

A Christmas Story

A musical nativity
for the whole school

Wendy Churchill

SAMPLE

Junior – EYFS, KS1 and KS2

Limelight Musicals

Published by Limelight Musicals 2011

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l i m e l i g h t m u s i c a l s

A Christmas Story

A nativity for the whole school

Introduction

The nativity has six short scenes.

For schools with one class per year, ideally each scene can be performed by a different year – involving the whole school.

Children from EYFS can join in as extra animals, angels and people of Bethlehem, joining in the singing.

For larger schools, with more than one class per year, the nativity can be performed by Key Stage One only, to make it more manageable.

In both cases, the whole school can come together in the last scene to sing the Finale.

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A Christmas Story

Cast List

	Narrator(s)
Scene 1:	Teacher (Miss Jones) Mary Joseph Children
Scene 2:	Persian dancers, boys and girls Six servants Three magi: Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar
Scene 3:	Five shepherds plus a shepherd boy Gabriel Angel choir
Scene 4:	Centurion and six soldiers Jewish dancers Herod Herod's Queen Servants Prince Archelaus (Magi and entourage)
Scene 5:	Five talking cows Innkeeper Two children Mary Joseph (plus baby Jesus) Angel choir
Finale:	All

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A Christmas Story

A nativity for the whole school

Scene 1: Christmas decorations (Performed by Class 1)

Children stand at the front and sing "Christmas is coming" before separating into groups and beginning to "decorate" the stage as if decorating a classroom for Christmas. (To one side is a Christmas tree, which is adorned during the scene and the song.)

Song 1: Christmas is coming

(Sung as a round after the first chorus)

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat

Please put a penny in the old man's hat

If you haven't got a penny then a ha'penny will do

If you haven't got a ha'penny, then God bless you.

Child 1: Miss Jones, I can't wait for Father Christmas to come. Do you think he got my letter?

Miss Jones: Of course he did!

Child 2: *(Hanging up a stocking):* My favourite part of Christmas is the stockings!

Child 3: How does Father Christmas come down the chimney if you haven't got one?

Miss Jones: Perhaps he climbs through the window?

Child 4: I think Mummy lets him in!

Child 5: Don't forget to leave him a mince pie!

Child 6: Do you think Rudolph really *has* got a red nose?

Child 7: *Your* nose goes red when you go out of the cold!

Child 8: *(Putting a star on the tree)* Do you think the Christmas star will ever come back into the sky so we can see it?

Miss Jones: Well, maybe it's been back a few times but we thought it was a comet or just a very bright star. Who wants to put the angel on top of the tree?

Child 9: I do! *(Thoughtfully)* why do we have angels at Christmas?

Child 10: Don't you know? The angels told the wise men about Jesus!

Child 11, 12 and 13: No, that's not right!

Child 14: No, the star told the shepherds about Jesus!

All: No, that's not right!!

Child 15: What really happened, Miss Jones?

Miss Jones: Well, if you've all finished your decorating, then we can all sit down for carpet time and we will tell you the story of Baby Jesus.

(Children gather on the steps or around the piano)

Narrator 1: The story of Jesus is just like this paper chain. There are lots of different characters and settings in the story. But they all link together to show us how exciting it really was when Jesus was born.

Narrator 2: There was Mary, the girl who was asked to have a baby by an angel, and Joseph, who was asked to be his earthly dad...

(Mary and Joseph walk across the stage).

Narrator 3: The story starts in a land far away to the east of Israel... in ancient Persia. There was a special place for looking at the stars there... apparently they had telescopes in those days, although probably not as big as the one in Greenwich.

Scene 2: Persian Dance (Performed by Class 5)

Song 2: Persian Dance

The scene is introduced by a group of Persian Dancers, who come onto the stage dancing and proceed to dance to the music at the front of the stage.

The girls have floating costumes with small chiffon scarves attached to their wrists. The boys are dressed in Turkish style costumes with cloaks. They hold telescopes and dance with them and look up to the stars.

After music has stopped:

Servant 1: Hey! Who's been touching Balthazar's telescope? It has finger marks all over it!

Servant 2: Give it a polish quick, or we will all be in trouble!

Servant 3: Where's Caspar's cloak? He needs it for his night vigil this evening!

Servant 4: Here you are!

Servant 5: Here's the food for their supper!

Servant 6: Here are the grapes!

(Enter the Magi)

Melchior: I tell you Caspar, I am sure that Jupiter and Saturn are due to line up in the sky within the next few nights! It could even be tonight!

Caspar: That would create a magnitude of such brightness - it would easily stand out in the night sky, even with the naked eye.

Balthazar: Hmm! The stars of Kingship and Motherhood meeting up! And within Pisces: the constellation that relates directly to the kingdom of Israel!

Caspar: I am looking forward to tonight! Where's my cloak?

Song 3: Glory to God and Peace to Men

(A few voices are heard in the background, very softly to start with).

Shepherd Boy: I can hear singing!

Shepherd 4: Get away with you, boy! You are always hearing something!

Shepherd 5: It's the wind blowing through the trees!

Shepherd 3: It's my tummy rumbling you mean!

Shepherd Boy: SSSHHH! Can't you hear it?

(Now the singing can be heard off stage, still softly)

Shepherd Boy: It sounds like it's coming from that very bright star over there! Look!

Shepherds: Where? Oh, there!

