

THE ANGEL Drama Play ~ 1200s/Present

This short play was so fun to put together - juggling the past and the present. I was allowed to use a fanciful story idea from a church near where I used to live in England, which I then combined with research into Middle Ages Celtic Christianity.

The Angel includes three pieces of choral music, one solo, instruments, dance, choreography, five poems and of course, Latin.

The poem beginning, “You Lord are in this place, your Presence fills it, your Presence is peace” (Adam), has been particularly meaningful – especially when I was teaching overseas.

This play is perfect for a choral group.

–Rebecca Locklear



Skit Notes: The Angel **Crusader Knight and Celtic Christianity** Rebecca Locklear

Summary: A mum and daughter are setting up for a Sunday service. The spiritually perceptive daughter feels that two people who have been dead for centuries and buried in the church are not really at rest. How does an angel make things right?

Cast of Characters	# of Lines
Narrator	5
Mum	13
Daughter, 9-11 years old	17
Angel	24 plus singing
Crusader Knight, person who rises up	13
Voice	8 plus three songs
Voices, an SATB choir and/or SSA choir	5 plus three songs
Duchess, person who rises up	8 plus song

Setting: Present day church built in the Middle Ages; back in time to the 1200s.

Background Information: This skit provides information regarding Celtic Christianity, the role of knights, and how some women oversaw their homes in the 13th century.

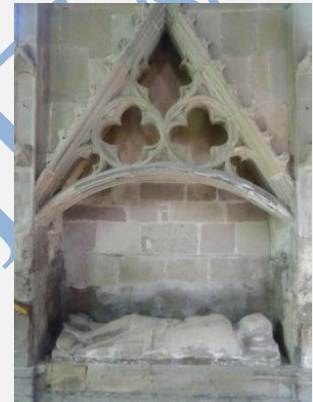
St. Cuthbert's Church in Norham, England, erected in 1165 between the village and the River Tweed, was a place of significance during medieval times.

- In this church in 1292, John Balliol paid homage to King Edward I of England for the kingdom of Scotland. (King Balliol reigned from 1292-1296.)
- In 1320, King Robert Bruce (reigned 1306-1329) occupied and fortified St. Cuthbert's Church while besieging the nearby castle.



Crusader Knight: There is a tomb and much eroded effigy of a 13th century knight in St Cuthbert's Church. It was found when twenty inches of mud were cleared from the floor during extensive repairs in 1883.

This stone figure, with sword and shield, is wearing mail and his hands are clasped and legs crossed. His feet rest on a lion. "The Puritans removed much of the carving and parts of the figures on the sides (Graham, 35)." It would have been unusual for a "lowly" knight to have been buried in the church so this



BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONTINUES FOR 3 PAGES

Opening scene

Scene 1 **In the sanctuary of the church**

VOICES: *(sitting at back of stage facing front with heads down)*

KNIGHT and DUCHESS: *(lie on separate tombs chest/effigy stage right)*

MUM: *(enters sanctuary stage left with basket of markers and papers for children, bag of other items to set for church service)*

DAUGHTER: *(chewing gum, follows MUM with basket of flowers, places them on floor center stage; goes to look at effigy stage right; bored but intelligent)* These statue things are kind of scary. Look how the legs are crossed.

MUM: *(bustling about, rather scattered, sets items for children in proper places)* They might look out of whack today, but they are just people at rest. Perhaps they might...

