**Advent Jazz Vespers - Leaders Notes**

This resource has been created to give congregations and communities the chance to stop and take time to reflect during the busyness of Advent.

We hope this resource will make it as easy as possible to put on this gathering without adding to your busyness as a leader. As such, you can run this with or without musicians. You will find a script, PowerPoint (in both widescreen and standard format), as well as backing tracks, demonstration tracks, sheet music and a lyric sheet.

Here we outline the things you will need to think through in order to run this in your corps or church:

**Participants**

* **Narrators** - The script works best with two narrators, but can be done with just one.
* **AV Support** - To run the PowerPoint and any AV requirements for musicians and narrators.
* **Helpers** - People to set up the room on the day and prepare and serve refreshments.
* **Musicians and Singers** *(optional)* – Alternatively use the demonstration tracks provided.

**Set-Up**

The set-up will work best in a cosy, informal style. We recommend you set up the seats in a semi-circle shape to allow people to feel connected, while giving space to relax and reflect.

You will need space at the front for any musicians, as well as any displays or staging. An example of room design would be a collection of lights and candles at the front, as well as around the room. Please be mindful of Safeguarding and Safe Mission procedures when setting up the space.

If possible, keep the lighting dimmed to create a warm, cosy ambiance. You may wish to serve hot drinks (i.e. non-alcoholic mulled punch) and mince pies or cookies on arrival.

The goal is to create a relaxed, warm space where people can come to encounter God by embracing the waiting during this season.

**Notes for Musicians**

Major Richard Mingay has provided six Christmas arrangements; five are traditional carols and one is an original song written especially for this publication. All the arrangements are set in the jazz genre and are designed to have flexible instrumentation. The songs can work effectively with just piano accompaniment or with the addition of drum kit, bass, and instrumentalist. In the downloads on the webpage, you will find sheet music for each song, as well as demonstration tracks and backing tracks. The demonstration tracks have a full instrumentation with a lead line, whereas the backing tracks do not have the lead and could be used in addition to live musicians.

Where the piano part spans multiple pages a separate bass part has been printed. Parts are provided for instruments in Bb, C, Eb and F pitch with chord symbols for those who wish to extemporise. Two of the arrangements (What child is this? and O little town of Bethlehem) also have an optional prologue.

The lyrics are all as published in the Christmas Collection except for In this light where they are included on the piano part. There is also a lyric sheet available for download for use by singers and congregation if needed.

**Script and PowerPoint**

The script includes cues for the PowerPoint which are in brackets next to the headings. The PowerPoints are fully formatted in both a widescreen and standard (4:3) ratio.

**Suggested music**

In the artwork sections, you will see a note about suggested music. Those suggestions are listed below. Feel free to choose whichever you think will work best in your setting, or choose your own. All links are to Spotify.

Artwork – The Annunciation by by Henry Ossawa Tanner

* [Sheku Kanneh-Mason – ‘Gabriel’s Message’](https://open.spotify.com/track/0QWDOBSNiPaM73Y2AxXQ4L?si=174f7bd08fa24491)
* [Gungor – ‘Let there be’](https://open.spotify.com/track/09m8xqRYdAveS0VRAXdq9Q?si=c5d0f086ca5a47bc)
* [Grace Eun Hee Kim – ‘To a maid engaged to Joseph](https://open.spotify.com/track/1Z1ueeR9X6b2zCzUWjbaJA?si=079f110dfc644564)’

*Artwork – Nativity by Irenaeus Yurchuk*

* [Amy Grant – ‘Breath of Heaven](https://open.spotify.com/track/6fmYoJZsJzUbHPjfTyhhTz?si=e01037280a5e4e71)’
* [Over the Rhine – ‘The Trumpet Child’](https://open.spotify.com/track/3VGAlr0PrbdZG81WAcxAgx?si=abc9ea132a97439b)
* [Alana Levandoski – ‘Behold, I make all things new’ (Alpha)](https://open.spotify.com/track/2hNAmMpVsILTKLCtWkkI2y?si=67b8379a3b394034)
* [Lauren Daigle – ‘Light of the World’ – Behold Version](https://open.spotify.com/track/2QQSEujpn25QnnIzSVjwJn?si=8afc304226844617)
* [Brittany Hope – ‘Glory in the darkest place](https://open.spotify.com/track/5hA3zJshfSRvnrxtdFTRvg?si=aedc357cd02a4c97)’

*Artwork - Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst*

* Musicians to play arrangement of ‘What Child is This?’ or use demonstration track.

**Copyright notes**

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The artists of the paintings have been credited in the PowerPoints. We have attempted to obtain all relevant permissions for reproduction.

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