

# Gabriel and Mary

Words by S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924)  
Poem "The Offer" by Mark Greene

Old Basque carol  
arranged by Richard Hubbard

Misterioso ♩ = 68

CHOIR

SOPRANOS

*p* 1. The an - gel Gab - ri - el from hea - ven

Piano

*p*

5

came, his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame. "All

*mf*

*f* *mp*

8

hail" said he, "thou low - ly maid - en, Ma - ry, most high - ly fav - oured la - dy.

*mp* Most high - ly fav - oured

*mp* Ah

11 Glo - - - ri - a".  
 Glo - ri - a.  
 la - dy. Glo - ri - a.  
 Glo - ri - a. *mf* 2. "For

14 **A**  
 known a bles - sed moth - er thou shalt be; all gen - er - a - tions laud and

17 Ah *mf*  
 Ah Most  
 hon - our thee. *f* Thy son shall be Em-man - u - el, by seers fore - told, most

20

*dim.* Optional cut to **C**

high - ly fav - oured la - dy, glo - ri - a.

high - ly fav - oured la - dy, glo - ri - a.

*dim.*

*f*

23

**B**

*mf* *dim.*

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri -

*mf* Glo - ri - a, glo *dim.* - ri -

*mf* Glo - ri - a.

*f* *mf* *dim.*

## READER:

It was an offer she could have refused,  
 a life she could have used in some other way.  
 To grow great with child, for example, after her wedding day;  
 to forego the knowing looks and the slur of slut;  
 to defer to another the chance to tell a father  
 and watch the words twist in her fiance's gut;  
 to make room for some noble's daughter to carry the cause of innocents' slaughter;  
 to allow some other to cradle a son  
 pale from his pinioned death.

*The reading should be timed so that the final word  
 "death" occurs on the first beat of bar 28.*

26

a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a.

a, glo - ri - a.

ri - - a.

## READER:

She could have said:  
 "All things considered, and though I am flattered,  
 I would rather not.  
 I am just a village girl, not fit for such matters".  
 Of course, there was the sigh of angel's wings,  
 the words with all his promises ripened for now,  
 the chance to do something extraordinary,  
 to let what was ordinary become...  
 But afterwards  
 would it not all seem such girlish fancy?

READER:  
 ... death.

28

*p*  
 Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a.

- a.  
 - a.

*p*  
 - a. Glo - - - ri - - a.

*mp*

READER:  
She, turning from the safety of merely human possibility;  
marvelling at how it could be that he should choose her to bless,  
welcomed truth to her womb,  
and said ...

32

Ah

4

INSPECTION COPY ONLY

33

READER:  
... "Yes!"

S. *p* Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly

A. *p* Then Ma - ry

T. *p* Then Ma - ry

B. *p* Then Ma - ry

*p* (for rehearsal only)