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A Christmas Story-Inspired Musical for Kids

Created by Christy Semsen Arranged by Daniel Semsen

Approximate Performance Time: 38 Minutes

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Edited by Sarah Huffman & Anissa Sanborn Engraved by Brent Roberts Production Design by Fudge Creative



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FOREWORD

I'd like to introduce you to "Straight Outta Bethlehem," a musical which takes us back to Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. This season, I wanted to especially focus on orphans, and how none of us are orphans when God adopts us into His family. I was especially excited to include the beautiful song "Orphans of God," written by my friend Joel Lindsey and Twila LaBar, and made popular some years ago by the group Avalon. The song reminds us that no one is unwanted, no one is alone, and no one is an orphan, because God has bought us with the gift of His Son. What a powerful message to present to our children!

"Straight Outta Bethlehem" is filled with sweet, singing orphans who live and serve at the Inn of Bethlehem. They are led by a perky, optimistic girl named Starr. Each of the orphans has been taken in off the streets of Bethlehem by the innkeeper, a kind woman named Trixie. Each is happy to serve the people of the Inn of Bethlehem, and to be a part of their unique "family." Two of the orphans even have an animal choir that they care for in the stable! The musical opens with the orphans meeting our antagonist, Blake, who is more pessimistic about life than Starr. He's learned not to let down his guard or trust people. He is determined to earn some money at the inn, and then get "straight outta Bethlehem."

On this special day, a couple named Joseph and Mary come to the inn looking for a place to stay, and are excited to tell the orphans an unbelievable story about angels! The orphans decide to invite Mary and Joseph to stay in the stable with their animals. Then shepherds arrive at the inn and tell another incredible story about angels! The story culminates with the animal choir singing a lullaby to the Baby Jesus. The orphans give what little offerings they have, as they worship at the manger.

God sent his Son straight outta Bethlehem – an unlikely place at an unlikely time. But God has a perfect time for everything; He sent His Son as a Baby, Who would grow up to redeem us and die in our place.

It is my prayer that your choirs learn that God loves each of us individually. Some of the kids in your choir may think, like Blake in our story, that God has forgotten them or doesn't have time for them. But Christmas reminds us that God heard the cries of His people, and has not forgotten about them. We are ALL part of the family of God, because God adopted us!

Feel free to contact me with questions or to share the great things that God is doing in your groups. Check out my Facebook group: "Christy Semsen's Epic Kids Choir Forum." You can become a member and use it as a resource to communicate with other directors who have posted questions, photos, and videos of their productions. My email is <code>csemsen@gmail.com</code>, and I'd love to hear from you personally. I'm honored to be a small part of your ministry with kids!

Christy Semsen

I am so thankful God has surrounded me with friends at Village Church who continuously shower me with creative ideas. The title of this musical and the clever name of the animal choir "From Farm to Stable" came from the ever-creative Kevin and Tina Aust. I couldn't do it without my friends. It takes a "village"!

CONTENTS

(in sequential order)

SCENE 14				
STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM4				
SCENE 216				
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN18				
SCENE 331				
HERE IN BETHLEHEM (UNDERSCORE)32				
SCENE 4				
BARNYARD BOOGIE35				
SCENE 550				
THE DREAM52				
SCENE 663				
BLAKE'S SONG64				
SCENE 772				
DISCO GLORIA73				
SCENE 882				
WHAT CAN I GIVE83 with Away in a Manger				
SCENE 992				
ORPHANS OF GOD93 with Blake's Epiphany and Straight Outta Bethlehem				
STRAIGHT OUTTA BOWS104				

Production Notes108				

ACCOMPANIMENT DVD CUE POINTS

1	STRAIGHT	OUTTA	BETHLEHEM
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- 2 ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN
- 3 HERE IN BETHLEHEM (UNDERSCORE)
- 4 BARNYARD BOOGIE
- 5 THE DREAM
- 6 BLAKE'S SONG
- 7 DISCO GLORIA
- 8 SFX-BABY CRYING/ STABLE ATMOSPHERE

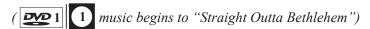
- 9 WHAT CAN I GIVE
 with Away in a Manger
- 10 ORPHANS OF GOD
 - with Blake's Epiphany and Straight Outta Bethlehem
- 11 STRAIGHT OUTTA BOWS

OPTIONAL SFX ON DATA DISC #2:

- Animal Atmosphere 1
- Animal Atmosphere 2

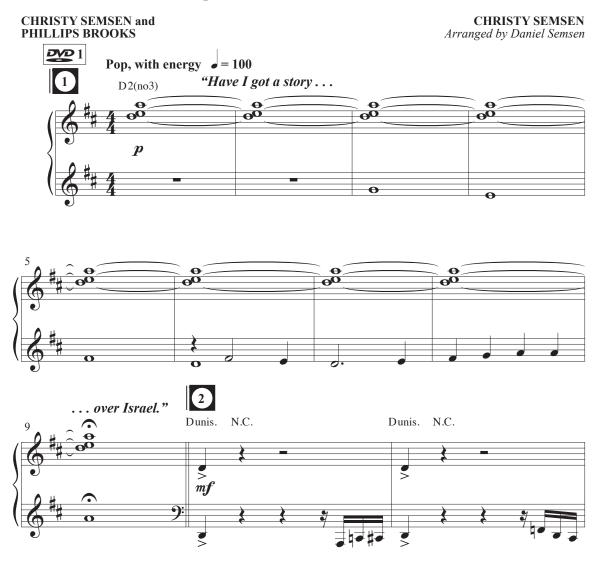


[As lights come up, a lone figure (Starr) stands center stage.]



STARR: (excited) Have I got a story for you! And the best part is, it really happened! It was just like any other night in Bethlehem (grinning) . . . or so we thought. For on that starry night a miracle occurred, coming down from Heaven in the form of a Baby! We were surprised that something so important could happen in our sleepy little town. But the prophet Micah foretold it in the scriptures, when he said that straight outta tiny Bethlehem would come One Who'd be Ruler over Israel.

Straight Outta Bethlehem



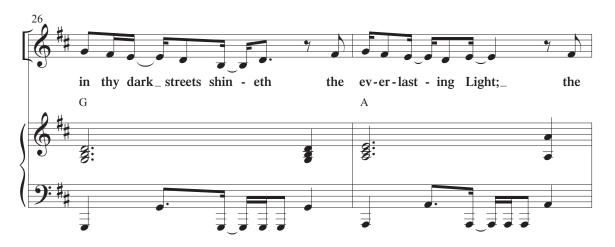
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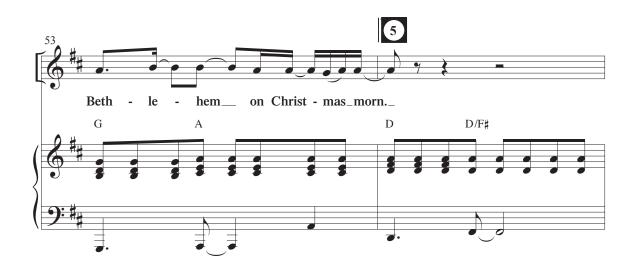


