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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, to stream live performances and upload recordings to social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. 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 ‘A Happy-Clappy Nativity’ to an audience other than staff and children (eg. if you perform to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licences do not cover you for this. **Unless you purchased a 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 email – info@edgyproductions.com
- by post – please check www.edgyproductions.com for address details

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 ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£42.00** (including VAT)
(admission is charged and/or tickets are sold)

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If you are recording any performance, streaming it, uploading to social media, or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

Recording and Duplication Licence ☐ **£36.00** (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)**

Displayed prices subject to change after 31/12/2021

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

OVERVIEW

As the title suggests, this is a nativity musical full of happiness...and clappiness! It is the traditional Christmas story told through a simple but engaging script and 8 delightful clap-along songs, all written with one thing in mind...to have your hall echoing with lots of happy voices and loud applause!

To help you make the most of the clapping and percussion elements in the songs, which tick a lot of boxes in the new Model Music Curriculum, this pack includes fantastic ‘clapping-karaoke’ videos which can be used for rehearsals and, if you want your audience to interact, for performances too!

PLOT SUMMARY

With your audience welcomed, the opening song (***A Happy-Clappy Nativity***) is sung. We are then introduced to Mary, who tells us she has a funny feeling that her simple life is soon going to change. This feeling is spot-on, as the Angel Gabriel arrives to give her the news that she is to be the mother of God’s son! ***Song – Hi There, Mary***

Her husband-to-be, Joseph, promises to stand by her, but explains that they need to go to Bethlehem to register their names for a new census. Their donkey laden, they hit the road along with many other travellers. ***Song – Clip-Cloppin’ Along The Road***

With Bethlehem bustling with visitors, all the inns soon fill up. As Mary and Joseph arrive in town, their baby due to be born, they struggle to find a room for the night! ***Song – Three Of You***

Fortunately, a kind innkeeper offers them the use of his stable and, as a bright new star settles overhead, the baby Jesus is born and laid in the manger to sleep. ***Song – Welcome To The World***

This being a stable, there are, of course, animals in attendance! A comical collection of hairy, furry and feathered friends gathers round the manger to celebrate Jesus’ birth. ***Song – There’s A Baby In The Stable***

Next, we visit a group of shepherds in the hills above the town, watching over their sheep and wishing something exciting would happen! Their wish is granted as they are visited by a heavenly host of angels, singing about the new baby and praising God! ***Song – Praise To The Lord***. As they are told by the angels, the shepherds take a lamb as a gift and hurry to the stable to worship Jesus.

Finally, having travelled for many weeks, following the new star as it led them to Bethlehem, the three Wise Men arrive at the stable and give their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ***Song – Led by A Star***

With the Nativity tableau complete and with heartfelt wishes for a peaceful Christmas given, your audience is treated to a farewell refrain of ***A Happy-Clappy Nativity***. We are sure that they, in turn, will clap and applaud until their hands are sore!

CHARACTERS

30 speaking parts

(This number can easily be increased or reduced to suit your cast size – see suggestions on p24.)

5 Narrators

Mary

Gabriel

Joseph

Donkey

3 Innkeepers

2 Travellers

Dog

Sheep

Hen

Cow

Goose

Horse

Duck

Pigeon

3 Shepherds

2 Angels

Balthazar

Melchior

Caspar

For a
character
line-count
& costume
suggestions,
see p25

Non-speaking characters for featured songs

Travellers

Donkeys

Innkeepers

Animals

Shepherds

Angels

Teaching & Performing the Clapping

All the songs in this musical have a clapping accompaniment, and one or two have extra percussion parts for woodblocks, tambourines and shakers.* The clapping, as the musical’s title suggests, is a fun element which will add an entertaining focus to your rehearsals and performances. Of course, it is optional and if you choose to just sing the songs then your show will be as equally fantastic! However, should you choose to include the clapping, the teaching and performance of this can be approached in a number of ways, on different levels, ensuring it is enjoyable and not a chore! Here are some suggestions...

