# **ANY DREAM WILL DO**

MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER LYRICS BY TIM RICE





### **BE KIND TO YOUR PARENTS**

### **FANNY**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Fanny is a tale of lost love and family secrets, set in the French port of Marseilles. After her boyfriend Marius runs away to sea, Fanny discovers that she is pregnant. In desperation she marries Panisse, an elderly sail maker, who brings up her child Cesario as his own. When Cesario is 12 he breaks their hearts by running away to be with his real father. But Marius returns him to his mother and the dying Panisse, and the show ends on a note of reconciliation and forgiveness as Fanny gives her son this 'piece of good advice'.

#### **PERFORMANCE NOTES**

Although *Fanny* is largely forgotten now, 'Be kind to your parents' has survived as a popular song for children to perform. The upbeat, jaunty tune perfectly supports the mock-serious tone of the lyrics. A young performer might imagine being a bossy, short-tempered teacher addressing an inattentive class. Make sure you relish the rather pompous use of 'adult' language ('a difficult stage of life ... daily storm and strife') and emphasise the final point of your lesson (that some day the pupils will be parents too). Don't try and get a laugh on this line: the more solemn and serious you are, the funnier it will be. And of course an adult audience will always appreciate the humour of being lectured to by a small child.

When considered in the context of the show, however, the song becomes something completely different. An older, more mature performer must remember that this is a mother singing to her wayward 12-year-old son whom she nearly lost forever. You know you may have failed him in many ways, and you know that you have done many 'foolish things', but you desperately need his kindness and understanding. How much of your own emotional turmoil is it appropriate to show your child? How do the teacher-like lyrics and the nursery-rhyme simplicity of the tune help you control the complex mix of feelings you might be feeling at this moment? And how might you change the way you sing in the last line?

#### **SINGING TIPS**

This song needs lots of energy but mustn't rush. This means being very connected to the pulse of the music.

Memorise a section, and then march around the room as you sing, using big movements to help you stay in time. You could also swing your arms. Try practising singing and marching at different speeds and see how the level of energy changes. This is a good exercise to help you choose the speed you want for the song. Remember: plenty of life and energy but don't let the song run away from you! You could try saying the words as well as singing them, especially having fun with the word 'incredible'.

#### **BEYOND THE SONG**

*Fanny* opened on Broadway in 1954 to good reviews, ran for 888 performances and was later produced in London. But the show has only rarely been revived in recent years. What makes a show go out of fashion? Which current musical theatre hits do you think will survive?

## **A COMMON BOY**

TRACK 3

**WORDS AND MUSIC BY ANNEMARIE LEWIS THOMAS** 

