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- 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.

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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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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.

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

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
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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)

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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**

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**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 the city of Bethlehem there was always a lot going on. The busy, bustling streets were full of people – some working, some shopping and some just having a good gossip. It was the perfect place to be if you enjoyed living life at a furious pace.

Narrator 2 But outside the city walls, high up on the hillsides, Bethlehem was home to an altogether quieter and more relaxed group of people. They preferred the fresh air and open space, and enjoyed the freedom that the great outdoors provided. These people were.....shepherds.

Narrator 3 And just as you’d expect, wherever you find shepherds, you will always find.....

All SHEEP!

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

Song **Baa...Baa...Bethlehem** *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p14)*
(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 4 Now, although they had a pleasant, peaceful and generally carefree existence, there’s one thing you should know about shepherds and about sheep – there’s a ‘pecking order’.

Narrator 1 Which means the bigger, older ones get to boss the smaller, younger ones about! Take sitting round the fire for example....

(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 skinny little scamp! You’ll be allowed nearer the fire when you’re older....a lot older! You can sit where I sit only when you’ve been shepherding as long as I have!

(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 skinny little scamp! You’ll be allowed the sweet, green grass when you’re older....a lot older! You can graze where I graze only when you’ve been wandering these hills as long as I have.

Narrator 2 And so this is how it was; cold feet for the younger shepherds and bitter leaves from thorny bushes for the younger sheep. They 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 p15)*

(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 3 Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were four young shepherds who were definitely fed up with being at the bottom of the heap.

Daniel I’m fed up with being at the bottom of the heap! Just because we’re young it doesn’t mean we don’t feel the cold.

Naomi I’d love to feel important, like we matter too. We’re as good as the older lot, but to them it’s as if we don’t exist!

Rachel And we don’t get to do any of the interesting things that they do. I mean, wouldn’t it be nice if we were allowed to take the sheep to market down in the city, just one time?

Eli Ha! *(pointing to the older shepherds)* They won’t let us do that until we’re much older. Going to market isn’t a job for us youngsters. We’ve got to put in a few more years on the hillside before we’re allowed to go anywhere interesting.

Narrator 4 It was true. Only the older, more experienced shepherds got to leave the hillside once a week, to take some of the flock to sell at market. It was something they really looked forward to and enjoyed doing.

Narrator 1 And the sheep they took to sell were the ones with the big, heavy fleeces, as these would fetch more money. As with the young shepherds, the young lambs had to wait till they were much older before they enjoy the spectacle of market day.

- Lamb 1** The hustle and bustle of the market must be so exciting!
I wish the shepherds would take us, just once.
- Lamb 2** Well, we won’t be taken until we’re much older and with more
wool on our backs. It seems you’ve got to be big and shaggy to
count for anything round here.
- Lamb 1** But it’s going to be such a long time until we’re big and
shaggy. Oh, I can’t wait till we’re the important ones, till
something special happens to us.

Song We'll Shine Through *(tracks 3 & 11, lyrics p16)*

(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 2** Everyone enjoyed market day in Bethlehem. The sights,
sounds and smells were truly something to behold! It would
certainly be an exciting place for a young shepherd or sheep
to visit, if they were allowed....which they weren’t!
- Narrator 3** But today it was much busier than usual, as lots of visitors
had suddenly arrived in the town. On the orders of the
Roman Emperor, Augustus, every man had to return with his
family to the town of his birth, to sign a register.
- Narrator 4** Judging by the numbers who had arrived here, it seemed that
many had been born in Bethlehem over the years! It all made
for a very lively atmosphere indeed and for the older
shepherds and sheep lucky enough to be at market, it was an
exciting break from their quiet lives on the hillside.

Song Market Day *(tracks 4 & 12, lyrics p17)*

(Whole cast)

- Older Shep. 2** *(shouting)* FINE SHEEP FOR SALE! TOP QUALITY SHEEP!
- Sheep** *(proudly)* Baaaa!
- Older Shep. 3** ALL FED ON THE GREENEST, LUSHEST 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!!*) Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!
- (*A local woman examines a sheep, pats it a few times, hands over some coins to Shepherd 2, and leads the sheep off.*)
- Older Shep. 2** (*nodding at the woman in appreciation*) Thank you, Madam. That one will clothe and feed your family for months!
- (*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? They all have excellent fleeces and plenty of meat on their bones.
- Joseph** I’m sorry, but what we need is a place to spend the night. We are very tired and, as you can see, we’re expecting a baby soon!
- Mary** Please, do you know of anywhere? Every inn we’ve tried so far is full. There don’t seem to be any spare rooms in the town.
- Narrator 1** Like most of the other visitors who had turned up in Bethlehem, this man and woman, whose names were Joseph and Mary, had travelled a long way.
- Narrator 2** Exhausted from their journey, they had searched all around the town for somewhere to stay, but without any luck.
- Narrator 3** With their baby on the way, time was running out.....