Create a dedicated clapping group whose job it is to either lead the cast in the clapping, or to be solely responsible for performing all the clapping/percussion parts.

An adult (or a confident child) can conduct the clapping group, keeping them in-time and on-beat.

The clapping parts recorded on the tracks are only suggestions – you can either learn these or come up with your own ideas. The backing tracks are supplied with the clapping included and also without, so you can clap along to what’s already there or do your own thing....or a combination of both!

If you do want to follow the parts as written and recorded, spend time listening to the tracks and learning how the claps fit in. Learn the parts by ear – they are not overcomplicated and should be able to be picked up with a few listens and a bit of practice.



Use our fantastic Clapping Karaoke videos which come as part of the production pack! Follow each song on screen, watching and listening as the claps and percussion parts are played with simple visual cues and prompts to enable you and the children to clap and play along in the right places. You could also display these videos during the performance, encouraging your audience to join in, which could be a lot of fun! The videos (as MP4s) are included as separate files in the digital download and CD-ROM versions, and on an accompanying disc if you have the book version.

If you read music, the clapping and percussion parts are scored in standard notation alongside a full piano and vocal score for each song. You can use these to follow the clapping as the backing track (or piano accompaniment) is played, helping you, in turn, to conduct and teach the children the parts.

Don't worry if it all gets a bit chaotic! Nobody cares if things go slightly off-piste! All that matters is that there's lots of enthusiastic clapping, joyful singing and happy faces!

- * Song 3, 'Clip-Cloppin' Along the road' has an optional woodblock part
- Song 4, 'Three Of You' has an optional tambourine part
- Song 5, 'Welcome To The World' has an optional shaker part



You can purchase
digital backdrops on
CD or as downloads
from our website.

Scene 1

(As the **intro music** plays (**track 9**) the cast enters and all sit on, around and in front of the stage. Five festively-dressed narrators stand on a small, separate stage to the side of the main stage, to read their lines from scripts sitting on decorated music stands.)

The following script is written in rhyming verse. To help your cast deliver the lines so they scan properly, the underlined syllables should be stressed.

- Narrator #1** A warm welcome to all of you,
How lovely that you're here!
It's Christmas, which is everybody's
Favourite time of year!
- Narrator #2** And this is our Nativity,
Our musical...our play.
You're not surprised, you knew that, right?
It's why we're dressed this way!
- Narrator #3** It's 'A Happy Clappy Nativity',
A name that fits just right,
'Cause happiness and clappiness
Will fill this room tonight!
- Narrator #4** So, wakey-wakey everyone!
We want to hear no snores,
Just lots of joyful voices
And a ton of loud applause!
- Narrator #5** Okay, to get things started,
Let's have a little song,
And you are all invited
To sing and clap along!

Song A Happy-Clappy Nativity



Track 1 - vocal & clap demo
Track 10 - backing track with claps
Track 11 - backing track without claps
Lyrics p15

(As the song finishes, the main stage clears.)

- Narrator #1** Our story starts many years ago,
In a distant, far-off land.
We welcome Mary to the stage –
Let's give her a big hand!

(As Mary enters, a large ‘CLAP’ sign/cue card is held up, encouraging everyone to give her a round of applause. Mary sits centrally on a stool.)

Narrator #2 Oh yes, and just to let you know,
This sign that we have here...*(pointing to the ‘CLAP’ sign)*
When it’s held up, do as it says!
Now, have we made that clear?!

Mary I live a very simple life,
I hope it stays that way.
It’s just, I’ve got a feeling
That’s all going to change today!

Narrator #3 Well, God was watching Mary,
And her feeling was spot-on!
He had a job for her to do;
That job....to have His son!

Narrator #4 So He sent her a messenger,
A quite important chap.
This is the Angel Gabriel –
Come on, give him a clap!

*(As Gabriel enters, the ‘CLAP’ sign is held up and all welcome him with applause.
He stands by Mary.)*

Gabriel Mary, I have news for you!
It’s such a joyful thing,
I’m going to tell you with a song!
(to audience) And you lot, please join in!

