

# CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

ZACHARIAS, a Priest and Censer of the Temple . . . . .	<i>Baritone</i>
THE ANGEL GABRIEL . . . . .	<i>Tenor</i>
MARY . . . . .	<i>Lyric Soprano</i>
ELISABETH, wife of Zacharias and cousin to Mary . . . . .	<i>Contralto</i>
ANNA, a prophetess and aged widow . . . . .	<i>Mezzo-Soprano</i>
FIRST PRIEST . . . . .	<i>Baritone</i>
SECOND PRIEST . . . . .	<i>Bass</i>
FOUR SHEPHERDS . . . . .	<i>Boy Soprano and Alto; Tenor and Bass</i>
JOSEPH . . . . .	<i>Silent</i>
SIMEON, a man of Jerusalem awaiting the consolation of Israel . . . . .	<i>Baritone</i>
ACOLYTES . . . . .	<i>To change scenes</i>
CHORUS OF THE FAITHFUL; ANGELS; SHEPHERDS . . . . .	<i>The Choir</i>

---

TIME: The Age of Augustus

PLACE: The Holy Land

I. ZACHARIAS AND THE ANGEL . . . . . 10' 30"	IV. THE NAMING OF JOHN . . . . . 12' 56"
The Temple: The Altar of Incense	An Altar of the Temple
II. THE ANNUNCIATION . . . . . 10' 25"	V. THE APPARITION . . . . . 7' 25"
A Garden	A High Pasture at Night
III. THE VISITATION . . . . . 12'	VI. THE ADORATION . . . . . 16' 35"
A Room in the House of Zacharias	A Stable
VII. THE SONG OF SIMEON . . . . . 22' 24"	
An Altar of the Temple	

---

The text is taken from the first two chapters of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, except for Mary's lullaby, in Scene VI, which is a poem by Richard Rowlands (1565-1630).

Instrumentation: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon; Horn, Trumpet; Percussion (Tympani, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Tambourine); Organ; String Quartet and Double Bass (manifold strings, optional); Church Bells for change-ringing at conclusion of Scene VII (optional).

Timings of individual scenes total one hour, thirty-two minutes and fifteen seconds, or about one hour and forty minutes (allowing for short pauses after Scenes II, III, IV, and VI) total performing time.