

# Copyright and Licensing

## PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act (1988), it is a legal requirement for schools to comply with copyright law, and ensure they hold the correct licences for performing musicals. As experienced teachers ourselves, we understand that time restraints and lack of advice can sometimes mean this aspect of your production is not dealt with, or that the details and requirements are not fully understood. We therefore try to make the process of licensing your performances as simple as possible.

### General Guidelines

You are free to use any of our material for all classroom teaching purposes and for performances within school to only pupils and staff. However, if our musicals are to be performed to an audience other than pupils and staff from your school (eg. parents or other people from the wider community) then a performance licence must be obtained directly from Edgy Productions.

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### Performance of Musicals

The performance of works involving drama, movement, narrative or spoken dialogue requires a title and date specific licence from the copyright holder/publisher – in this case Edgy Productions. The requirement for a licence is irrespective of admission charges. **Your PRS, PPL, CCLA or any equivalent local authority-issued licences do not cover you for such performances.**

A performance licence from us will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.\*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

\* **If you are performing outside of your school premises, for example in a local theatre, please contact us as further conditions apply. For more information, visit [www.edgyproductions.com/licences](http://www.edgyproductions.com/licences)**

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### Audio and Video Recordings

If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the performance of any of our musicals, you will need an additional **recording and duplication licence** from Edgy Productions. This will also allow you to make and sell copies of your recordings if you wish to do so. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

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### File Sharing

You are not permitted to share any of our copyrighted material, either in printed form, on disc or in digital file format, with anyone who is not a pupil or teacher within your school or organisation. We will take immediate action should an incident of illegal file-sharing be reported or discovered.

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You can, of course, phone or email us for advice – we are more than happy to discuss all your licensing needs.

Tel: 01858 288081  
Email: [info@edgyproductions.com](mailto:info@edgyproductions.com)

## PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of **Baa...Baa...Bethlehem** to an audience other than staff and children (eg. to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licence does not cover you for this. **Unless you purchased an instant performance licence and/or a recording & duplication licence when you bought this production pack, please ensure you complete and return this form at least 28 days before your first performance:**

- by post – Edgy Productions, 8 Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PQ
- by FAX – 0845 833 33 49
- by email – [info@edgyproductions.com](mailto:info@edgyproductions.com)

**The performance licence will permit the holder to do the following:**

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.\*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

**Contact name:** .....

**Name of school / organisation:** .....

**Address:** .....

..... **Postcode:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **email:** .....

**Number of performances:** ..... **Performances Dates: from** ..... **to** .....

By ticking, select one of the performance licence options below:

**Standard Performance Licence** ☐ **£30.00** (including VAT)  
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

**or**

**Performance Licence with charges** ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)  
(admission is charged and/or tickets are sold)

☐ \* Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see [www.edgyproductions.com/licences](http://www.edgyproductions.com/licences)

If you are recording any performance, and/or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

**Recording and Duplication Licence** ☐ **£30.00** (including VAT)

By ticking, select one of the payment options below:

☐ **I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Edgy Productions Ltd**

☐ **Please send me an invoice for £..... (payment terms 30 days)**

**Writers rely on payments from public performances for their livelihoods.  
Please ensure they receive their dues.**

# Plot Summary

Life is quiet and relaxed for the shepherds and sheep living on the hillside above the town of Bethlehem. **(song – ‘Baa...Baa...Bethlehem’)**. However, for the youngest shepherds, Daniel, Rachel, Naomi and Eli, it’s not much fun. They are envious of the older shepherds who get to take the sheep to market and sit in the seats closest to the fire on cold evenings – these are treats they can’t hope to experience until they’re much bigger and more ‘important’. It’s the same for the young lambs, who have to watch the older, woollier sheep grazing on the sweetest, lushest patches of grass, while they make do with bitter leaves from thorny bushes. **(song – ‘Bottom Of The Heap’)**. Nevertheless, the youngsters are convinced that for them there’s something special on the horizon – they just need to sit tight and wait. **(song – ‘We’ll Shine Through’)**.

