

# **EDEN: AN ORATORIO**

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Eden: An Oratorio by Robert Bridges

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**ROBERT BRIDGES**

**EDEN: AN  
ORATORIO**



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EDEN  
AN ORATORIO  
BY  
ROBERT BRIDGES  
SET TO MUSIC BY  
C. V. STANFORD

LONDON  
GEO BELL & SONS  
NOVELLO EWER AND CO  
LONDON AND NEW YORK

1891



*William J. Appleton*

**SINGERS.**

- ALL ANGELS.
- THE SERAPHS, CHERUBS, AND THRONES.
- THE VIRTUES.
- THE ANGELS.
- THE ANGEL OF THE EARTH.
- THE ANGEL OF THE SUN.
- THE ANGELS OF THE FIVE OLD PLANETS.
- THE ANGEL OF VISIBLE BEAUTY.
- THE ANGEL OF POETRY.
- THE ANGEL OF MUSIC.
- MICHAEL.
- SATAN.
- ALL DEVILS.
- ADAM.
- EVE.

**VOICES OF THE MASK.**

- WAR.
- FURIES.
- VICTORS AND VANQUISHED.
- PLAGUE.
- FAMINE.
- DISEASES.
- 
- ALL SEERS.
- THE VOICE OF CHRIST.

*(The Angels of Poetry and Music and the Angelic Chorus  
also sing in the Mask.)*

ACT I  
HEAVEN

I

THE ANGEL OF THE EARTH HAS HEARD FROM THE EARTH  
THE SINGING OF THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN,  
AND COMES TO JOIN.

*Angel of the Earth:*

HARK! What solemn joy  
On the wonder-shaken ways  
Of the airy firmament,  
Spreading down to the earth,  
Hath drawn me hither intent!

'Tis angel voices, that frame  
In the all-delighting Creator's praise  
The hymn of man's birth.

Hark! It is come. Ah, near  
It cometh: O hark! I hear  
The eternal name.



## II

## HYMN OF THE ANGELS.

*All Angels :*

God of might! God of love! God of light !

*I. Seraphs :* We, Thy love-kindling fire,

*Cherubs :* We, Thy all-wise desire,

*Thrones :* We, Thine enduring might,

*All:* Adore Thee only, that art as Thou art,  
God of might, God of love, God of light.

*II. Virtues :* We, of Thy beauty bright,

*III. Angels :* We, warriors for Thy right,  
Who shield from heaven's heart  
Evil o'erwhelmed in fiery night,

*All:* Adore Thee only, that art as Thou art,  
God of light, God of love, God of might.

## III

## DIALOGUE OF THE ANGELS.

*Angel of the Earth :*

WHAT new delight, ye angels, hath woven your voices,  
That, as they cease,  
The floating music rejoices  
Heaven's perpetual peace?

*Angel of the Sun :*

To me hath He given the charge of the sun  
To fill man's life with desire,  
And flood his days as they run  
With the gay breath of his fire.

*Angel of the Earth :*

Lovely flowers at thy smile  
Spring from the dusky sod,  
Whose wonder awaited awhile  
The purpose of God.  
But what is man?

*Angels of the Planets :*

We on the orbits of the wandering spheres  
Our secrets bright  
Tune to thine ears,  
And glorify man's night  
With far-removed light.

*Angel of the Earth :*

I watch your courses from my throne, and see  
Your eyes are bent on me.  
But what is man?

*Angel of Visible Beauty :*

A voice spake also to me  
From the highest, Behold!  
My Virtue go forth, inhabit the land and sea ;  
Thy vesture of broken light shall be,  
And thy crown of gold.

*Angel of the Earth :*

Gloriously art thou clad, as thou art fair:  
Thy beauty is everywhere,  
But what is man?

*Angel of Poetry :*

Me also He callèd, and said  
O Muse of my spirit descend,  
And dream in the heart of the man I have made  
My thoughts without end.

*Angel of Music :*

And unto me He spake,  
Go wave thy rod in the azurous air;  
The breath of his life into music shake,  
That his love and joy find speech, and his prayer  
A pathway to take.

#### IV

##### MADRIGAL.

*All Angels :*

FLAMES of pure love are we,  
Echoes of God's decree,  
Lovers of what He maketh: O sing His praise.  
But man, while so he willeth to be,  
A God is he,  
Maker of what he loveth,—O sing his praise—  
In His image array'd,  
Who in a creature hath a creator made.