

FULL CONDUCTOR SCORE  
Catalog No: 024-4688-01

**Grade**  
**1 1/2**

Expanding ranges and rhythms for the Rising Band!

# **Angels Amongst Us**

## **An Old Fashioned Hymn**

**James Swearingen**

**Rising Band  
Series**

**FOR DEVELOPING BANDS!**



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## Rising Band Series (Grade levels 1½ - 2)

The Rising Band Series is carefully designed and written to serve the performance needs of the developing band program. In addition to providing quality performance literature for your concert program, each title in the series provides an appropriate musical setting for the conductor/teacher to reinforce musical concepts and skills that have been addressed in the first two years of instruction. Written at two grade levels (1 1/2 and 2), the Rising Band Series provides a variety of musical works that employ the note and rhythm sequence used in most band method books. The Rising Band Series is a sound fundamental approach leading to a command of the concert band.

# ANGELS AMONGST US

An Old Fashioned Hymn

James Swearingen

### Instrumentation

Full Conductor Score .....	1
Flute .....	10
Oboe .....	2
1st B $\flat$ Clarinet.....	6
2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet .....	6
B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet.....	2
Bassoon.....	2
E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone.....	8
B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone.....	2
E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone.....	2
1st B $\flat$ Trumpet.....	5
2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet .....	5
F Horn.....	4
Trombone.....	6
Baritone BC.....	2
Baritone TC.....	2
Tuba.....	4
Mallet 1: Chimes, Bells, Vibes.....	3
Mallet 2: Marimba.....	1
Timpani.....	1
Auxiliary Percussion: Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal.....	3
Piano/Keyboard (optional) .....	1
Voices (optional).....	1

### Program Notes

Quietly stunning and deeply emotional are just a few of the musical qualities that I wanted to create when crafting this original hymn. It has long been my belief that all of us, from time to time, need to stop and experience a feeling of peace through the process of quiet reflection. Listening to the performance of expressive music allows us the unique opportunity to do just that. It should be noted that the flowing lines, rich harmonies, and optional use of lyrics were meant to touch the human spirit in every way possible.

*There are angels amongst us from the palms of His hands.  
Yet, He's tired and so weary as He walks these great lands.  
But our faith gives Him strength as He steps up on the knoll.  
There are angels amongst us in the hearts of our souls.*

### Rehearsal Suggestions

- The music should be very smooth throughout the entire performance. Carefully observe the suggestions for breathing.
- **Angels Amongst Us** is, first and foremost, an instrumental composition that can be played in concert or as a warm-up piece. Should you elect to include the lyrics, feel free to be creative. From a soloist at the beginning, to a choir at the key change, you'll discover several variations on how this piece may be performed. Please note that the last line of the text has been modified to fit the music starting in measure 39. (See below)

*There are angels amongst us. Look for signs all around.  
There are angels amongst us in the hearts of our souls.*

- Don't allow the accompaniment to over-shadow the melody.
- Maintaining a strong awareness of subdivision will prevent the music from feeling rushed.
- Above all else, have as much fun performing this piece as I did in composing it.

*James Swearingen*

### About the Composer



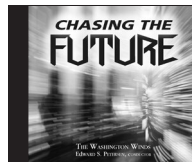
James Swearingen's talents as a performer, composer/arranger and educator include a background of extensive training and experience. He has earned degrees from Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University. In recognition of distinguished contributions, Mr. Swearingen was recently accorded the title of Professor Emeritus from Capital University located in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to his appointment at Capital in 1987, he spent eighteen years teaching instrumental music in the public schools of central Ohio. His first teaching assignment took him to the community of Sunbury, Ohio. He then spent fourteen years as Director of Instrumental Music at Grove City High School, where his marching, concert, and jazz bands all received acclaim for their high standards of performing excellence.

Mr. Swearingen currently serves as a staff arranger for the famed Ohio State University Marching Band. In addition to his arranging responsibilities, Mr. Swearingen manages to be very active as a guest conductor, adjudicator and educational clinician. Appearances have included trips throughout the United States, as well as Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Norway, the Republic of China and Singapore.