In Bethlehem’s busy market, the older shepherds work hard to sell their sheep and, with lots of visitors to the town, business is brisk. **(song – Market Day)**. A tired-looking man and woman arrive, urgently looking for a room as their baby will be born very soon. **(song – ‘A Place To Stay’)**. They are told there is nothing available and are sent in the direction of another part of town. Thinking no more of it, the shepherds return to the hillside at the end of the day.

That evening the shepherds are restless. Two lambs are missing, and so Daniel, Rachel, Naomi and Eli are sent to look for them. They wander alone, further into the night and notice how beautiful the sky has become. Amongst the sparkling, dancing stars, a magnificent new star has appeared, shining down on the town! **(song/dance – ‘A Marvellous, Magical Sky’)**. As they stumble upon the missing lambs, who’ve found some lush grass to munch on, the young shepherds are then struck by the spectacle of a host of angels praising God! The angels tell them not to be afraid **(song – ‘Don’t Be Afraid’)**, as they deliver the wonderful news about the birth of Jesus and tell them to hurry to the stable lit by the star, to worship the new baby king lying in a manger.

Taking the lambs as a gift for Jesus, they find the stable and, in a traditional nativity tableau, kneel and present them to Him. The arrival of three elegant wise-men adds to the importance of the event, and Daniel, Rachel, Naomi and Eli realise that the special thing they had been waiting to be a part of for so long has now arrived. **(song – ‘God’s Gift’)**

On returning to the hillside, the four youngsters now have a glowing air of confidence and joy. Strangely, the older shepherds are now respectful towards them and invite them to sit by the fire. As they listen to the amazing story of their night at the stable and the part they have played in these wonderful events, they realise there is now a definite change in the ‘pecking order’. Things on the hillside will never be the same again.....! **(reprise– ‘Baa...Baa...Bethlehem’)**.

# CHARACTERS

*(Speaking parts in order of appearance)*

**4 Narrators**

**5 Older Shepherds**

**An Older Sheep**

**Young Shepherds: Daniel, Naomi, Rachel & Eli**

**2 Lambs**

**Mary**

**Joseph**

**3 Wise Men**

*(Ensemble Characters – for featured songs and choreography)*

**Sheep**

**Shepherds**

**Bethlehem Townsfolk and Visitors**

**Stars**

**Angels**

**Stable Animals**

# Scene 1

*(As the backing track to the opening song plays (track 9) the cast members take their seats. On and in front of the main stage, the sheep and lambs are grazing. There's a distinction between the older, bigger sheep and the smaller lambs, by way of size, horns etc. – **see staging suggestions/costume**. Centrally on the main stage, the shepherds sit round a fire, the older ones closer to the flames than the younger ones – **see staging suggestions/scenery/costume**. Again, the older shepherds are distinguishable by their beards, size of crooks, head-dresses etc. To one side, four narrators stand slightly forward of the main stage. Fade the music when all are ready.)*

**Narrator 1** In Bethlehem there was always a lot going on. The busy, bustling streets were full of people.

**Narrator 2** But high up on the hillside, for the shepherds and sheep, life was much quieter.

*(All shepherds and sheep stand for the opening song.)*

**Song Baa...Baa...Bethlehem** *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p12)*  
*(Shepherds and sheep, supported by whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, the shepherds sit by the fire again and the sheep go back to their grazing.)*

**Narrator 3** One thing you should know about shepherds and about sheep.....

**Narrator 4** .....the bigger, older ones get to boss the smaller, younger ones about!

*(A younger shepherd tries to edge closer to the fire to get warm. An older shepherd pushes him/her back!)*

**Older Shep. 1** Oi! Get back! You'll be allowed nearer the fire when you're older....a lot older!

*(The older shepherds all get closer to the fire, pushing all the younger ones back. A lamb starts grazing near one of the older sheep, who gets annoyed!)*

**Older Sheep** Oi! Get back! You'll be allowed to graze on the sweet, green grass when you're older....a lot older!

**Narrator 1** The young ones knew their place, and their place was at the bottom of the heap!

*(All shepherds and sheep stand again for the next song.)*

## **Song Bottom Of The Heap** *(tracks 2 & 10, lyrics p13)* *(Shepherds and sheep, supported by whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, most of the sheep move to one side and lie down, and most of the shepherds return to the fire and nod off. Four young shepherds, Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli, move away from them and sit together. Two lambs also move away from the flock and sit together.)*

**Narrator 2** Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were young shepherds.

**Daniel** It's tough being young!

**Naomi** We never get to do anything fun.

**Rachel** Like taking the sheep to market.

**Eli** *(pointing to the older shepherds)* They won't let us do that until we're much older.

**Narrator 3** Only the grown-up shepherds left the hillside once a week to take the sheep to market, and the sheep they took were the ones with the biggest, heaviest fleeces.