Song **Hi There, Mary**

*Track 2 - vocal & clap demo
Track 12 - backing track with claps
Track 13 - backing track without claps
Lyrics p16*

(As the song finishes, Gabriel exits.)

Narrator #5 Now, Mary was a little scared
Of what would come her way.

Mary And Joseph, my fiancé,
What on earth’s he going to say?!

Narrator #1 But he promised to stand by her,
To be there through thick and thin.
Good ol’ Joseph, what a guy!
Let’s give it up for him!

(As Joseph enters, the ‘CLAP’ sign is held up. He stands by Mary’s side.)

Narrator #2 Now, Joseph also had some news;
He’d planned a trip for them,
Back to the place where he grew up...

Joseph ...We’re off to Bethlehem!
You see, the Roman emperor
Has ordered everyone
To register for taxes
In the town where they are from!

Narrator #3 And so they packed their travel bags,
Then went to get some rest.
We’ll join them in a moment,
And find out what happened next!

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 14**), Mary and Joseph exit.)*



Scene 2

Narrator #4 And so the world was on the move,
As travellers hit the roads,
Their poor old donkeys carrying
Some pretty heavy loads!

(The stage fills with travellers and donkeys.)

Donkey #1 Come rain or shine, hot or cold,
In every kind of weather,
We all work hard, so just for us...

All Donkeys ...Please put your hands together!

(The ‘CLAP’ sign is held up and the donkeys accept their applause. Mary and Joseph then enter with their donkey.)

Narrator #5 Mary and Joseph joined in with
This clippy-cloppy throng,
Which sets us up quite nicely
For a clippy-cloppy song!

Song

Clip-Cloppin’ Along The Road

Track 3 - vocal & clap demo

Track 15 - backing track with claps

Track 16 - backing track without claps

Lyrics p17



(As the song finishes, all exit. The innkeepers then enter, each with a sign reading ‘VACANCIES’. They line up along the back of the stage.)

Narrator #1 The innkeepers of Bethlehem
Were all very excited!
With all these paying customers,
In fact, they were delighted!

Innkeeper #1 Rooms to rent for travellers!
Come and stay the night!

Innkeeper #2 Cheap and cheerful! Nice clean sheets!
And not a rat in sight!

(The travellers enter and stand with the innkeepers. All shake hands to show deals are being made. The innkeepers then turn their signs round to now read ‘NO VACANCIES’.)

Traveller #1 It seems that we arrived in town
Not one minute too soon!

Traveller #2 All the inns have filled up fast!
I’m glad we got a room!

(Mary, Joseph and the donkey then wearily enter and stand centrally.)

Narrator #2 But what about these tired two?
They need a place to stay.
It’s kind of an emergency....

All THERE’S A BABY ON THE WAY!

Song Three Of You

Track 4 - vocal & clap demo

Track 17 - backing track with claps

Track 18 - backing track without claps

Lyrics p18

During Verse and Chorus 2, Mary and Joseph approach each innkeeper in turn, who shake their heads and point to their ‘NO VACANCIES’ signs. During Verse and Chorus 3, they come to the last innkeeper who thinks for a moment, then gives them a thumbs-up.

(As the song finishes, all exit apart from Mary, Joseph, the donkey and Innkeeper #3.)

Innkeeper #3 It's got no beds, it's got no chairs,
It's really rather small.
It's also full of animals...
It's a stable, after all!

Narrator #3 He'd saved the day, this innkeeper,
A cause for celebration!
So how about we show the fella
Some appreciation!

*(The 'CLAP' sign is held up and the innkeeper accepts his applause. The **intro music** plays (**track 19**) and he leads Mary, Joseph and the donkey off stage. The stage is then set up to represent the stable, with the manger central.)*



Scene 3

(Mary and Joseph enter. Mary places a swaddled doll in the manger and sits beside it on a stool. Joseph stands next to Mary. Their donkey and a cow look on from the side.)

Narrator #4 So, as the daylight faded,
Mary had her baby boy,
The son of God whose birth this night
Would bring the world such joy.

