GOOD KING WENCESLAS - in Canon in 2 or more parts a fun unaccompanied arrangement for audience - suitable for a carol concert arr. by John Bertalot (1967)

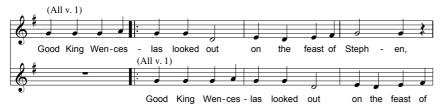
The conductor should address the audience, telling them that

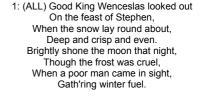
The KING should be sung by lower voices, and the PAGE by upper voices, and EVERYONE should sing when telling the story.
 That they should STAND when they sing, and SIT when not singing (this will add an air of happy confusion once they begin!)
 That it will be sung IN CANON - i.e. that one side will begin and the other side come in after exactly one bar.
 The words may be printed on the programme, but omit the instructions 'stand' and 'sit'

(The conductor asks the audience to stand, and then conducts the performance.)

If there is a choir present, some of them might like to sing the optional accompanying ostinato canon, continuously, to add more happy confusion!

But, to get the singing off to a good start, ask the choir to begin 'Good King Wenceslas', followed by the left hand side of the audience and then the right hand side. (i.e. a Canon in 3 parts). It's important that verse 2 (and succeeing verses) follow after only 2 beats' rest - as marked.







2: (KING) Hither, page, and stand by me. If thou know'st it telling:
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?
(PAGE) Sire, he lives a good league hence,
Underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes' fountain.



3: (KING) Bring me flesh, and bring me wine.
Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear them thither.
(ALL) Page and monarch, forth they went,
Forth they went together
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather.



4: (PAGE) Sire, the night is darker now, And the wind blows stronger. Fails my heart, I know not how. I can go no longer.

(KING) Mark my footsteps my good page, Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage Freeze thy blood less coldly.



5: (ALL) In his master's step he trod,
Where the snow lay dinted.
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
Wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing

