

Program Notes

Sweet Angels Come Nearer is the opening movement of *Angel of Light*, a cantata based on Shaker texts and melodies. Adapted from a Shaker song from the 1870s, *Sweet Angels Come Nearer* serves as a gentle and inviting choral invocation. Throughout Shaker history, angels have played a significant role as messengers of guidance, strength, encouragement, and inspiration, often manifesting through the medium of song.

Text

Sweet angels come nearer,
O nearer and nearer,
Do list to our pleadings
For strength from on high.
Sweet angels come nearer,
O nearer and nearer.

—Excerpted from *Sweet Angels Come Nearer*,
Canterbury, New Hampshire

from *Angel of Light* (8778)

Sweet Angels Come Nearer	8779
Lovely Angels	8780
Vum Vive Vum	8781
O Niske Vane	9251
Beautiful Treasure	8782
With My Blessing I Have Blessed You	8783

Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

For biographical information visit:
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near - er and near - er, _____

near - er and near - er, _____

near - er and near - er, _____

near - er and near - er, _____ Do

Do list to our plead - ings, _____

list to our plead - ings, _____

8

Do list to our plead - ings, _____

Do list to our plead - ings, _____

Do list to our plead - ings, _____

list to our plead - ings, _____

11

mf

list to our plead - ings, _____ sweet an - gels come near - er. _____

mf

_____ sweet an - gels come near - er. _____

mf

_____ sweet an - gels come near - er. _____

mf

_____ Sweet an - gels come near - er. _____

14

poco f

_____ Do list to our plead - ings for strength from on _____

poco f

_____ Do list to our plead - ings for _____ strength from on

poco f

_____ Do list to our plead - ings for _____ strength from on _____

poco f

_____ Do list to our plead - ings for strength from on _____

18

high. *mp* Sweet

high. *mp* Sweet an - gels come near - er,

high. *mp* Sweet an - gels come near - er,

21

rit.
p dim. O near - er and near - er.

p dim. an - gels come near - er, O near - er and near - er.

p dim. O near - er and near - er.

p dim. O near - er and near - er.

rit.