Song A Place To Stay (*tracks 5 & 13, lyrics p18*) (*Whole cast*)

- Narrator 4** The shepherds couldn’t really help and suggested they look for a room in another part of town. To be honest, they didn’t want to waste any more time talking to people who weren’t interested in buying sheep. So Joseph and Mary wearily led their donkey away, in the direction the shepherds had pointed, hoping they’d find somewhere soon.
- (*Joseph and Mary exit wearily.*)
- Narrator 1** And as the evening closed in, the streets of Bethlehem became empty. The market sellers and locals headed home and visitors went to their lodgings. The shepherds, along with the

Narrator 2 sheep they hadn’t sold, returned to their hillside to sit by the fire and warm their toes.
It had been another busy and exciting day at market.....but for some it was going to be an even busier and 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 Back on the hillside, two young lambs had secretly found a patch of lovely green grass. It was a long way away from the flock’s usual grazing spot and, out of sight of the older sheep, they were free to eat as much as their little tummies could manage!

Lamb 1 *(with a mouthful of grass)* I’m going to make the most of this while it lasts. Mind you, I wouldn’t be surprised if the others turn up soon and push us out the way.

Lamb 2 *(looking up)* Look at the sky. I’ve never seen the stars shining so brightly! Something special is in the air – I can feel it!

Lamb 1 *(still feeding)* Never mind what’s going on up there, it’s what’s here on the ground that I’m interested in! Like I said, best hurry up and eat your fill before the others turn up.

Lamb 2 But it’s wonderful up there! Can’t you just stop eating for one moment and look! I promise it’s worth it!

(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 It certainly was the most wonderful sight imaginable. Every single star was twinkling like a precious jewel, shimmering and glistening against the black of the night sky. But there amongst them, shining twice as brightly as all the rest, was a much larger star that they had never seen before.

Narrator 1 As they watched, it seemed to move across the sky and settle over Bethlehem, bathing it in light. Looking down from on the hillside, 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, back at the shepherds’ camp, all was not well. As usual, they had counted the sheep before settling down for the night, but on this occasion they had realised that two of the youngest lambs were missing. This was a serious problem.

Narrator 3 Because the older shepherds had got comfortable, and didn’t want to leave their places by the warm fire, they selfishly sent Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli out into the night to look for the lost lambs.

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

Daniel *(patting a lamb)* At last! Here you are! We’ve spent ages looking for you. We’ve been really worried.

Naomi I only hope we can still find our way back. You’ve wandered ever so far from the rest of the flock.

Rachel I can see why – it’s lovely up here, away from it all. It’s so peaceful and still.....and just look at the sky!

(They all look up in wonder.)

Eli *(whispering)* Gracious me, I’ve never seen anything so beautiful! It’s got to be a sign that something special is going to happen tonight.....

Narrator 4 Eli could not have been more right. Without warning, a host of God’s angels suddenly appeared in front of these four astonished shepherds. Their glorious and beautiful songs of praise filled the night sky.

Narrator 1 The angels had gentle faces and such sweet, heavenly voices, but still Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were afraid. They fell to their knees, trembling with fear, holding the lambs close.

Narrator 2 Then the angels spoke to them, telling of wondrous things that were happening that very night in Bethlehem.....

Song Don't Be Afraid *(tracks 7 & 15, lyrics p20)* *(Angels, supported by whole cast)*

Narrator 3 Still in shock, the young shepherds got up from their knees, took their lambs and hurried down the hillside to the town. With the angels’ words ringing in their ears, they went to seek out the stable lit by a star and to kneel inside before the special 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 It had taken a lot searching, but eventually Mary and Joseph had found a place to stay for the night. A kind innkeeper had taken pity on them and offered them his stable, which was clean and had a manger of fresh hay.

Narrator 1 It wasn't the room they'd hoped for, but they were at last comfortable and warm, 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 in swaddling bands and laid Him down to sleep in the manger.

Narrator 2 Many months before, an angel called Gabriel had visited Mary at her home in Nazareth. He had told her that the baby she was going to have was God's son, and was His gift to the world. She was to call him Jesus. He would grow up to do wonderful things and bring joy and peace to the world.

