

Census Sums

Infant Script

by

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed numbers show the number of spoken lines each role has.

An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Mary	(6)	Angels	
*Joseph	(5)	Angel 1	(1)
Donkey	(1)	Angel 2	(1)
		Angel 3	(1)
Narrators		Shepherds	
Narrator 1	(3)	Shepherd 1	(2)
Narrator 2	(2)	Shepherd 2	(2)
Narrator 3	(3)	Shepherd 3	(3)
Narrator 4	(4)	Shepherd 4	(2)
Narrator 5	(2)		
Narrator 6	(2)	At The Inn	
Census Takers		Innkeeper	(2)
Officer In Charge	(4)	Innkeeper's Wife	(3)
Assistant Officer	(7)	Cook	(11)
Census Taker 1	(6)	Ethel	(4)
Census Taker 2	(6)	Jane	(2)
Census Taker 3	(8)	Ben	(2)
Census Taker 4	(6)	Ruth	(2)
		Tom	(2)
Kings & Camels			
King 1	(4)		
King 2	(4)		
King 3	(4)		
Camel 1	(0)		
Camel 2	(0)		
Camel 3	(0)		

N.B. In addition to the Characters listed a chorus of Town People, Sheep and Stable Animals will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

NB. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Cook	11
Census Taker 3	8
Assistant Officer	7
Census Taker 1	6
Census Taker 2	6
Census Taker 4	6
Mary.....	6
*Joseph.....	5
Officer In Charge	4
King 1	4
King 2	4
King 3	4
Ethel	4
Narrator 4	4
Narrator 1	3
Narrator 3	3
Shepherd 3.....	3
Innkeeper's Wife.....	3
Narrator 2	2
Narrator 5	2
Narrator 6	2
Shepherd 1	2
Shepherd 2.....	2
Shepherd 4.....	2
Innkeeper.....	2

Jane	2
Ben	2
Ruth	2
Tom	2
Donkey	1
Angel 1	1
Angel 2	1
Angel 3	1

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 33 ACTORS

NB. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Cook	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	11
Census Taker 3		8
Assistant Officer	also plays non speaking Angel	7
Narrator 1	also covers Narrator 4's lines	7
Census Taker 1		6
Census Taker 2		6
Census Taker 4		6
Mary.....		6
*Joseph.....		5
Narrator 3	also covers Narrator 6's lines	5
Narrator 2	also covers Narrator 5's lines	4
Officer In Charge	also plays non speaking Angel	4
King 1		4
King 2		4
King 3		4
Ethel	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	4
Innkeeper's Wife.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	3
Shepherd 3.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	3
Shepherd 4.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	3
Shepherd 1.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	2
Shepherd 2.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	2
Innkeeper.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	2
Jane.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	2
Ben.....	also plays Townsperson (Prologue/Scene 1).....	2
Ruth.....	also plays Stable Animal (Scene 7).....	2
Tom.....	also plays Stable Animal (Scene 7).....	2

Donkey	also plays Stable Animal (Scene 7).....	1
Angel 1		1
Angel 2		1
Angel 3		1

Non speaking roles: three Camels (Scene three) who also play Sheep (Scene six).

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Prologue**

Chorus of Town People
Narrators 1-6

Scene One

Assistant Officer
Census Takers 1-4
Chorus of Town People
Officer In Charge

Scene Two

Census Taker 1
Donkey
Joseph
Mary

Scene Three

Camels 1-3
Census Taker 2
Kings 1-3

Scene Four

Innkeeper
Innkeeper's Wife
Joseph
Mary
Narrators 1-2

Scene Five

Ben
Census Taker 3
Cook
Ethel
Jane
Narrators 3-4
Ruth
Tom

Scene Six

Angels 1-3
Census Taker 4
Chorus of Sheep
Shepherds 1-4

Scene Seven

Census Takers 1-4
Chorus of Stable Animals
Joseph
Kings 1-3
Mary
Narrators 1-6
Entire cast for final song

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Prologue**

Book Narrator 4

Scene One

Clipboards Census Takers

Large Pencils Census Takers

Scene Two

Clipboard Census Taker 1

Large Pencil Census Taker 1

Scene Three

Clipboard Census Taker 2

Large Pencil Census Taker 2

Gold King 1

Frankincense King 2

Myrrh King 3

Scene Four

No Properties required

Scene Five

Clipboard Census Taker 3

Large Pencil Census Taker 3

Big Sack Ethel

Bowls and Spoons Servants & Cook

Cake Cook

Scene Six

Clipboard Census Taker 4

Large Pencil Census Taker 4

Scene Seven

Clipboards Census Takers

Large Pencils Census Takers

Gold King 1

Frankincense King 2

Myrrh King 3

HELPFUL HINTS AND TIPS

Give your children their words to learn first – enlist the help of parents here. Set a date by which they should know them; you cannot hope to rehearse movement or introduce props until words and cues are learnt.

