

Rock Around Christmas

Junior Script

by

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows 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.

Main Characters

*Mary (37)
*Joseph (36)
Gabriel (42)

Marys House

Mum (13)
Dad (14)
Bill (11)
Gran (5)
Angel (5)

The Suburbs of Bethlehem

Man 1 (1)
Jogger (7)
Female Mechanic (3)
*Keeper (16)

Wise People

Bernard (13)
Betty (29)
Audrey (12)
Leo (10)
Joan (7)

Herod's Tactics Room

*Herod (35)
Minister 1 (7)
Minister 2 (4)
Minister 3 (15)
Minister 4 (4)
RAT 1 (2)
Chief (8)

Family

Mum 2 (6)
Jack (9)
Alice (4)

Sheep

Sheep 1 (6)
Sheep 2 (5)
Sheep 3 (4)
Sheep 4 (3)
Sheep 5 (6)

N.B. In addition to the characters listed a chorus of Townspeople, RATs (The Royal Action Team), Angels and Shepherds will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

N.B. 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.

Gabriel	42
*Mary	37
*Joseph	36
*Herod	35
Betty	29
*Keeper	16
Minister 3	15
Dad	14
Mum	13
Bernard	13
Audrey	12
Bill	11
Leo	10
Jack	9
Chief	8
Jogger	7
Joan	7
Minister 1	7
Mum 2	6
Sheep 1	6
Sheep 5	6
Gran	5
Angel	5
Sheep 2	5

Minister 2	4
Minister 4	4
Alice	4
Sheep 3	4
Sheep 4	3
Female Mechanic	3
RAT 1	2
Man 1	1

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

N.B. 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.

Alice	4
Angel.....	5
Audrey	12
Bernard	13
Betty.....	29
Bill	11
Chief	8
Dad	14
Female Mechanic	3
Gabriel	42
Gran.....	5
*Herod.....	35
Jack	9
Joan	7
Jogger	7
*Joseph.....	36
*Keeper.....	16
Leo	10
Man 1	1
*Mary	37
Minister 1	7
Minister 2	4
Minister 3	15
Minister 4	4
Mum.....	13

Mum 2.....	6
RAT 1.....	2
Sheep 1	6
Sheep 2	5
Sheep 3	4
Sheep 4	3
Sheep 5	6

Non speaking roles:- Chorus of Townspeople, RATs (Royal Action Team), Angels and Shepherds.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Angel
Bill
Chorus of Townspeople
Dad
Gabriel
Gran
Joseph
Mary
Mum

Scene Two

Chorus of Townspeople
Female Mechanic
Jogger
Joseph
Keeper
Man 1
Mary

Scene Three

Audrey
Bernard
Betty
Joan
Leo

Scene Four

Chief
Chorus of RATs
Herod
Ministers 1-4
RAT 1

Scene Five

Alice
Jack
Joseph
Keeper
Mary
Mum 2

Scene Six

Chorus of Angels
Chorus of Shepherds
Gabriel
Sheep 1-5

Scene Seven

Bill
Chorus of Angels
Dad
Gabriel
Gran
Joseph
Mary
Mum
Entire cast for final song

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Four chairs	Scene Props
Table	Scene Prop
Television (Decorated box)	Scene Prop
Letter	Mary
Letter	Dad
Watch	Gabriel
Suitcase	Mary

Scene Two

Old Skoda (Decorated box/cardboard cut-out)	Joseph & Man 1
Shopping bags	Female Mechanic

Scene Three

Small bags	Scene Props
Clothes and personal effects	Scene Props
Large suitcase	Bernard
Huge pile of multi-coloured underwear	Betty
Small bag of underwear	Bernard
Suitcases	Leo & Joan
Paper bag containing Mars bars and Galaxy chocolate	Betty

Scene Four

Two tables and chairs	Scene Props
Bundle	Scene Prop
Mobile phone	Minister 1
Notes	Herod
Note pad	Minister 4

Scene Five

Sign saying 'To The Pets' Corner'	Scene Prop
Bench	Scene Prop
Picnic in a bag	Mum 2
Mobile phone	Joseph
Bag containing piece of paper	Mary

Scene Six

Bowl of socks Shepherds

Scene Seven

Congratulations cards Scene Props

Four chairs Scene Props

Table Scene Prop

Television (Decorated box) Scene Prop

Paper and pen Mary

Baby doll inside a carry cot Scene Prop

Tray of drinks and a baby bottle Mum

Gold watch Bill

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

Scene One: Gabriel

This scene is set in Mary's living room. A table and a chair need to be placed at stage left and three chairs and a television (easily made by decorating a large cardboard box) need to be placed at centre stage. This leaves room for Gabriel to enter from stage right and be picked out by a spotlight.

