

ANCIENT GROOVE MUSIC

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Organ accompaniment by Sir John Stainer (1840 - 1901)

John Stainer incorporated the sixth verse of this hymn into his Christmas anthem, *I Desired Wisdom*. The choir sings in unison above his organ harmonisation. It is notable for the chords in bars 9 and 10, which seem to have been referenced by David Willcocks in his now more famous rendering of verse seven, transcribed in *Carols for Choirs*. A recording of King's in the 1950s under Boris Ord also contains that sequence, so it must have been a tradition to elaborate on Stainer's original, which Willcocks carried forward.

Stainer's anthem has the hymn in A major, and the final chord does not resolve, but introduces new thematic material and text. The music has been transposed down to the more familiar key, and the final chord altered.

The musical score is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line for the choir and a piano accompaniment for the organ. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1: The choir begins with the lyrics "Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex-ul - ta - tion; sing all ye ci - ti - zens of hea - ven a -". The organ accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

System 2: The choir continues with "-bove. Glo - ry to God in the high - est. O come, let us a -". The organ accompaniment continues with similar rhythmic patterns.

System 3: The choir concludes with "dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord." The organ accompaniment ends with a final chord marked "Ped." (Pedal) and "senza Ped." (without Pedal).