If sending home words to learn, send cues (the preceding line or two) as well, so children not only know what to say but when to say it!

Songs are best learnt separately (it helps to keep the blood pressure down for all concerned).

Once rehearsing begins on stage, introduce any flats (free standing scenery) as soon as possible, so that children have their positions correct from the start. And don't forget to have one or two rehearsals with props, microphones (and lights if using) before the official dress rehearsal to allow time for children to get used to them.

Finally – this may seem obvious but is often forgotten – don't forget to practise your cast bows (arms across tummies or not?) and the order in which they should lead off stage. All too often a super show ends in foot shuffling embarrassment because no one knows quite what to do when the applause ends.

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

Depending on the facilities available this show can be as simple or complex as you want. Just remember, this is not supposed to be a West End production. All most parents want to see is their child on stage. All most teachers want is to survive unscathed. So feel free to add, subtract or completely change the ideas below. And don't forget to send your comments and pictures to kate@musicline-ltd.com.

Prologue

Narrators 1, 2 and 3 can enter and stand/sit front stage right and Narrators 4, 5 and 6 can enter and stand/sit front stage left. They can remain in position throughout the show so that they can deliver their lines in later scenes.

Scene One: The Census Office In Bethlehem

The four Census Takers enter and stand in a line at centre stage facing the audience enabling the Officer in charge and the Assistant Officer to carry out their checks. At the end of the dialogue the Officer and Assistant exit before a crowd of people gather on stage to be counted by the Census takers during Track 2.

Scene Two: The Road To Bethlehem

The stage needs to be kept clear during this scene so that Mary, Joseph and their Donkey can travel around the stage on their journey to Bethlehem.

Scene Three: Kings From The Orient

Three Kings and their Camels enter and the Kings deliver the first part of their dialogue dramatically at centre stage. During Track 4 the Kings lead their Camels around the stage.

Scene Four: Outside A Bethlehem Inn

Two chairs and a table can be placed stage left facing the audience for the Innkeeper and his Wife to sit at. Mary and Joseph enter from stage right, approach stage left and mime knocking on a door. The Innkeeper mimes opening the door and after the dialogue, gestures for the pair to go in.

Scene Five: Inside That Very Same Bethlehem Inn

The table from the previous scene can be placed at centre stage. The Cook and the Servants can be gathered around the table with their bowls and spoons pretending to bake a cake.

Scene Six: On That Very Same Hill Overlooking Bethlehem

Several Shepherds and Sheep are gathered onstage. When the Census Taker enters they form a line at stage left to be counted. As soon as the Census Taker gets about halfway along the line the Shepherds who have already been counted, duck behind the line and join on at the other end, making the line "un-ending". Eventually the line ends up at the other end of the stage. At the end of the scene a group of Angels 'float' around the stage to Track 6.

Scene Seven: A Stable In Bethlehem

Joseph and Mary enter and stand at centre stage. Mary is holding baby Jesus. A group of stable animals surround them and each of the three Kings approach the couple to give their gifts to the baby. The entire cast should be involved in the final song so make sure there is enough room on stage.

BACKDROPS

Let's be realistic here. You may have the facilities for changing backdrops, in which case, go to town – the inside of a middle eastern building for scenes one and five, a middle eastern town for scenes two, three and four, a hillside for scene six and the inside of a wooden stable for scene seven.

If this is not practical, then a Middle Eastern skyline is the best all-purpose backdrop. (Incidentally, instant scenery is now available with our digital backdrops. **Project It!** provides a different backdrop for EVERY scene change and is supplied in both a PowerPoint presentation and as individual JPG files. See our website for details.)

COSTUMES

The Narrators can wear school uniform or smart clothes.

Joseph is in thigh-length smock and calf-length trousers. He probably has some sort of apron over the top to hold the tools of his trade (carpenter).

Mary is generally seen wearing a white smock and headdress with a blue outer garment over the top. A cushion helps with the illusion of imminent birth.

The Officer In Charge and the Assistant Officer should be dressed as Roman soldiers.

The Census Takers can wear white smocks tied around the waist with cord and red robes.

Shepherds could wear long (ankle-length) smocks or knee-length tunics and tea-towel head-dress.

The Innkeeper and his Wife could dress as the Shepherds but also wear aprons to make them look a little different.

