

Sing About A Stable

An Exciting, challenging new musical for
Christmas

Key Stage 1 & 2

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LIBRETTO

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Script

Song 1: Market Day

(Merchants enter selling their wares)

Verse 1

Buy some fruit here a lemon or a peach.
Pick one out they are only five pence each!
Ripe and juicy bananas by the bunch.
You can take some and eat them for your lunch.

Verse 2

Taste the wine that we've got to sell,
A rich red vintage that goes down so well!
Put your money in-to my hand,
And buy the finest, the best wine in the land.

Verse 3

Try the clothes I sell on my stall.
Silk and cotton, a scarf or a shawl!
Special offers for you today.
Have your money ready now to pay.

Chorus

Market day in Bethlehem town.
Plenty of things if you've half a crown.
Have you ever seen such a sight?
So many gifts will be sold by tonight.
Everything for all your needs,
Unleaven bread and pretty beads!
But beware you might meet a crook,
Don't you be fooled by that innocent look.

Narrator 1:

The story begins in the small town of Bethlehem, which was in an area called Judea. Judea was ruled by the Romans and governed by a particularly cruel King named Herod.

Roman Soldier 1: Attention! Attention! Caesar Augustus, Emperor of Rome has decreed that all of his empire should be taxed!

Roman Soldier 2: All men must return to the town of their birth so that their families can be registered.

Roman Soldier 3: Anyone not registered in this census will be severely punished!

Song 2: The Legions

Verse 1 These are the legions of the empire.
 These are the soldiers sent from Rome.
 They are a fighting force invincible.
 Ruling this land so far from their home.
 Swords of bronze and a shining shield.
 Give them vic'try on the battlefield.

Chorus Moses saved us from the Egyptians
 Freed us all from being enslaved.
 Now the legions rule all Israel.
 What is the chance? What is the chance?
 Of being saved!

Verse 2 They have their armies, we have sticks and stones.
 How can we overcome such might?
 We are the victims, they're the conquerors.
 Only our God knows we're in the right.
 We could fight, but we could not win,
 You may think that we have given in!

Chorus

(Soldiers clear the market place, except for two merchants.)

Merchant 1: What am I going to do? How will I get all of my family to
 Jericho? I've had enough of those Romans pushing us
 about!

Merchant 2: Shh! They might hear you then you'll be in trouble!

Merchant 1: I suppose you're right, we'd better get going.

Merchant 2: See you in a couple of weeks!

Merchant 1: Good Bye!

Song 3: We Make Our Way

Verse 1 We make our way to Bethlehem,
Where Caesar says we must go.
To register our name and age.
Why should he want to know? (Repeat verse)

Chorus Roman soldiers in our towns.
Telling us what to do,
Jewish kings without their crowns.
They're no good to you,
Caesar's census the senate's laws.
Who will fight our cause?

Verse 2 We make our way from Jericho,
From Bethesda and Galilee.
We'll drive these Romans from our lands,
Why don't you wait and see! (Repeat verse)

Chorus

Verse 3 We make our way from all Israel,
To get to our own birthplace.
The people, they all rush for rooms,
Why do they have to race? (Repeat verse)

Chorus

(Merchants leave, enter innkeepers)

Innkeeper 1: They say every cloud has a silver lining. I don't think that
my inn has ever been so busy. I'm going to make a
packet!

Innkeeper 2: Yes, but what about the poor people who get here last;
there won't be a bed for any of them!

Innkeeper 3: And the ones that get here last will be the people who
have travelled the farthest.

Innkeeper 1: Oh well, that's their problem; I'm off to count my takings
and go to bed.

Innkeeper 2: Good night!

Innkeeper 3: Good night!

Narrator 2: In the distance, there was a man walking with a bag over
his shoulder and a woman on a scruffy old donkey that
looked as if it was ready to collapse.

Narrator 3: The man was named Joseph and the woman on the
donkey was called Mary. They had travelled from a town
called Nazareth, which was nearly eighty miles away.

Narrator 4: Poor Mary was very weary, as not only had she travelled a
very long way, but also she was expecting a baby very
soon.

Song 4: The Night Is Dark

Chorus The night is dark,
 The road is long.
 The stars are bright,
 They trudge along.

Verse 1 Their load is very heavy,
 Their legs grow weak,
 And Mary is so tired,
 That she can hardly speak.

Chorus The night is dark,
 The road is long.
 The donkey trips,
 He is not strong.

Verse 2 He bravely carries Mary,
 Upon his back.
 As Bethlehem draws closer,
 Along the rugged track.