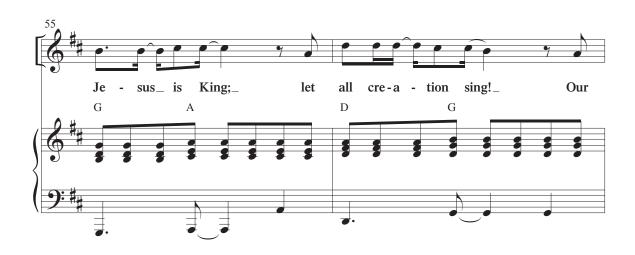


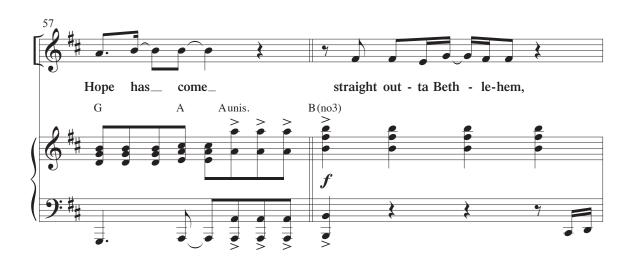


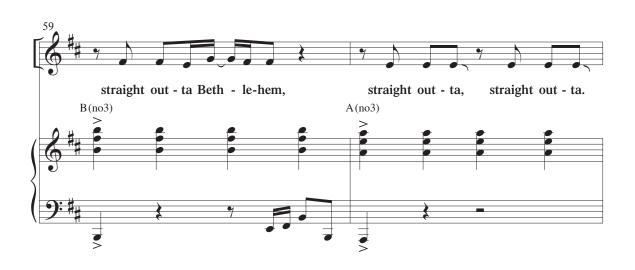


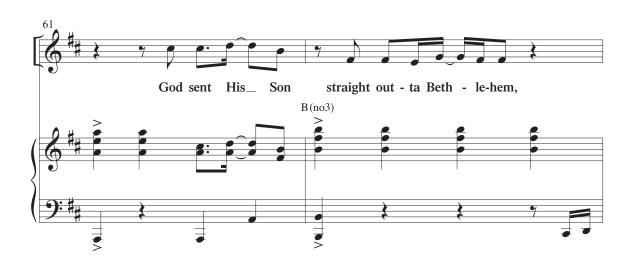


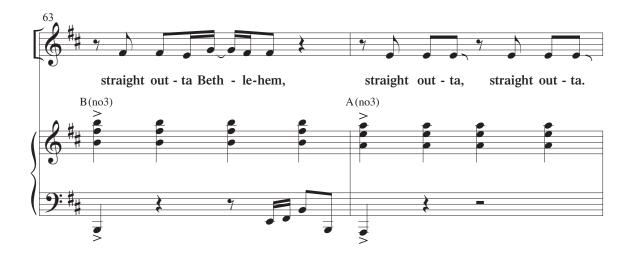




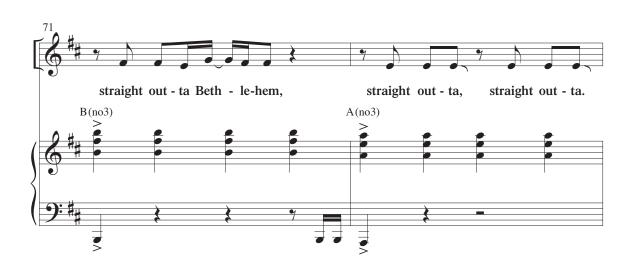




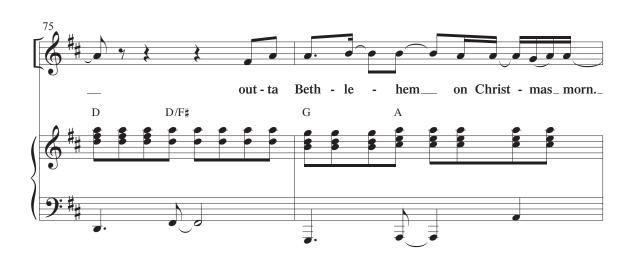


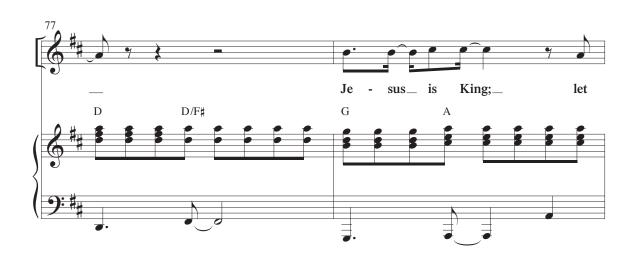






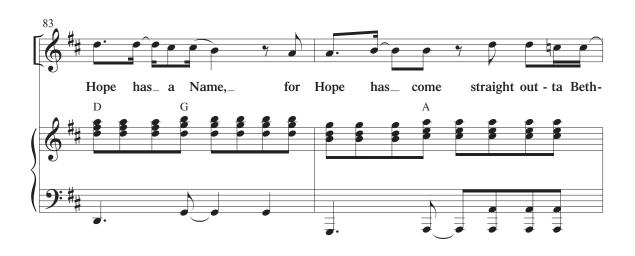


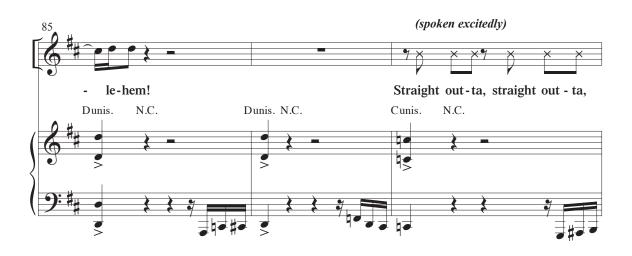


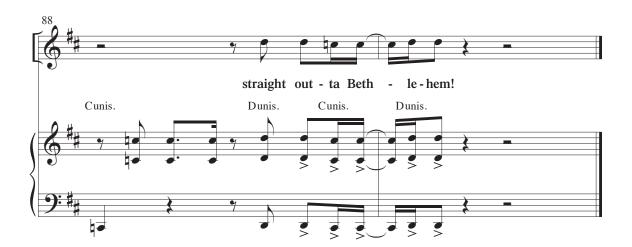












(Lights come up on the Inn of Bethlehem, a cozy and well-kept inn that houses and employs local orphans. Benches are placed to create "beds," where children are sleeping, curled up with blankets.)

TRIXIE: (entering cheerfully but briskly) Good morning, friends! Up and at

'em! The inn is nearly filled to capacity, and there is work to do!

(folding up blankets and tidying the room while speaking)

ORPHANS: (yawning, waking up noises, etc.)

STARR: (running in and planting feet emphatically) Rise and shine, my

fellow world changers! (option: lights/shooting stars/sparklers)
There's just something about today. I feel it in my bones! It's a

beautiful day, and we get to shine!

MAGNUS: (sleepily) It's not that I don't agree with you, it's just . . . (pauses)

my body hasn't quite caught up with your enthusiasm.

STARR: (giving him a hug) Oh, you beastly Magnus, get that body into

gear. There's not a minute to waste!

ZOOLIE: (youthfully innocent) I don't think my eyes are awake yet.

STARR: Well, my eyes are, and you look marvelous!

(45 Opt. SFX-Animal Atmosphere 1)

GERTIE: We'd better get to the stable. Our animal friends will be hungry

right about now!

ZOOLIE: I'm pretty hungry, too.

TRIXIE: Well... thanks to your early rising friend, breakfast is ready

and waiting. (Starr curtsies cutely) Starr got up early, cooked

breakfast, and set the table.

JOHN LUKE: Let's grab some "to go," Gertie. The animals sound like they're

about to revolt! And you know, they really need a "stable" diet.

STARR: Ha! But wait! Before we go about our chores, I just want to take

a minute and celebrate!

(Blake is sitting off to the side apart from the other orphans)

BLAKE: What's to celebrate? That we're orphans, and it's just another day

in Bethlehem?

STARR: (not to be deterred) And who is this ray of sunshine?

TRIXIE: Everyone, this is our newest guest. We found him wandering in

town last night, and invited him in!

STARR: That's how we all got here. (running perkily to hug several orphans)

Trixie had room in her inn and now we're one, (hugging Magnus) big, (hugging Gertie) happy (hugging Zoolie) family! (Going in to hug Blake, he gives her a warning look so Starr lifts Blake's hand to force an awkward high five instead) Gonna stay with us for awhile?

BLAKE: (under his breath) Only because I assumed it would be less noisy

than the streets.

STARR: Well, my slightly grumpy new friend, I am glad that you can be

here today too, because-

BLAKE: (turning to Magnus) Is she always this perky?

MAGNUS: (matter of factly) Yes . . . sometimes even moreso!

STARR: (continuing in a grand manner) **Today...** (doing a drumroll) **is my**

one year anniversary of being here at the Inn of Bethlehem with

you fine people!

TRIXIE: (bustling across stage carrying the pile of blankets) Has it really been

a year already, Starr?

STARR: (overdramatically gliding across the stage using a blanket as a scarf,

as if accepting an award) Yep. I just want to take a minute to appreciate everything and everyone (placing her finger on Magnus' nose in a "boop" motion) – boop! – that has made this past year so

special.

BLAKE: (in disbelief) Did she just "boop" your nose?

MAGNUS: She does that. You'll get used to it.

BLAKE: Not sure about that. And what's so special about being here, (with

disdain) in Bethlehem?

(music begins to "Anything Can Happen")

STARR: So many things!

Anything Can Happen



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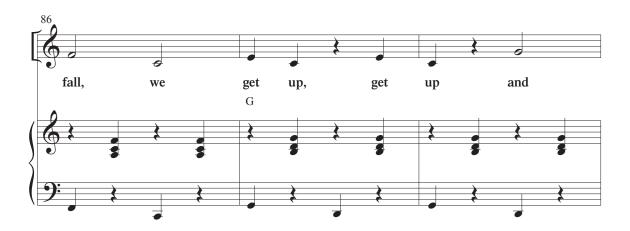












STARR: (ms. 93) You know, they say an optimist is someone who knows that taking a step backward after taking one forward is not a disaster...it's more like a cha cha!













GERTIE: (walking off stage right) I'm off to the stables.

JOHN LUKE: **Me, too!** (following Gertie off stage right)

MAGNUS: Time to balance the books. After saving up these past two years,

I've finally upgraded my abacus; it's an 8 Plus!

STARR: (cheerily) What a technological wonder! Who could have dreamed

it was possible to invent something so advanced? (addressing her friends) Okay, my sparkly friends, I'm raring to go. I'll cover the

check-in desk.