**Lamb 1** Going to market must be so exciting!

**Lamb 2** Well, we won't be taken until we're much bigger. Oh, I can't wait until we're the important ones, until something special happens to us.

## **Song We'll Shine Through** *(tracks 3 & 11, lyrics p14)* *(Young shepherds and lambs, supported by whole cast)*

*(As the backing track is played again, the shepherds and sheep move to the side, leaving the main stage clear. Fade the music when ready.)*

## **Scene 2**

*(The main stage becomes busy with visitors and Bethlehem townsfolk, some selling from baskets and others inspecting the wares. Four older shepherds enter and stand centrally, with four older sheep for sale.)*

**Narrator 4** The market in Bethlehem was always busy. But today it was much busier than usual, as lots of visitors had arrived in town.

## **Song Market Day** *(tracks 4 & 12, lyrics p15)* (Whole cast)

**Older Shep. 2** *(shouting)* FINE SHEEP FOR SALE!

**Sheep** *(proudly)* Baaaa!

**Older Shep. 3** FED ON THE GREENEST GRASS!

**Sheep** *(licking their lips)* Mmmmm! Baaaa!

**Older Shep. 4** *(patting the sheep's backs)* EXCELLENT FOR WOOL.....

**Sheep** *(proudly again)* Baaaa!

**Older Shep. 5** *(behind hand so the sheep don't hear)* OR FOR THE POT!

**Sheep** *(they do hear!!)* Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

*(Joseph and Mary, with their donkey, then enter and stand by the shepherds.)*

**Older Shep. 3** Sir, Madam, perhaps I could interest you in a sheep?

**Joseph** I'm sorry, but what we need is a room for the night.

**Mary** Every place we've tried so far is full.

**Narrator 1** This man and woman, whose names were Joseph and Mary, had travelled a long way.

**Narrator 2** They had searched everywhere in town for somewhere to stay, but without any luck.

**Narrator 3** What made things worse was that Mary was about to have a baby. Time was running out.....

## **Song A Place To Stay** *(tracks 5 & 13, lyrics p16)* (Whole cast)

**Narrator 4** Joseph and Mary led their donkey away, hoping they'd find somewhere soon.

*(Joseph and Mary exit wearily.)*

**Narrator 1** As everyone went home, the shepherds, along with the sheep they hadn’t sold, returned to their hillside.

**Narrator 2** It had been an exciting day.....but for some it was going to be an even more exciting night!

*(As the backing track to the previous song is played again, all exit. Fade the music when ready for the next scene.)*

## Scene 3

*(The two young lambs are grazing.)*

**Narrator 3** Away from the flock, the young lambs had found a quiet, grassy spot.

**Lamb 1** *(with a mouthful of grass)* Better eat-up quickly, before the old lot come and push us out of the way!

**Lamb 2** *(looking up)* Look at the sky. I’ve never seen the stars shining so brightly!

*(Lamb 1 stops grazing and they both stare in wonder at the sky. The Stars enter, and spread around the stage. The large star stands centrally.)*

**Narrator 4** Every star in the sky was twinkling like a precious jewel. But shining twice as brightly as all the rest was a star they had never seen before.

**Narrator 1** It moved across the sky and settled over Bethlehem, bathing it in light. The city had never appeared so beautiful.... or so magical!

## **Song/Dance** **A Marvellous, Magical Sky** *(tracks 6 & 14, lyrics p19)* *(Stars, supported by whole cast)*

*(During the instrumental section, the stars perform a dance. As the song finishes, the Stars exit, leaving the lambs alone on stage.)*

**Narrator 2** Now, at the shepherds’ camp, all was not well. They had counted the sheep and realised that two of the lambs were missing.

**Narrator 3** So Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were sent out into the night to look for the lambs.