Narrator #5 She gave Him the name Jesus,
Just as Gabriel had said,
And wrapped Him up and laid Him
In a manger for His bed.

(The Star enters and stands centrally at the back.)

Narrator #1 A bright new star settled overhead,
And shone its light on them,
On this first ever Christmas
In a stable in Bethlehem.

Song Welcome To The World

*Track 5 - vocal & clap demo
Track 20 - backing track with claps
Track 21 - backing track without claps
Lyrics p19*

(As the song finishes, the other animals enter.)

Narrator #2 And because this was a stable,
Lots of animals were there!
It was getting kind of crowded,
There was little room to spare!

(The animals jostle for position round the manger.)

Dog Come on! Come On! Get out the way!

Sheep Oi! You’re on my toe!

Hen *(to the cow)* Would you please just let me through,
You great big so-and-so!

Cow Well, I was here before you all!
You’ll have to wait a minute.

Goose But I want to see the manger
And the baby who is in it!

Horse Just be a little patient,
We’ll all get a chance to see.

Duck Ha! That’s easy for you to say,
You’re huge compared to me!

Pigeon Coo! Let’s stop this arguing
And try to get along!

Donkey My furry, hairy, feathered friends,
I know...let’s sing a song!

Song

There’s A Baby In The Stable

Track 6 - vocal & clap demo

Track 22 - backing track with claps

Track 23 - backing track without claps

Lyrics p20

(The animals finish their song, tiptoe away from the manger and assemble on one side of the stage.)

Narrator #3 Their praises sung, they then moved back –
A good thing too, as maybe
Noisy beasts shouldn’t be allowed
Too near a sleeping baby!

Narrator #4 No, they might not be that quiet,
And not exactly clean,
But let’s clap all these animals,
Then have a change of scene!

*(The ‘CLAP’ sign is held up and all exit, as the **intro music** plays (track 24). The manger and any other stable scenery is moved to the back or side of the stage.)*



Scene 4

(The shepherds enter and gather centre-stage.)

Narrator #5 Now, not so very far away,
In the hills above the town,
Some shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground.

Narrator #1 And yes, we stole that last line
From a famous song, we know!
But it’s hard to write a rhyming script
For a children’s Christmas show!

Shepherd #1 Counting sheep’s so boring!
I’m getting sick of it!
Oh, why can’t something happen
To shake things up a bit?

Shepherd #2 It’s funny you should say that,
(pointing) ‘Cause look up in the sky...
Lots of happy, singing angels
Praising God on high!

(The angels enter. The ‘CLAP’ sign is held up, but Narrator #1 stops the applause!)

Narrator #2 No! Hang on just a minute!
Before you all applaud,
We’ll wait until they’ve sung their song...
It’s called ‘Praise To The Lord’!

Song Praise To The Lord

*Track 7 - vocal & clap demo
Track 25 - backing track with claps
Track 26 - backing track without claps
Lyrics p21*

(The ‘CLAP’ sign is held up again and the audience is now encouraged to applaud.)

Shepherd #3 The son of God is born tonight!
How full of joy I am!

Angel #1 Then hurry, go and visit Him!
(*pointing*) And maybe grab that lamb!

Angel #2 Find the stable lit by a star,
And there, lying within,
On a simple bed of hay...

All Angels You’ll see the baby king!

(As the **intro music** plays (**track 27**), all exit. Mary, Joseph and the animals again gather round the manger, as in the previous scene. Three of the shepherds enter and kneel by the manger. The angels enter and assemble in a group to one side.)



Scene 5

Narrator #3 So the shepherds found the stable
And knelt where Jesus lay.
This was turning out to be
A splendid Christmas Day!

Narrator #4 You’d think this was as busy
As a festive ‘do’ could get,
But everybody, think again... (*pointing to the back of the hall*)
You ain’t seen nothing yet!

(The three Wise Men enter at the back of your hall.)

Balthazar Caspar, you old slow-coach,
Get a move-on, mate!
When visiting the son of God,
One really can’t be late!

