

'Twas the Year Before Christmas

A Christmas Musical for Unison Voices

*Written and Arranged by
Ruth Elaine Schram and Scott Schram*

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Foreword

Throughout the ages, God has made promises to His faithful people through His Word. Today, we can look back and see how God fulfilled these promises. But, long ago, God's people had only His Word, and the faith to believe that God would do it.

One of His great promises was the coming of the Messiah, who would bring salvation to the world. *'Twas the Year Before Christmas* gives us a chance to step back in time. As we travel through history, we can be among the first to hear the glad news. Listen! God's promise of a Messiah is about to be fulfilled.

Appropriate for church children's choirs, Christian schools or Sunday schools, *'Twas the Year Before Christmas* features simple narration and dialog, and speaking roles for 10–12 people. Directors are encouraged to add dialog and characters as necessary. The choir may perform all of the songs, or some of the songs may be assigned to soloists or a few voices.

A fully supportive keyboard accompaniment, costuming, prop and staging suggestions are included. Handy 5-packs of Singer's Editions, featuring melody, lyrics, narration and dialog, and an optional fully-orchestrated accompaniment/performance compact disc (CD) recording are available separately.

About the Authors

Ruth Elaine Schram wrote her first song at the age of twelve, and her first octavo was published twenty years later, in 1988. In 1992, she became a full-time composer and arranger. She now has over 1,000 published works. Over ten million copies of her songs have been purchased in their various venues, and she has been a recipient of the ASCAP Special Award each year since 1990. In addition to her choral music for church and school, her songs appear on thirty albums (four of which have been Dove Award Finalists) and on numerous award-winning children's videos.

Scott Schram is a professional software developer who has created search engines, education and banking systems, and arcade games for Broderbund Software. He has been involved in numerous audio and multimedia productions. Scott earned a B.S. degree in mathematics, summa cum laude, from the University of Alabama in Birmingham, where he now lives with his wife, Ruthie.

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OVERTURE

KEYBOARD

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (Trad. French Carol)

(♩ = ca 112)

The musical score for the Overture is written for keyboard in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The first system (measures 1-4) features a treble staff with eighth-note patterns and a bass staff with quarter notes. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody in the treble staff with dotted rhythms and a steady bass line. The third system (measures 9-12) concludes the piece with a 'poco rall.' (slightly slower) marking and a final cadence.

13 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (by John F. Wade, 1751)

The musical score for 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' is written for keyboard in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with an 'a tempo' marking. The first system (measures 1-4) features a treble staff with block chords and a bass staff with eighth-note patterns. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody in the treble staff with eighth-note patterns and a steady bass line.