

THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

A Christmas Musical

By

Stephen Robertson
&
Gawen Robinson

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Characters:

Maria.
Captain Flymouse McTrapp.
Mr Nasty.
Adolpho.
Ray McTrapp.
Emily McTrapp.
Ian McTrapp.
Mary McTrapp.
Alice McTrapp.
Tom McTrapp.
Mr. Got-thelott.
Mrs. Got-thelott.
Bill Got-thelott.
Sue Got-thelott.
Richie Got-thelott.
Wynn Got-thelott.
Mr. Fairplay.
Mrs. Fairplay.
Gladys Fairplay.
Joy Fairplay.
Frank Fairplay
Mr. Makenmend.
Mrs. Makenmend.
Charity Makenmend
Kitty Makenmend.
Timmy Makenmend.
Judge Cash-Mint. (*The Choir Contest Judge*)
The (hired) Tillers.
The Shoppers.
Optional Chorus. (To join in any of the songs.)

Scene 1. The Salesburg Mall.

(A long line of till workers busily sells gifts to queues of customers. Mr Nasty, owner of the Salesburg Mall and his store manager, Adolpho, both stride menacingly down the line. They stalk the Tillers, goading them to work harder.)

Song 1: The tills are alive. *(Shop 'til you drop.)*

Vs 1 Tillers: The tills are alive with the sound of Christmas.
The tills are alive with the sound of cash.
Happy people spending all their money.
It's the Christmas season, it's a smash!

Chorus: Shop 'til you drop.
Give it all to me,
'cos I'm relying on your spending spree.
Shop 'til you drop.
Nothing comes for free,
and I'll be waiting for the tills to ring for me.

Vs 2: The tills are alive with the sound of Christmas.
They rattle along at this time of greed.
Silly people spending all their savings.
On the things they'll never really need.

Chorus: Shop 'til you drop.
Give it all to me,
'cos I'm relying on your spending spree.
Shop 'til you drop.
Nothing comes for free,
And I'll be waiting for the tills to ring for me.

Vs 3: The tills are alive it's a sound so tuneful.
They ring ting-a-ling as the people spend.
If you don't have cash enough to pay us.
Then we'll find a way to make you lend.

Chorus: Shop 'til you drop.
Give it all to me,
'cos I'm relying on your spending spree.
Shop 'til you drop.
Nothing comes for free.
And I'll be waiting for the tills to ring for me.
Waiting for the tills to ring for me.

(Mr Nasty and Adolpho stop next to Maria's till. She is singing for the customer's entertainment and not selling very much at all.)

Mr. Nasty: What are we going to do about Maria? Ideas Adolpho! You are the Manager!

Adolpho: Stop singing on the tills and serve faster Maria? Mr. Nasty is watching you.

Maria: Oh I'm trying my best. It's just that people are always asking me to sing carols and ...***(Interrupted.)***

Mr. Nasty: The Salesburg Mall was built for shopping, not free entertainment.

Maria: Oh, it's Christmas time Mr Nasty.

Adolpho: Yes, the time of year for profit. ***(Gesture's to till workers.)*** Come on you hired tillers, sell faster.

Mr. Nasty: So true. The more they buy the more I cry "merry profits"! ***(To till workers) FASTER!***

Maria: So sorry Mr Nasty, I'll try my best.

How will you spend Christmas Day? Will you celebrate?

Mr. Nasty: Celebrate? I'll be here in my office.

Maria: Won't you feel lonely? ***(Pause.)***

Mr. Nasty: I go to the tills when my heart is lonely.

Adolpho: Anyway the staff will all be here. They'll prepare for the sales.

Maria: On Christmas day? Surely there's more to Christmas than shopping. There's togetherness and friendship.

Adolpho: I think Maria needs her two minute break.

Mr Nasty: Stop the shop! Have you gone crazy girl?

Maria: No, Mr. Nasty I haven't. I thing everyone needs friendship at Christmas time, even more than presents and useless bargains.

Mr Nasty: Be careful Maria, we can always find another soloist for the 'Mall Carol Competition'.

Adolpho: Yes, you could blow any chance you had of sharing those big prizes. After all, we will win.

Maria: I don't think I care anymore.

Adolpho: What! What are you saying girl?

Maria: I'd rather be at a family home on Christmas Day.

Mr. Nasty: Maria, I think you should find a home now and go...go pronto!

Maria: Are you firing me, at this time of year?

Adolpho: No, he's merely shooting you in the right direction.

Mr. Nasty: Bye for now. Get another job. Bye, bye, bye, bye.

Maria: Buying! That's all you think about. I shall go then.

Adolpho: 'Tis a great pity. Maria was our best hope of winning the "Mall Carol Competition".... without cheating that is.

Mr. Nasty: Stop the shop! There are plenty more hired Tillers around Adolpho. Find a new lead singer.

Maria: Goodbye then. I shall find a new home and work somewhere else.
(She exits.)

Mr. Nasty: Well! What are you all looking at? **BACK TO WORK! (To the tillers.)**

Song 2: The Tills are Alive. (Reprise)

Tillers: The tills are alive with the sound of Christmas.
We're all on a high with that jangling sound.
Happy people emptying their purses.
Buying all those gifts they have just found.

**Shop 'til you drop.
Give it all to me.
'Cos I'm relying on your spending spree.
Shop 'til you drop.
Nothing comes for free.
And I'll be waiting for the tills to ring for me.
Waiting for the tills to ring for me.**

Scene 2: The McTrapp Family Home.

(Captain McTrapps' house, where he and his six children are in their living room.)