Caspar Oh, stop your nagging! Who made you
The leader, Balthazar?
And anyway, we’re nearly there,
Look... (*pointing to the stable*)...the shining star!

Melchior After months of crossing desert sands,
That star has led us here.
We three wise men deserve a clap...
...And possibly a cheer?!

(The ‘CLAP’ sign is held up and the Wise Men receive applause and cheers.)

Narrator #5 By night and day they’d travelled far,
Their journey had been long.
And so we’ll let them catch their breath,
While we sing another song!

Song **Led By A Star**

Track 8 - vocal & clap demo
Track 28 - backing track with claps
Track 29 - backing track without claps
Lyrics p22

(During the song, the Wise Men walk through the audience to the stage. In the last verse, they present their gifts and kneel by the manger.)

Balthazar I give gold, for He’s a king.

Caspar Frankincense for God’s own son.

Melchior And I bring myrrh to show He’ll give
His life for everyone.

Narrator #1 And there inside that stable,
With a little baby’s birth,
Was also born a hope that there
Would now be peace on Earth.

Narrator #2 So, we leave this joyful scene
And, full of festive cheer,
We finish our nativity
And end another year.

Narrator #3 But for one last time, let’s raise this roof!
Once more, let’s fill this hall
With happiness and clappiness....

All MERRY CHRISTMAS, ONE AND ALL!

Song **A Happy-Clappy Nativity**



Track 1 - vocal & clap demo
Track 30 - backing track with claps
Track 31 - backing track without claps
Lyrics p15

THE END

A Happy-Clappy Nativity

Verse 1 Now we’re together and Christmas is near,
We want to have some fun!
Celebrate Christmas, the best time of year!
Hey! Wake up everyone!

Chorus *Here’s a Happy-Clappy Nativity,
Stop your napping and let’s start clapping!
A Happy-Clappy Nativity,
Join in our song and clap along!*

Verse 2 Now we’re together, the girls and the boys,
We want to have some fun!
Celebrate Christmas and make lots of noise!
Hey! Wake up everyone!

Chorus *Here’s a Happy-Clappy Nativity,
Stop your napping and let’s start clapping!
A Happy-Clappy Nativity,
Join in our song and clap along!*

Verse 3 Now we’re together, we’ll dance and we’ll sing,
We want to have some fun! ,
Celebrate Christmas with Jesus the King!
Hey! Wake up everyone!

Chorus *Here’s a Happy-Clappy Nativity,
Stop your napping and let’s start clapping!
A Happy-Clappy Nativity,
Join in our song and clap along!
Join in our song and clap along!*



Hi There, Mary

Verse 1

(Gabriel)

Hi there, Mary! Do you want to hear what's new?
Now then, Mary, I've a message just for you!

Chorus

*This is great! We can't wait!
What will be? We'll have to see!*

Verse 2

(All)

Hi there, Mary! Well, you are the chosen one!
Now then, Mary, you are going to have God's son!

Chorus

*This is great! We can't wait!
What will be? We'll have to see!*

Verse 3

(Mary)

Hi there Gabriel! I'll try to see this through!
Now then Gabriel, so how d'you think I'll do?

Chorus

*This is great! We can't wait!
What will be? We'll have to see!*

Verse 4

(All)

Hi there Mary! Name Him Jesus, God has said.
Now then, Mary, He will light the way ahead!

Chorus

*This is great! We can't wait!
What will be? We'll have to see!
This is great! We can't wait!
What will be? We'll have to see!
What will be? We'll have to see!*



Clip-Cloppin’ Along The Road

Verse 1

(All) *How far is it to Bethlehem? It seems a long, long way!*
How far is it to Bethlehem? Will we get there today?

Chorus *Clip-cloppin’ along the road,*
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Come rain or shine, we spend our time
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw, hee haw, hee haw!

Verse 2

(M & J) *How far is it to Bethlehem, along this dusty track?*
(Donkey) *How far is it to Bethlehem with Mary on my back?*

Chorus *Clip-cloppin’ along the road,*
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Come rain or shine, we spend our time
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw, hee haw, hee haw!