Scene Two: Broken Down

As this scene is set in a busy town, plenty of room is needed on stage for the Townspeople to walk around upstage and mime having conversations with each other. Joseph and Man 1 enter with an old Skoda (Made simply by decorating a cardboard box or using a cardboard cut-out.) and stand centre, downstage.

Scene Three: Wise Up!

Lots of small bags and personal effects (cameras, binoculars, maps etc.) need to be strewn across the stage as the Wise People are in the process of packing for their journey. A table with a paper bag needs to be placed at either stage right or left.

Scene Four: Herod's Tactics Room

Two tables are placed at stage right. One table has four chairs around it, a small bundle underneath it and faces the audience. The other table has one chair and is at a slight angle.

Scene Five: The Park

A sign reading 'To the Pets' Corner' needs to be placed to one side of the stage. To the other side there needs to be a park bench (A gym bench would be great!)

Scene Six: Shepherds And That

So simple! Just have your Shepherds in a huddle, upstage, with their backs toward the audience until their song, Track 7, where they will need plenty of room to perform 'The Shepherd Shuffle'.

Scene Seven: Home Again

This scene should be set up as Scene One but with the addition of a baby in a carrycot and a few "Congratulations" cards. It would be a good idea to set the scene props as far back as possible to allow room at the front of the stage for other cast members to enter during the final song.

BACKDROPS

You may have the facilities for changing backdrops, in which case go to town – a living room for Scenes One, Three and Seven. A Middle Eastern town for Scene Two, a lavish palace room for Scene Four, a woodland for Scene Five and a hillside for Scene Six.

If this is not practical then a Middle Eastern town scene would be suitable throughout.

COSTUMES

Gabriel and the Angels should be dressed in white suits, a bit of sparkle and a pair of sun glasses for Gabriel would also be effective.

Mary should wear a modern blue and white dress.

Joseph should wear a shirt, trousers and a carpenter's apron (keeping with tradition!).

Mum, Dad, Bill, Gran, Man 1, Mum 2, Alice Jack and the Townspeople wear everyday, casual, age appropriate clothes.

The Jogger wears shorts, a t-shirt and sweat bands.

The Female Mechanic should be smartly dressed, maybe a skirt and blouse.

The Keeper should be dressed in green or blue overalls.

The Wise People wear geeky clothes. Maybe patterned, knitted jumpers and large dark rimmed glasses.

Herod and the Ministers should all wear suits (an Elvis suit and wig for Herod is effective!). Herod also wears a crown.

The RATs wear army style camouflage clothes and maybe even have camouflage face paint!

The Chief should be dressed in a suit and a long parka coat. He could also be holding a magnifying glass.

The Shepherds can be dressed in jeans, checked shirts and wellington boots.

The Sheep can wear black tights, white long sleeved tops, headdresses and face paint.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Track 1: Mary, Mary

During this song Mary and Gabriel mime having a conversation to show that only Mary is aware of Gabriel. If possible a spotlight should be on them and then fade at the end as Mary seats herself back at the table.

Track 2: Bethlehem

The Townspeople can perform a simple swaying action in the verses beginning 'Caesar Augustus' and 'Governor Cyreneus'. During the section of the song that begins 'Come together' some claps would be effective.

Track 3: Almost There

No dance movement is required during this song. Joseph and Mary can be stood at centre stage with Joseph comforting Mary.

Track 4: Magi May I?

As this song has a slight 'Rock and Roll' feel, some side to side finger clicks during the verses and claps during the instrumental section would be great! For inspiration, take a look at one of the many videos of Bill Haley and his Comets on Youtube!

Track 5: Wannabe

During this track, Herod could walk around the stage boastfully as he sings his solo. A 'Jazz hands' movement can be made as he sings the words 'Woah.....Woah'.

