In memory of Jean Burke (1926–2015)

May the Angels

Refrain based on In Paradisum

Gerard Chiusano

Verses based on the Order of Christian Funerals

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Note: Refrain may be played once as an introduction.
*Begin at the asterisk for a shorter introduction.

Edition #30139506
May the Angels

City, Jerusalem, the new Jerusalem. May the

Bm F♯m Em A sus4 A7 D sus4 D G/A A G/A

2-4 to Verses Final D sus4 D G/A D Fine

lem. lem.

2-4 to Verses Final D sus4 D G/A D Fine

lem. lem.

2-4 to Verses Final D sus4 D G/A D Fine

lem. lem.

May the Angels
VERSES: Cantor/Choir

1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid. 
   Come to meet him/her, angels of the Lord.
2. Choirs of angels bring you home, 
   and with Abraham may you find rest.
3. May you see the face of God, 
   and rejoice among the saints in love.

May the Angels

1-3. Receive his/her soul, 
   Holy ones, and prepare

1-3. Send him/her to God, Most High. 
   May the

May the Angels
In memory of Jean Burke (1926–2015)

May the Angels

(Guitar/Vocal)

Refrain based on *In Paradisum* Gerard Chiusano

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**REFRAIN:** (\( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{c}} \approx \text{ca. 80} \))

1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All

May the angels lead you into paradise,

the martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new Jerusalem.

May the

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**VERSES:** Cantor/Choir

1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid. Come to meet him/her, angels of the Lord.

2. Choirs of angels bring you home, and with Abraham may you find rest.

3. May you see the face of God, and rejoice among the saints in love.

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1-3. Receive his/her soul, O holy ones, and present

1-3. sent him/her to God, Most High.

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Composer Notes

“May the Angels” was written for the funeral of my wife’s aunt, Jean Burke, and sung as the Song of Farewell. The Song of Farewell is the climax of the funeral journey, when we commend the soul of our loved one to the care and mercy of God, a true act of faith. The Song of Farewell is one of the few times in liturgy where the action accompanies the music, rather than the other way around. The song is required, while the incensing of the casket is optional, though it should always be done except for a serious reason.

It is best to use this selection in its entirety, especially if it is new to the repertoire of the gathered assembly. The repetition of the refrain (which I suggest singing in a responsorial style) will allow even the first-time assembly to embrace the text and melody, and sing their prayer to accompany the journey of their loved one into the arms of God. With a strong cantor or choir it is also possible to have the assembly sing the second half of each verse because of its repetition, asking the saints of God to receive this loved one and present them to God.

Finally, I find it effective use of this piece to have the cantor intone the refrain, inviting the assembly to repeat, and then going through two verses and refrains, then underscoring the Prayer of Commendation with soft music to bridge into the final procession with a repeat of the refrain, the last verse, and a double refrain, so that the assembly can process with the casket singing “May the angels be your guide…” Other forms may be devised as well, according to pastoral situation and need.

May God be praised in everything we do.

—Gerard Chiusano
May the Angels

SOLO INSTRUMENT I & II in C

Gerard Chiusano

REFRAIN (q = ca. 80)

VERSES 1-3: Tacet Verse 1

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Note: Refrain may be played once as an introduction (in which case, play intro then tacet while cantor sings).
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MAY THE ANGELS

Gerard Chiusano

Refrain

May the angels lead you into paradise, the martyrs come to welcome you, and take you to the holy city, the new Jerusalem.

Verses

1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid. Come to meet him/her, angels of the Lord.
2. Choirs of angels bring you home, and with joy among the saints in love you and your soul, O holy ones, and present him/her to God, Most High.

1. May you see the face of God, and receive his/her rest. 2. Abraham may you find rest. Receive his/her soul, O holy ones, and present him/her to God, Most High.

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