Verse 3

(All) *How far is it to Bethlehem? How soon before we stop?*
(Donkey) *How far is it to Bethlehem? I’m nearly fit to drop!*

Chorus *Clip-cloppin’ along the road,*
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Come rain or shine, we spend our time
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw, hee haw, hee haw!
Clip-cloppin’ along the road,
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Come rain or shine, we spend our time
Clip-cloppin’ along the road.
Hee haw! Hee haw! Hee haw, hee haw, hee haw!



Three Of You

Verse 1 Mary and Joseph, what a tiring day,
Try to find an inn now – somewhere you can stay.

Chorus *Better get a move on, because your baby's due.
It won't be very long till there'll be three of you!
Don't you worry M and J, God says you will be ok.*

Verse 2 Mary and Joseph, still no room in sight.
Bethlehem is busy – inns are full tonight.

Chorus *Better get a move on, because your baby's due.
It won't be very long till there'll be three of you.
Don't you worry M and J, God says you will be ok.*

Verse 3 Mary and Joseph, one place left to view.
It's a draughty stable – that will have to do.

Chorus *Better get a move on, because your baby's due.
It won't be very long till there'll be three of you!
Don't you worry M and J, God says you will be ok.
Don't you worry M and J, God says you will be ok.*



Welcome To The World

Verse 1 The darkness falls quickly,
The daylight has slipped away.
As Bethlehem sleeps a new baby is born.
His crib is a manger,
He lies on a bed of hay,
An ox and an ass turn their heads and look on.

Chorus *So, welcome to the world, Lord Jesus Christ,
Child now so tiny, so small.
So, welcome to the world, Lord Jesus Christ,
Welcome, with love from us all.*

*So welcome to the world, Lord Jesus Christ,
Child now so tiny, so small.
So, welcome to the world, Lord Jesus Christ,
Welcome, with love from us all.
Welcome, with love from us all.
Welcome, with love from us all.*



There's A Baby In The Stable

Chorus *There's a baby in the stable,
There's a new King born today!
Every animal give praise
And sing out loud in your own way!*

Verse 1 Dogs go 'woof', that's what they do!
Sheep go 'baa', that's nothing new!
With your 'woofs' and 'baas', it's true,
You can sing His praises too!
Cows go 'moo', that's what they do!
Ducks go 'quack', that's nothing new!
With your 'moos' and 'quacks', it's true,
You can sing His praises too!

Instrumental *The animals dance and clap*

Verse 2 Hens go 'cluck', that's what they do!
Geese go 'honk', that's nothing new!
With your 'clucks' and 'honks', it's true,
You can sing His praises too!
Pigeons 'coo', that's what they do!
Horses 'neigh', that's nothing new
With your 'coos' and 'neighs', it's true,
You can sing His praises too!

Chorus *There's a baby in the stable,
There's a new King born today!
Every animal give praise
And sing out loud in your own way!
Every animal give praise
And sing out loud in your own way!*



Praise To The Lord

Verse 1

(Angels)

Shepherds, don't be scared.
God sends good news to everyone!
Down in Bethlehem, a child is born – He is God's son.

Chorus

*Praise to the Lord (praise to the Lord),
Make peace on earth (make peace on earth),
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).
Praise to the Lord (praise to the Lord),
Make peace on earth (make peace on earth),
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).*

Verse 2

(Angels)

Shepherds, here's the plan!
Now that you've heard what God has said,
Go to see His son. Stop counting sheep – do this instead!

Chorus

*Praise to the Lord (praise to the Lord),
Make peace on earth (make peace on earth),
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).
Praise to the Lord (praise to the Lord),
Make peace on earth (make peace on earth),
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).*

Verse 3

(Shepherds)

Let's be on our way
And go to Bethlehem tonight,
With a gift for Him – maybe a lamb would be alright?

Chorus

*Praise to the Lord (praise to the Lord),
Make peace on earth (make peace on earth),
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).
Praise to the Lord (praise to the Lord),
Make peace on earth (make peace on earth),
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).
And celebrate (and celebrate)
This special birth (this special birth).*



Led By A Star

Verse 1

(All)

Travelling by day and night,
All the way from Eastern lands.
Travelling by day and night,
Straight across the desert sands.

