

LIBRETTO

Like the Angels

1. Chorus

Raise up your choruses like the angels in song of praise
and extol God's grace and the glory of his name.

2. Accompanied Recitative

To tell the goodness of God,
time and words will always fail;
if only my heart remembers
that my God has so mercifully
given me life,
that he has so faithfully
led me from youth on,
that no misfortune might befall me;
how in my middle years he
has so governed the course of my life,
that I should remain healthy;
how he has at all times
through his multitudes of angels
so mercifully preserved me
and faithfully guided me;
that he has richly nourished me,
that he has clothed me
and has done much other good besides,
which I cannot recollect;
therefore let my voice join in with other Christians:

3. Chorale

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom His world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

4. Aria

May my heart sing today with joy
a hallelujah to the Most High!
Acknowledge what he has done,
and join in a song of praise and thanks,
thus God and benediction remain.

5. Accompanied Recitative

God, let my thanks on earth meanwhile be pleasing
to you,
until one day I shall become heavenly.
Then shall I show you perfect thanks
and with the multitude of the elect praise you thus:

6. Chorus

Amen. Laud and glory and wisdom and thanks and praise
and might and strength be unto our God from eternity to
eternity. Amen.

7. Aria

Therefore I wish only to die,
that I may thank thee rightly.
O how touching will it sound,
when my God-consecrated ear
learns from the angels' high choir
to sing songs to the Savior.
Already now I am full of delight,
and I think only of this.

8. Chorale

All praise and thanks to God
the Father, now be given,
the Son, and Him who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven,
the One eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

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*The well-known singing translations of Catherine Winkworth have been used for chorale movements 3 and 8.
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