

Shepherd's Delight

An Infant Nativity

by

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CONTENTS

Cast List.....	2
Speaking Roles By Number Of Lines	3
Cast List In Alphabetical Order (With Line Count)	4
Characters In Each Scene.....	5
List Of Properties.....	6
Helpful Hints And Tips	7
Production Notes.....	8
Track 1: Woolly Sheep.....	10
Scene One: Looking After Sheep	11
Track 2: Good Shepherd	12
Scene Two: Naughty Sheep Meet Mary And Joseph	13
Track 3: Can't Be Much Further.....	15
Scene Three: Naughty Sheep Meet Three Kings.....	15
Track 4: Follow A Star	18
Scene Four: The Big, Bad Wolf.....	19
Track 5: Big Bad Wolf	19
Track 6: Angels Singing On High.....	23
Scene Five: A Stable In Bethlehem	24
Track 7: This Special Day	25
Photocopiable Lyrics	27

CAST LIST

In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

If you have strong singers playing Mary and Joseph, Track 3 works well as a duet for them.

Narrators

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

Shepherd and Sheep

Sam	(24)
Sally	(3)
Sarah	(4)
Stewart	(4)
Simon	(5)
Susie	(4)
Sandy	(4)
Lennie	(5)

Wolves

Wilf	(2)
Winnie	(2)
Walter	(2)
Wendy	(2)

Nativity Characters

Mary	(7)
Joseph	(7)
Donkey	(0)
King 1	(5)
King 2	(6)
King 3	(5)
Servant 1	(0)
Servant 2	(0)
Servant 3	(0)
Camel	(0)
Angel 1	(1)
Angel 2	(1)
Angel 3	(1)
Angel 4	(1)
Innkeeper	(3)

N.B. In addition to the characters listed, a Chorus of Stable Animals and Sheep will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has.

Sam	24
Mary	7
Joseph	7
Narrator 1.....	6
Narrator 2.....	6
King 2.....	6
King 1.....	5
King 3.....	5
Narrator 3.....	5
Narrator 4.....	5
Lennie	5
Simon.....	5
Sarah	4
Stewart.....	4
Susie	4
Sandy.....	4
Sally	3
Innkeeper.....	3
Wilf.....	2
Winnie.....	2
Walter	2
Wendy.....	2
Angel 1.....	1
Angel 2.....	1
Angel 3.....	1
Angel 4.....	1

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has.

Angel 1.....	1
Angel 2.....	1
Angel 3.....	1
Angel 4.....	1
Innkeeper.....	3
Joseph.....	7
King 1.....	5
King 2.....	6
King 3.....	5
Lennie.....	5
Mary.....	7
Narrator 1.....	6
Narrator 2.....	6
Narrator 3.....	5
Narrator 4.....	5
Sally.....	3
Sam.....	24
Sandy.....	4
Sarah.....	4
Simon.....	5
Stewart.....	4
Susie.....	4
Walter.....	2
Wendy.....	2
Wilf.....	2
Winnie.....	2

Non Speaking Roles:- Donkey, Servants 1-3, Camel, Chorus of Stable Animals and Sheep.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Chorus of Sheep
 Lennie
 Narrators 1-4
 Sally
 Sam
 Sandy
 Sarah
 Simon
 Stewart
 Susie

Scene Two

Donkey
 Joseph
 Mary
 Narrators 1-4
 Sally
 Sarah

Scene Three

Camel
 Chorus of Sheep
 Kings 1-3
 Lennie
 Narrators 1-4
 Sally
 Sam
 Sandy
 Sarah
 Servants 1-3
 Simon
 Stewart
 Susie

Scene Four

Angels 1-4
 Chorus of Stable Animals
 Joseph
 Lennie
 Mary
 Narrators 1-4
 Sally
 Sam
 Sandy
 Sarah
 Simon
 Stewart
 Susie
 Walter
 Wendy
 Wilf
 Winnie

Scene Five

Chorus of Stable Animals
 Innkeeper
 Kings 1-3
 Lennie
 Mary
 Sally
 Sam
 Sandy
 Sarah
 Servants 1-3
 Simon
 Stewart
 Susie
 Whole cast for final song

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Shepherd's crook..... Sam
 Response cue reading 'Hello Lennie'Narrator 4

Scene Two

Response cue reading 'Naughty, Naughty Sheep'Narrator 3

Scene Three

Response cue reading 'Naughty, Naughty Sheep'Narrator 2

Scene Four

Response cue reading 'Naughty, Naughty Sheep'Narrator 2
 Shepherd's crook..... Sam
 Manger..... Scene Prop
 Baby Jesus (doll) Mary

Scene Five

Lantern..... Innkeeper
 GoldKing 1
 FrankincenseKing 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.