Chorus *The journey was long, you’ve come very far.
Mile after mile and led by a star.*

Verse 2

(Wise Men)

Riding on a camel’s back,
Never been this far before.
Riding on a camel’s back,
Makes our bottoms very sore!

Chorus *The journey was long, you’ve come very far.
Mile after mile and led by a star.*

Verse 3

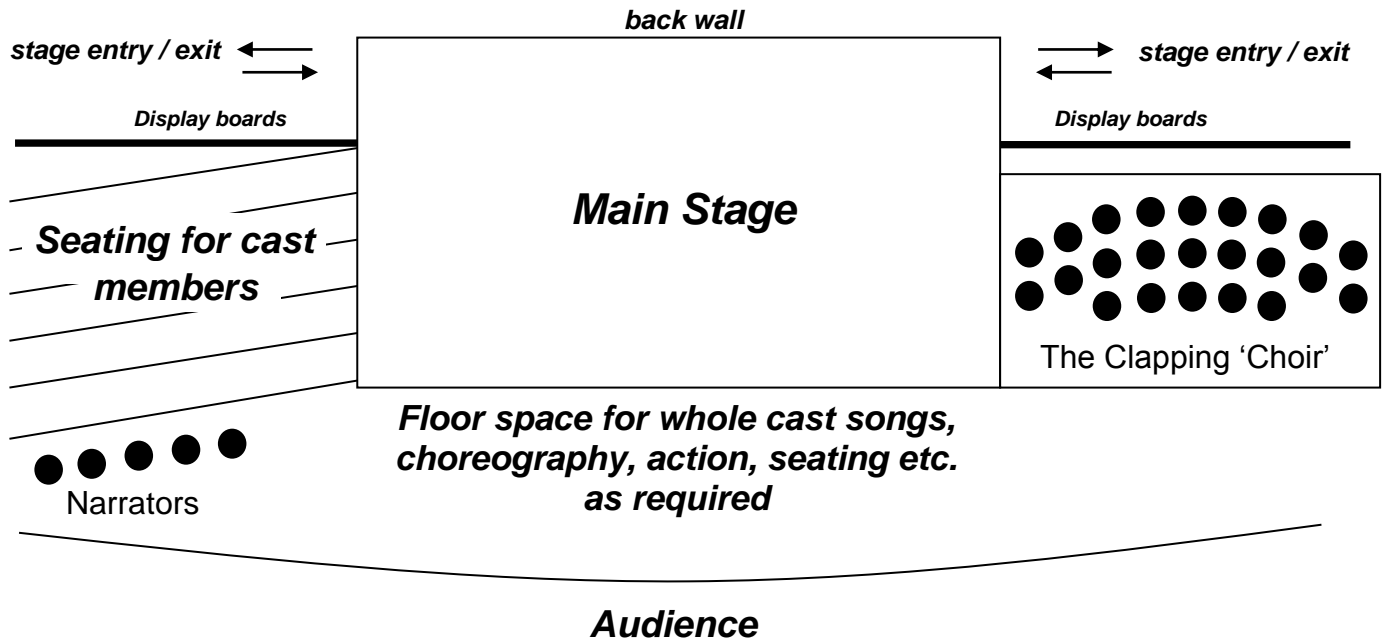
Looking for the infant King,
Bringing presents, rich and rare.
Looking for the infant King,
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Chorus *The journey was long, you’ve come very far.
Mile after mile and led by a star.
The journey was long, you’ve come very far.
Mile after mile and led by a star.*



STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘A Happy-Clappy Nativity’ 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**

We recommend using our digital backdrops for display behind the main stage (see www.edgyproductions.com for details). However, if you prefer to create your own scenery, the back wall behind the stage could display a simple wooden stable, set against a starry night sky. Alternatively, biblical rooftops and buildings under a starry sky will give a more general backdrop to the story. The display boards either side of the stage could depict rolling hills or dusty plains, with tracks and roads in perspective disappearing into the distance.

