

# Alec Roth – MEN & ANGELS

for unaccompanied choir

first performed by the Farrant Singers, conducted by Andrew Mackay, Wilton House, Wilton, 12 July 2014

## COMPOSER'S NOTE

This setting for unaccompanied choir of the poem 'Antiphon II' was made for the George Herbert Festival held in Bemerton, Salisbury and Wilton in 2014, the first performance being given by The Farrant Singers, conducted by Andrew Mackay, in the Double Cube Room, Wilton House on the 12th of July. Herbert sets his verses out like a play script, with parts for 'Chorus', 'Men' and 'Angels'. This works well on the page, but is of no help when the text is sung, so I have entitled my setting 'Men and Angels' to give the listener a clue as to what is going on. The upper voices (soprano, alto) sing the words of the Angels, the lower voices (tenor, bass) the Men, and both groups combine for the Chorus.

<i>Chorus</i>	Praised be the God of love,
<i>Men</i>	Here below,
<i>Angels</i>	And here above:
<i>Chorus</i>	Who hath dealt his mercies so,
<i>Angels</i>	To his friend,
<i>Men</i>	And to his foe;
<i>Chorus</i>	That both grace and glory tend
<i>Angels</i>	Us of old,
<i>Men</i>	And us in th'end.
<i>Chorus</i>	The great shepherd of the fold
<i>Angels</i>	Us did make,
<i>Men</i>	For us was sold.
<i>Chorus</i>	He our foes in pieces brake:
<i>Angels</i>	Him we touch;
<i>Men</i>	And him we take.
<i>Chorus</i>	Wherefore, since that he is such,
<i>Angels</i>	We adore,
<i>Men</i>	And we do crouch.
<i>Chorus</i>	Lord, thy praises should be more.
<i>Men</i>	We have none,
<i>Angels</i>	And we no store.
<i>Chorus</i>	Praised be the God alone,
	Who hath made of two folds one.

George Herbert (1593-1633), 'Antiphon II'

**DURATION:** ca. 4 minutes

**FORCES REQUIRED:** Unaccompanied Choir SSATBB

**SCORE SAMPLE:** Click [here](#) for sample pages of the score

**RECORDING:** *Men and Angels* is recorded by Ex Cathedra, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, on the CD "[A Time to Dance](#)", on the Hyperion label (CDA68144). Follow the link to sample the recording.

**PUBLICATION:** *Men and Angels* is published by Edition Peters, Leipzig, London, New York  
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