

# Come and Behold Him

A Musical  
for Christmas

## REHEARSAL GUIDE

by Dennis Allen

## **“CHRISTMAS ANGELS”**

*with* **“JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME”**

What a festive, Christmassy way to start a musical! If possible, have some children sing along with the soprano part. They could actually sing on the first three songs of the musical. Practice the overlapping choir entrances and cutoffs throughout the opening; in meas. 30, 38, 46; and similar passages. Invite the congregation to join in when “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” begins in meas. 56.

## **“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL”**

*with* **“ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY”**

Familiar carols with an energetic, contemporary flavor—sounds like the perfect place for the congregation to once again sing along. There are no tricks in the choir parts. This is basically right out of the hymnal. Work hard to express these wonderful texts. When a song is familiar, it sometimes takes extra work to convey the message. You are inviting the congregation to “come and worship.”

## **“WHO COMES THIS NIGHT?”**

This great James Taylor Christmas classic needs to be sung with a light touch. This is also a great song on which to include children. It has a “one” feel with the quicker tempo, so let the phrases carry a “lilt” accordingly. Connect all the way to the rests in each phrase, and don’t let the vocal energy die.

## **“IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE”**

This song also has a “one” feel, so carry the phrases fully to each rest. This new text is a perfect fit for the Christmas season, so make sure that you clearly enunciate the words. Work on balance during the final chorus, ensuring that both melodies are clear and understandable.

## **“I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT”**

A good option would be to have a male soloist sing the opening lines of this arrangement. He should sing with plenty of “heart.” A duet could begin in meas. 12 and continue to the chorus. On the chorus, let the sound build on the word “light.” This song serves as one of the high emotional points of the musical, so add the vocal energy needed to bring it to life.

## **“BOW THE KNEE”**

This is a wonderful commitment and encounter song, so it needs a true “testimony” appeal. Discuss the content of the text, and ask choir members to share personal stories about humbling themselves before God. Let these contemporary rhythms flow easily, and don’t force them. Listen to the demo if you need a stylistic guide. Hopefully this song will set up a beautiful time of response from the congregation.

## **“COME AND SEE”**

This simple chorus is an invitation for the congregation to meet the Lord. It has several sections, each needing emotion and worshipful presentation. If a longer invitation is necessary, repeat meas. 9-33, then move to the “alleluia” section. The “alleluia” section, beginning in meas. 36, should grow slowly to a climax as you approach the final chorus in meas. 53. Then ramp up the excitement and energy as you reprise the opening “Christmas Angels” theme.