- Ray: I don't care as long as my presents are larger than yours!
- Mary: I don't care as long as mine are more expensive.
- Tom: I don't care as long as I get more than you lot put together.
- Cap't Mc Trapp: Children, children! You all get greedier, noisier and more selfish every year.
- Emily: It's nearly Christmas Day, Father.
- Cap't McTrapp: A time for being thankful.
- Mary: A time for lots of presents you mean.
- Emily: Yes I want lots too.
- Ian: I want sixteen going on seventeen.
- Tom: But no one will get more than me or else.
- Ian: Or else what. Or else what! **(A fight starts)**
- Cap't : Stop fighting. **(Blows a whistle)** Stop, stop, stop! Attention! Get into line! This year has been as disaster behaviour-wise. I know, it's since your dear mother passed away. You miss her example, so I've decided to do something about it. Now get into line. Attention! **(The children get into line smartly.)**
- Emily: I'm not going to have to miss tea am I?
- Alice: You're not going to switch off my TV set again. Are you?
- Ray: You're not going to double my pocket money again, are you?
- Cap't: No, No, No! This year I've decided you are not going to enter the Mall Carol Competition.
- Tom: Oh no, we wanted to win the bumper bundle of prizes.
- Alice: We wanted that extra cash Father.
- Cap't: I don't care. What I want is for you all to get on with each other and be thankful for what we've already got. So I've also decided, no Christmas presents.
- Ray: What no prizes or presents?
- Mary: No presents means no Christmas!

Cap't:: That's not true. After losing your mother you've all lost the meaning of Christmas as well. I mean to do something about that. **(Knock at door)** Ah, that will be Maria your new Child Minder. I think she's the kind of person who could change all your attitudes for the better. **(Captain McTrapp let's Maria in the front door)**

Maria: Good evening Captain McTrapp.

Cap't: Welcome Maria. Well these are my six children. Children this is Maria. **(There is a silence)** I've heard how you gave up the chance to sing solo in the big carol contest.

Maria: There are more important things at Christmas, Captain.

Cap't: Very commendable!

Tom: Very weird!

Cap't: Tom! Well children? Go on, introduce yourselves.

Ray: I'm Ray, the brainiest. **(Steps forward and back from line.)**

Alice: I'm Alice. I like being at home. **(Steps from line etc.)**

Tom: I'm Tom. I had a cold last week.

Emily: I'm Emily. I like chocolate biscuits.

Ian: I'm Ian. I don't like carrots.

Mary: I'm Mary. I was seven once.

Maria: Very Interesting. My you all look rather glum. What is wrong?

Ray: Father says we want too much

Alice: All we want is more.

Tom: Christmas is over. No presents.

Ian: No Christmas. No Carol Competition, No prizes.

Emily: No presents or prizes.

Mary: No, nothing, naught or zero, zip!

Maria: I see you all do need to learn something more of Christmas and its true meaning. If you're agreeable, Captain McTrapp?

Cap't: As we discussed earlier Maria.

Maria: Tonight children, you will all come with me and I will show you sights that will make you see things in a different light.

Alice: Surely were not going out now on this cold winter's night.

Cap't: You all have things to learn and this is truly the right time.

Alice: Is it very far?

Maria: No it's not too far. In fact it's so near to your world you'll be amazed. Christmas is the same everywhere. Wrap up warm and we'll go straight away. These homes are in your own neighbourhood.

Cap't: Follow on children. Follow Maria! (*Blows his whistle*)

Song 3: The Meaning of Christmas.

Maria: We're going on a magic journey.

Ian: Where?

Maria: A journey far, yet near.
The meaning of Christmas rings out clear.
The meaning of Christmas is here.

Maria: We're going where the lights shine brightly.
Your friends and family near.
The meaning of Christmas through the year.
The meaning of Christmas is near.

Ray: Is it Turkey and crackers?

Tom: Or cards on the wall?

Mary: Is it watching the telly?

Maria: It's not that at all.

It's a feeling that's cosy and warm.

Emily: A shelter at home from the storm.

Alice: Is it chocolate and tinsel?

Mary: Or a star on a tree?

Emily: Is it logs by the fire?

Ian: Is it something for me?

All: It's not Santa or Blitzen,
and all the reindeer.

The meaning of Christmas is here.

All: We're going on a magic journey.
A journey far, yet near.
The meaning of Christmas rings out clear.
The meaning of Christmas is here.

We're going where the lights shine brightly.
Your friends and family near.
The meaning of Christmas through the year.
The meaning of Christmas is near.
The meaning of Christmas is here.

(They all troop offstage in a line, following Maria.)

Scene 3: The Got-thelott Mansion.

(Loads of opened and unopened presents surround a large Christmas tree.)

Ian: Look at all their presents!

Ray: They don't need to win the Choir Competition.

Mary: That's what I call Christmas!

Maria: Ssh! be very quiet or we'll disturb them.

Alice: I want to go home. We've gone too far.

Ray: **(Aside)** I bet they cost loads of Doh! **(Pointing at presents.)**

Maria & Cap't: Ray!!

Ray: Me?

Alice: **(Sings)** "Far, a long, long, way to go".

Maria: Sounds like a song. Shh, they're the Gott-thelott family.

Emily: Our neighbours!

Cap't: Silence! Just watch.

Sue Got-thelott: I've already got one of these. Yeuch!! **(Looks at present.)**

Bill Got-thelott: That isn't the latest one is it?

(Ripping through presents.)

Richy Got-thelott: Or the most expensive.

Wynn Got-thelott: Cheap and tatty junk!

Mr. Got-thelott: We should have got more?

Richy Got-thelott: You should have got more than more!

Sue Got-thelott: "These are a few of my favourite things",.....not!

Mrs. Got-thelott: Well this is no different from any other day is it?