ZOOLIE: (with an air of importance) I'll go feed my doll! (starts slowly

sauntering off stage with her doll)

STARR: Where are *you* going to volunteer, Blake?

BLAKE: (making up an excuse) Uh ... I'm gonna feed my doll, too.

ZOOLIE: (stopping in her tracks, incredulous) You have a doll? I can

introduce her to my doll. Her name is Esmerelda, and they can be

friends!

BLAKE: (sheepishly) Sorry, kid. I... was just joking.

MAGNUS: You know, Blake, serving at the inn is one of the ways we orphans

of Bethlehem can really make a difference!

STARR: Magnus is right! I'm thankful for a safe place to stay and people

that love me! Why don't you go out to the stable and check out

Gertie's animals? She'll tell you all about them.

BLAKE: Whatever...

[13] music begins to "Here in Bethlehem (Underscore)"]

(Blake walks off stage right as Magnus, Starr, and Zoolie walk off

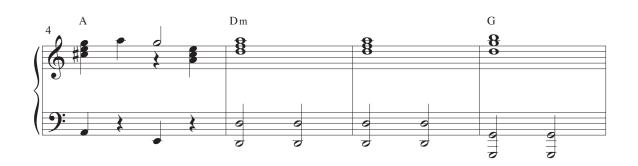
stage left.)

Here in Bethlehem (Underscore)

CHRISTY SEMSEN

Arranged by Daniel Semsen







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(Gertie and John Luke enter from stage right, carrying hay bales. They are followed by kids dressed as cows, donkeys, sheep, cats, and chickens. The setting has changed to a stable with hay bales, a feed trough/manger, and at least five animals.)

(46 Opt. SFX-Animal Atmosphere 2)

GERTIE: Good morning, my friends! Are you hungry?

(Animals "answer" quickly, one after the other)

COW: (hungrily) Moo!

DONKEY: Hee haw!

SHEEP Baa!

CHICKEN: Bawk!

CAT: (quietly) Yes.

GERTIE: (whipping her head around to stare at Cat) Huh?

CAT Meow.

GERTIE: Here you go ... some nice, nutritious food. (turning her back to the

audience, pantomimes pouring feed from a sack into the feed trough/

manger)

JOHN LUKE: And I forgot you, chickens! Don't I feel "sheepish"! (pantomiming

throwing feed as chickens bend heads to peck at it) There now, eat

up. I know it's going to be a busy day here in Bethlehem.

GERTIE: I'm sure you will make some new friends today when more people

arrive at the inn for the census with their animals.

BLAKE: (walking in from stage right) They sent me out here to help. I

followed the smell...

GERTIE: Everyone, I'd like you to meet our new friend, Blake.

Blake, meet our very oh-so-talented animal friends.

BLAKE: Talented? They do tricks or something?

GERTIE: **Better than that.** (dropping her voice to a whisper) **They sing!**

JOHN LUKE: (doubtfully) Well, "sing" might be a little bit of a stretch...

GERTIE: Nope. They definitely sing.

JOHN LUKE: It's a "MOOOOOOving" experience.

GERTIE: I call them, "From Farm to Stable."

BLAKE: (not buying it) **Okay...**

SHEEP: Baa!

COWS: Moo!

DONKEY: Hee haw!

(Suddenly all animals chaotically make their sounds at the same time)

(4 music begins to "Barnyard Boogie")

GERTIE: Do you hear it?

BLAKE: Yes?

GERTIE: Beautiful! Friends, let's show 'em what you've got!

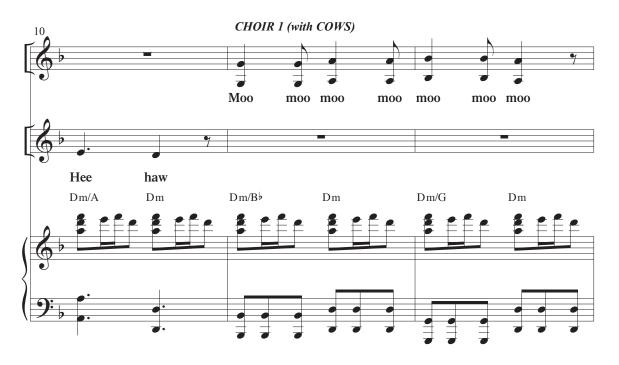
(Gertie, standing with her back to the audience, "conducts" the animals who have lined up like a choir to "sing" when Gertie points to them.)

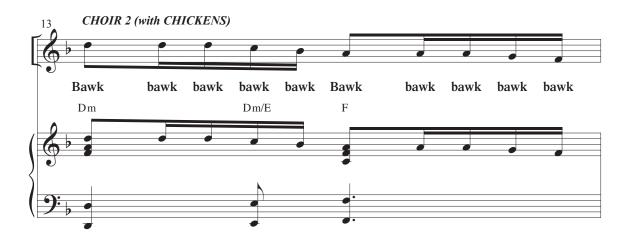
Barnyard Boogie

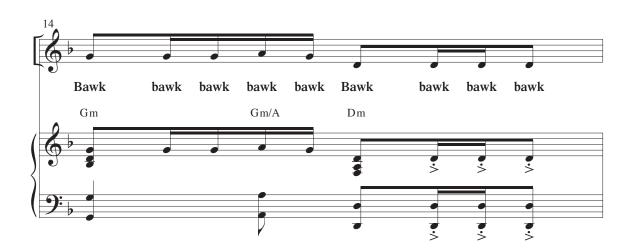


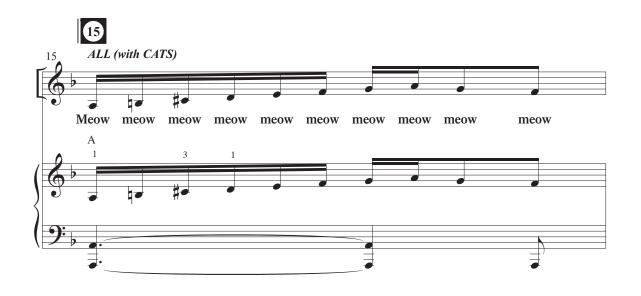
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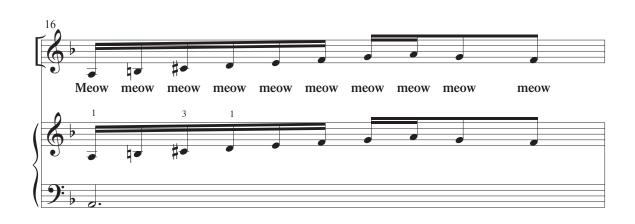
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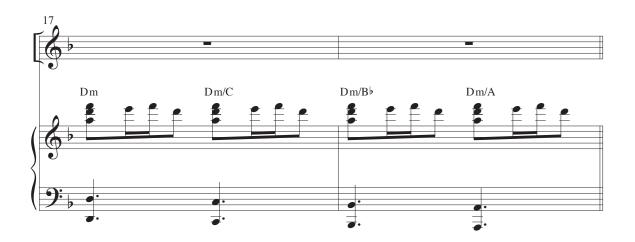




