



Angels We Have Heard on High

Easy Piano Sheet Music

French traditional (1842)

Level 2 | Full score, fingering, practice tips

Door 11 of the Free Piano Advent Calendar

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Angels We Have Heard on High

Key	Time Signature	Tempo	Difficulty	Measures
F major	4/4	Allegro mod., 100 BPM	Beginner - Level 2	15

About This Piece

The tune is French traditional, known in French as Les anges dans nos campagnes. It was first printed in 1842 in Lambillotte's Choix de cantiques, credited W. M. The English text is by James Chadwick (died 1882), from 1862; the words are not printed here. The verse melody used here comes from Charles L. Hutchins (died 1920), who printed it in The Parish Choir, No. 543, in 1891 and again in his Carols Old and Carols New (Boston, 1916), Carol 181. The Gloria refrain matches Lambillotte's print, but his 1842 verse is a different tune. Our arrangement keeps Hutchins' key of F major, plays the verse twice and the Gloria refrain once, and adds a single-note left hand. It does not use the 1937 arrangement by E. S. Barnes.

Notes and Hand Positions

Fingering Guide

Right Hand: C4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5

The verse sits in F position: thumb (1) on F4, index (2) on G4, middle (3) on A4, ring (4) on Bb4 and pinky (5) on C5. In the Gloria the hand moves up one key, so the thumb covers G4, ring (4) takes C5 and pinky (5) D5, then it slides back to F4 in measure 11. In measure 12 the thumb drops to middle C for two notes before returning to F4.

Left Hand: F2, G2, A2, Bb2, C3 (single notes, one or two per measure)

F position for the whole piece: pinky (5) on F2, ring (4) on G2, middle (3) on A2, index (2) on Bb2 and thumb (1) on C3. Only half and whole notes: mostly F2 and C3 in the verse, and a stepwise line F2-A2, Bb2-G2, A2-F2 under the Gloria.

Notes Used in This Piece

Right Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
C4	Ledger line below treble staff	Middle C	Thumb (1)
F4	First space of treble staff	Left of three black keys above C4	Thumb (1)
G4	Second line of treble staff	Between black keys, right of F4	Index (2)
A4	Second space of treble staff	Between black keys, right of G4	Middle (3)
Bb4	Middle line, flat in key signature	Black key just left of B4	Ring (4)
C5	Third space of treble staff	One octave above middle C	Pinky (5)
D5	Fourth line of treble staff	Between two black keys above C5	Pinky (5)

Left Hand

Note	On the Staff	On the Keyboard	Finger
F2	Space below the bass staff	White key an octave below F3	Pinky (5)
G2	First line of bass staff	Between black keys, right of F2	Ring (4)
A2	First space of bass staff	Between black keys, right of G2	Middle (3)
Bb2	Second line, flat in key signature	Black key just left of B2	Index (2)
C3	Second space of bass staff	One octave below middle C	Thumb (1)

Section A - The Verse (Measures 1-8)

The verse, played twice: *mf*, then *mp*. It begins on three A4s and a C5 with fingers 3-3-3-5, uses a dotted rhythm in measures 2 and 4, and ends each half on F4 with the thumb. The left hand plays two half notes in every bar, mostly F2 and C3, with A2 in measures 1 and 5.

Allegro moderato (♩ = 100)