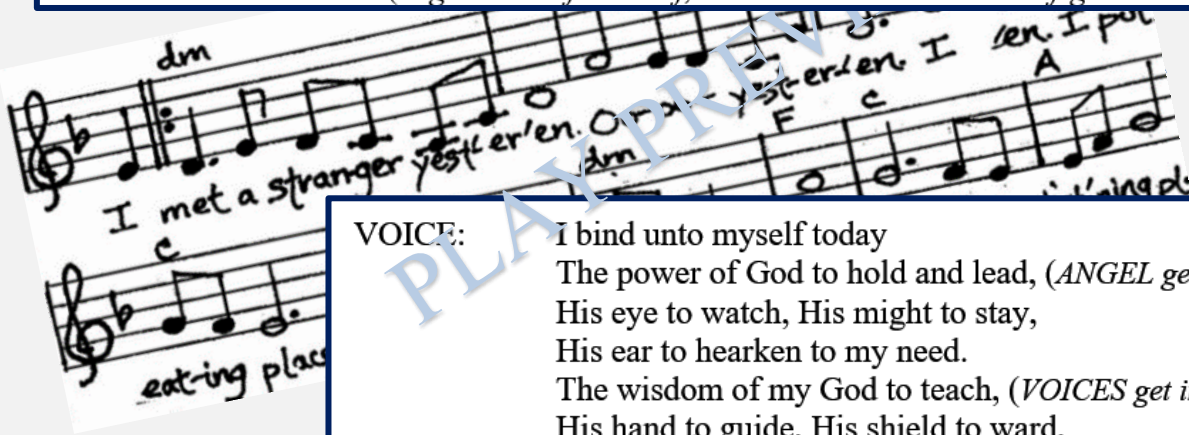
DAUGHTER: *(interrupts)* Well, they don't look like they're at rest!

MUM: *(picks up basket of flowers and crosses to stage right)* I think the crossed legs mean that this unknown knight was in the Crusades. How about a short prayer for

Scene 2 In the church

ANGEL: (*enters church*)
Hearts, I sense, are not at ease,
Even in two tombs as these.
My friends (*indicate tombs*) shall find in this dream,
A path to joy, it will seem.
(*to KNIGHT*) Rise up, oh knight.
Your Crusading quest was not quite right.
In this room, you shall see,
The borderland of reality.

KNIGHT: (*awakes, not knowing he has died, pretends has sword, yells as rushes to protect liege lord and fight enemy*) My Lord! Look yonder! (*points*) Three of them!
Attack! (*begins to defend self, makes sounds ad lib. as fights hand to hand with*



VOICE: I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead, (*ANGEL gestures for GIRL VOI*)
His eye to watch, His might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach, (*VOICES get in semi-circle*)
His hand to guide, His shield to ward,
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard. (*from St. Patrick's breastplate; KN*
center of semi-circle while VOICES sing)

VOICES: **Song: The Prayer of St. Patrick** (*girls with choreography; after s*
continues by repeating song softly as speaking continues)

KNIGHT: (*puts wooden cross around his neck*) You Lord are in this place.

UBI CARITAS

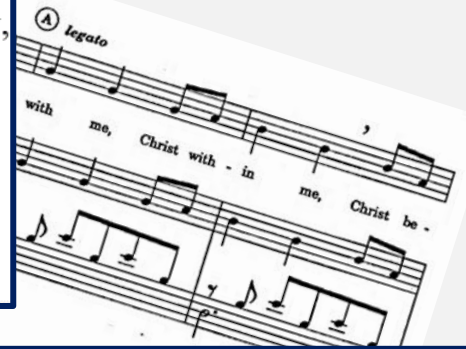
COMPOSED and ARRANGED by

CONNIE DOVER

DUCHESS: (*rises, give orders to pretend servant*) ...and bring cakes to the sitting room for
the guests. Send the maid to make up two guest chambers. Oh – and have Cook
prepare duck with sauce for the meal. I willst find leaves of the walnut to address
the tooth pain of dearest John and will be right along. (*makes to exit then stops*
when hears ANGEL and tur/hs in surprise)

ANGEL: Thy commands naturally do come,
But thy work on this earth is truly done.
Hospitality is in thy heart,

DUCHESS: *(stands)* God bless the house from ground to stay,
From beam to wall and all the way.
From head to post, from ridge to clay,
From balk to roof-tree let it lay.
From ground to top and every day
God bless both fore and aft, I pray.
Nor from the house God's blessing stray,



ANGEL: *(turns to audience, center stage)*
The eye of the eagle to you will come. Pax Domine sit semper vobiscum. (*Latin*
Tr.: "The peace of the Lord be always with you.")

WHERE IS THIS USED?

- Christian school choral groups
- Church youth or adults
- Homeschool events
- Community choral/drama events
- Middle Ages reenactments

My passion is teaching history through the arts: music, art, dance, and drama. Please visit my webpage for more drama skits and plays about true events in history or to look through my unit studies.

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