- **Furniture**

All Scenes: 5 decorated music stands for the narrators’ words. PE benches for your seated cast members

Scene 1: A small stool

Scenes 3 & 5: If possible, bales of straw.

- **Props**

All scenes: A large ‘CLAP’ cue card.

Scene 2: ‘VACANCIES’ signs for the innkeepers, with the reverse reading ‘NO VACANCIES’.

Scene 3: A swaddled doll. A manger.

Scenes 5: Three ornately-wrapped gifts from the Wise Men.

- **Costumes** – For individual character suggestions, **see p25.**

- ***Use of Space***

Larger groups can 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 singers and the cast could perform a dance routine. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated each 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.

- ***Making the cast smaller***

Reduce the number of narrators. This role could be done by a single child, or even an adult.

All spoken lines by travellers, innkeepers, shepherds and angels could be assigned to a single character from each of these groups.

Reduce the number of non-speaking travellers, donkeys, innkeepers, shepherds and angels to fit your numbers.

Have a smaller clapping choir, or don't have one at all and let the whole cast perform the clapping.

- ***Making the cast larger***

Have as many narrators as your numbers allow. If each narration line is delivered by a different child in turn, this will mean an extra 28 children can speak.

Shepherd #1's 4-line speech could be divided in two, with another shepherd delivering the 3rd and 4th lines.

Increase the number of non-speaking travellers, donkeys, innkeepers, shepherds and angels.

Have a larger clapping choir. They needn't be in a single group – why not have 4 groups, one in each corner of your hall, perhaps leading different sections of your audience in the clapping.

- ***Audience seating*** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for the entrance and exit of some characters (eg. the Wise Men) to and from the back.

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.

NB - a spoken line is defined here as each time a character speaks, usually between 2 & 4 actual lines of text.

Speaking Character	Spoken Lines	Singing Solo	Costume Suggestions
Narrator #1	7		White gown/tunic with tinsel trim
Narrator #2	7		White gown/tunic with tinsel trim
Narrator #3	7		White gown/tunic with tinsel trim
Narrator #4	6		White gown/tunic with tinsel trim
Narrator #5	6		White gown/tunic with tinsel trim
Mary	2	1 verse	Traditional blue tunic & headdress
Gabriel	1	1 verse	White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo, silver wings
Joseph	1		Traditional tunic, cloak, headdress
Donkey	2	2 lines	Grey onesie, tail, donkey mask
Innkeeper #1	1		Tunic, apron
Innkeeper #2	1		Tunic, apron
Innkeeper #3	1		Tunic, apron
Traveller #1	1		Tunic, cloak
Traveller #2	1		Tunic, cloak
Dog	1		Spotty leotard & tights or onesie, dog mask
Sheep	1		Woolly leotard & tights or onesie, sheep mask
Hen	1		Orange/red leotard & tights or onesie, hen mask
Cow	1		Black/White leotard & tights or onesie, cow mask
Goose	1		White leotard & tights or onesie, goose mask
Horse	1		Brown leotard & tights or onesie, horse mask
Duck	1		White leotard & tights or onesie, duck mask
Pigeon	1		Grey leotard & tights or onesie, pigeon mask
Shepherd #1	1		Traditional tunic, cloak, headdress, beard, crook
Shepherd #2	1		Traditional tunic, cloak, headdress, beard, crook
Shepherd #3	1		Traditional tunic, cloak, headdress, beard, crook
Angel #1	1		White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo, silver wings
Angel #2	1		White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo, silver wings
Balthazar	2		Elegant gown, turban or crown
Melchior	2		Elegant gown, turban or crown
Caspar	2		Elegant gown, turban or crown

Non-Speaking Characters	Costume Suggestions
Travellers	Tunic, cloak
Donkeys	Grey onesie, tail, donkey mask
Innkeepers	Tunic, apron
Animals	Leotard & tights or onesie, animal mask
Shepherds	Traditional tunic, cloak, headdress, beard, crook
Angels	White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo, silver wings