School directors, student performers and audiences worldwide have enthusiastically received Mr. Swearingen's numerous contributions for band. With over 600 published works, he has written band compositions and arrangements that reflect a variety of musical forms and styles. Many of his pieces, including 118 commissioned works, have been chosen for contest and festival lists. He is a recipient of several ASCAP awards for published compositions and in 1992 was selected as an Accomplished Graduate of the Fine and Performing Arts from Bowling Green State University. In March of 2000, he was invited to join The American Bandmasters Association, considered to be the most prestigious bandmaster organization in the world. Mr. Swearingen received the 2002 Community Music Educator Award given annually by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. In that same year, he became conductor of the Grove City Community Winds. This highly talented ensemble consists of many fine musicians from the central Ohio area. On June 20, 2009, The American School Band Directors Association, Inc., presented Mr. Swearingen with the A. Austin Harding Award. This prestigious award is presented annually by the organization and is reflective of valuable and dedicated service to the school bands of America. In 2011, he received the Hall of Fame Award presented by the Ohio Chapter (Mu) of Phi Beta Mu. The OMEA Distinguished Service Award was presented to him at the 2014 OMEA Professional Development Conference. Later that year, he was presented the Signature Sinfonian Award by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. On April 21, 2015, The Ohio State School of Music honored Mr. Swearingen with their Distinguished Alumnus Award. It should be noted that he is also a member of numerous professional and honorary organizations including NAfME, ASBDA, Phi Beta Mu and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Many of Mr. Swearingen's most popular band compositions have been recorded by the prestigious Washington Winds and are available on Walking Frog Records compact discs: His recordings include In All Its Glory, Exaltation, Celebration For Winds And Percussion, The Light Of Dawn, and the newest release, Flight of Valor.

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# ANGELS AMONGST US

*(An Old Fashioned Hymn)*

**James Swearingen (ASCAP)**

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- 3 -

Fl. *mp* *mf* *poco rall.*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

1st Cl. *mp* *mf* *mp*

2nd Cl. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Bs. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

A. Sx. *mf*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *mf*

1st Trp. *mp* *mf* *poco rall.*

2nd Trp. *mp* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *mp*

Trb. *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mal. 1 Bells w/soft plastic mallets *mp* *mf* Chimes

Mal. 2 *mf*

Timp. Med. hard mallets *mf*

Aux. Perc. *mp* *mf*

Pno./Kybd. (opt.) *mf* *mp*

6 7 8 9 10

**11 Legato (a tempo)**

Fl.

Ob.

1st Cl.

2nd Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

**11 Legato (a tempo)**

1st Trp.

2nd Trp.

Hn.

Trb.

Bar.

Tuba

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Timp.

Aux. Perc.

Pno./Kybd. (opt.)

11 12 13 14 15 16

no breath 19

Fl.

Ob.

1st Cl.

2nd Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

1st Trp.

2nd Trp.

Hn.

Trb.

Bar.

Tuba

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Timp.

Aux. Perc.

Pno./Kybd. (opt.)

17 18 19 20 21 22

- 6 -

rall. 27 Very expressive  $\text{♩} = 68$   
stagger breathing

Fl.

Ob.

1st Cl.

2nd Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

1st Trp.

2nd Trp.

Hn.

Trb.

Bar.

Tuba

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Timp.

Aux. Perc.

Pno./Kybd. (opt.)

There are an - gels a - mongst us from the

23 24 25 26 27 28

Fl.

Ob.

1st Cl.

2nd Cl.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

1st Trp.

2nd Trp.

Hn.

Trb.

Bar.

Tuba

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Timp.

Aux. Perc.

Pno./Kybd. (opt.)

Bells

*mf*

*mp*

palms — of His hands. Yet, He's tired and so wear - y as He walks these great lands. But our

29 30 31 32 33 34



35 39  $\text{♩} = 64$

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob. *f*

1st Cl. *f* *mf*

2nd Cl. *f* *mf*

Bs. Cl. *f* *mf*

Bsn. *f* *mf*

A. Sx. *f* *mf*

T. Sx. *f* *mf*

B. Sx. *f* *mf*

35 39  $\text{♩} = 64$

1st Trp. *f*

2nd Trp. *f*

Hn. *f* *mf* *div.*

Trb. *f* *mf*

Bar. *f* *mf*

Tuba *f* *mf*

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Timp. *f*

Aux. Perc. *mf*

Pno./Kybd. (opt.) *f* *mf*

faith gives Him strength as He steps up on the knoll. There are an - gels a - mongst us. Look for

35 36 37 38 39 40

**Fl.**

**Ob.**

**1st Cl.**

**2nd Cl.**

**Bs. Cl.**

**Bsn.**

**A. Sx.**

**T. Sx.**

**B. Sx.**

**1st Trp.**

**2nd Trp.**

**Hn.**

**Trb.**

**Bar.**

**Tuba**

**Mal. 1**

**Mal. 2**

**Timp.**

**Aux.  
Perc.**

**Pno./Kybd.  
(opt.)**

*signs all around. There are angels amongst us in the hearts*

**Gradually slowing to the end**

**mp**

**mf**

**p**

**let ring**

**Not valid for performance.**

[illegible]