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

Narrator 3 And into this simple, lowly stable, came the four simple, lowly shepherds. As Mary smiled at them, Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli quietly approached the manger. Just like the angels had told them to, they each knelt before Jesus, presented Him with a gift of the two lambs and gave thanks to God.

Narrator 4 They immediately realised that this was the special 'something' they had waited for and dreamed of for so long. They just knew they were part of a wonderful event that would be remembered and talked about forever.

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

Narrator 1 And what made it even more wonderful was the arrival of three graceful and elegant men, who'd travelled many, many miles just to find the baby. The young shepherds watched in awe as they got down from their camels, entered the stable and stood next to them.

Narrator 2 Some months before, these three wise men from eastern lands had seen the new star in the sky. They had been waiting a long time for it to appear, as its arrival had been foretold to them in the scriptures that they studied. They knew it was a sign that a new king had been born, a king they must find and worship.

- Narrator 3** They had followed the star by night, sleeping by day, as it guided them to Bethlehem and to this baby in the manger. They too approached Jesus and each knelt before Him with a precious gift to celebrate his birth.
- Wise Man 1** I bring gold for a new king. His kingdom will reach far and be never-ending.
- Wise Man 2** I bring frankincense, a gift to show He is the son of God come from heaven.
- Wise Man 3** And I bring myrrh, to give thanks for the life He will give so that we can all be saved.

Song **God's Gift** *(tracks 8 & 17, lyrics p21)* *(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** Back on the hillside, the older shepherds were still waiting for the four youngsters to return with the missing lambs, annoyed that they had been away for so long.

- Older Shep. 1** Where are they? They should be back with those lambs by now. They'll be lying around day-dreaming, I'll bet! Never send a child to do a grown-up's job, that's what I say!

(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli enter.)

- Narrator 1** Just then, however, Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli arrived back at the camp. Because they didn't have the lambs with them, they were immediately greeted with angry questions.

(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 2** But as the young shepherds approached, the older ones noticed there was something different about them. They walked taller, with a new-found confidence, and seemed to shine with joy.

- Narrator 3** Without thinking, the older shepherds ceased their angry questions and accusations and stood back, inviting them to sit in the seats closest to the fire! With a respect they'd never shown before they brought them bread and water, 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 4 Eyes wide, they knelt round Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli and listened as the events of that night were told to them; of how, on a remote part of the hillside, God’s angels had visited their friends, telling them to hurry to the stable and to the manger where the new baby king lay.

Narrator 1 Of how these four, unimportant youngsters from ‘the bottom of the heap’ had rubbed shoulders with three fine, rich men from afar, who had also come to visit Him.

Narrator 2 And of how, at the invitation of His mother Mary, they had knelt by Jesus and worshipped Him, and in doing so became an important part of the most wonderful story ever told.

(The older shepherds then huddle together, whispering.)

Narrator 3 Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli had at last made their mark, which meant some pretty big changes to that ‘pecking order’! Never again would they be made to sit away from the fire on cold nights, or be made to feel less worthy than anyone else. 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 p14)*
(Whole cast)

THE END

Baa...Baa...Bethlehem

Chorus *Baa...Baa...Bethlehem,
The place we call our home.
Baa...Baa...Bethlehem,
On its hillsides we are free to roam.*

Verse 1 There's so much to-ing and fro-ing
Down in the busy city.
Not sure if you're coming or going,
Can't relax and that's a pity.
But up here the air is clear,
Shepherds and sheep are sitting pretty....

Chorus *Baa...Baa...Bethlehem....*

Verse 2 There's so much hustle and bustle
Down in the busy city.
That's fine if you like the kerfuffle,
If you don't then that's a pity.
But we've got a peaceful spot,
Shepherds and sheep are sitting pretty....

Chorus *Baa...Baa...Bethlehem....*

Bottom Of The Heap

Verse 1 *(older shepherds to the youngsters)*
We have worked for years and years,
You have not yet grown your beards.
Here’s our spot when nights are cold, *(pointing to seats by the fire)*
Know your place – do as you’re told!

Chorus *The bottom of the heap,
The bottom of the heap,
That’s where you start from,
Shepherds and sheep!*

Verse 2 *(older sheep to the lambs)*
See our horns and shaggy fleece?
You’re too young, you don’t have these!
We reserve the sweetest grass!
Know your place and wait till last!

Chorus *The bottom of the heap.....*

Verse 3 *(younger shepherds and lambs)*
When you start out, life is tough,
We have all been told enough.
And because that’s how things are,
All we have to say is, “Baa!”

