

# 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. Given the widespread fame of Stainer's music in English church choirs during Willcocks' formative years, the re-use must have been an intentional evocation to his audience.

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 line 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 line 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 line 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. Pedal markings "senza Ped." and "Ped." are indicated at the bottom of the organ part.