Scene One: Looking After Sheep

Shepherd Sam enters and stands at centre stage before his flock of Sheep enter in pairs and sit either side of him. During this scene a response cue is held up to the audience by one of the Narrators. This can be made simply by writing big, clear, bold letters on a large piece of cardboard.

Scene Two: Naughty Sheep Meet Mary And Joseph

Dead easy! The dialogue between Mary, Joseph and two naughty Sheep all takes place at centre stage. During Track 3 Mary, Joseph and the Donkey walk around the stage on their journey to Bethlehem. Once again, a response cue is held up to the audience by a Narrator.

Scene Three: Naughty Sheep Meet Three Kings

As before, the main dialogue between the Kings and another two naughty Sheep takes place at centre stage, making this a very simple scene.

Scene Four: The Big, Bad Wolf

For the final time a response cue is held up in this scene. After Track 5 a group of Wolves chase the Sheep around the stage. It is most effective (and safer!) to have the characters run around in a large circle rather than in different directions. During Track 6 a group of Angels form a choir at one side of the stage whilst a Nativity scene assembles on the other.

Scene Five: A Stable In Bethlehem

The Nativity scene that assembled in the previous scene can move to centre stage. The rest of the cast should enter and surround the Nativity Characters for the final song.

BACKDROPS

Backdrops can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. However, for a really easy solution and fuss free performance, 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.

COSTUMES

The Narrators should wear school uniform or smart clothes.

Sam the Shepherd should wear a calf length smock tied around the waist with rope. He should also wear a tea towel headdress and carry a crook.

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.

The Innkeeper and his Wife could dress as Sam 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. Crowns on their heads would complete the effect.

The Servants should wear knee length smocks tied around the waist with cord.

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

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

CHOREOGRAPHY

Track 1: Woolly Sheep

During this song the Sheep can all walk around the stage, stopping occasionally to mime interacting with each other. At the end of the song they exit making way for the Narrators.

Track 2: Good Shepherd

Sam leads the Sheep around the stage in a simple 'Follow the leader' routine throughout this song.

Track 3: Can't Be Much Further

Mary, Joseph and their Donkey walk around the stage during this song on their journey to Bethlehem.

Track 4: Follow A Star

During the verses the Kings can mime putting things into bags. When the chorus is sung they can mime loading the imaginary bags onto the Camels.

Track 5: Big Bad Wolf

The Wolves should prowl around the stage menacingly during the verses. When the chorus asks the time the Wolves can shake their head before pointing out to the audience when the line 'It's time to take a great big bite out of you' is delivered. A tummy rubbing action when the words 'yum, yum, yummy' are sung is also effective.

Track 6: Angels Singing On High

During this song the Angels enter and form a choir at one side of the stage as the stable scene also enters and assembles at the other side.

Track 7: This Special Day

As this is the final song the whole cast should be involved. Room on stage will be limited so a simple swaying action throughout, with arms raised during the 'Alleluia' sections, is the most effective way to close the show.

TRACK 1:**WOOLLY SHEEP****ALL:**

WOOLLY SHEEP, DOTTED ROUND,
WE CAN HEAR YOU BLEATING,
WOOLLY SHEEP, MUNCH AWAY,
WE CAN SEE YOU EATING, YOU'RE EATING.

TO AND FRO, TO AND FRO,
SHEEP ARE ALWAYS ON THE GO;
UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN,
ON A HILL BY BETHLEHEM TOWN.

COUNTING ALL OF THESE SHEEP
MAKES ME FALL FAST ASLEEP.
UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN,
ON A HILL BY BETHLEHEM TOWN.

WOOLLY SHEEP, DOTTED ROUND,
WE CAN HEAR YOU TALKING,
WOOLLY SHEEP, MUNCH AWAY,
WE CAN SEE YOU WALKING, YOU'RE WALKING.

TO AND FRO, TO AND FRO,
SHEEP ARE ALWAYS ON THE GO;
UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN,
ON A HILL BY BETHLEHEM TOWN.

