

# *It's* **Chr-i-i-stmas!**

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## Scene 1

*(The setting is a TV studio, decorated for a festive pop-chart show. Through an excited studio crowd, the Director and Assistant Director walk to the front of the stage. They carry clipboards and wear microphone headsets. The show hosts, Tim Tinsel, Holly Bush and Sam Frost, stand on a raised platform to one side of the main stage.)*

**Director** Ok, I need silence on the studio floor! I said SILENCE! We're on air in less than thirty seconds! Is everyone in position?

*(Those taking part as the studio crowd, spread out on, around and in front of the stage, ready to wave, cheer and dance to the show's theme tune.)*

**Assist. Director** Remember people, you're on TV, so lots of energy, lots of cheering, lots of DANCING! Right, cameras ready? Here we go....we're live in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at your CD/sound operator.)*

*(The Theme Tune (track 9) begins. Tim Tinsel speaks over the opening recorded applause.)*

**Tim Tinsel** We're here.....we're live.....and we're LOUD, counting down the hits on the CHR-I-I-I-STMAS CHART SHOW!

*(As the music kicks in, the studio crowd dances enthusiastically. When the music ends the crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. A select few excitedly join the hosts on and around their podium.)*

**Tim Tinsel** Welcome everyone to television centre. My name's Tim Tinsel....

**Holly Bush** I'm Holly Bush....

**Sam Frost** And I'm Sam Frost! We're all excited here in the studio, as I'm sure you are at home, to find out who is going to be number one in the Christmas pop chart. And this year, it's a chart with a difference!

**Tim Tinsel** All the artists on tonight's show are important characters from a special story which you might recognise! And the songs they'll be performing are all about how they fit into that story.

**Holly Bush** And whether you like your motown, glam rock, folk, big-band swing or a nice slice of cheesy pop, we've got something for everyone! *(to one of the crowd gathered round)* So tell me, who are you most looking forward to seeing tonight?

**Girl 1** *(squealing!)* I've got a real crush on that band 'The Emperors'. I love that whole roman-vibe-thing they've got going on!

**Boy 1** *(butting in)* Naaah! That image is so ancient! I can't wait to see 'The Gift-Rappers' – they wear their Christmas bling with such style!

**Holly Bush** Well, maybe those acts will have made it into the charts – we'll have to wait and see! But first on tonight's show, in at number seven it's.....Gabriel's Soul Patrol!

*(As the crowd cheers and applauds, Gabriel's Soul Patrol enter and take their positions on the main stage. As well as a miming band (see below), Gabriel has a group of angel backing-singers. They are all joined by another presenter, Chris Cracker.)*

**Note - as there will be a number of acts taking to the stage in succession, if possible a drum kit, a couple of keyboards and some microphones on stands should remain on stage throughout the show. Guitarists and brass players etc, along with a drummer and keyboard players for each act, can mime to the backing tracks as the featured lead and backing singers (including your choir/ensembles of course) sing the songs.**

**Sam Frost** And before they perform, Gabriel's Soul Patrol are going to have a little chat with our own Chris Cracker! Over to you, Chris.

**Chris Cracker** Thanks Sam. So Gabriel, in at number seven – you must be delighted with that chart position. Tell me a bit about the song.

**Gabriel** Thanks Chris. This song is about how I visited a young woman called Mary at her home in Nazareth, and told her about a special job she was being given.

**Backing Singer** In fact, Mary's here tonight! Why don't we bring her on stage?

**Chris Cracker** Great idea! Mary, please come and join us! *(Mary enters to applause.)* Mary, great to see you. Tell me, what was this 'job' you were given?

**Mary** I was told by Gabriel that God wanted me to be the mother of His son. I was to call Him Jesus and He would grow up to be a great man!

**Chris Cracker** Wow! And how did you feel about that Mary?

**Mary** Are you serious?! How do you think I felt? I was absolutely terrified! But Gabriel put me at ease and told me how honoured I was to be given the job.

