

Side Notes: The words of “Angels We Have Heard on High” were inspired by a traditional French carol which translated means “the angels in our countryside”. James Chadwick wrote the English version of the words in 1862. The song’s most memorable part is the chorus, “Gloria in excelsis Deo”, which is Latin for “Glory to God in the Highest”. According to Luke 2 in the New Testament, these are words that the angels sang the night Jesus was born.

Angels We Have Heard on High

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The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff begins with a piano (*mp*) dynamic marking. The bass clef staff contains several chords: a whole note chord in the first measure, a whole note chord in the second measure, and two whole note chords in the third measure. Chord symbols 'G', 'F/A', and 'E/G' are placed above the corresponding chords in the bass staff.

The second system of musical notation starts at measure 4. The treble clef staff features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef staff provides harmonic support with chords, including a whole note chord in the third measure with the chord symbol 'E' written below it.

The third system of musical notation starts at measure 9. The treble clef staff contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef staff features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes and quarter notes, including a whole note chord in the third measure with the chord symbol 'G' written above it.