to sing a descant in all eternity. Never will be, either.

Archoir

That's enough of that! I will not tolerate bickering in the choir. Anymore and you'll both be dismissed and will have to join the dancing ensemble. So far they've managed to get three million angels dancing on one pin and I'm sure they won't mind a couple more. Right, we'll take it once again from the start and we'll have the descant on the repeat.

(They sing 'Holy, holy, holy' again with descant on the repeat.)

Archoir

Thank you everybody that will be enough for today. *(They start to disperse)*. But before you go – there's something I have to tell you. There will have to be some extra rehearsals over the next few weeks. Word has come that a very important event is to take place soon which will deserve an extra-special celebration, with new music and words that have never been sung before. . .

(Buzz of excitement among the angels)

JA3

Tell us more!

Archoir

I can't, because I don't know myself. All I know is that it's something big and we'll have to sing as we've never sung before! You'll have to ask Michael - if anyone knows, he will.

(All leave)

Scene 2: A courtyard in heaven

Enter Michael, looking very thoughtful, pacing to and fro; presently joined by Gabriel.

Gabriel

Greetings, Michael!

Michael

Ah, Gabriel, good to see you again! You've been so busy lately and time has just flown, but I meant to ask you – how did that special mission go, the one you were sent on some months ago?

Gab

Oh, pretty well thank you. Mind you, Nazareth is only a tiny dot on the earth-map. But once there I soon found the house all right.

Mic

And what was her reaction?

Gab

As you'd expect, she was afraid and bewildered but I managed to assure her everything would be taken care of.

Mic

As it will be, of course.

Gab

And how are things back up here? All on schedule?

Mic

I think so. The choir's been told they'll have to put in some extra work.

Gab

Good. But the main plan is still a secret, I hope? As I came along the corridor I couldn't help hearing a lot of whispering among the choir members. I think rumours are already flying about.

Mic

There are certain things into which even angels long to look, but have to wait for till the right moment comes.

(JA1, JA2 and JA3 enter)

JA1

Gabriel and Michael together again! Discussing something important by the look of it.

JA2

Yes, do tell us what you're up to!

Gab

That's not for you to know just yet.

JA1

I reckon it's all to do with this big event we keep hearing about but everyone says is strictly hush-hush.

JA2

It's not fair, telling us it will be exciting but keeping us in the dark.

Mic

Well, I can tell you this much, and you can tell the rest of the choir too. It will be the biggest happening since since, the word went out "Let there be light!"

JA1

What? Since the dawn of creation?

JA2

When all the morning stars sang together and we led the singing?

Mic

Indeed!

JA3

Do you remember my descant?

JA1 and JA2

Here we go again!

(All leave)