The Three Kings are generally seen wearing a cape or robe over a tunic or bright-coloured smock. Generally, gold and purple or crimson are the colours of choice. Crowns on their heads would complete the effect.

The Cook, Servants and Town People should wear knee-length smocks tied around the waist with cord. Cook should also wear a chef's hat.

The Angels should be dressed in long white gowns with wings and halos.

Animal characters can wear colour-appropriate tights and tops and headdresses or masks to show who they are. If budget allows, whole costumes can be purchased on-line.

CHOREOGRAPHY**Track 1: Oh So Busy**

Just give a feeling of busyness! A chorus of Town People walking around the stage and stopping to mime conversations with each other during the verses would be sufficient for this track.

Track 2: Stand Still Granny

During this track the Census Takers counts a crowd of Town People that has gathered on stage. In the verses the crowd can line up while the Census takers point to each one and write on their clipboards. During the chorus the crowd can wander around the stage while the Census Takers try to count them but get frustrated and scratch their heads.

Track 3: Mary, You Can Count On Me

Joseph comforts Mary during this track as they travel to Bethlehem. No dance movements are required. Just have Mary, Joseph and the Donkey wearily walking around the stage with Joseph occasionally putting his hand on Mary's shoulder.

Track 4: From The Orient

The Three Kings should lead their Camels around the stage holding up the appropriate gift to the audience when it is mentioned.

Track 5: Mix It

During this track the Cook and Servants mime making a cake. They can all be stood around the table making exaggerated mixing actions with their bowls and spoons. At the end of the song Cook holds up a finished cake to the audience.

Track 6: Angels In the Sky

The Angels should move gracefully across the stage during the song. Some big, slow arm movements and twirls would also be effective.

Track 7: Meet The Infant King

The whole cast should be involved in this song so not much movement will be required as room on stage will be limited. Raised arms on the words 'Alleluia' with lots of smiles and enthusiasm would be the ideal way to close the show.

PROLOGUE

NARRATOR 1: A long, long time ago ...

NARRATOR 2: ... in a place called Bethlehem, far, far away ...

NARRATOR 3: ... there was a census to count all the people.

NARRATOR 4: The general consensus was that the census was senseless.

NARRATOR 5: What does that mean?

NARRATOR 4: Don't know ... it says it in the script. *(Holds up book)*

ALL: Ladies and gentlemen ... we present Census Sums.

NARRATOR 6: ... and it was **some** census!

TRACK 1:**OH SO BUSY**

ALL: OH SO BUSY ... OH SO BUSY.

THERE'S A CENSUS IN BETHLEHEM,
BUSY IN BETHLEHEM TOWN.
THERE'S A CENSUS IN BETHLEHEM,
SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND TODAY.

FROM ALL OVER THE LAND, ALL HEADING THIS WAY,
NOT VERY WELL PLANNED ...
NOT ENOUGH BEDS, NOT ENOUGH ROOMS,
PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE TURNED AWAY.
OH SO BUSY.

PEOPLE RUSHING TO BETHLEHEM,
BUSY IN BETHLEHEM TOWN.
PEOPLE RUSHING TO BETHLEHEM,
SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND TODAY.

FROM ALL OVER THE LAND, ALL HEADING THIS WAY,
NOT VERY WELL PLANNED ...
NOT ENOUGH BEDS, NOT ENOUGH ROOMS,
PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE TURNED AWAY.
OH SO BUSY.

OH SO BUSY IN BETHLEHEM,
BUSY IN BETHLEHEM TOWN.
OH SO BUSY IN BETHLEHEM,
SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND TODAY.

FROM ALL OVER THE LAND, ALL HEADING THIS WAY,
NOT VERY WELL PLANNED ...
NOT ENOUGH BEDS, NOT ENOUGH ROOMS,
PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE TURNED AWAY.
OH SO BUSY.

THERE'S A CENSUS IN BETHLEHEM,
BUSY IN BETHLEHEM TOWN.
THERE'S A CENSUS IN BETHLEHEM,
SO MANY PEOPLE AROUND TODAY.

(During the introduction and between verses there could be lots of crowd activity, standing still for the verses and choruses. Or you could save crowd action until the song "Stand Still Granny", and have no action within this first song ... or have two crowd scenes!)

SCENE ONE: THE CENSUS OFFICE IN BETHLEHEM

(Onstage is the Officer in charge, Assistant Officer Smithers and, in line facing them, 4 Census Takers. The latter have identical clipboards that they clutch in their right hands, and very large pencils, which they hold in their left.)

