# Camille Saint-Saëns Mark Hellem, Arranger

# **Triumphant Chorus** from Oratorio de Noël Op. 12

Correlated with String Basics, Book 2, page 14

























**Steps to Successful Literature** presents exceptional performance literature - concert and festival pieces - for beginning to intermediate string orchestras. Each piece is correlated with a specific location in **String Basics - Steps to Success for String Orchestra Comprehensive Method** by Terry Shade, Jeremy Woolstenhulme, and Wendy Barden. Literature reinforces musical skills, concepts, and terms introduced in the method. Sometime, a few new concepts are included. They are officially introduced and described in the score.



#### The Arranger

**Mark Hellem** is an accomplished composer, arranger, and violinist. He has played with a variety of musical groups, and his compositions ranging in scope from chamber and orchestral works to songs and operas, have been performed around the country.

Mr. Hellem received his formal training in composition at the University of Minnesota where he studied with Domenic Argento, and at the Juilliard School in New York where he worked with Vincent Persichetti. Currently he resides in St. Paul, Minnesota where he regularly performs with the Mississippi Valley Chamber Orchestra.

#### **Basics About the Composition**

This arrangement comes from Saint-Saëns' 10th and final movement of **Oratorio de Noël, Op. 12**. It was composed and first performed in Paris, France in 1858. In fact, Saint-Saëns wrote the entire composition in 10 days! His scoring included five vocal soloists, chorus, strings, harp, and organ. The text, written in Latin, tells the Christmas story.

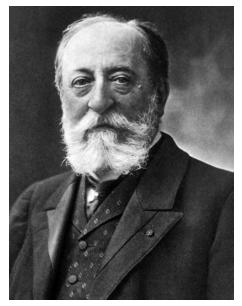
Dynamics have been printed in the music and can be integrated as desired into rehearsals and performance. Dynamics provides a more advanced setting for the work, yet offers a more in depth study of bow usage and control.

### Instrumentation List (Set 🔾

- 8- 1st Violin
- 8- 2<sup>nd</sup> Violin
- 5- 3<sup>rd</sup> Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5- Viola
- 5- Cello
- 5- String Bass
- 1 Piano (Optional)
- 1 Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

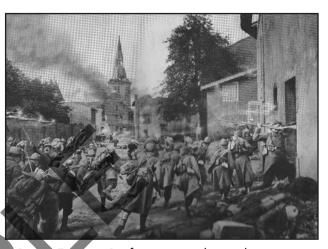
To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, go to www.kjos.com.



**Camille Saint-Saëns** was born in Paris, France in 1835. He began piano lessons from his great aunt at the age of two and quickly became known as an exceptional child prodigy. Not only could he play the piano with great skill, but he also began composing at age three. By the time he reached age 10, he performed a complete recital, and no doubt included music by Mozart and Beethoven. Saint-Saëns studied organ and composition at the Paris Conservatoire and later served as a church organist for 20 years. Except for his virtuosic concertizing, his musical life was dedicated to his composition and he wrote over 300 works including many orchestral and symphonic works, concerti, solo organ music, choral music, and operas. He said of himself that he lived in music "like a fish in water."

Saint-Saëns was a man of wide interests. He was a prolific essayist, book writer, and poet, and was expert in mathematics. He loved

astronomy and also took a special interest in ancient Roman art and architecture. Saint-Saëns traveled around the world, including a trip to San Francisco, California in 1915. Saint-Saëns died in 1921 having been regarded as one of the greatest French composers of all time.



#### Camille Saint-Saëns in Paris

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) lived during an exciting time in Paris, France. Performing and visual arts flourished, not just in Paris, but throughout all Europe. With the advance of railway systems and continued growth of other transportation forms, the population of Paris practically exploded. When Saint-Saëns was born, the population of Paris was approximately 1 million. When he passed away 86 years later, the population had grown to an estimated 4,860,000 people. And that number is pretty amazing, especially knowing that World War I had taken place during 1914-1918 and had killed many, many lives. Take a look (above) at the image of a French Infantry Regiment from 1914. Saint-Saëns was not a soldier in the war, but he lived relatively close to this horrendous action.

Paris is known for one of the most famous structures ever built, The Eiffel Tower. It began construction in 1887 and was completed in 1889 for the 1889 World's Fair. It served as the entrance arch to the fair. Here is a photograph taken in 1890 with The Eiffel Tower in the background. This was Saint-Saëns' Paris. It is where he lived and worked.





Imagine a large city before cars or busses. The painting (above right) was created by Camille Pissarro in 1897 of Boulevard Montmartre in Paris. Again, this was Saint-Saëns' city during his lifetime.

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**Full Conductor Score** Approx. performance time-2:00 Camille Saint-Saëns Arr. Mark Hellem



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