

100%
Reproducible



3013A

Heaven Rejoices

A Christmas Musical

The Script by Ken Parker

Music Composed by Ken Parker / Arrangements by Bob Krogstad

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

- 1st Recording Angel — A man of indeterminate age. He should be a good actor capable of carrying this larger part and projecting the proper character in voice and mannerisms.
- 2nd Recording Angel — The same as the above. (*Note: Since only two angels' names are revealed in the Bible, the drama avoids the use of names for these two angels.*)
- Michael — A man of indeterminate age who projects a strong image of authority. He is the chief arch-angel and the superior of the two recording angels listed above.
- Mary — (This role may be played by a soloist or pantomimed during the solos.) She is a young woman with long hair (or a wig) perhaps in her late teens. She must be able to project the pain of bearing a child, the joy of motherhood, and several other emotions with only a few lines of spoken dialogue.
- Gabriel — A man much like Michael. He has a solo to perform or pantomime. (Pantomimes do not need to be verbatim 'lipsync,' but may be played out conversationally.)
- Joseph — A man somewhat older than Mary who can still portray her husband. This is a small part with only a few lines and pantomiming.
- Shepherds — No attempt is made to develop characters for the shepherds. They are presented purely through pantomime. Any number of them is possible according to space with a minimum of three.
- Wise Men — No attempt is made to develop the characters of the wise men. They are presented purely through pantomime. The traditional number of three can be maintained or increased since the Biblical narrative is not specific. Space may dictate the best option.

COSTUMING

One recommendation is necessary at the very outset. If you are on a limited budget, save your money for costuming. The actors need to feel the part and nothing can inspire that feeling quite like excellent costumes. Bath robes are for bathrooms, but costumes are for the stage!

The angels' robes are very important to the look of this production. There are a number of patterns for robes on the market, but none of them will probably be suitable as an angel's robe. Usually, the sleeves are so small that you will need your seamstress to double the size. To have the proper effect, the actor should be able to raise his arms level with his shoulders and the bottom of the sleeve should nearly be touching the gown that hangs on his body. Then include on the back of the gown an enormous hood. The angels do not wear these hoods. They simply add a wonderful touch of richness and grace to the garments. Four of these gowns are necessary for the four angels (Michael, Gabriel, and the two recording angels).

The costumes for Joseph, Mary and the shepherds are well-known to everyone, so we will pass over them in our discussion. If ideas are needed, simply refer to religious art pictures for inspiration.

One word about the wise men's costumes might be helpful. Here is a chance for bright colors and special accessories like fake fur remnants, drapery rope tie-backs, and even old pieces of fake jewelry. Buy a piece of upholstery, two or three yards long, and make a cape that will trail behind one of the Wise Men. Don't forget about turbans, hats, and even crowns. Although this sounds costly, these items may be used repeatedly in future Christmas productions.

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("Overture/Opening Theme")

(Michael and the two Recording Angels enter the stage area where there are two desks to the left of the audience.)

- 1st Recording Angel* — Why have you taken us aside from the other angels, Michael?
- 2nd Recording Angel* — Yes, we would like to join with the other angels in praise for this great new wonder the Lord God plans to create.
- Michael* — And so you shall. But the Lord God has a commission for you. The keeping of the great record books of the Universe are to be committed to your care.
- 1st Recording Angel* — The Universe! That is what God's new creation will be called. And you say that we (*pointing to 2nd Recording Angel*) are in charge of the record books. The Lord God honors us by allowing us to serve Him. (*A small bow accompanies his last statement.*)
- Michael* — You are not alone in being chosen to serve in this new creation of God. I will require an enormous number of angels to administer God's plans.
- 2nd Recording Angel* — (*He has gone over to the two desks and is looking curiously at the large books lying there.*)
Michael, these books are not the same. This book is plain in its appearance, while this has the picture of a white creature on it.
- Michael* — Yes, the books are different. The first with a plain appearance will be used from the very outset of the creation of this Universe. (*To the 2nd Recording Angel.*) You will stand by the second book with the creature's picture on it. It will be needed soon.
- 1st Recording Angel* — (*He goes over to the 2nd book and picks it up to look at it.*)
I have heard there are to be intelligent creatures in this Universe. Is this a picture of one of them?
- Michael* — (*He laughs gently at this obvious mistake.*) Oh, no. The Lord God has said He will make man in His own image, a little lower than the angels.
- 2nd Recording Angel* — Can't you tell us about this second book, Michael?
- Michael* — It is very hard to understand the things the Lord God says are going to happen.
- 1st Recording Angel* — Please explain it to us!

- *Michael — God has revealed very little information. He has declared that the creatures should be called mankind and that they will be free to choose to serve the Lord God.
- 2nd Recording Angel — That is as it should be for we have the freedom of choice.
- Michael — But here is the strange thing. He has said mankind will refuse to serve Him and will choose to serve one of the angels instead.
- 2nd Recording Angel — Oh, no! You mean these creatures would worship an angel? Only a very wicked angel would allow himself to be worshipped.
- 1st Recording Angel — (*Greatly agitated*) And that would be sin! Nothing like this has ever happened in eternity. Oh, how horrible! God must not permit these awful creatures to dishonor Him.
- Michael — I told you it is very difficult to understand. The Lord God has further said that when these creatures, (*hesitating as if trying a new word*) these . . . men, turn away from Him, He is going to try to win them back through love and sacrifice.
- 2nd Recording Angel — (*Suddenly moved and reflecting quietly.*)
How wonderful! Love will be in the place of judgment.
- 1st Recording Angel — Blessed be the Lord for His mercy endures forever.
(*Song, “The Eternal Plan,” is sung through the second verse. Over the music of the third verse [measure 43], the conversation continues.*)
- 1st Recording Angel — You spoke of the Lord God making a sacrifice, Michael. What does it mean?
- Michael — This is a great mystery that is most difficult to understand. The Lord God has decreed that rebellion against Him must always end in death.
- 2nd Recording Angel — No one has ever rebelled, Michael.
- Michael — But man will rebel when he is tempted and he will be condemned to death. And then, here is a wonder: God the Son, will leave heaven and become one of these creatures. (*Evident amazement overtakes the faces of the two Recording Angels.*) And then . . . (*Michael gazes off into space with a look of confusion and wonder.*) . . . He will take mankind’s penalty of death upon himself.
- 1st & 2nd Recording Angels — (*At these words the two Recording Angels sink slowly to their knees as if to praise God.*) (*Song, “The Eternal Plan,” continues to the end.*)