**Chris Cracker** And we're honoured to have you on tonight's show! So everyone, with their special guest Mary, singing their hit 'The One God's Chosen', it's.....Gabriel's Soul Patrol! *(Chris exits.)*

*(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, Mary stands next to Gabriel as the song is sung to her.)*

## **Song The One God's Chosen**

*(tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p18)*

*(Gabriel's Soul Patrol, supported by whole cast)*

*(The crowd cheers as the **Theme Tune (track 11)** then plays and the singers and musicians exit. The crowd spreads out on, around and in front of the stage and all dance, while the directors move round encouraging everyone to keep the energy up!)*

## Scene 2

*(As soon as the theme tune ends, the directors step to the front.)*

**Director** Great energy people! Let's keep that up throughout the whole show! Ok, clear the stage.

*(The crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. A different select few gather round the hosts.)*

**Assist. Director** And we're back to our hosts in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts' podium.)*

**Tim Tinsel** So, that was Gabriel's Soul Patrol, in at number seven with 'The One God's Chosen'. *(to the crowd gathered round)* So, what did you think of that performance?

**Girl 2** What can I say? It was heavenly! Their voices are so angelic!

**Boy 2** A bit too clean-cut for me. I like something with more of an edge!

**Holly Bush** Something with more of an edge? Hmm, well maybe our next act will be more up your street. Ladies and gentlemen, straight into our chart at number six, with their new song 'The Streets Of Bethlehem' it's everybody's favourite folk-punk band.....The Landlords!

*(As the crowd cheers and applauds, The Landlords enter and take their positions on the main stage. As well as a miming band, there are two main singers, the Innkeeper and his wife. They are all joined again by Chris Cracker.)*

**Sam Frost** And Chris is on stage with the band now, to find out a bit about them and about the song they're performing.

**Chris Cracker** The Landlords! Great to have you on the show. So, this song, 'The Streets Of Bethlehem', is all about your home town.

**Landlord 1** That's right, Chris. Bethlehem got pretty busy right after Caesar Augustus issued a decree that every man had to travel to his birthplace, with his family, for a census.

**Landlord 2** It was great news for us! Our guesthouses and inns did a roaring trade with all the visitors who arrived. Profits went through the roof!

**Landlord 3** We were turning people away left, right and centre. Every place in Bethlehem was full, you see. If I'd known we'd be that busy I'd have put my prices up!

**Chris Cracker** But I gather it wasn't fun for all of you. *(to the Innkeeper and his wife)* You two didn't cope too well under the pressure I hear.

**Wife** You can say that again! Of course, it didn't help with his nibs here lying around our inn, not lifting a finger to help!

- Innkeeper** Ah, come on! That's not fair! I did my bit to help you! You know how tired I get!
- Wife** Tired?! Bone idle more like! I couldn't cope on my own. Those visitors just kept coming and your only job was to stand at the door and turn them away once we got full. But you couldn't even do that properly!
- Landlord 4** Yeah, he even let a couple stay in the stable behind his inn! Talk about a soft touch!
- Innkeeper** But I felt sorry for them. They were desperate for a place to stay and they seemed such nice people. The stable was the only option.
- Wife** Yes, but it was me who had to sweep-out the place while you sat on your bottom!
- Chris Cracker** Come on you two, let's not argue on live TV! I reckon it's time you sang for us. Everybody, with their song 'The Streets Of Bethlehem', give it up for....The Landlords! *(Chris exits.)*

*(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, the Innkeeper, his wife and the Landlords perform the song.)*

## **Song**    **The Streets Of Bethlehem**

*(tracks 2 & 12, lyrics p19)*

*(The Landlords, supported by whole cast)*

*(The crowd cheers as the **Theme Tune (track 11)** then plays and the singers and musicians exit. The crowd spreads out on, around and in front of the stage and all dance.)*

# **END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE**

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