Track 6: No Room

As this song has a sombre feel no dance movement is required. Joseph paces the stage pretending to phone various numbers while Mary rests at centre stage. The Keeper enters during the last verse.

Track 7: Shepherd Shuffle

Some simple country and western line dance moves are effective during this track.

Track 8: Long Ago

As this is the final song not much movement will be required as the various cast members enter the stage. Some swaying from side to side during the verses would be sufficient as well as lots of smiles and enthusiasm!

SCENE ONE:**GABRIEL**

(The scene is set in the sitting room. Bill, Mum and Gran are watching the TV. Mary is seated at a table reading a letter. Gabriel, dressed (ideally) in a white suit, enters and is picked out (ideally) by a spotlight. Gabriel enters and stands to one side of the stage facing the audience.)

GABRIEL: Hello. My name's Gabriel and I'm an angel. No really ... I am. Not a lot of people know that.

(He walks into the family scene, but they remain unaware of him.)

GABRIEL: It's tough being an angel. For starters, people think you've just dropped off a Christmas tree, which is strange really 'cause Christmas hasn't been invented yet. *(Slight pause for audience to assimilate that)* Yeh, it does yer head in doesn't it! Actually most of the time they can't see you .. like this lot .. an ordinary family struggling with life's ups and downs. *(Gestures toward the family)*

(Dad enters looking miserable. He addresses Mum and passes a letter to her.)

DAD: Well, we knew this was coming, but that doesn't make it any easier. Redundancy! It's bad at any time, but just before Christmas!

MUM: *(Stands up and tries to comfort Dad)* We'll manage, we always do. I've got my part-time job at the school. It's not your fault. Come and chat to me in the kitchen while I cook the dinner.

(Exit Mum and Dad.)

BILL: *(Turning to Mary)* Did you hear that Mary? What a drag! That means I'm not going to get my new computer. And you and Joseph can forget that holiday abroad dad promised for your engagement. Wish Dad could win the lottery.

MARY: Oh well, the holiday doesn't matter. I just don't like Dad looking so sad.

GRAN: *(In a feeble, high voice)* Where's that cup of tea?

BILL: You've only just had one Gran.

GABRIEL: As I was saying..... very ordinary people struggling with life's ups and downs. But one member of this ordinary family is about to become extra-ordinary. Mary is just about to receive a personal angelagram from the big fella up there. *(Points heavenward)* Excuse me ... this timing is quite critical. *(Looks at watch)* Five... four... three... two... one...

TRACK 1:**MARY, MARY**

(During the song Mary and Gabriel could mime a conversation to show that only Mary is aware of Gabriel. At the end of the song Gabriel becomes “invisible” to Mary again. Mary ends seated at the table looking very puzzled.)

ALL: MARY, MARY, I BRING YOU WONDERFUL NEWS.
MARY, MARY, I BRING YOU WONDERFUL,
OH SUCH WONDERFUL NEWS.

DON'T WORRY MARY, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN,
YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE MOTHER OF A SON.
DON'T WORRY MARY, YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN,
YOU ARE GOING TO BE THE MOTHER OF A SON...
AND HIS NAME IS JESUS, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE JESUS,
YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME JESUS,
HE'LL BE KNOWN AS THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH.

MARY: HOW CAN THIS BE? I'M NOT GIVEN IN MATRIMONY,
AND I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW THIS CAN BE.

ALL: MARY, MARY, I BRING YOU WONDERFUL NEWS.
MARY, MARY, I BRING YOU WONDERFUL,
OH SUCH WONDERFUL NEWS.

DON'T WORRY MARY, GOD CANNOT FAIL YOU,
WHAT HE HAS PROMISED ALWAYS COMES TO PASS.
AND NOW THE STORY OF JESUS AND HIS GLORY IS FINISHED
IN THE SON OF GOD AT LAST....
AND HIS NAME IS JESUS, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE JESUS,
YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME JESUS,
HE'LL BE KNOWN AS THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH.

MARY: HOW CAN THIS BE? I'M NOT GIVEN IN MATRIMONY,
AND I REALLY DON'T SEE HOW THIS CAN BE.

ALL: MARY, MARY, I BRING YOU WONDERFUL NEWS.
MARY, MARY, I BRING YOU WONDERFUL,
OH SUCH WONDERFUL NEWS.