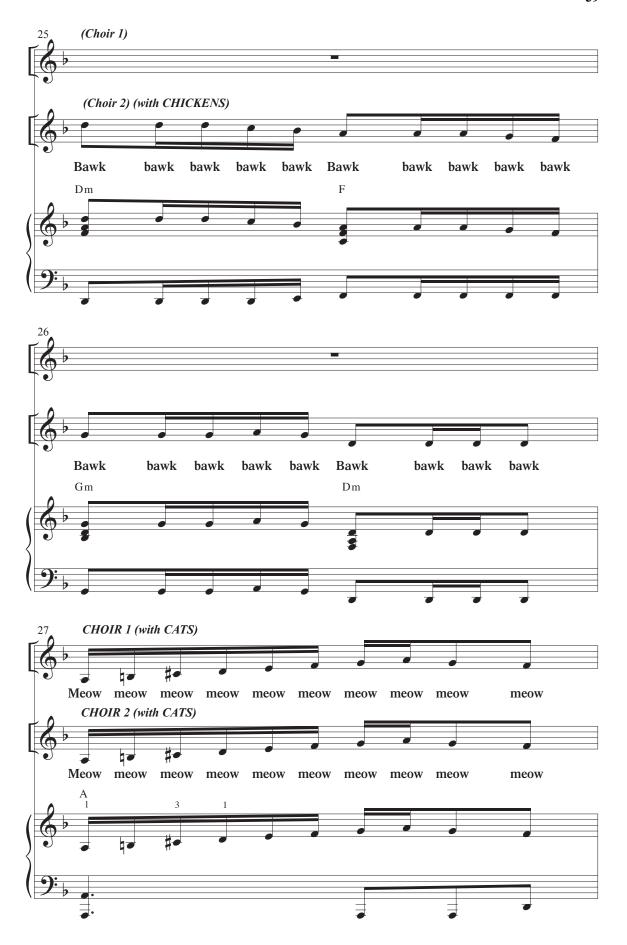


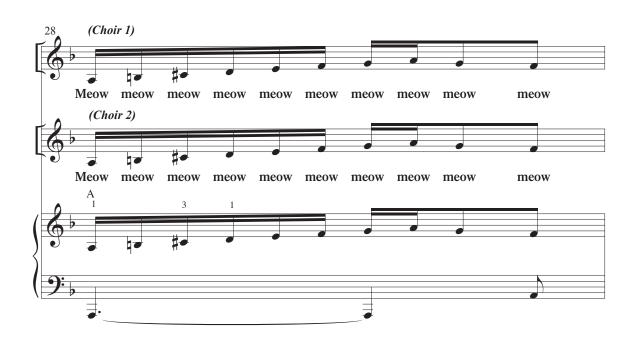


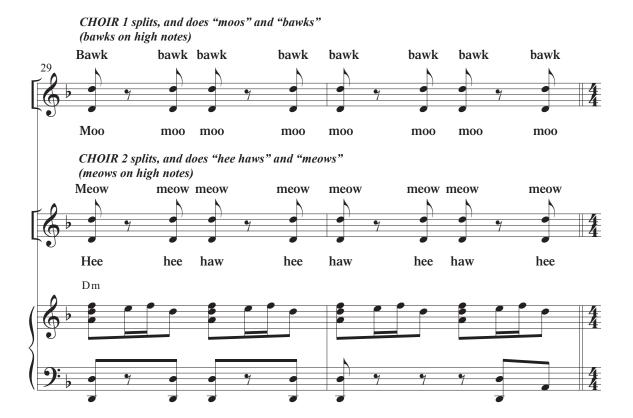






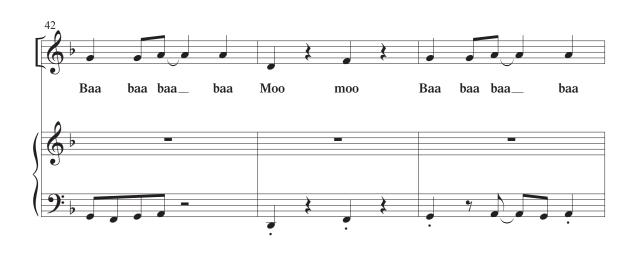


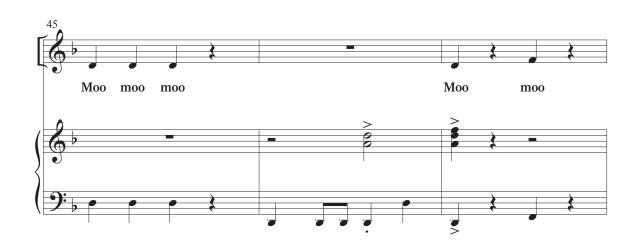


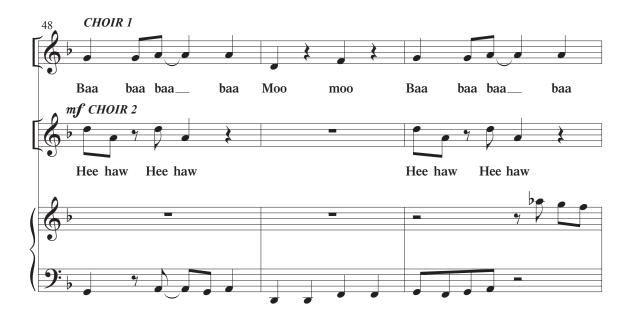


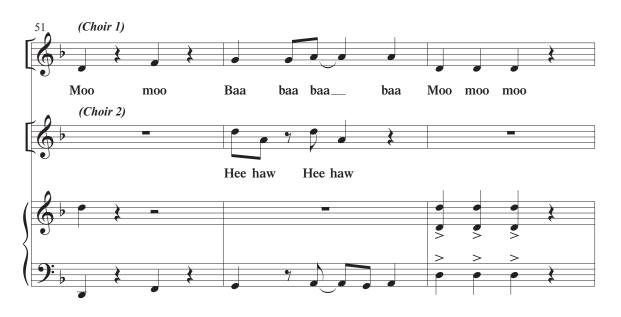


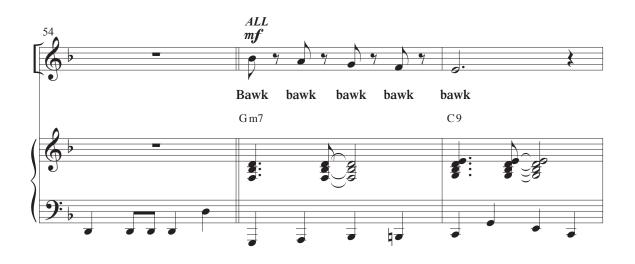
*Optional cued bass notes may be played if not using the accompaniment track or live drums.

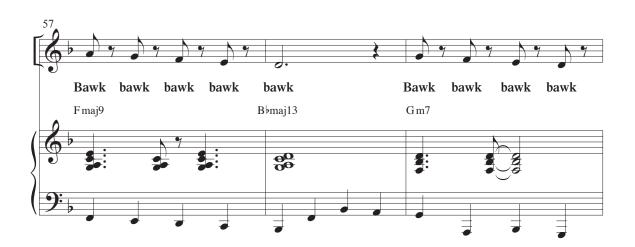
























*Optional cued bass notes may be played if not using the accompaniment track or live drums.

SCENE 5

(Starr stands behind the check-in desk in the inn, while Magnus works numbers on his abacus. Blake enters.)

BLAKE: They sent me to help at the check-in desk. I just couldn't listen to one more minute of animal (showing air quotes) "singing."

STARR: (excitedly) Ooh, did Gertie show you her animal choir? She loves them! If I'm being honest, to me it just sounds like . . . animals. But I respect her dedication.

MAGNUS: (looking up from the abacas) Looks like we only have two rooms left. The numbers are up 33% from last year.

STARR: This census sure has helped our business, and the day has been flying by! Oh, here comes our next customer. I'll show you the ropes, Blake!

(Inn Guests 1 & 2 walk on stage and approach the check-in desk.)

STARR: Welcome to the Inn of Bethlehem! We are so happy you've chosen to stay with us today! (The customers hand her coins as she hands them a key. As they walk offstage, she calls after them.) Third door on your left!

MAGNUS: Only one room left. This place is really hopping.

STARR: It's like everyone is here to celebrate my one-year anniversary.

Ooh . . . and here are two more. (Inn Guests 3 & 4 enter the stage and walk to the check-in desk.) Welcome, friends. This is your lucky day! Tell them why, Blake! (She freezes dramatically with her arms pointed to Blake)

BLAKE: (caught off guard) Uh...

STARR: (prompting like a cheerleader) Because this is our last room. Isn't that right, Blake!?

BLAKE: Uh...yeah. Last room.

(The customers give her coins, take the key, and walk off stage or back into choir.)

STARR:

I hate to micromanage, Blakely. May I call you Blakely? (Blake shakes his head "no") But you could use a little more "oomph" when you talk to the customers. Try adding more drama, to make (dramatically enunciating) EVERY SENTENCE AN ANNOUNCEMENT!

(Joseph and Mary walk in) Here's your chance! Except ... wait, we have no room, so ...

BLAKE: (overacting) WELCOME TO THE INN! WE HAVE NO ROOM!

STARR: (quickly) Okay, maybe a little less drama.

JOSEPH: No room? (desperately) Please . . . we've been traveling all day. And as you can see, my wife simply cannot travel any farther.

STARR: **Oh, my goodness, I can see that. Let me get her a chair!** (setting a chair in front of Mary, who sits.)

JOSEPH: I am of the house and line of David, and we have come from Nazareth to register for the census. We need a place to stay. Mary is about to have a *very* special Baby.

STARR: Babies are *always* special! I KNEW today was going to be extraordinary! I just knew it!

STARR: (with rapt attention) I'm ready. Lay it on me.

GERTIE: (walking in with John Luke) I could go for a story. The animals are settled in for the evening.

STARR: Gather round, everyone! Storytime!

[All orphans surround Joseph and Mary as Joseph tells the story. Three angels (optional Angel 1) enter to offer backup during the song.]