OFFICER: Right men, time for the census. Have you been practising counting?

CENSUS TAKER 1: Yes Sir.

CENSUS TAKER 2: *(Salutes)* Another “Yes Sir”, Sir, which makes two “Yes Sirs”, Sir.

OFFICER: *(Shaking his head)* Daft as a brush.

CENSUS TAKER 3: The Bethlehem branch won’t let you down Sir.

OFFICER: *(To Assistant)* Sort them out Smithers.

ASSISTANT: Right you lot, let’s check equipment. Clipboards?

(All hold up clipboards simultaneously.)

ASSISTANT: Pencils?

(All hold up pencils.)

ASSISTANT: Now, let’s have a quick practice. *(To Census Taker 4)* What comes after two?

CENSUS TAKER 4: Three.

ASSISTANT: Correct. *(To Census Taker 1)* What comes after five?

CENSUS TAKER 1: Six.

ASSISTANT: Correct. *(To Census Taker 2)* What comes after eight?

CENSUS TAKER 3: *(Interrupting, hand waving)* Please Sir, I know that. It’s tummy ache.

ALL: Tummy ache?

CENSUS TAKER 3: Yes. After I ate loads of fish fingers I had tummy ache.

ASSISTANT: *(Shaking head)* Incredible! You know what to do men. Get counting.

ALL: One, two, three, four ...

OFFICER: Clots! Look, just get out and count all the people.

(Officer and Assistant exit.)

TRACK 2:**STAND STILL GRANNY**

(A crowd gathers onstage and the Census Takers count them with exaggerated actions during the song.)

CENSUS TAKERS: WE'VE GOT TO COUNT EVERYBODY THAT WE MEET,
IN THE SHOPS, IN THE STREET, EVERYBODY THAT WE MEET.
WE'VE GOT TO COUNT EVERYBODY THAT WE MEET,
IN THE SHOPS, IN THE STREET, EVERYBODY THAT WE MEET.
SO ...

STAND STILL GRANNY, WHILE I COUNT YOU,
GRANDDAD, LET ME JOT YOU DOWN.
BABY, LADY, WRITE THE NUMBER,
ALL THESE PEOPLE ALL AROUND.
ANOTHER ONE, ANOTHER FOUR,
ANOTHER THREE, AND SEVEN MORE.
ANOTHER ONE, ANOTHER TWO,
THESE SUMS ARE REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HARD TO DO.

WE'VE GOT TO COUNT EVERYBODY THAT WE SEE,
IN A FIELD, UP A TREE EVERYBODY THAT WE SEE.
WE'VE GOT TO COUNT EVERYBODY THAT WE SEE
IN A FIELD, UP A TREE EVERYBODY THAT WE SEE. SO ...

STAND STILL GRANNY, WHILE I COUNT YOU,
GRANDDAD, LET ME JOT YOU DOWN.
BABY, LADY, WRITE THE NUMBER,
ALL THESE PEOPLE ALL AROUND.
ANOTHER ONE, ANOTHER FOUR,
ANOTHER THREE, AND SEVEN MORE.
ANOTHER ONE, ANOTHER TWO,
THESE SUMS ARE REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HARD TO DO.

WE'VE GOT TO COUNT EVERYBODY IN THE TOWN,
STANDING UP, LYING DOWN, EVERYBODY IN THE TOWN.
WE'VE GOT TO COUNT EVERYBODY IN THE TOWN,
STANDING UP, LYING DOWN, EVERYBODY IN THE TOWN.
SO ...

STAND STILL GRANNY, WHILE I COUNT YOU,
GRANDDAD, LET ME JOT YOU DOWN.
BABY, LADY, WRITE THE NUMBER,
ALL THESE PEOPLE ALL AROUND.
ANOTHER ONE, ANOTHER FOUR,
ANOTHER THREE, AND SEVEN MORE.
ANOTHER ONE, ANOTHER TWO,
THESE SUMS ARE REALLY, REALLY, REALLY HARD TO DO.

(All exit.)

SCENE TWO: THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

(Mary, Joseph and Donkey enter. They travel around the stage. Census Taker 1 re-enters.)

CENSUS TAKER 1: Hello madam, hello sir. I wonder if I could count you.

JOSEPH: You must be doing the census. Well, there are two of us.

MARY: I'm going to have a baby very soon. *(She pats her tummy)*

CENSUS TAKER 1: So that's two and a bump then. *(He writes)*

MARY: He's not a bump, he's a baby.

JOSEPH: We're going to call him Jesus.

CENSUS TAKER 1: Right. So that's two grown-ups, a bump, and a donkey.

