**N. TOWN PLAYS 2025, AUDITION PIECE 4: GABRIEL, MARY**

GABRIEL Hail, full of grace, God is with thee.

 Among all women blessed art thou.

 Here this name ‘Eva’ is turned ‘Ave’,

 that is to say, without sorrow are ye now.

MARY Ah, mercy, God, this is a marvellous hearing.

 In the angel’s words I am troubled here.

 I think how may be this greeting;

 I am most unworthy, I cannot answer.

GABRIEL Mary, in this take ye no dread,

 for God’s grace found have ye.

 Ye shall conceive in your womb, indeed,

 a child, the son of the Trinity.

 His name by you Jesus called shall be.

 He shall be great, the Son of the highest called by kind, and of his father David the Lord shall give him the see,

reigning in the house of Jacob, of which reign shall be no end.

MARY Angel, I say to you,

 in what manner of wise shall this be?

 For knowing of man have I none now;

 I have evermore kept, and shall, my virginity.

 I doubt not the words ye have said to me,

 but I ask how it shall be done.

GABRIEL The Holy Ghost shall come from above to thee,

 and the virtue of the highest shall shadow thee so.

 Therefore that holy one shall of thee be born;

 he shall be called the Son of God sage.

 And see, Elizabeth, your cousin there,

 she hath conceived a son in her age.

 This is the sixth month of her passage,

 of her that was called barren.

 Nothing is impossible to God’s usage.

 [*Pause*]

 Mary, come off and haste thee,

 and take heed in thine intent

 how the Holy Ghost, blessed he be,

 abideth thine answer and thine assent.

 Through wise work of divinity,

 the Second Person, verament,

 is made man by fraternity

 within thyself in place present.

 Furthermore, take heed this space

 how all the blessed spirits of virtue

 that are in heaven before God’s face,

 and all the good livers and true

 that are here in this earthly place,

 thine own kindred, the sooth who knew,

 and the chosen souls this time of grace

 that are in hell and bide rescue,

 As Adam, Abraham, and David there,

 and many other of good reputation,

 thine answer desire to hear,

 and thine assent to the Incarnation,

 in which thou standest as preserver

 of all mankind’s salvation.

 Give me thine answer, lady dear,

 to all these creatures comfortation.

MARY With all meekness I incline to this accord,

 bowing down my face with all benignity.

 See here the handmaid of the Lord.

 After thy word be it done to me.

GABRIEL Gramercy, lady free,

 gramercy of your answer on height,

 gramercy of your great humility,

 gramercy, ye lantern of light!

MARY Ah, now I feel in my body be

 perfect God and perfect man

 having all shape of childly carnality;

 even all at once, thus God began.

 I cannot tell what joy, what bliss,

 now I feel in my body!

 Angel Gabriel, I thank you for this.

 Most meekly recommend me to my Father’s mercy.

 To have been the mother of God full little weened I.

 Now my cousin Elizabeth fain would I see,

 how she hath conceived as ye did specify.

 Now blessed be the high Trinity.

GABRIEL Farewell, turtle, God’s daughter dear.

Farewell, God’s mother, I thee honour.

Farewell, God’s sister and his peer.

Farewell, God’s chamber and his bower.

MARY Farewell, Gabriel, specially.

 Farewell, God’s messenger express.

 I thank you for your travail high.

 Gramercy of your great goodness.