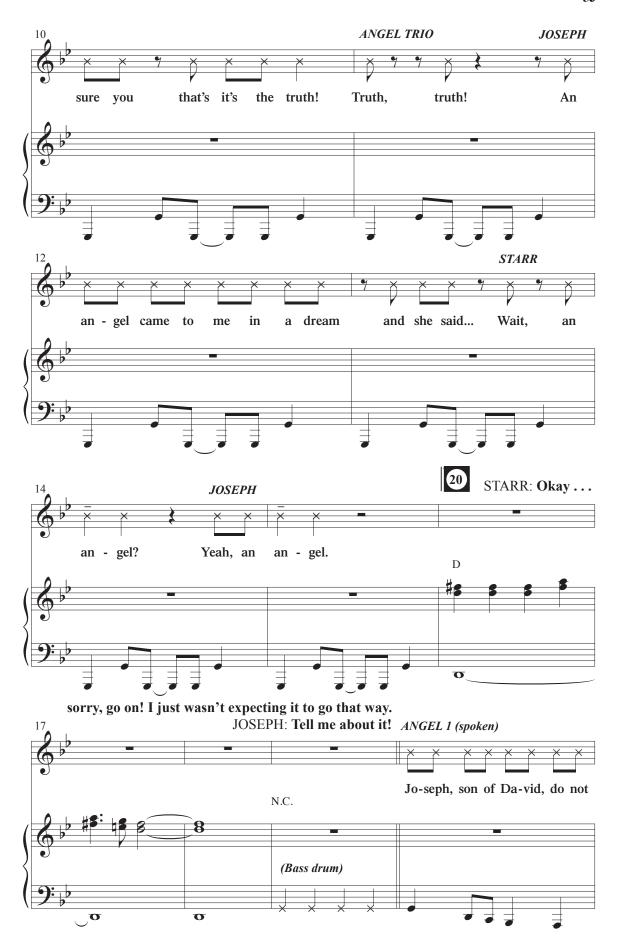
ZOOLIE: (sitting her doll down) Esmerelda's ready!

The Dream



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JOSEPH: (meas. 40) I woke up and did what the angel of the Lord had commanded; I took Mary home as my wife.

STARR: Yowza! (still in disbelief) I can't believe you saw an angel!

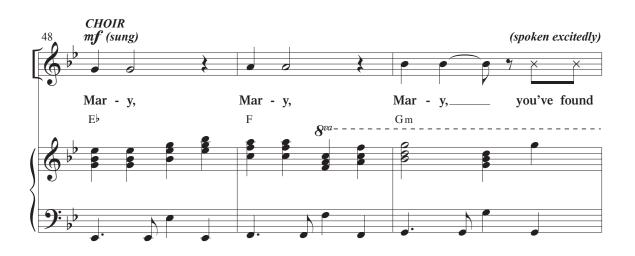
JOSEPH: Believe it! Mary saw an angel, too.

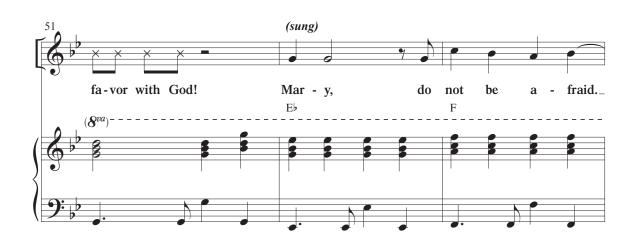
STARR: You did?! (to Mary)

ZOOLIE: What did the angel say?







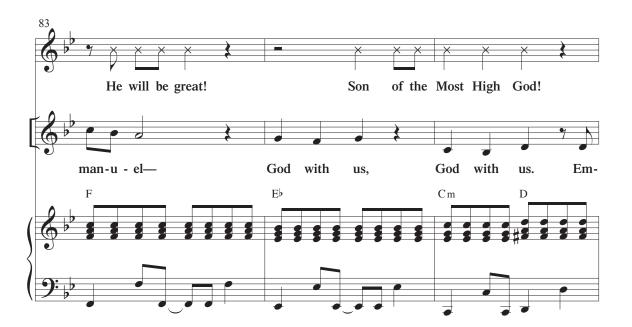
















SCENE 6

TRIXIE: (entering) Hello! I'm Trixie and I run the Inn of Bethlehem. Starr

has told me of your predicament, and I'm really very sorry. If we

could help we would, but . . . there really are no rooms left.

JOSEPH: (disappointed) I just don't know what to do. Every other inn is

booked up.

GERTIE: Ms. Trixie, I have an idea. (whispers in Trixie's ear and Trixie nods)

If you want to, you can come stay with my *amazing* animals in the stable. John Luke and I keep it pretty clean in there, and I can make sure the animals are really well behaved. Plus, my animal

choir could sing to you.

JOSEPH: (surprised) Huh?

MARY: (grateful) That's very generous. Thank you.

GERTIE: Follow me! (She and John Luke lead Mary and Joseph off stage)

STARR: (bursting with enthusiasm) Can you believe it!?! I knew this was

going to be a day to remember. I've always had a certain way of knowing when the day is going to be incredible. I can tell these

things, you know.

BLAKE: (dryly) Don't you always think the day is going to be incredible?

STARR: Well, yes. BUT IT ALWAYS IS!

GERTIE: (walking back onstage) Well, I got them settled in the stable. But I

don't think that Baby's gonna wait much longer.

STARR: So exciting! What a blessed day!

BLAKE: Listen, "Perky," you gotta dial it down. I've been on my own for a

while and I can tell you, things are not as awesome as you think.

STARR: What do you mean?

BLAKE: (emphatically) This is an ordinary inn. It's not a special day. Those

animals don't sing. And even though you think you have a family

here, you're still an orphan.

STARR: (smiling knowingly) Agree to disagree.

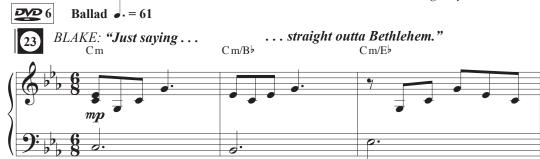
(23 music begins to "Blake's Song")

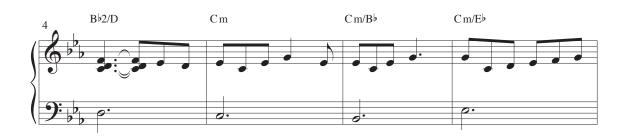
BLAKE: Just saying . . . as soon as I can earn some more money here, I'll be getting straight outta Bethlehem.

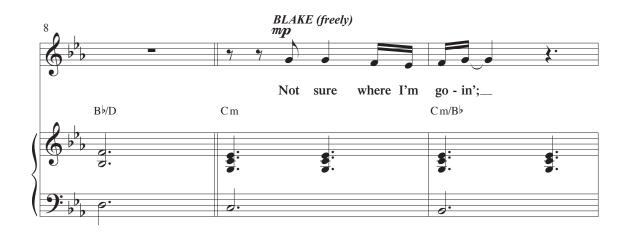
Blake's Song

CHRISTY SEMSEN

NATHANIEL SEMSEN, NOAH SEMSEN and CHRISTY SEMSEN Arranged by Daniel Semsen







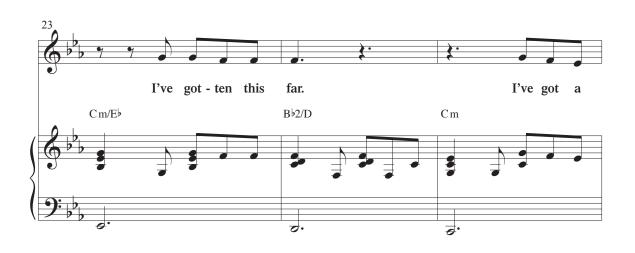
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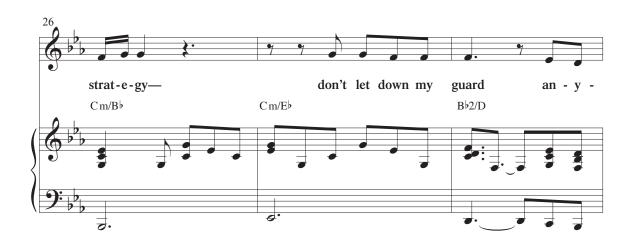
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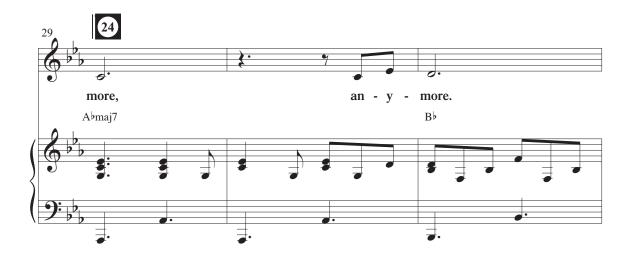
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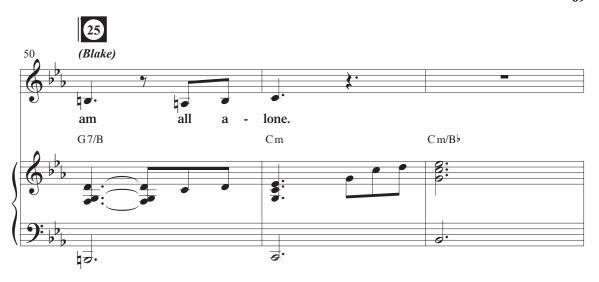


