Kjos String Orchestra Grade 2 Full Conductor Score SO324F \$6.00

Jacobus Gallus Robert Sieving, Arranger

Ascendit Deus

For String Orchestra







The Arranger

Robert Sieving (b. 1942) is a Minneapolis-based composer, arranger, and retired high school choral music educator. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Vocal Music Education from St. Cloud State University.

In addition to his pieces for string orchestra, Mr. Sieving is active as a composer and arranger of choral works. His compositions and arrangements are in the active catalogs of a number of major publishers, including *I Lift Up My Eyes*, *Calloway County*, *A Swedish Melody*, *The Angel Gabriel*, *The Water is Wide*, and *A Baroque Fanfare*, all of which are published by the Neil A. Kjos Music Company. He has served as president of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) of Minnesota, and is a past recipient of the ACDA of Minnesota "Conductor of the Year Award" and the Plymouth Music Series (now VocalEssence) "Award for Creative Programming."

The Arrangement

Jacobus Gallus (1550-1591), also known as Jacob Handl, was a prolific late Renaissance composer of either Slovenian or German ancestry. Born in Carniola, which at the time was one of the Habsburg lands in the Holy Roman Empire, he lived and worked in Moravia and Bohemia (now both the western and eastern regions of the Czech Republic respectively) during the last decade of his life. Gallus represented the Counter-Reformation's musical direction in Central Europe, uniting the polyphonic style of the High Renaissance Franco-Flemish School with the style of the Venetian School. In the motet, *Ascendit Deus*, abundant use of word-painting is illustrated with the rising theme in the opening measures ("God is ascended") and the fanfare motive introduced in m. 18 ("voice of a trumpet"). Originally scored for men's voices, the piece is typical of Gallus's polychoral style, which omitted the use of a *cantus firmus* in favor of the more current compositional style.

String technique common to Baroque performance practice should be employed in this piece with particular attention to rhythmic vitality and precision. The editorial accents are inserted as a response to the natural inflections found in the Latin text of the original motet, thereby increasing players' awareness of the relevance of each part to the whole. The repetition and interplay of parts will contribute to students' enjoyment and sense of accomplishment.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

16 – 1st Violin / 2nd Violin

16 – 3rd Violin / Viola

16 – 4th Violin / 5th Violin

10 – Cello / String Bass

1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

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

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Full Conductor Score Approx. time – 1:40

Jacobus Gallus Transcribed and arranged by Robert Sieving





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