Shepherd 1: Stars don't sing!

Shepherd 2: That boy has a good imagination!

Shepherds 4 and 5: It is a very bright star!

(Singing now gets louder: full verse)

Glory to God and peace to men (x2)
Glory to God on High and peace to men.
Jesus is born today in Bethlehem.

(The angels appear. The shepherds are afraid).

Gabriel: Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you shall find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

(Song comes to the fore again).

Verse Two:

Come see the manger where he lies
See how His glory fills the skies
Glory to God on high and peace to men
Jesus is born today in Bethlehem

(Angels leave the stage.)

Travelling to Bethlehem
Travelling to Bethlehem
Travelling to Bethlehem
To see the little baby (x2)

Narrator 7: Meanwhile, in a stable at the back of an Inn in Bethlehem...

Scene 5: The stable (Performed by Class 2)

(Mary and Joseph are sitting by the manger with animals around)

The Cows (in the front) are arguing:

Cow 1: I'm hungry!

Cow 2: You can't be hungry...you had such a big dinner!

Cow 3: She always has a big dinner! Look at her belly!

Cow 4: I want some more!

Cow 5: Well, eat some more hay then!

Cow 1: I can't! Have you seen what's in the manger?

Cow 2: He's only little!

Cow 1: Yes, but I don't want to wake him up! He's only just gone to sleep!

Cow 3: You've eaten plenty!

Cow 5: How would you like it if you had nowhere for your new calf to sleep?

Cow 4: Quite right! You should be on your second course by now...and you ate that earlier!

Cow 1: SSSSHH! The innkeeper's coming! *(Cows settle down.)*

Innkeeper enters with his children and wife carrying food and blankets.

Innkeeper's wife: Here you are, dear. I hope you'll find the floor is comfy enough for you to sleep on now you've got more hay.

Innkeeper: It's all we can offer I'm afraid! Bethlehem is so busy tonight.

Innkeeper's Child 1: Here you are, Mary. You can have my supper!

Mary: Thank you. You are so kind!

1. Christmas is Coming

Traditional

Wendy Churchill

♩=100

Christ-mas is com-ing, the goose is get-ing fat.

♩=100

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the piece. It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 100. The lyrics are 'Christ-mas is com-ing, the goose is get-ing fat.'

5

Please put a pen-ny in the old man's hat. If you have-n't got a pen-ny then a ha' pen-ny will do. If you

Detailed description: This system contains measures 3 through 6. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'Please put a pen-ny in the old man's hat. If you have-n't got a pen-ny then a ha' pen-ny will do. If you'. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady accompaniment pattern.

9

2 or 3 part round: (Christmas is coming)

have-n't got a ha' pen-ny, then God bless you. Christmas is coming, the goose is get-ting fat.

2 or 3 part round:

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 10. It begins with the instruction '2 or 3 part round: (Christmas is coming)'. The vocal line starts with 'have-n't got a ha' pen-ny, then God bless you. Christmas is coming, the goose is get-ting fat.' The piano accompaniment continues. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

3. Glory to God and Peace to Men

Wendy Churchill

Sung in sections as per script

♩=100

mf (louder in v2)

Glo - ry to
Come, see the

p

mf (in v 2)

Ped. * Ped. * simile

6

God and peace to men. Glor - y to
man - ger where He lies. See how His

Glor - y to God and peace to men.
Come see the man - ger where He lies.

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4. Travelling to Bethlehem

Wendy Churchill

1 Gently

mf *simile*

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

5

Trav-el-ling to

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

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6. Come, Let us Sing!

(Jewish Dance)

Wendy Churchill

Allegro

♩=120

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by a melodic line starting on G4. The middle staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by the lyrics: "Come, let us sing and ce - le-brate a fes-ti-val!". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic and moving to mezzo-forte (*mf*) for the vocal entry.

5

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by a melodic line starting on G4. The middle staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by the lyrics: "He rod de-crees - it's par - ty time for one and all. Throw off your shoes and". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It continues the rhythmic pattern from the first system, maintaining a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

8

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by a melodic line starting on G4. The middle staff is a vocal line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a whole rest for four measures, followed by the lyrics: "join the ju - bi - la - tion! Dance for your king with the joy of all cre - a - tion!". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. It continues the rhythmic pattern from the previous systems, maintaining a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

7. King Herod's Song

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$\text{♩} = 160$
Swing

Flute

Voice

Piano

Oh you may

5

Fl.

Voice

Pno.

talk a bout King Da-vid and may talk a bout King Saul But you know... I'm the

8

Fl.

Voice

Pno.

great-est of nem all! For there ne-ve really been a king who's cle-ver-er than me, and you

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8. Lullaby

Rebecca Jones arr. Churchill

♩=100

Gently

Hush, Ba - by Je - sus is

♩=100

p

Ped.

*

Ped.

*

simile

Ah -

sleep - ing.

Can you hear the an - gels sing - ing?

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9. Happy Christmas!

Wendy Churchill

$\text{♩} = 120$
Swing

Voice

Oh we al-ways knew that Christ-mas was a

Piano

$\text{♩} = 120$
Swing
f

4

Voice

spe-cial time of year, And we knew there was a bright star and an an-gel that ap-peared, But we

Pno.

7

Voice

al-ways re-al-ly thought that the best pres-ents were our own, Till we

Pno.

SAMPLE