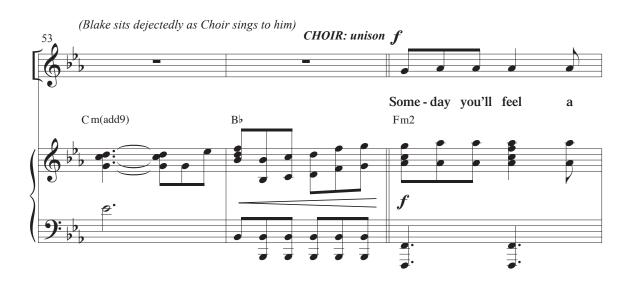


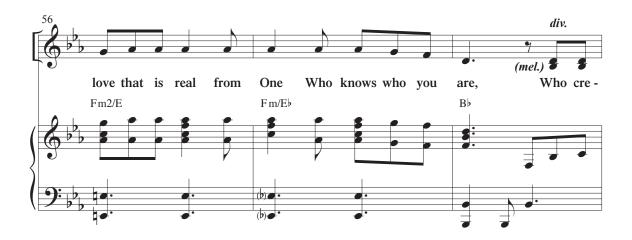


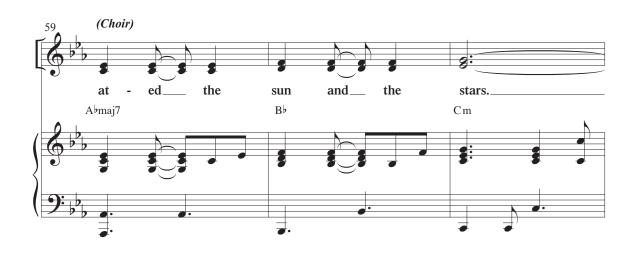




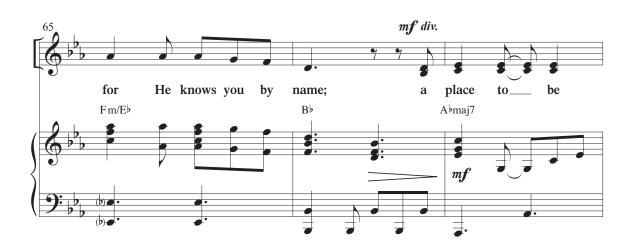


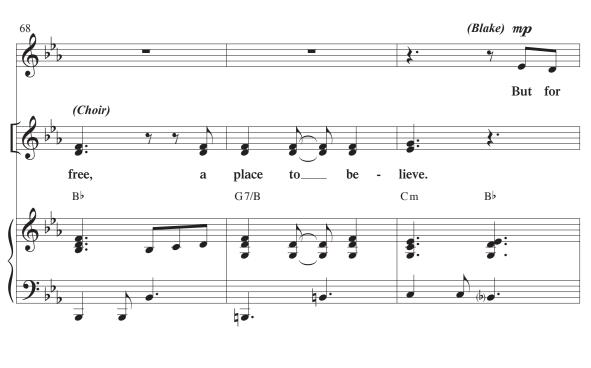


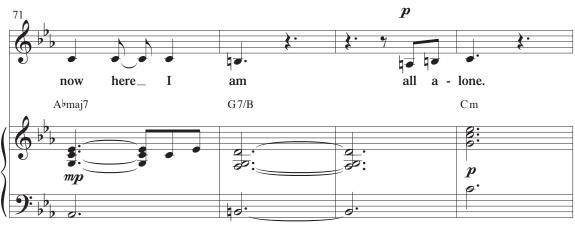


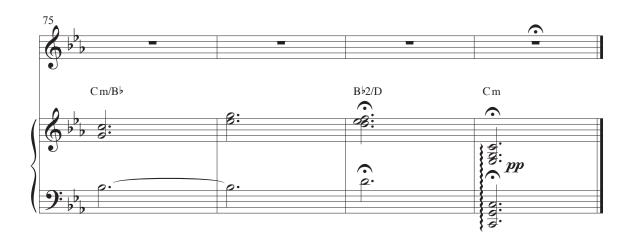












SCENE 7

STARR: Aww, Blakely. I think you just need some friends to surround you

and tell you how much they care about you. Come on, everybody,

circle around. (motioning to kids to gather round)

BLAKE: (quickly holds his hands up) That's okay. I'm fine. I always am.

(changing the subject) Hey, what about those two people that were talking about seeing angels? I mean, seriously, angels?? Surely

you can't believe them.

ZOOLIE: (with childlike faith) **Of course I believe 'em!**

MAGNUS: (agreeing) Let's think logically, Blake. Both Mary and Joseph saw

an angel at different times who told them the same thing. What are the chances that two different people would see angels?

(Shepherds Zeke and Ziggy run in, breathless)

ZIGGY: (over the top excited) We've just seen an angel! (catching breath)

ZEKE: Hundreds of angels! It was terrifying!

ZIGGY: They told us a Savior was to be born tonight!

STARR: (nudging Blake) See! Someone else saw angels tonight!

ZEKE: We sure did! They were everywhere! Let me give you the skinny.

STARR: Ooh! I feel another story coming on ...

(26 music begins to "Disco Gloria")

(Disco Angels come out, swirling around Ziggy and Zeke as they

speak)

ZIGGY: (spoken) Maaaaan . . . they were just appearing left and right, and

it really psyched us out! And we were like . . . "Whoa." And the

angel was like, "Can you dig it?"

STARR: (excited) **Dig what?**

ZEKE: (spoken) We were chillaxin' in the fields with our sheep like we

always do, when we saw a funky, groovy sight! We were buggin' out, 'cause a glowin' cool cat was boogie-in' on over to us. And I

was like "Dv-no-mite!"

Disco Gloria



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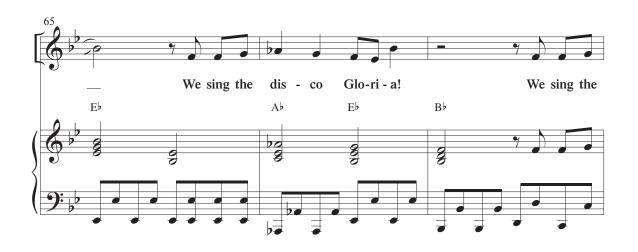


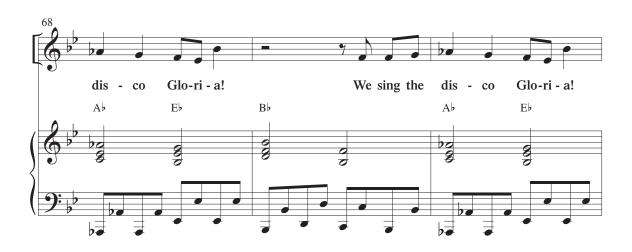


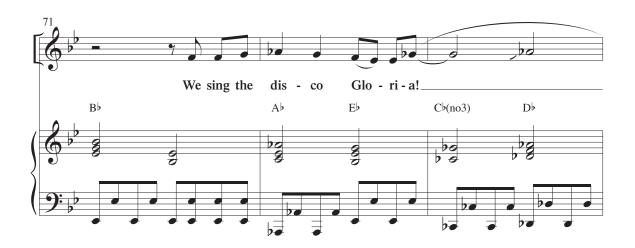










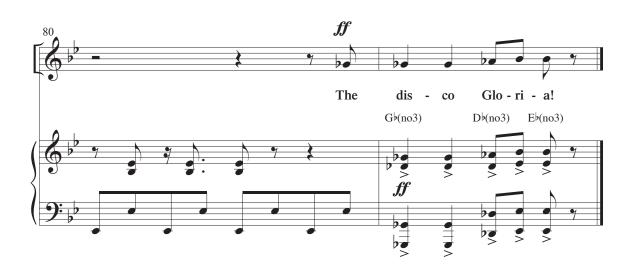






we said to one another, "Let's keep on truckin' to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."





SCENE 8

(SFX-Baby Crying/Stable Atmosphere)

(Gertie and John Luke lead Ziggy and Zeke into the stable)

ZEKE: Are we in the right place?

JOSEPH: (nodding) Glory to God.

(Shepherds kneel to worship)

ZIGGY: Right on!

(Starr, Magnus, Blake, and Zoolie enter and stand off to side)

STARR: I can't believe it! This Baby Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah!

Right here! I've got to give Him something! But I don't have

anything . . .

BLAKE: No one expects you to give anything. We're *orphans*, Starr.

ZOOLIE: (walking straight past them to the manger) Here . . . I want the Baby

to have my dolly. This is Esmerelda. Consider it a gift . . . for the

King. (gives doll to Mary)

MAGNUS: Here . . . I'd like to offer my new abacus.

(music begins to "What Can I Give with Away in a

Manger")

MARY: These are generous gifts. Thank you.

ZOOLIE: How can we not offer everything we have to the Messiah, the

Savior of the World?

What Can I Give

with Away in a Manger

Words and Music by CHRISTY SEMSEN



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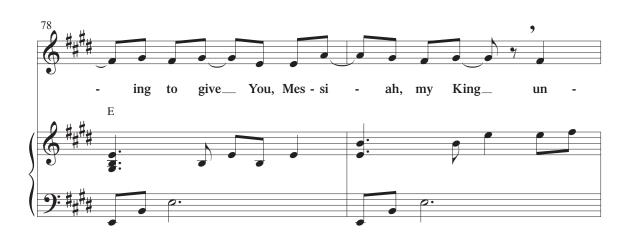


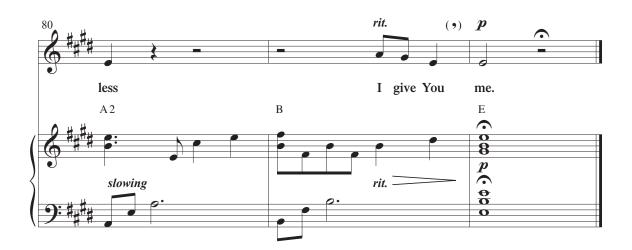












SCENE 9

BLAKE: (negatively) How can you believe that God sent this Baby? God

has forgotten about us. He doesn't have time for people like us.

GERTIE: We all feel lonely sometimes.

ZOOLIE: And we all have times we feel sad.

JOHN LUKE: (stepping forward confidently) But we have felt the love of God

through our family here at the inn, (pauses) and now through this

Miracle.

MAGNUS: The Bible says that God has heard the cries of His people, and

He will send a Messiah. We just witnessed the birth! God has just

shown that He hasn't forgotten about us!

ZOOLIE: We may be orphans, but we are part of a family—God's family!

STARR: And when you think about it, we're all really orphans, grafted

into the family of God. (2210 36 music begins to "Orphans of God with Blake's Epiphany and Straight Outta Bethlehem") None of us has to be alone in this life, because God has adopted us into His

royal family. And we are His . . . forever!

(Each orphan quietly steps forward to sing solo and surround Blake.)

Orphans of God

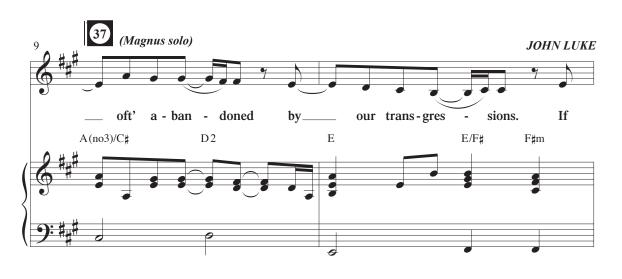
with Blake's Epiphany and Straight Outta Bethlehem

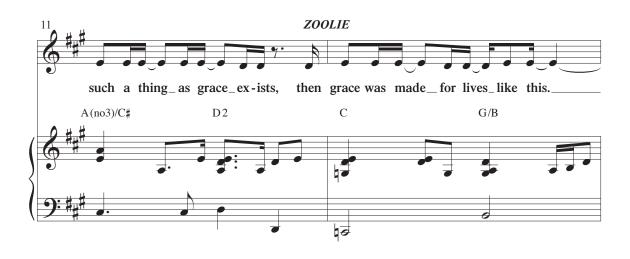
Words and Music by JOEL LINDSEY and TWILA J. LaBAR

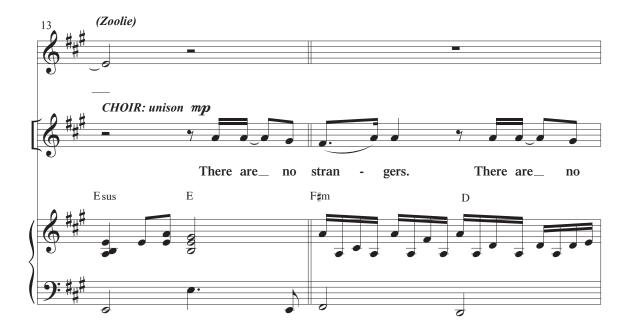


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(Blake kneels at the manger as music swells. After a bit, he gets up and stands center stage)

BLAKE: *(meas. 65)* Bowing before the King has changed everything. God is with us—Emmanuel. Now I *know* I am part of a family . . . the family of God.

STARR: At just the right moment, in the fullness of time, God came down to earth.

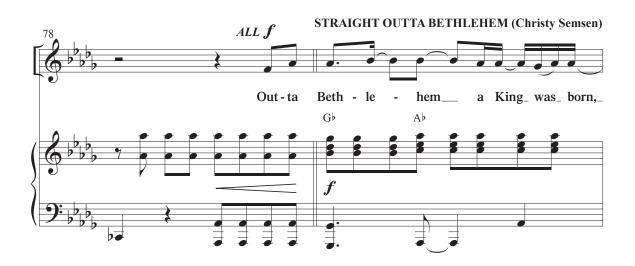
GERTIE: To show just how much He loves us!

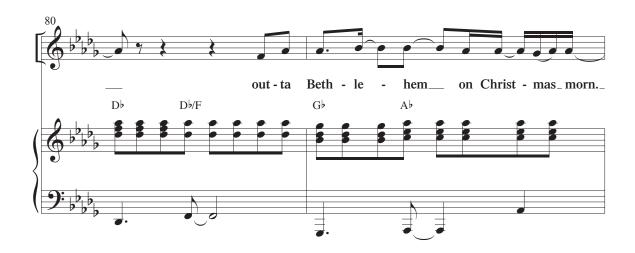
ZOOLIE: Love has come as a Baby.

ALL: (meas. 75, p. 101) God sent a Savior... straight outta Bethlehem!





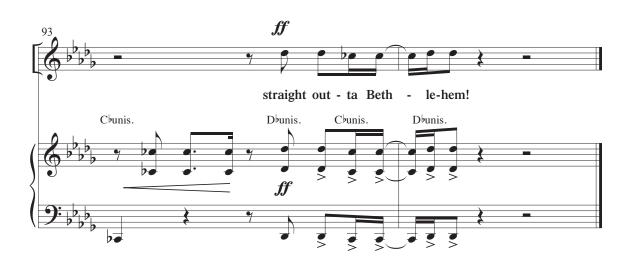












Straight Outta Bows



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A Christmas Story-Inspired Musical for Kids

PRODUCTION NOTES by Christy Semsen

CHARACTERS

(11 speaking roles in all)

Large Roles

STARR: Orphan who helps at the inn; great attitude;

extremely energetic and spunky

BLAKE: Newest orphan to stay at the inn; wants to get "straight outta Bethlehem"

ZOOLIE: Tiny orphan who loves her doll

GERTIE: Orphan who takes care of the animals in the stable

MAGNUS: Smart orphan who does the inn's books; carries his new Abacus "8 Plus"

JOHN LUKE: Little orphan boy who loves animals

Medium Roles

JOSEPH: Traveler arriving at the inn with his wife, Mary; looking to rent a room

ZIGGY: Excited '70s Disco Shepherd (girl or boy)

ZEKE: Excited '70s Disco Shepherd (girl or boy)

TRIXIE: (older girl or adult) Proprietor of the Inn of Bethlehem;

employs the local orphans in exchange for lodging

Tiny Roles

MARY 1 line plus small rap

ANIMALS Includes Cows, Cats, Chickens, Sheep, Donkeys;

speak/sing in animal choir; 1 word each

Non-Speaking Roles

INN GUESTS 1 & 2 Choir Members

INN GUESTS 3 & 4 Choir Members

Optional/ Additional Roles

Additional Orphans: Orphans who work alongside the lead characters,

share a few of their lines, and sing in "Anything Can Happen"

Angel Backup Singers: Street hip-hop angels join Angel Trio and back up Joseph

and Mary in "The Dream"

Disco '70s Angels: Additional Disco Angels who sing on "Disco Gloria"

(joining Angel Trio)

Animal Choir: Additional Cows, Sheep, Donkeys, Chickens, Cats

This musical is set in Bethlehem on the day of Jesus' birth. The orphans live and work at the Inn of Bethlehem, serving guests and taking care of the animals in the stable. They encounter Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and a few memorable angels on a miraculous night!

THEME

God is with us and we don't have to be alone! All of us can be adopted into God's family!

SOLOS OR SPECIAL COMBINATIONS

Straight Outta Bethlehem Solo 1, Solo 2

Anything Can Happen Starr solo, John Luke solo, Gertie solos

Magnus solo, Zoolie solo (or optional solos 1-6)

Sheep, Donkey, Cow, Chicken, Cat **Barnyard Boogie**

The Dream Joseph rap, Angel Trio rap, Starr rap, Angel rap,

Mary rap, Zoolie rap

Blake solo Blake's Song

Disco Gloria Shantelle solo, Disco Angels, Ziggy & Zeke storytellers

What Can I Give

with Away in a Manger

Starr solo

Orphans of God Starr solo, Gertie Solo, Magnus solo, John Luke solo,

with Blake's Epiphany Zoolie solo, Blake solo (or optional solos 1-6)

and Straight Outta Bethlehem

PROPS

Blankets Check-in desk

Abacus (8 Plus)

Broom Maracas

Hay bales (or something similar prop-wise)

Feed trough/manger

Hotel room keys

Coins

Chair

Doll

Shepherd staff

Disco ball (Star of Bethlehem)

Opt: Lights, shooting stars, sparklers

A SPECIALLY DESIGNED, EASY-TO-USE BACKDROP IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FROM WORDCHORALCLUB.COM

SET IDEAS:

In addition to the backdrops, utilize benches that the orphans can pretend to sleep on as beds, and then later sit on in the inn. The stable can be suggested by bringing in feed baskets and mangers (or boxes) full of hay.

