

Camille Saint-Saëns

Mark Hellem, Arranger

Triumphant Chorus

from Oratorio de Noël Op. 12

Correlated with String Basics, Book 2, page 14



Steps to Successful Literature presents exceptional performance literature - concert and festival pieces - for beginning to intermediate string orchestras. Each piece is correlated with a specific location in **String Basics – Steps to Success for String Orchestra Comprehensive Method** by Terry Shade, Jeremy Woolstenhulme, and Wendy Barden. Literature reinforces musical skills, concepts, and terms introduced in the method. Sometime, a few new concepts are included. They are officially introduced and described in the score.



The Arranger

Mark Hellem is an accomplished composer, arranger, and violinist. He has played with a variety of musical groups, and his compositions ranging in scope from chamber and orchestral works to songs and operas, have been performed around the country.

Mr. Hellem received his formal training in composition at the University of Minnesota where he studied with Domenic Argento, and at the Juilliard School in New York where he worked with Vincent Persichetti. Currently he resides in St. Paul, Minnesota where he regularly performs with the Mississippi Valley Chamber Orchestra.

Basics About the Composition

This arrangement comes from Saint-Saëns' 10th and final movement of **Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12**. It was composed and first performed in Paris, France in 1858. In fact, Saint-Saëns wrote the entire composition in 10 days! His scoring included five vocal soloists, chorus, strings, harp, and organ. The text, written in Latin, tells the Christmas story.

Dynamics have been printed in the music and can be integrated as desired into rehearsals and performance. Dynamics provides a more advanced setting for the work, yet offers a more in depth study of bow usage and control.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8– 1st Violin
- 8– 2nd Violin
- 5– 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5– Viola
- 5– Cello
- 5– String Bass
- 1– Piano (Optional)
- 1– Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, go to www.kjos.com.



Camille Saint-Saëns was born in Paris, France in 1835. He began piano lessons from his great aunt at the age of two and quickly became known as an exceptional child prodigy. Not only could he play the piano with great skill, but he also began composing at age three. By the time he reached age 10, he performed a complete recital, and no doubt included music by Mozart and Beethoven. Saint-Saëns studied organ and composition at the Paris Conservatoire and later served as a church organist for 20 years. Except for his virtuosic concertizing, his musical life was dedicated to his composition and he wrote over 300 works including many orchestral and symphonic works, concerti, solo organ music, choral music, and operas. He said of himself that he lived in music "like a fish in water."

Saint-Saëns was a man of wide interests. He was a prolific essayist, book writer, and poet, and was expert in mathematics. He loved

astronomy and also took a special interest in ancient Roman art and architecture. Saint-Saëns traveled around the world, including a trip to San Francisco, California in 1915. Saint-Saëns died in 1921 having been regarded as one of the greatest French composers of all time.



Camille Saint-Saëns in Paris

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) lived during an exciting time in Paris, France. Performing and visual arts flourished, not just in Paris, but throughout all Europe. With the advance of railway systems and continued growth of other transportation forms, the population of Paris practically exploded. When Saint-Saëns was born, the population of Paris was approximately 1 million. When he passed away 86 years later, the population had grown to an estimated 4,860,000 people. And that number is pretty amazing, especially knowing that World War I had taken place during 1914-1918 and had killed many, many lives. Take a look (above) at the image of a French Infantry Regiment from 1914. Saint-Saëns was not a soldier in the war, but he lived relatively close to this horrendous action.

Paris is known for one of the most famous structures ever built, The Eiffel Tower. It began construction in 1887 and was completed in 1889 for the 1889 World's Fair. It served as the entrance arch to the fair. Here is a photograph taken in 1890 with The Eiffel Tower in the background. This was Saint-Saëns' Paris. It is where he lived and worked.



Imagine a large city before cars or busses. The painting (above right) was created by Camille Pissarro in 1897 of Boulevard Montmartre in Paris. Again, this was Saint-Saëns' city during his lifetime.

Triumphant Chorus

from Oratorio de Noël Op. 12

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Full Conductor Score

Approx. performance time—2:00

Camille Saint-Saëns

Arr. Mark Hellem

Maestoso (♩ = 100–108)

1 *f* legato

2 *f* legato

Viola *f* legato

Cello *f* legato

String Bass *f* legato

Maestoso (♩ = 100–108)

Piano (opt.) *f* legato

6 *mf*

7 *f*

8 *f*

9 *mf*

10 *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Pno. *mf*

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Musical score for strings and piano, measures 11-20. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 11-15, and the second system covers measures 16-20. The instruments are Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Str. Bass, and Piano (Pno.).

System 1 (Measures 11-15):

- Measures 11-12:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes.
- Measure 13:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes.
- Measure 14:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes.
- Measure 15:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes. A fourth finger fingering (4) is indicated for the Viola and Cello.

System 2 (Measures 16-20):

- Measure 16:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes. A *p* dynamic marking is present.
- Measure 17:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes. A *p* dynamic marking is present.
- Measure 18:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes.
- Measure 19:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes.
- Measure 20:** Violins and Viola play quarter notes. Cello and Str. Bass play half notes. A *p* dynamic marking is present.

The piano accompaniment (Pno.) consists of chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands, providing harmonic support for the strings.

This musical score page contains two systems of music, measures 21 through 30. The instruments are Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, String Bass (Str. Bass), and Piano (Pno.).

System 1 (Measures 21-25):

- Measures 21-24:** Violins and Viola play a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*. Cello and String Bass play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.
- Measure 25:** A repeat sign is present. Violins and Viola play a descending melodic line from D5 to G4. Dynamics are *p* and *mp* respectively. Cello and String Bass play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Piano accompaniment continues with chords and bass line.

System 2 (Measures 26-30):

- Measures 26-28:** Violins and Viola play a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*. Cello and String Bass play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Piano accompaniment continues with chords and bass line.
- Measures 29-30:** Violins and Viola play a descending melodic line from D5 to G4. Dynamics are *mf* and *f* respectively. Cello and String Bass play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Piano accompaniment continues with chords and bass line.

A large "SAMPLE" watermark is oriented diagonally across the page.

32 Faster, March style (♩ = 112-116)

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

31 33 34 35

mf *f marcato*

mf *f marcato*

mf *f marcato*

mf *f marcato*

mf

32 Faster, March style (♩ = 112-116)

Pno.

mf *f marcato*

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

36 37 38 39 40

mf *f*

mf *f*

mf *f*

mf *f*

marcato f *mf* *f*

Pno.

mf *f*

43 **Tempo I** (♩ = 100-108)

rit. 41 42 44 45

Vlns. 1 *mf legato*

Vlns. 2 *mf legato*

Vla. *mf legato*

Cello *mf legato*

Str. Bass *mf legato*

Pno. *mf legato*

46 47 48 49 50

Vlns. 1 *ff*

Vlns. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff*

Pno. *ff*

rit.

SO366F- Triumphant Chorus



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