DON'T WORRY MARY, THERE IS NO REASON,
NO NEED TO BE AFRAID ABOUT A THING.
GOD'S SPECIAL POWER, WILL BE YOURS IN THAT HOUR
AND YOU WILL BEAR A SON WHO WILL BE KING....
AND HIS NAME IS JESUS, AND HIS NAME SHALL BE JESUS,
YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME JESUS,
HE'LL BE KNOWN AS THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH.

GABRIEL: Well, that's that. I must fly ... oh sorry, that's just a little joke we angels have. Most of the time we don't even use wings, they're so tiring and need dry cleaning twice a week. Half the time you wouldn't know an angel if he sat down next to you in the launderette. Catch ya later.

(He clicks his tongue and points his fingers as a gun at the audience before exiting. Mum and Dad enter.)

MUM: *(Putting a hand on Mary's shoulder)* Mary, whatever is the matter? You look as though you've seen a ghost.

MARY: *(Jumping up)* Not a ghost Mum. I've just seen an angel! He said I'm going to have a baby!

DAD: *(Rushes to check doors and windows in jest)* How did he get in here, and where's he gone now?

BILL: An angel? Cool!

MARY: Mum, I'm not even married!

MUM: Oh, but he's a nice chap that Joseph.

GRAN: Did somebody mention some angel cake and a nice cup of tea?

DAD: *(Still in jest)* Never mind tea and cake, where's that angel fella disappeared to? Is he in the kitchen? He's probably nicking our dinner.

BILL: He's like the invisible man. Radical!

MUM: There's enough excitement with the census and all that without having invisible men popping up everywhere.

MARY: *(Turning to Mum pleading)* He was an angel Mum ... and it might seem a bit potty, but I believe him! I'm going to ring Joseph, I hope he will understand.

(Mary exits. Doorbell rings.)

DAD: Just vanish and answer that door Billy Boy. Perhaps it's angel man come back for his pudding.

(As Bill gets up an Angel enters and all freeze.)

ANGEL: Hi, I'm another of those men in white. We angels are round and about a lot more than you might think. Yep, we keep busy. Now why was I sent here? Oh yes... Mary. Well she really is going to have a baby, but I've been told to whizz them on a few months until the time for the census ... the counting of the heads. Don't worry, they won't feel a thing.

(Snaps fingers as he exits. The family unfreezes and Joseph enters.)

JOSEPH: Hello... only me. I seem to have been waiting at that door for months!

DAD: Hello Jolly Jo, it's only Billy the Whizz taking his time.

(Mary enters carrying a suitcase, looking very pregnant.)

MARY: Is the car ready Joseph? I've packed baby clothes as well. You never know when this baby might arrive.

JOSEPH: The old Skoda's packed and raring to go. We'll stop for lunch on the way. Bethlehem, here we come.

DAD: We'll see you both in Bethlehem then. Our train leaves this afternoon at 4:20. We should be there by next year if there aren't any leaves on the track!

MARY: See you then Mum. *(She kisses her.)*

MUM: Look after yourself in Bethlehem Mary ... and that baby.

MARY: Don't worry Mum, Joseph will look after me. It's all booked. Ta-ra Dad; Gran. *(She kisses them.)* Ta-ra our Bill.

(Exit Joseph and Mary.)

MUM: Come on Gran, let's go and check everything is packed for our trip to Bethlehem.

(Exit Mum and Gran.)

BILL: Right Dad, just time for one last game of snooker before we leave for the station.

(Exit Dad and Bill.)

SCENE TWO:**BROKEN DOWN**

(A group of Townspeople enter.)

TRACK 2:**BETHLEHEM**

TOWNSPEOPLE: A LONG, LONG TIME AGO IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM
THERE A KING WAS BORN IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
BETHLEHEM, CITY OF BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM, A KING.

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO FROM A VILLAGE CALLED NAZARETH
JOSEPH AND MARY PAID A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM,
BETHLEHEM, CITY OF BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM, A KING.

CAESAR AUGUSTUS HAD ORDERED THE FIRST CENSUS,
AND THE PEOPLE HAD TO GO BACK
TO THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE BORN.
AND IN THIS BIG CITY, THINGS WERE RATHER BUSY,
BUT ALL WAS STILL ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS MORNING.