JOSEPH: Donkeys don't count.

DONKEY: *(Aside to audience)* Oh yes they do! Look. *(He raises a leg)* One, *(He raises the other leg)* two, *(He raises an arm, three fingers up)* EEEE, *(and the other, four fingers up)* AAAW. *(He laughs at his crummy joke.)*

CENSUS TAKER 1: What a strange animal. Well I'm off to Bethlehem. Bye-bye.

(Exits.)

MARY: It's still such a long way Joseph, and I'm so tired.

JOSEPH: Don't worry Mary, you can count on me.

TRACK 3:**MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME**

(During the song Mary and Joseph travel around the stage.)

JOSEPH:

WHEN THE ROAD IS ROUGH AND STEEP,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
WHEN YOU'RE TIRED AND FALL ASLEEP,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
YES, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU ...
ANYTHING AT ALL, MARY, JUST YOU CALL ...
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU DEAR,
MARY, YOU CAN TRUST ME, MARY,
YOU CAN TRUST ME,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

WHEN THE JOURNEY'S HARD AND LONG,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
WHEN YOU'RE WEAK, THEN I'LL BE STRONG;
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
YES, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU ...
ANYTHING AT ALL, MARY, JUST YOU CALL ...
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU DEAR,
MARY, YOU CAN TRUST ME, MARY,
YOU CAN TRUST ME,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

WHEN YOU'RE WORRIED WHAT TO DO,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
I'LL BE HOLDING HANDS WITH YOU; MARY,
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
YES, I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU ...
ANYTHING AT ALL, MARY, JUST YOU CALL ...
I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU DEAR,
MARY, YOU CAN TRUST ME, MARY,
YOU CAN TRUST ME,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

MARY, YOU CAN TRUST ME, MARY,
YOU CAN TRUST ME,
MARY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.

(All exit.)

SCENE THREE:**KINGS FROM THE ORIENT**

(Three Kings enter with their Camels. The Kings deliver their lines strongly.)

KING 1: We three Kings of orient are ...
KING 2: ... bearing gifts we travel so far.
KING 3: Field and fountain, moor and mountain ...
ALL: ... following yonder star.

(All simultaneously point heavenward.)

KING 1: *(To King 3)* Hang on, I don't remember any fountain.
KING 2: *(To King 3)* Three Kings in a fountain? Doesn't sound right.
KING 3: Well we went through all the rest ... and some deserts.
KING 1: I think we must be nearby now anyway.

(Census Taker 2 enters.)

CENSUS TAKER 2: Good day your majesties. *(He bows)* I wonder if I might count you for the census please?
KING 2: *(Strongly)* We three Kings of orient are ...
KING 3: Oh don't start that again.
CENSUS TAKER 2: *(He writes)* So that's three Kings and three scratty camels then.

(The offended Camels stand with hands on hips.)

CENSUS TAKER 2: Thank you very much. Have a nice day.

(He exits.)

TRACK 4:**FROM THE ORIENT**

(During the song the Kings lead their Camels around the stage, showing gifts as they are mentioned.)

KINGS:

WE ARE THREE KINGS FROM THE EAST, WE ARE,
FROM THE ORIENT, FROM AFAR;
WE ARE THREE KINGS FROM THE EAST, WE ARE,
FOLLOWING YONDER STAR.
REST IN THE DAY, RIDE THROUGH THE NIGHT,
FOLLOW THE STAR SO BRIGHT,
FROM THE ORIENT.

BEARING A PRESENT OF GOLD, WE ARE,
FROM THE ORIENT, FROM AFAR;
BEARING A PRESENT OF GOLD, WE ARE,
FOLLOWING YONDER STAR.
REST IN THE DAY, RIDE THROUGH THE NIGHT,
FOLLOW THE STAR SO BRIGHT,
FROM THE ORIENT.

BEARING A PRESENT OF MYRRH, WE ARE,
FROM THE ORIENT, FROM AFAR;
BEARING A PRESENT OF MYRRH, WE ARE,
FOLLOWING YONDER STAR.
REST IN THE DAY, RIDE THROUGH THE NIGHT,
FOLLOW THE STAR SO BRIGHT,
FROM THE ORIENT.

BEARING A PRESENT OF FRANKINCENSE,
FROM THE ORIENT, FROM AFAR;
BEARING A PRESENT OF FRANKINCENSE,
FOLLOWING YONDER STAR.
REST IN THE DAY, RIDE THROUGH THE NIGHT,
FOLLOW THE STAR SO BRIGHT,
FROM THE ORIENT.