

## Scene 1

### **Song 1 – Such A Wealthy Man** (CD track12, lyrics p16) (Whole cast)

*(As the opening brass fanfare to the first song plays, Midas regally enters the throne room of his palace – see staging suggestions/scenery. One servant scatters petals before the king and another walks behind, carrying the train of his cloak. All the courtiers, standing to one side of the stage, bow. Midas struts and preens before sitting majestically on his golden throne. The servants stand to attention each side of him. Next to the throne is a table or plinth, on which golden ornaments stand, and a golden platter of grapes. As the singing begins, Midas carefully brushes and blows dust from the ornaments, fussily rearranging them. He produces a bag of gold coins from beneath his throne, and throughout the song lovingly sifts through them, examining and polishing each one. As the song finishes the servants exit, and the narrators speak.)*

**Narrator 1** ~ King Midas, ruler of a land called Pessinus, was a very rich man. He lived in a marble palace, decorated with gold and precious stones. He sat upon a golden throne, and wore a golden crown.

**Narrator 2** ~ Once, Midas had ruled his kingdom with much wisdom. His subjects were content and the country had prospered. But things had changed, as over time his love of money began to grow!

**Narrator 3** ~ Midas now spent many hours each day polishing his golden possessions, and greedily counting and re-counting his golden coins. He had become obsessed with gold, something that had not gone unnoticed by those around him.....

**Courtier 1** ~ *(aside to other courtiers)* Just look at him – the 'King of Bling'! I thought a monarch was supposed to be someone to look up to. Ha! That's a joke!

**Courtier 2** ~ All he does is count his gold. I wouldn't mind, but none of it ever seems to come our way!

**Courtier 3** ~ You'd think he'd share at least a bit of his wealth with us, his loyal and devoted courtiers..... the selfish, greedy old fool!

*(The sour-faced courtiers grumble in agreement, their backs to Midas. As soon as Midas speaks, however, they quickly turn and give him their attention, fawning and hanging on his every word.)*

**Midas** ~ Ah, gold! Is there anything more beautiful than gold?

**Courtier 4** ~ Oh no, your Majesty. Nothing is more beautiful than gold!

**Midas** ~ *(looking at his grapes)* And of course food! *(eating grapes and speaking clumsily with his mouth full!)* One can never have too much gold.....or too much food! *(swallowing)* Speaking of which, it must be time for my morning snack, then I can count all my gold on a full tummy!

**Courtier 5** ~ *(with a fawning show of devotion)* A snack! His Majesty requires a snack!  
Call the royal chefs!

*(The Chefs enter, bowing as they approach the throne. Midas smiles, and rubs his tummy in expectation.)*

**Midas** ~ Ah, my royal chefs! My most treasured employees!

*(Midas gestures instructions to the chefs. The courtiers mutter aside.)*

**Courtier 1** ~ Why do those scruffy, greasy kitchen low-lives get all the praise?

**Courtier 2** ~ Well, with an appetite like his nibs has got, anyone who can satisfy it is bound to be flavour of the month!

**Courtier 3** ~ Indeed! Those chefs have to work from dawn 'til dusk to keep up with his demands! No wonder he has a 'soft-spot' for them.

**Courtier 4** ~ Yes, and that soft-spot is the royal belly! Look at the size of it!

**Midas** ~ *(noticing the courtiers muttering)* You said something?

**Courtier 5** ~ *(embarrassed)* Oh...errr....yes...only how fit and healthy your Majesty is looking. It must be because you watch what you eat.....

**Song 2 – We Cook And We Bake** *(CD track13, lyrics p17)*  
*(Midas and Chefs, supported by whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, the chefs exit then return with drinks and platters of food, some of which they place on the crowded table, while those that don't fit are placed at the foot of the throne and, at his invitation, on the king's lap!)*

**Chef** ~ Enjoy your meal, your Majesty.

*(The chefs exit as Midas greedily tucks in! The courtiers look on, disgruntled.)*

**Courtier 1** ~ *(aside to other courtiers)* Eurgh! Have you ever seen anything like it?

**Courtier 2** ~ It's like feeding time on the farm!

*(The Financial Advisors enter, bow and approach Midas, who looks put-out.)*

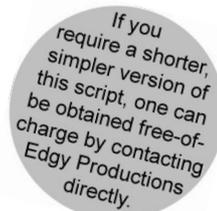
**Midas** ~ *(with his mouth full!)* Ah, my financial advisors. I'm afraid it's not really convenient to talk at the minute.....I'm eating.

**Advisor 1** ~ We can see that, Your majesty.....

**Courtier 3** ~ *(aside)* Ha! We can all see it! And **hear** it, come to that!

**Advisor 1** ~ ....it's just that we need to discuss matters of great importance.

**Advisor 2** ~ There are documents which urgently need your signature.



**Advisor 3** ~ In particular this one (*producing a scroll*), concerning the budget for vital repairs to our beloved city.

**Midas** ~ (*tutting*) Well, I don't have time to discuss that right now, so..... (*picking up a coin*).....heads I sign, tails I don't. (*He tosses the coin*) Ha! Tails. No signature! Now leave me to finish my meal and to count my gold.

*(The Financial Advisors shake their heads in despair and exit.)*

**Narrator 1** ~ Now, despite Midas's shortcomings as a king and ruler, he had always been a loving husband and devoted father.

**Narrator 2** ~ Lately, however, as his obsession for gold grew, he was less keen to spend quality time with the Queen and their daughter, Princess Marigold.

*(The Queen and Princess Marigold enter, the two servants scattering petals before them. The servants bow, then exit.)*

**Marigold** ~ Daddy, we've been walking in the gardens. Our roses smell so beautiful.

**Queen** ~ Why don't you join us? A stroll in the fresh air will do you good. Besides, we've seen so little of you lately.

**Marigold** ~ Please Daddy, come and smell the roses with us.

**Midas** ~ Ah, I'm sorry my dear, but I've no time to smell the roses. I'm caught up in the world of high finance you see! (*emptying a bag of gold gleefully*) Look at all this gold I have to count.....

**Song 3 – So Much Money** (*CD track14, lyrics p18*)  
(*Midas, supported by whole cast*)

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