*(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli enter and sit by the lambs.)*

**Daniel** *(patting a lamb)* Here you are.

**Naomi** You wandered a long way from the flock.

**Rachel** I can see why – it's lovely up here!

*(They all look up in wonder at the sky.)*

**Eli** I just know something special will happen tonight.....

**Narrator 4** Then, without warning, a host of God's angels appeared, their songs of praise filling the night sky.

**Narrator 1** They had gentle faces and such sweet voices, but still Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were afraid.

**Narrator 2** They fell to their knees, holding the lambs close. Then the angels spoke to them....

## **Song Don't Be Afraid** *(tracks 7 & 15, lyrics p18)* *(Angels, supported by whole cast)*

**Narrator 3** Just as the angels told them to, the young shepherds took their lambs and hurried to find the stable lit by a star, and the baby who lay in a manger.

*(As the backing track to the previous song is played again, all exit. Fade the music when ready for the next scene.)*

## **Scene 4**

*(The main stage now represents the nativity stable. Mary sits by the manger, Joseph standing at her shoulder. The stable animals watch from one side.*

**Soft music** plays through this scene **(track 16)** – fade this before the next song.)

**Narrator 4** Mary and Joseph had found a place to stay. A kind innkeeper had offered them his stable, which was clean and had a manger of fresh hay.

**Narrator 1** And as the magical new star shone down on them and the stable animals stood quietly by, Mary had her baby boy. She wrapped Him up gently and laid Him down to sleep in the manger.

**Narrator 2** She had been told many months before, by an angel called Gabriel, that the baby would be God’s son, whom she must call Jesus. He would grow up to bring joy and peace to the world.

*(The four young shepherds and the two lambs cautiously approach.)*

**Narrator 3** And into this stable came the four young shepherds. They knelt and presented Jesus with a gift of the lambs.

**Narrator 4** This was that special ‘something’ they had waited so long for.

*(The three Wise Men enter and approach the manger.)*

**Narrator 1** And what made it even more special was the arrival of three graceful and elegant men.

**Narrator 2** These three wise men from the east had seen the new star and knew it was a sign of the birth of a new king.

**Narrator 3** They had followed it for many weeks to Bethlehem and to this baby in the manger. They each knelt before Jesus and gave Him a precious gift

**Wise Man 1** I bring gold for a king.

**Wise Man 2** I bring frankincense for the son of God.

**Wise Man 3** And I bring myrrh for His life that will be given to save us all.

## **Song**   **God's Gift**   *(tracks 8 & 17, lyrics p19)* *(Whole cast)*

*(As the backing track to the previous song is played again, the Nativity tableau characters exit and the older shepherds and sheep take centre stage again. Fade the music when ready.)*

## **Scene 5**

**Narrator 4** Up on the hillside, the older shepherds were waiting for the four youngsters to return.

**Older Shep. 1** They should be back with those lambs by now!

*(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli enter. The older shepherds stand up, shouting questions at them – 'Where have you been?' 'Where are those lambs?' etc. However, one by one they fall silent.)*

**Narrator 1** As the young shepherds approached, they seemed to walk taller, with confidence, shining with joy!

**Narrator 2** Without thinking, the older shepherds stood back, inviting them to sit close to the fire, then gathered round to listen to them speak.

*(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli sit in pride of place and are handed food and drink. The other shepherds kneel around them.)*

**Narrator 3** Eyes wide, they listened to them talk of angels, a stable, and a manger where a new baby king lay.

**Narrator 4** Of how these youngsters, from 'the bottom of the heap', had met three fine, rich men from afar, who had also come to visit.

**Narrator 1** And of how they had knelt by Jesus and worshipped Him, and so became an important part of the most wonderful story ever told.

*(The older shepherds then huddle together, whispering.)*

**Narrator 2** Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli had at last made their mark. Never again would they be made to sit away from the fire on cold nights, and best of all.....

**Older Shep. 2** *(To the 4 youngsters)* We've decided; it's your turn to take the sheep to market next week....only if you want to of course.

**Older Shep. 3** So.....do you want to?

**D, N, R & E** Do we want to? *(punching the air)* YOU BETCHA!

**Song Baa...Baa...Bethlehem** *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p12)*  
*(Whole cast)*

**THE END**