Chorus *The bottom of the heap.....*

Repeat Chorus

We'll Shine Through

Verse 1 Something special's on the horizon,
Far away and out of sight.
But we know good things come to those who wait,
So we just smile and sit tight.

Chorus *One day, one day,
We'll make our mark in a different way.
One day, one day,
We'll shine through, come what may.*

Verse 2 Something special's on the horizon,
And we're not sure what it will be.
But we know good things come to those who wait,
So let's be patient and see.

Chorus *One day, one day.....*

Verse 3 Something special's on the horizon,
What it is, we haven't a clue.
But we know good things come to those who wait,
One day our dreams will come true.

Chorus *One day, one day.....*

Repeat Chorus

Market Day

Verse 1 The streets are very busy – they’ve come alive today,
As folk arrive at market to see what’s on display.
Just take a look around you, there is so much to see,
There’s no place more exciting, no place we’d rather be!

Chorus *Market day! Market day!
The best day of the week.
Market day! Market day!
Come down and take a peek.*

Verse 2 We’ve got fantastic bargains, and nothing is too dear.
No matter what you’re after, you’ll always find it here!
Just take a look around you, there is so much to see,
There’s no place more exciting, no place we’d rather be!

Chorus *Market day! Market day.....*

Verse 3 The market smells and noises are different, you can tell.
But that’s what makes it special for those who buy or sell.
Just take a look around you, there is so much to see,
There’s no place more exciting, no place we’d rather be!

Chorus *Market day! Market day.....*

Repeat Chorus

A Place To Stay

Verse 1 Mary and Joseph have come to Bethlehem.
They’ve journeyed on a long and dusty road,
Sitting on a donkey
For miles and miles and miles,
And carrying a very precious load.

Chorus *They’ve travelled a long, long way,
Hungry, cold and tired.
It’s been a long, long day,
What would make it better
Is a place to stay, a place to stay*

Verse 2 Mary and Joseph have come to Bethlehem.
They need to find some shelter in the town.
Everywhere is busy
And all the inns are full.
The ‘vacant’ signs have all been taken down.

Chorus *They’ve travelled a long, long way....*

Verse 3 Mary and Joseph have come to Bethlehem.
They’re going to have a baby very soon!
So they’ll keep on searching
And knock on lots of doors,
And try their very best to find a room?

Chorus *They’ve travelled a long, long way....*

Repeat *A place to stay.*

A Marvellous, Magical Sky

Verse 1 What a marvellous, magical sky!
 The stars are coming alive!
 They sparkle and shimmer,
 Glisten and glimmer –
 A marvellous, magical sign,
 In a marvellous, magical sky.

(During the extended instrumental section the Stars perform a dance.)

Repeat Verse 1

Don't Be Afraid

- Verse 1** Don't be afraid! We bring good news for everyone.
Don't be afraid, for Jesus has been born!
Born tonight, under the light of a shining new star.
Born tonight, under the light of a shining new star.
He's born tonight, under the light
Of a shining new star.
- Verse 2** Don't be afraid! We bring good news for everyone.
Don't be afraid, for Jesus has been born!
Seek a babe swaddled and laid in a manger of hay.
Seek a babe swaddled and laid in a manger of hay.
Go, seek a babe swaddled and laid
In a manger of hay.
- Verse 3** Don't be afraid! We bring good news for everyone.
Don't be afraid, for Jesus has been born!
Join with us, sing with us, let God's name be praised.
Join with us, sing with us, let God's name be praised.
Come, join with us, and sing with us,
Let God's name be praised.
Come, join with us, and sing with us,
Let God's name be praised.