Chorus The night is dark,
 The road is long.
 The Roman census,
 Is so wrong.

Verse 3 Poor Mary should be resting,
 At home in bed.
 Not walking through the blackness,
 To that small town ahead.

(Mary and Joseph arrive at the town)

Mary: I hope we can find a place to stay, because I don't think it
 will be very long now.

Joseph: Don't worry Mary, everything will be all right. Remember the
 angel told you that your baby is the Son of God. Our Lord
 will not forget us now; he will provide a place for us to sleep.
 Just wait and see.

Song 5: Don't Knock

Verse 1 Wandering through the alleyways,
They see a distant light.
Mary who's tired by now,
Rejoices at the sight.
What a busy town this is,
Where people rush to stay,
But hopefully there is a room,
Somewhere along this way.

Chorus Don't knock at the door,
It is very late!
You won't find any vacancies,
Not even if you wait.

Verse 2 Mary's begun to feel so,
Weary and rather meek,
Travelling all day long,
Has made her rather weak.
Joseph sees another inn,
He walks up to the door,
And asks the tall man that he sees,
For any room or floor.

Chorus

Verse 3 Joseph wonders what he'll do,
For Mary is quite near,
Giving birth to a child,
A baby boy so dear.
One more building left to try,
It's just across the road.
So they meander to the door,
And drop their heavy load.

Chorus Knock here at the door,
Even though it's late!
The stable's free for you tonight,
If you cannot wait.
The stable's free for you tonight,
I'll open up the gate.

(During the song, Joseph knocks on the inn doors, until at last he is shown to the stable.)

Innkeeper 2: The only place left is the stable! I'm afraid it's the best I can do. All of my rooms are full and I even have guests sleeping on the floor downstairs.

Joseph: Thank you, very much. All we need is somewhere warm and dry to lie down, as I think it won't be long until Mary has her baby.

Narrator 5: That night Mary had her baby in the stable. They did not have a cradle so she laid the baby in the feeding trough, where it snuggled in the hay.

Mary: Doesn't he look lovely, sleeping there so peacefully? The angel said that we should call the baby Jesus. I think that that's a perfect name for such a sweet baby.

Narrator 6: On the hillside not far from the stable, shepherds were looking after their sheep keeping them safe from wild animals.

Music 6: Shepherds

(Enter shepherds and sheep)

Narrator 7: Suddenly an angel appeared in the sky. At first, the shepherds were terrified but when the angel spoke a sense of calm and wonder came over them.

Angel: I have come to bring you wonderful news. Tonight in Bethlehem, a baby has been born who is the Son of God. You will find the baby in a stable, lying in a manger beside his mother Mary. He is the baby who the prophets said would come to save the world, and his name is Jesus.

Narrator 8: Suddenly the sky was filled with angels singing music that was more beautiful than anything that the shepherds had ever heard.

(Enter angels)

Song 7: Angel Voices

Group 1 Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo. *(Repeat to end)*

Group 2 Angel voices in the sky,
Bathing in celestial light.
Brightly blazing o'er the world.
What an incredible sight.
Turning night time into day,
Giving the shepherds a fright.

Heavenly, ecstasy, Heavenly, ecstasy,

Angel voices in the sky,
Singing praises from on high.
Heralding to all the earth,
News of this most special birth.
Angel voices in the sky.
In the sky.
In the sky.

(During the song the shepherds and angels start to form a tableau in the stable.)

Shepherd 1: We have come to see the newborn King! I'm sorry that we don't have any expensive gifts for you.

Shepherd 2: But you can have this lamb. It's the only thing that we have to give.

Mary: That is very kind of you, but I do not need gifts as I have the best present that any woman could ever have.

Narrator 9: The shepherds gathered around the manger and Mary began to sing Jesus a lullaby.

Song 8: Gentle Jesus

Chorus
Gentle Jesus you must sleep.
Gentle Jesus do not peep.
Gentle Jesus close your eyes,
Until its time to rise.

Verse 1
We are here to watch and smile,
Keep you happy for a while.
In the morning when it's bright,
He'll see the gifts we've brought tonight.

Chorus

Verse 2
In the sky there shines a star,
Drawing people from a-far.
Leading shepherds from their flocks,
To see the place where Jesus rocks.

Narrator 10: Everyone in the stable sat quietly watching the sleeping baby. Overhead a magnificent star shone brightly, marking the spot where the miracle had happened.

Narrator 11: The star, which had risen in the East, had been seen by some astrologers, who tried to foretell the future by looking into space. They knew that the star heralded a royal birth so they had set off to find the newborn King.