Angels We Have Heard on High - Section A - The Verse

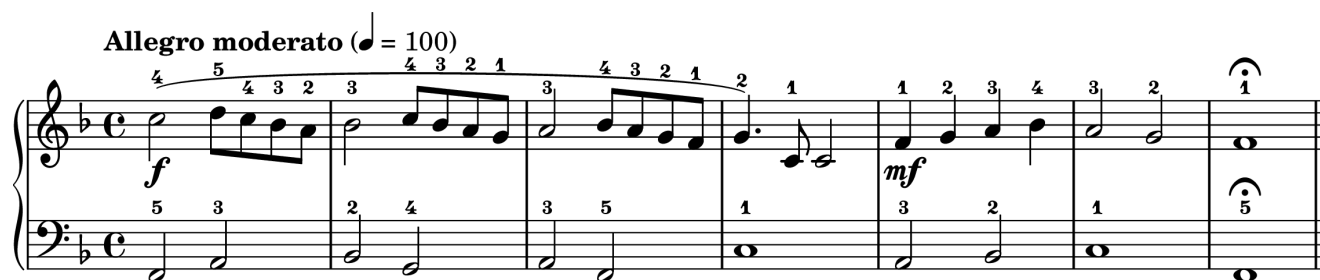
How to Practice This Section

In measures 2 and 4, count 1, 2 and: the dotted quarter takes beat 1 and half of beat 2, and the eighth note falls on the and. Play the second pass softer so the Gloria sounds brighter.

Section B - The Gloria Refrain (Measures 9-15)

Marked forte, sixteen notes under one slur. In each of measures 9-11 a half note (C5, then Bb4, then A4) is followed by four eighths stepping down from the note above it. The line lands on G4, the thumb drops to middle C, and F4-G4-A4-Bb4, A4, G4 close on a whole-note F4.

Allegro moderato (♩ = 100)



The musical score consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) contains the melody, starting with a forte (f) dynamic. It features a long slur over measures 9-11, with fingerings 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1. The left staff (bass clef) contains the accompaniment, starting with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. It features a long slur over measures 9-11, with fingerings 5, 3, 2, 4, 3, 5, 1, 3, 2, 1, 5. The piece concludes with a whole note F4 in both hands.

Angels We Have Heard on High - Section B - The Gloria Refrain

How to Practice This Section

Practice one bar of the run at a time, right hand alone at half speed: 4, 5-4-3-2, then 3, 4-3-2-1. Join two bars, then three, and keep the long slur smooth by not lifting between bars.

Full Score

Here is the complete piece with all sections combined.

Allegro moderato (♩ = 100)



The musical score is written for piano in C major, 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-7) features a right hand melody with fingerings 3, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 3, 5, 3, 2, 1, 3, 5, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2, 3, 5 and a left hand accompaniment with fingerings 5, 3, 1, 5, 5, 1, 1, 5, 5, 3, 1, 5, 5, 1. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. The second system (measures 8-13) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic in the right hand, followed by a *mf* dynamic. Fingerings for the right hand include 3, 2, 1, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 3, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 1, 5. The left hand continues with fingerings 1, 5, 5, 3, 2, 4, 3, 5, 1, 3, 2, 1, 5. The piece concludes with a fermata on the final F4 in the right hand.

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Step-by-Step Practice Guide

Step 1: Right Hand Alone

1. Verse position: thumb on F4, 2 on G4, 3 on A4, 4 on Bb4, 5 on C5
2. Measures 1-2: A4-A4-A4-C5 with 3-3-3-5, then the dotted C5 and an eighth-note Bb4 into A4
3. Measure 4: A4-G4-F4 with 3-2-1, holding the dotted A4 for its full length
4. Measures 9-11: a half note, then four eighths down; fingers 4, 5-4-3-2, then 3, 4-3-2-1 twice
5. Measure 12: G4 with 2, then the thumb drops to middle C for two notes and returns to F4 in measure 13

Step 2: Left Hand Alone

1. F position: pinky on F2, 4 on G2, 3 on A2, 2 on Bb2, thumb on C3
2. Verse: two half notes per bar, F2 and A2, then C3 and F2
3. Gloria: F2-A2, Bb2-G2, A2-F2, then a whole-note C3

Step 3: Hands Together

1. Start at x0.5 in the player, with each left hand note sounding on beat 1 or 3
2. Play the verse twice, the second time softer (*mp*)
3. Loop measures 9-12 hands together: the left hand changes on beats 1 and 3 while the right hand plays eighths on beats 3 and 4
4. Target: Allegro moderato at 100 to the quarter, forte in the Gloria, and the final F4 held under the fermata



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