



CONVERSATIONS WITH GABRIELLA

Four Angelic Sketches for Advent and Christmas

by Patricia Souder

SYNOPSIS: Gabriella, a clueless young angel, repeatedly tries to get Gabriel to help her learn her choir music. Gabriel explains he is busy getting ready for a special mission for the Mighty One. While Gabriella initially sees this as exciting, she becomes frustrated when Gabriel is sent on four special missions . . . all to earthlings. Gabriella can't imagine why Gabriel has to leave heaven to go to earth, especially since he always returns with "dusty, musty earth vapors."

Gabriella's bungling attempts to second-guess the Mighty One's agenda yield many humorous moments that point to memorable insights about the cost and impact of the Incarnation.

SETTING: Heaven before the Incarnation.

- GABRIEL'S SECRET MISSION #1: 15 months before Jesus' birth
- GABRIEL'S SECRET MISSION #2: 9 months before Jesus' birth
- GABRIEL'S SECRET MISSION #3: 6 months before Jesus' birth
- GABRIEL'S SECRET MISSION #4: Just before Jesus' birth

CHARACTERS:

- GABRIEL: a large angel with a deep voice and lots of presence.
- GABRIELLA: a younger, smaller angel with an enthusiastic, but flighty, personality.

PERFORMANCE TIME: Approximately 5-7 minutes for each "Secret Mission."

PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES:

- Use individual sketches for worship each week during Advent.
- Use individual sketches to promote discussion in small groups during Advent.
- Stage all four sketches to create a delightful outreach event, such as a Christmas brunch, tea, dinner, or dessert.
- Combine the sketches with choral and instrumental numbers to create an unforgettable program of drama and music.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

- Characters say lines together when marked with a star.
- "Of the Father's Love Begotten," features a rich 4th century text coupled with a haunting plainsong from the 13th century. It offers an ethereal, eternal dimension that emphasizes the mystery and majesty of the Incarnation. The score is included on page 29 so you can incorporate it in your program.

BIBLE REFERENCE: Luke 1:5-2:20.

PROPS: See SCENERY, COSTUMES, and PROPS on page 28.

GABRIEL'S SECRET MISSION #1

Setting: Heaven
Time: 15 months before the birth of Christ

Suggested music: Instrumentalist plays “Of The Father’s Love Begotten”

GABRIELLA

(Enters stage left with music score in hand.
Tries to sing tune for “Of The Father’s Love Begotten.” Very off key.)

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

(Looks up, a bit sheepishly.)

(Joins Gabriel. Uncertain at first, but gets tuned up and gains confidence by third time.)

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

(Beams happily. Sings alone.)

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

(Takes deep breath and puts music on music stand.)

GABRIEL

(Enters stage right carrying a gold foil scroll. Places scroll on podium, sits on stool, and studies scroll until disturbed by Gabriella’s singing.)

(Rolls eyes, clears throat, and sings melody correctly.)

La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

(Indicates Gabriella should sing along.)

★ La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

★ La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

★ La-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la . . .

Good . . . good . . . very good.

GABRIELLA

Oh, Gabriel, that's so much better!

GABRIEL

(Gabriel nods, then studies scroll again.)

Now, let's see . . .

I'm to go to . . .

(Approaches Gabriel and taps him on the shoulder.)

Gabriel, why weren't you at choir rehearsal?

You have such a magnificent voice . . .

(Looks up briefly. Smiles.)

Besides, we're practicing *the most divine* music ever.

I'm sure you are.

(Smiles warmly.)

And . . . I love to sing.

Well, then, where were you tonight?

(Clears throat and points to scroll.)

I have to prepare for a special mission.

(Mouth drops open and eyes bulge.)

Paces across stage.)

A special mission?

No way!

I'll bet it's a secret mission.

Well, sort of secret . . .

(Rolls eyes.)

Sort of secret?

Whoa . . . that's more secret than just plain secret.

No . . . no . . . It's not more secret.

It's just that nobody knows about it yet.

(Becomes almost breathless with excitement.)

No way!

Nobody knows about it!

Sounds pretty secret to me!

(Sighs and shakes head.)

Only until I do what the Mighty One has asked me to do.

GABRIELLA**GABRIEL**

(Attempts to study scroll again.)

The Mighty One?

You're on a secret mission for the Mighty One?

(Gasps.)

Oh, Gabriel, I'm *so* excited I can hardly stand it!

(Gets puzzled look on face and scratches head.)

What are you going to do?

(Looks up, then points to scroll.)

First I have to find a priest named Zechariah.

How are you going to do that?

(Checks scroll.)

This says that Zechariah will be the priest
burning incense in the temple that day.

(Rolls eyes. Clasps and unclasps hands.)

Oh, Gabriel . . . a temple job!

How exciting!

(Leans forward eagerly.)

What are you going to tell him?

(Checks scroll again.)

To not be afraid.

To not be afraid?

Why would he be afraid?

Do you have a scary message?

(Moves finger down scroll as if reading.)

No, not really. In fact, it looks like it's an answer to a prayer he and his wife have been praying for many years.

Script continues. . .