

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

The musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It begins with a melodic line for the voice, starting on a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a series of eighth notes: B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. This is followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4. The lower staff is in bass clef and provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The lyrics 'ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!' are positioned between the two staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or rests.