God's Gift

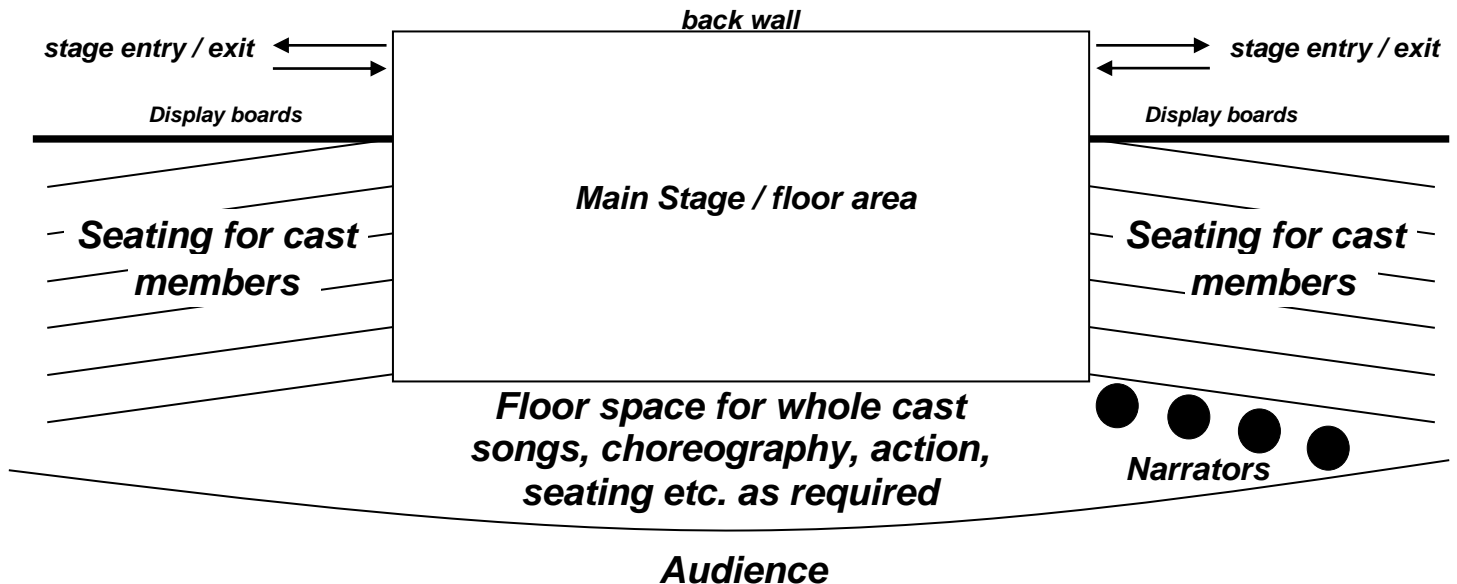
Verse 1 This is God's gift to the world.
This is God's gift to the world.
To show how he loves each one of us,
This is God's gift to the world.
This is God's gift to the world.

Verse 2 This is God's gift to us all.
This is God's gift to us all.
A new baby boy brings peace and joy,
This is God's gift to us all.
This is God's gift to us all.

Verse 3 This is God's gift to the world.
This is God's gift to the world.
Forever we'll be happy and free,
This is God's gift to the world.
This is God's gift to the world.

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

Baa...Baa...Bethlehem has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery** – The back wall behind the main stage could display a backdrop of rolling hillsides, with sparse bushes and trees. At the foot of the hills you could show biblical buildings in silhouette to represent the town. Above the hills and town should be a starry night/evening sky. The display boards behind one seated area could display more of the hillside, and more buildings on the boards behind the other seated area.
- **Furniture** – A simple arrangement of logs/sticks and yellow, red and orange tissue paper will give a good representation of the shepherds’ fire, with a few larger logs for the prominent seats around it. A couple of classroom tables, covered with white linen cloths, could be used as market stalls displaying wares in scene 2. A couple of straw bales would be effective to represent the stable, and of course you will need a manger too. A simple stool is also required for Mary to sit on.
- **Props** – All shepherds will need crooks, sized according to their ages – the young shepherds should have shorter ones. Sheep/goat skin flasks (or similar) and a bowl of bread will be needed for the final scene. Baskets of fruit, bread, cloth, trinkets etc. should be carried by market traders, and similar items displayed on the covered tables for the market scene. The wise men will need the traditional three gifts to present to the baby, which can be

represented by two ornate bottles (for the frankincense and myrrh) and a small casket for the gold.

- **Costume** – Simply recycle those traditional nativity outfits to which we’re all accustomed, using tea-towels, white sheets, old curtains, tinsel etc! A couple of the older male shepherds should have bushy beards, and all older shepherds should have head-dresses. The younger shepherds should have uncovered heads. For the animals, appropriately-coloured leotards, leggings and tee-shirts topped off with some creative masks will be simple and effective. If possible, create woolly fleeces for the older sheep using small fleecy rugs or lots of cotton wool! The stars could wear black, with silver foil and tinsel star-shaped head-dresses. The star of Bethlehem could be differentiated from the rest by being larger, with more points.
- **Use of Space** – The whole cast will be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated to one side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Content** – You can personalise your performance by adding characters, and re-writing any parts of the script to make them more appropriate to your particular school. Different songs that the children know and enjoy could replace, or be added to those on the track list. Don’t feel restricted; make the show your own.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or maybe in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for perhaps the entrance of some characters from the back, or to allow some of the drama and choreography to be performed on the floor.

Of course, should you have any questions, or if you want further advice about putting on this musical, please email us and we’ll be happy to give you all the information you need.