COUNTING ALL OF THESE SHEEP
MAKES ME FALL FAST ASLEEP.
UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN,
ON A HILL BY BETHLEHEM TOWN.

WOOLLY SHEEP, DOTTED ROUND,
WHERE THE SHEPHERD LEADS YOU,
WOOLLY SHEEP, MUNCH AWAY,
WHERE THE SHEPHERD FEEDS YOU, HE FEEDS YOU.

TO AND FRO, TO AND FRO,
SHEEP ARE ALWAYS ON THE GO;
UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN,
ON A HILL BY BETHLEHEM TOWN.

COUNTING ALL OF THESE SHEEP
MAKES ME FALL FAST ASLEEP.
UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN,
ON A HILL BY BETHLEHEM TOWN.

SAM: *(To Sheep)* Now listen very carefully flock. I've heard that there is a wolf somewhere on the hillside. So always stay close to me and I will keep you safe.

SHEEP: *(After some panic "Baa-ing")* We will Shepherd Sam, we will.

TRACK 2: **GOOD SHEPHERD**

(During the song the Shepherd could lead the Sheep around the stage in a simple 'Follow the leader' routine.)

ALL: FOLLOW THE LEADER, GOOD SHEPHERD,
HE'LL LEAD YOU EVERYWHERE;
FOLLOW THE LEADER, GOOD SHEPHERD,
HE IS THE ONE WHO REALLY CARES
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE,
YES HE'LL BE THERE
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.
THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN STONY PASS
HE WILL LEAD YOU HOME AT LAST,
LEAD YOU TO THE JUICY GRASS;
FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW ON.

FOLLOW THE LEADER, GOOD SHEPHERD,
HE'LL LEAD YOU EVERYWHERE;
FOLLOW THE LEADER, GOOD SHEPHERD,
HE IS THE ONE WHO REALLY CARES
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE,
YES HE'LL BE THERE
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.
OVER HILLS SO VERY STEEP
HE WILL LEAD HIS WOOLLY SHEEP,
WATCH YOU WHILE YOU SAFELY SLEEP;
FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW ON.

FOLLOW THE LEADER, GOOD SHEPHERD,
HE'LL LEAD YOU EVERYWHERE;
FOLLOW THE LEADER, GOOD SHEPHERD,
HE IS THE ONE WHO REALLY CARES
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE,
YES HE'LL BE THERE
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.
THROUGH THE RAIN AND IN THE SUN,
HE WILL LEAD YOU EVERY ONE,
WILL NOT REST UNTIL HE'S DONE;
FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW ON.

SAM: Follow me, flock, and we'll go and find some yummy green grass.

(All the Sheep follow except Sally and Sarah.)

SALLY: *(When they are alone)* I'm not hungry at all. I'm bored.

SARAH: Me too. Let's go and play 'What Time is it Mr. Wolf?'

(They run offstage in the opposite direction to the flock.)

SCENE TWO: NAUGHTY SHEEP MEET MARY AND JOSEPH

NARRATOR 1: Oh what naughty sheep.
NARRATOR 2: What naughty, naughty sheep.
NARRATOR 3: *(To audience holding response cue)* What are they?
AUDIENCE: Naughty, naughty sheep.
NARRATOR 4: As they wandered around.....
NARRATOR 1: ...being very naughty
NARRATOR 2: ...they came across two people and a donkey.

(Mary and Joseph wearily enter with their Donkey.)

MARY: Oh Joseph, this is such a long journey to Bethlehem.
JOSEPH: Not far to go now Mary, we're almost there.

(Sally and Sarah Sheep enter and go up to Mary and Joseph.)

MARY: Hello sheep, where is your shepherd?
SALLY: He's on the hillside watching the flock eat grass.
JOSEPH: Well why aren't you on the hillside?
SARAH: Eating grass all day is boring. We like playing 'What time is it Mr. Wolf?' It's more fun.
JOSEPH: Well, we heard a wolf howling last night. I think you'd better get back to your shepherd quickly.
MARY: It's better being bored eating grass than being eaten up!
SALLY: *(To Sarah)* Well we've had some fun Sarah, what do you think?
SARAH: Perhaps we had better be getting back.
BOTH SHEEP: Bye bye, baaa!
JOSEPH: Bye bye sheep.

(Sheep exit.)

JOSEPH: Come on Mary, just a little further.