INSTRUCTIONAL DVD:

The Instructional DVD contains a fully-staged performance of the entire musical, along with a step-by-step demonstration of the choreography by amazing choreographers Marisa Davila, Emily Rohan and Nathaniel Semsen. The director's commentary also gives you the inside scoop to help prepare this production for presentation! Thanks to the awesome **Burbank Community Kids Choir** for working so hard to present the first performance of "Straight Outta Bethlehem." Additionally, thanks to my Assistant Director/son Nathaniel and my Assistant Drama Director/son Noah!

COSTUMES

Choir

"Straight Outta Bethlehem" T-shirts are available through Word Music & Church Resources (wordchoralclub.com) and are a great costume option for your choir! Just add jeans or black pants and black shoes to complete the look!



COSTUMES, continued

Cast

ORPHANS (Starr, Magnus, Zoolie, Gertie, John Luke, Blake) Biblical robes

TRIXIE

Biblical robe

ZIGGY AND ZEKE

1970s-disco clothing (optionally blended with traditional Biblical shepherd costume). You may choose to outfit the shepherds in traditional shepherds' robes, with "pops" of 1970s accents like funny mustaches and disco accessories. Or you may choose to costume the shepherds in complete 1970s-themed outfits.

ANGEL TRIO

Angel hip-hop gear for "The Dream;" 1970s-era disco white clothing for "Disco Gloria."

DISCO ANGELS (optional Angel Trio)

Outfit your Disco angels and Shantelle in glittery white zoot suits or disco wear. Gold and white angel disco hair would be fun, too!

ANIMALS (cows/sheep/donkeys/chickens/cats)

Animal headbands and noses to be worn with the "Straight Outta Bethlehem" choir T-shirt (available through www.wordchoralclub.com)

MARY and JOSEPH

Traditional Biblical robes

HOW TO DO THIS SHOW WITH A CHOIR OF ANY SIZE:

WITH A SMALL CHOIR (13+ Cast & Choir)

This show is very accessible for small choirs. With just 8 characters, you can combine dialogue and solos. Your remaining choir of 5+ people can play the animals.

BREAKDOWN FOR SMALL CHOIR (8 characters plus 5 choir animals=13 total)

THE ORPHANS

STARR Additionally, takes over most of Trixie's lines

MAGNUS Takes a few of Trixie's lines, splitting them with Starr

GERTIE Takes over John Luke's lines as well.

Also plays Shantelle, the angel in "Disco Gloria"

ZOOLIE

BLAKE

BIBLICAL CHARACTERS AND ANIMALS

JOSEPH

MARY

ZIGGY/ZEKE Can combine the two shepherd lines into one character

CHOIR (5+) Becomes 5 animals (Cow, Sheep, Donkey, Cat, Chicken)

WITH A LARGER CHOIR (50-200 Cast & Choir)

For those programs with large choirs and many kids, simply augment the parts in this musical to create larger groups. The best ways to do this are to add orphans, shepherds, angels, and lots of animals!

If adding orphans, divide Zoolie's and Magnus' lines between additional Orphans 1, 2, 3 and 4. Consider adding singing and dancing orphans who don't have lines, but are still on stage. If you have younger kids who can handle a part with just a few lines, split John Luke's dialogue up for Jonni and Luke.

Add additional shepherds on the stage who don't have lines of dialogue, or simply divide Zeke and Ziggy's lines between more shepherds.

If adding angels, increase the ANGEL TRIO by splitting up the angels into two different groups: Hip-hop Angels for Song 4 and Disco Angels for Song 6 (accommodating two large groups of angels).

Increase the size of the animal choir with a group of cows, a group of sheep, etc. These singers can come out of the choir, or stay in a separate area of the stage during the whole show. This is a great way to give parts to younger or less experienced kids who audition.

Another option is to split up the characters' solos in "Anything Can Happen" and "Orphans of God" for Solos 1-6. This is another way to get more children involved!

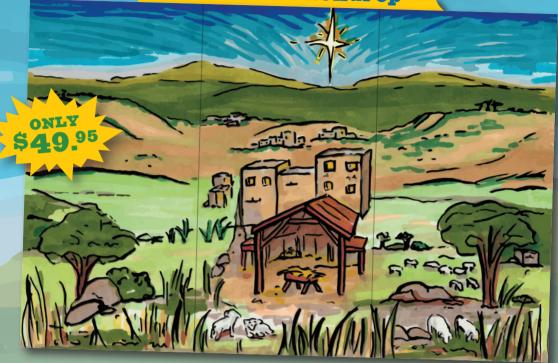
For a more detailed breakdown of how to accommodate a larger cast, refer to the HOW TO DO THIS SHOW WITH A CHOIR OF ANY SIZE section of the Teacher Resource Kit (physical-080689366970; digital download-080689110689).



SET THE STAGE FOR

STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM

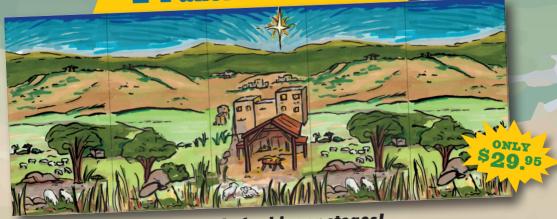
3-Panel Backdrop



DIMENSIONS: Each panel is 3 feet wide x 6 feet tall.

Use this bright wall backdrop to transform your stage into the town of Bethlehem!

2-Panel Extensions



Repeatable for bigger stages!

for more information...

Call us at 888-324-9673 or visit wordchoralclub.com



"Have I got a story for you! And the best part is, it really happened! It was just like any other night in Bethlehem...or so we thought. For on that starry night a miracle occurred, coming down from Heaven in the form of a Baby! We were surprised that something so important could happen in our sleepy little town. But the prophet Micah foretold it in the scriptures, when he said that straight outta tiny Bethlehem would come One Who'd be Ruler over Israel."

—Starr, resident orphan at the Inn of Bethlehem.

ere we are in the "sleepy" little village of Bethlehem. But in this tiny town something huge and miraculous is about to happen...the birth of the Messiah! Right in the midst of all the action is an irresistibly intrepid and indefatigable group of orphans who reside at the Inn of Bethlehem. Meet Starr, Zoolie, John Luke, Gertie, Magnus, and Blake (oh, and shepherds Zeke and Ziggy!). Along with Trixie, who runs the inn, this loveable ragamuffin group of characters will put a smile on your lips and a song in your heart as they unveil the story of Christmas and how God sent His only Son to be born, STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM! As eyewitnesses to the holy, blessed event, their special re-telling of the story is sure to shine a bright new light on the importance of our Savior's birth!

Starr is a friendly, enthusiastic...well, let's be truthful here and say Starr is an "over-the-top," perky and effusive kid with an ingratiating personality, who leads us through the "inns-and-outs" of the story. Her antagonist is Blake, a somewhat gruff and disillusioned young orphan who is new to the group. He has a lot to learn, and Starr is just the right person to teach him the ropes!

Each and every character brings their own flavor to the story with a dash of salt here, a pinch of spice there, and just a skosh of love and understanding, to help Blake come to the realization that, in God's sight, "there are no strangers, there are no outcasts, there are no orphans of God."

Our group of orphans aren't alone, however, in their attempts to show Blake the fullness of God's love. Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, Angels, along with little Gertie's animal choir, all do their part to tell this story of Good, Good News!

With fun, captivating songs by *Christy and Daniel Semsen*, your Kids Choir will fall in love with this story! They'll delight as the animal choir—cows, sheep, donkeys, cats and chickens—raise their voices performing *Barnyard Boogie* (sung to the same tune as the popular Christmas song, *Carol of the Bells*). Kids will raise the roof as they get to sing *Disco Gloria*, with its rousing refrain—"Glory to God, Glory to God!" And their hearts will be touched and forever changed as they share the message in songs like *Orphans of God* and *What Can I Give*.

So come along as we visit the birthplace of the King, accompanied by some very special new friends who share their story of that first Christmas night. And believe them when they say how amazing it was... believe them when, as we wonder how in the world all this could happen in such a sleepy little town, they tell you that "anything can happen here, anything can happen..." as we encounter the Savior the way they did, STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM!

STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN
HERE IN BETHLEHEM (UNDERSCORE)
BARNYARD BOOGIE
THE DREAM
BLAKE'S SONG

DISCO GLORIA
WHAT CAN I GIVE

with Away in a Manger

ORPHANS OF GOD
with Blake's Epiphany
and Straight Outta Bethlehem

STRAIGHT OUTTA BOWS





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