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM
THERE A KING WAS BORN IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
BETHLEHEM, CITY OF BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM, A KING.

GOVERNOR CYRENEUS THOUGHT HE WAS A GENIUS,
UNDERTOOK ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE COUNTING OF THE HEADS.
EVEN MORE THAN USUAL, SUCH A GREAT CONFUSION
AS PEOPLE BOOKED UP ALL THE SPARE HOTEL BEDS.

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO FROM A VILLAGE CALLED NAZARETH
JOSEPH AND MARY PAID A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM,
BETHLEHEM, CITY OF BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM, A KING.

COME TOGETHER, ALL YOU CHILDREN OF ISRAEL,
COME TOGETHER FROM ALL THE WORLD AROUND.
COME TOGETHER, ALL YOU CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND
HEAR THE HAPPY SOUND, HEAR THE HAPPY SOUND.

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM
THERE A KING WAS BORN IN THE CITY OF BETHLEHEM,
BETHLEHEM, CITY OF BETHLEHEM, BETHLEHEM, A KING.

(Joseph and Man 1 enter pushing an old Skoda, (a decorated box or cardboard cut-out) which has broken down in the suburbs of Bethlehem. Mary brings up the rear. They stop centre stage. Mary and Joseph are hot, exhausted and cross. The Townspeople are going about their daily business.)

JOSEPH: *(Turning to Man 1 to shake his hand)* Thanks a lot mate. At least we're not causing a traffic jam any more.

MAN 1: That's OK. Sorry I can't be any more help.

(Man 1 exits.)

MARY: What is wrong with this pile of junk Joseph?

JOSEPH: It's a Skoda ... old model ... I'm told the new ones are much better.

MARY: But we haven't got a new one. What are we going to do?

JOSEPH: I'd use my mobile phone...

MARY: Except you haven't got one! You must be the only person in the world that still rushes into phone boxes like Superman does.

JOSEPH: Well at least I don't wear my underpants outside my trousers.

MARY: ...And you're not Superman either... trust me.

(Jogger enters puffing and panting.)

JOGGER: Hello... in trouble? Can I help? I work in a garage.

JOSEPH: Oh thanks, I think it's the radiator. *(Points at the radiator then glares at Mary)* At least, there's a whole lot of hot air around here!

JOGGER: Here, let me have a look. *(He stands quite a way off.)* Yes, it's a radiator all right, I'd recognise one of those anywhere.

MARY: *(Exasperated)* I thought you worked in a garage!

JOGGER: I do ... at the checkout. I sell crisps and that.

JOSEPH: Well that's not going to help!

JOGGER: It might if they were Walkers! ... 'cause that's what you're going to have to do ... walk! *(He laughs at his own corny joke.)* Anyway, must get on. I'm in training for the Census Marathon.

(Jogger exits. A female Mechanic Enters smartly dressed carrying shopping.)

MECHANIC: Hello ... in trouble? Can I help? I work in a garage.

JOSEPH: Yeh, yeh I know ... you sell crisps and stuff, I know. Push off and do your nails.

MECHANIC: Well, charming! As a matter of fact I'm the chief mechanic, but no doubt you can manage perfectly well on your own!

(Mechanic exits.)

MARY: *(Sarcastically)* That was a clever move. I don't think!

JOSEPH: *(Ashamed)* I'm sorry, that was very, very rude of me.

MARY: *(Crestfallen)* Joseph what are we going to do?

JOSEPH: Don't worry Mary, things'll turn out OK. We're almost there actually.

(Keeper enters dressed in overalls.)

KEEPER: Hello, in trouble? Can I help? I work in...

JOSEPH: *(Eagerly)* I wouldn't care if you worked in a hairdresser's as long as you can help!

KEEPER: Actually, I work in the Pet's Corner in the park just across the road over there, *(points)*, but my brother works in a garage just down that side street. I'm sure he will be able to help. If he can't fix your car up you can borrow one of our reliable donkeys to get you into Bethlehem.

MARY: Never in a month of Sundays!

(All start to laugh.)

KEEPER: Come on, it's not far, let's push this sorry looking specimen. *(Turns to Mary)* Why don't you go and sit in the park and rest while we see to the car?