

May the Angels

For Nan, in loving memory

Text from the Funeral Liturgy

Polish Carol
adapted by Tom Kendzia

$\text{♩} = 69$ *Gently, like a lullaby*

Capo 3: (D) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
F F/A C7 F

1.,2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a-dise.

Keyboard
Harplike

(D) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
F F/A C7 F

1.,2. May the mar - tyrs wel - come you, wel - come you to heav - en.

(A7) (D) (G/B) (A7)
C7 F Bb/D C7

1. Peace will be yours now in the Ho - ly Cit - y.
2. One day we'll see you in the New Je - ru - sa - lem.

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(D) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
F F/A C7 F

1.,2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a-dise.

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). It features a melody with lyrics: "1.,2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a-dise." The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and provides harmonic support with chords corresponding to the chord symbols above: F, F/A, C7, and F.

⊕ CODA

(D) (G/D) (D) (G/D) (D) (A7)
F Bb/F F Bb/F C7 F

* Optional C Instrument

The second system of music is a CODA section. It features a vocal line that is mostly silent (indicated by dashes) and a piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is in a grand staff and includes a section labeled "* Optional C Instrument" which provides a melodic line for a C instrument. The chord symbols above the vocal line are: F, Bb/F, F, Bb/F, C7, and F.

*See performance notes.

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(♩ = 69) *Gently, like a lullaby*

OPTIONAL SATB

Soprano

Alto

1.,2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a - dise.

Tenor

Bass

1.,2. May the mar - tyrs wel - come you, wel - come you to heav - en.

1. Peace will be yours now in the Ho - ly Cit - y.
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1.,2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a - dise.

The musical score is written for SATB voices. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass) and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The tempo is marked as 'Gently, like a lullaby' with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes a large 'PREVIEW' watermark.

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Performance Notes

This piece is a song of farewell taken from the *In Paradisum* that is part of the prayers of final commendation. The melody is a traditional Polish folk tune, commonly known as “Slizcna Panienska,” which is part of the Polish Christmas tradition. The power of *May the Angels* lies in its simplicity and its sense of calm. Its effectiveness will depend on the singer’s attention to the melodic rhythms and the text so as to convey the sense of hopefulness that prevails in the text. The accompaniment should be as calming as a mother’s gentle caresses of a sleeping baby. Perform this with that image in mind. The dotted eighth-note rhythm in the last measure should especially be sung smoothly and connected. Regardless of the instrument used to accompany this piece, great care should be taken to imitate the gentleness of a harp. Keyboard players should not play the melody but use the accompaniment provided. Incidentally, I discovered by accident that this piece works very well *a cappella*, especially at the grave.

This octavo also contains an SATB version for choir if you have a funeral choir, or if your choir happens to be singing at a special funeral. On a side note here, having a choir that just sings at all the funerals is a great way to provide all members of the community — whether young or old, hardly known or very popular — with the same sense of ministry that only a good choir can provide. The key words here are simplicity, gentleness, and consolation.

— Tom Kendzia

Preview

Assembly Edition

MAY THE ANGELS

Text from the Funeral Liturgy Polish Carol
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1, 2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a - dise.



1, 2. May the mar - tyrs wel - come you, wel - come you to heav - en.



1. Peace will be yours now in the Ho - ly Cit - y.
2. One day we'll see you in the New Je - ru - sa - lem.



1, 2. May the an - gels lead you, lead you in - to par - a - dise.

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