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AND THE ANGEL SAID

3-PART TREBLE US \$1.95

CME Holiday Lights

And the Angel Said

John Burge

Doreen Rao's
choral MUSIC
-experience-
BOOSEY & HAWKES



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PROGRAM NOTE

And the Angel Said was commissioned by the St. Louis Children's Choir and their Artistic Director, Ethelyn Sparfeld, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCoy and Mr. Paul E. Sparfeld. This work was one of two commissions for SSA choir and orchestra that the St. Louis Children's Choir asked Burge to compose in 1996. The other commissioned work was the four-movement setting of Dennis Lee's poetry entitled, *SIMPLE SONGS*, which was published by Boosey & Hawkes in 2001. Both of these commissions were the result of the choir's past performances of movements from Burge's work, *THANK YOU GOD*, which is scored for SSA choir and chamber orchestra. The two SLCC commissions were conceived to give children's choirs the opportunity to perform music with an orchestral accompaniment that is suitably scored to match young voices while at the same time providing a keyboard reduction that makes it possible to perform the works satisfyingly with just piano.

And the Angel Said is a setting of the familiar lines from the gospel of Luke that announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds (Luke 2.10-14). Of particular interest in the composition is the instrumental introduction which sets the scene by simultaneously combining two Christmas carols: *Silent Night* and *The First Noel*. Both of these tunes return at the end of the work while the choir sings the phrases, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards all!" To magnify the triumphant effect of the ending even more, it is possible to have an adult choir sing the two Christmas carols, or alternatively, using a few instruments on these lines would be a great addition.

— John Burge

PERFORMANCE NOTE

While not a required element to perform this piece, it is possible to have an additional choir of Soprano and Bass choristers sing the two Christmas carols that combine at the end of the work (*Silent Night* and *The First Noel*). To stress the optional aspect of this, the choral parts have only been included as an addendum to this octavo on page 22 and do not appear in the full score.

TEXT

Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards all!

— Luke 2.10-14

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Canadian composer John Burge was born in Dryden, Ontario in 1961. He holds university degrees from the University of Toronto (B.Mus. and M.Mus.) and the University of British Columbia (D.M.A.). Since 1987 he has been teaching in the School of Music at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where he is a Full Professor of Composition and Theory. John Burge has written a large body of vocal, chamber, and orchestral compositions. He is particularly well known for his choral music, which has been performed by such choirs as The Elmer Iseler Singers, The BBC Singers and The Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus.

In selecting texts to set to music, John Burge is repeatedly drawn to the poetry of Canadian poets such as Margaret Avison, whose poetry is used in Burge's composition *WINTER SUN* (a large work for choir and percussion ensemble that is also published by Boosey & Hawkes). A number of his works for large ensemble draw their influence from a distinctively Canadian perspective as well, as is indicated by the titles of some of his orchestral compositions: *SNOWDRIFT*, *ROCKY MOUNTAIN OVERTURE*, *UPPER CANADA FIDDLE SUITE* and *THE CANADIAN SHIELD*. A passionate advocate for Canadian music, he was a member of the Executive Council of the Canadian League of Composers for many years, serving as President from 1998-2006.

PERFORMANCE TIME

ca. 7 minutes

Commissioned by the St. Louis Symphony Children's Choirs
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCoy and Mr. Paul E. Sparfeld

AND THE ANGEL SAID

for Three-Part Treble Voices & Piano or Orchestra*

Text
Luke 2:10-14

Music by
John Burge

Andante ♩ = 63

Fl.

muted Tpts.

Piano

p dolce

Vla. & Vc.

6

11

17

23

accel. e cresc.

* Full score and parts are available from the publisher on rental.

A Moderato ♩ = 88

All voices in unison

29 *f marc.*

Fear not, fear not, fear

34 *ff* *mf*

not: for, be - hold, I bring you good tid - ings of great

39 *ff* *mf* *sempre ff*

Treble I

joy which shall be to all peo - ple.

Treble II

joy which shall be to all peo - ple.

Treble III

joy which shall be to all peo - ple.

ff *mf* *sempre ff*