

Scene 1

(As the backing track to the opening song plays (track 10) the cast take their seats. The main stage is strewn with exotic cushions and silks. The three wise men, Balthazar, Melchior (these two looking impatient) and Caspar, lounge around. They occasionally glance up at the sky through elaborate hand-held telescopes, rubbing their sore necks. Three servants stand in attendance. On a separate smaller stage to one side is a stable, typical of the usual school nativity set-up – see staging suggestions/ scenery. Three narrators stand on the other side of the main stage – they read their lines. Fade the music when ready.)

Narrator 1 Long ago, far away in eastern lands, there lived three wise men; Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar.

Narrator 2 Their time was spent in comfortable surroundings, reading the scriptures and looking at the patterns the stars made in the night sky.

Narrator 3 They had been waiting many years for these stars to show them a sign – a sign that something special was about to happen. But as time went on, two of them had grown bored and impatient.

Balthazar *(looking up through his telescope, rubbing his neck)* Will we ever see anything up there? This can't go on, Melchior! We're no spring chickens.....and my neck's sore!

Melchior I know, Balthazar. I was a young man when we started watching the stars. Now I have a grey beard!

Caspar Oh, it's not so bad. We lie around on cushions just stargazing, with servants bringing us anything we desire. It's a fine way to pass the time!

Song 1 – Stargazing *(track 10, lyrics p13)* *(Wise men, supported by whole cast)*

(As the song finishes, the servants collect up the cushions and exit after the wise men. The main stage is clear.)

Narrator 1 So, after another evening when nothing exciting had happened, these three old men went to bed.

Narrator 2 They didn't know it yet, but before too long, exciting things **would** happen! For far away, in a town called Nazareth, a young woman called Mary had a visitor.

(Mary enters and sits on a stool centre-stage. Gabriel then enters and stands at her side.)

Narrator 3 The news this visitor brought her would be the start of a wonderful journey, for her and the three wise men!

Gabriel Don't be afraid, Mary. I am Gabriel, an angel sent by God, with a very important message for you.

Mary But what does God want with me? I'm just a simple girl.

Gabriel He has chosen you above all others, to do something very special. Listen.....

(The other Angels enter/stand, to join Gabriel in the next song.)

Song 2 – The King Of All Kings (track 11, lyrics p14) *(Angels, supported by the whole cast)*

(The backing track is played again as Mary and the angels exit.)

Scene 2

(The servants enter and replace the cushions. The three wise men then enter and lie on them, asleep. The servants then exit. Fade the music when ready.)

Narrator 1 Now, some months later, in the middle of a still, warm night, Balthazar suddenly woke up. He didn't know why, but he felt the need to look at the night sky.

(Balthazar awakes, sits up and rubs his eyes. He picks up his telescope and looks to the skies.)

Narrator 2 And what he saw took his breath away! He excitedly woke Melchior and Caspar.

Balthazar Wake up! Wake up! It's happened! It's what we've been waiting for!

Melchior *(sitting up abruptly)* What? It's really happened? Where's my telescope?

(As Melchior fumbles for his telescope, Caspar wakes up.)

Caspar Oh, what is it? I was dreaming about eating a lovely big meal, and they were just about to serve pudding. This better be worth it!

Balthazar Look up there Caspar! It's happened! There's a brand new star in the sky!

(Caspar looks through his telescope, as the stars assemble at the front of the stage – see staging suggestions/costumes. One star is larger and differently costumed, and stands centrally.)

Song 3 – A Brand New Star (CD track 12, lyrics p15)
(Whole cast led by the Stars)

(As the song finishes the 'smaller' stars exit. The larger star remains. One of the servants hands Melchior a scroll. He opens it and the wise men look at it.)

Narrator 3 The wise men looked at the old scriptures, trying to find the meaning of a new star in the sky.

Melchior Yes! Here it is! *(reading)* 'A new light in the heavens foretells of a new light on Earth, a saviour...a new-born king!'

Narrator 1 And as the three of them gazed in wonder at the star, it began to move slowly across the sky, heading towards the west.

Narrator 2 They knew immediately that they must follow, certain that it would lead them to where this new king would be born.

Balthazar *(to the servants)* Saddle-up the camels! We're leaving right away!

Caspar But I was hoping for a snack first. Do we have to leave now?

**Balthazar
& Melchior** Yes, Caspar! Right away!

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