

SOMETHING WONDERFUL

A Christmas Musical

*Written and composed
by Elizabeth May Willson*



PUBLISHED BY

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SYNOPSIS OF PLAY

When a young child asks her grandmother if Jesus is pretend, just like the store Santas, you can bet Grandma has an answer! Putting away her sewing, Grandma reads the Christmas story from the Bible and as she does so, the holy story comes alive. Each scene is re-enacted on stage next to them including Mary and Joseph at the inn, the angels appearing to the shepherds, and the shepherds seeing the Christ child at the stable.

Five original and beautiful songs allow not only Grandmother and the child to sing but the angels and sheep as well. Songs and speaking parts allow for all ages and talents to participate, from preschool to adult. Large congregations can include everyone while smaller churches can easily double roles.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(10 Speaking Parts, Choruses, Extras)

Speaking parts:

RECITATION GIVERAny age (Part can be doubled)
GRANDMOTHER**Tells story to Child. Can be adapted to grandfather.
CHILD.....Young girl or boy
MARY***Jesus' mother
JOSEPH ***Mary's husband
INNKEEPER.....Shows compassion (Part can be doubled)
FIRST ACTORIn "No Mistakes" recitation and plays a shepherd
SECOND SHEPHERDAnother
THIRD SHEPHERD.....Another
FIRST ANGEL.....Male or female

Singing parts:

PRESCHOOL CLASSES2-4 year olds; do hand movements to first song
LEAD SHEEPLeads song
SHEEP*Any number
ANGELS.....Any number
LADIES' CHORUSThree or more
MEN'S CHORUSFour or more

Optional extras:

OTHER SHEPHERDS.....Optional
TOWNSPEOPLEOptional--in audience to respond to shepherds

** Grandmother may sing or speak her song.

*** Need not be singers unless they join in final song.

Performance time: About 30 minutes. Can be extended by adding prayers, congregation singing, and a pastor's message.

SONGS

Don't Wake the Baby	<i>Sung by offstage chorus as preschoolers do the motions</i>
The True Story	<i>Grandmother and Child</i>
Something Wonderful	<i>First Sheep and Flock</i>
Shepherds, Make Haste!	<i>Men's Chorus</i>
Sometimes I Wonder	<i>Ladies' Chorus (3 part)</i>
Don't Wake the Baby - Reprise	<i>All Performers</i>

In addition, the traditional carols, "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Angels We Have Heard on High," may be included if desired.

SETTINGS

Grandmother and child are seated SR in living room where Grandmother is narrating Christmas story to a child in answer to questions about Christmas. Child is absorbing the story while adding imaginary details of her own. CS and SL areas are for inn, camp scene, and manger setting. No setting need be elaborate but can simply be suggested.

You will need: rocking or easy chair for the grandmother, floor lamp or end table with lamp, extra chair for child's coat, stool for child, decorations as desired; "inn" flats with a working door; moveable tray or board under shepherd's fire for easy and quick scene change; risers or benches for angels (optional); wooden manger with hay and loose hay or hay bales for seating for Mary and Joseph.

SCENE 1 - Grandmother and Child at home.

SCENE 2 - The inn in Bethlehem.

SCENE 3 - Shepherd's campfire at night.

SCENE 4 - Inside of the stable.

See page 12 for costume notes and patterns.

LIGHTING

1. Spotlight (one or more) that can be directed to SR, SL and CS.
2. Red spotlight or color wheel (for shepherd scene). This light is optional.
3. Shepherds' "fire" - red bulb or bulb covered with red material or flickering light.
4. Rheostat - to dim stage lights or spotlights.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: RECITATION GIVER comes to CS.)

RECITATION: "Welcome"

I'm here to welcome one and all;
We're glad you came our way.
May Jesus Christ bless every heart,
And, most of all, we pray
That we will glorify the Lord
In all we do and say.

(Music to "Don't Wake The Baby" starts up as recitation ends. PRESCHOOL and/or PRIMARY classes line up DSC. **SONG: "Don't Wake The Baby."** OFFSTAGE VOICES sing the words as children do the motions. After song, children exit quietly on tiptoe with fingers to lips. LIGHTS up on SR where GRANDMOTHER sits in a comfortable chair, doing needlework. SFX: Door slamming SL.)

SONG: "Don't Wake The Baby"

SEE, SEE, THERE IN THE MANGER,
OH, WHAT A HEAVENLY SIGHT!
HUSH, HUSH, JESUS IS SLEEPING.
DON'T WAKE THE BABY TONIGHT.

ROCK, ROCK, MARY HAS ROCKED HIM
'TIL SLEEPY EYES ARE CLOSED TIGHT.
HUSH, HUSH, JESUS IS SLEEPING.
DON'T WAKE THE BABY TONIGHT.

DOWN, DOWN, HE'S COME FROM HEAVEN,
BRINGING OUR DARK WORLD THE LIGHT.
HUSH, HUSH, JESUS IS SLEEPING.
DON'T WAKE THE BABY,
DON'T WAKE THE BABY,
DON'T WAKE THE BABY TONIGHT. SHHH.

CHILD: (*Rushing across stage, setting down small overnight bag, pulling off hat, coat, etc., as SHE speaks.*) Grandma! Grandma, I'm here! (*Moves toward GRANDMOTHER, throwing coat onto a chair so that it falls off onto the floor*) Guess what I saw!

GRANDMOTHER: (*Lowering needlework for a hug*) Hello! Slow down, dear...and pick up your coat first. (*As CHILD turns to fold coat over chair*) Now, then, what did you see?

CHILD: We've been shopping, and there are pretty lights everywhere...and carolers singing...and I saw Santa in the store (*Pauses*)...and then I saw two more outside on the sidewalk.

GRANDMOTHER: Well, you've certainly had a busy day! (*Resumes HER needlework*)

CHILD: (*Moving closer and watching HER work*) Grandma?

GRANDMOTHER: (*Looking up again*) Yes?

CHILD: Could you tell me something?

End of Freeview

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