**N. TOWN PLAYS 2025, AUDITION PIECE 8: ANGEL, 3 SHEPHERDS**

ANGEL Joy to God that sits in heaven,

 and peace to man on earth’s ground.

 Therefore I sing a joyful steven

 The flower of friendship now is found.

 A child is born man’s ghost to win;

 through him many folk shall be unbound;

 he hath sent salve to man’s sin

 His praise may earth and heaven resound!

[*Singing resumes while Shepherds enter*]

1st SHEPHERD

 Maunfras, Maunfras, fellow mine,

 I saw a great light with sheen shine!

 Yet saw I never such a sign

 shapen upon the skies.

 It is brighter than the sunbeam.

 It cometh right over all this realm,

 even above Bethlehem

 I saw it burn thrice.

2nd SHEPHERD

 Thou art my brother Boosras.

 I have beholden the same pass.

 I trow it is tokening of grace

 that shining showeth before.

 Balaam spake in prophecy

a light should shine upon the sky

 when the son of a maid, Mary,

 in Bethlehem wwas born.

3rd SHEPHERD

 Amos spake with mild mouth,

 a fruit sweeter than balm’s breath:

 his death should slay our soul’s death,

 and draw us all from hell.

 This prophecy is now sped:

 Christ in our kind is clad,

 therefore mankind may be glad,

 as prophets before gan tell.

 (*‘Gloria in excelsis Deo’ repeated.)*

1st SHEPHERD

 Ey! Ey! This was a wondrous note

 that was now sung above the sky.

 I have that voice, full well I wot,

 they sang ‘Gle, glo, glory’.

2nd SHEPHERD

 Nay, nay, so might I thrive, so it was not!

 I have that song full well, I know;

in my wit well is it wrought:

it was ‘Glee, glo, glas, glum’.

3rd SHEPHERD

 The song methought it was ‘Glory’.

 And afterward he said us to,

 there is a child born shall be a prince mighty.

 For to seek that child I rede we go.

1st SHEPHERD

 Let us follow with all our might.

 With song and mirth we shall us dight,

 and worship with joy that worthy wight

 that lord is of mankind.

2nd SHEPHERD

 Let us go forth fast on high,

 and honour that babe worthily

 with mirth, song and melody.

 Have done! This song begin!