

## SCENE 1

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*The stage is divided into three parts: the stable in Bethlehem is on one side of the stage, the spider's cave on the other. In the foreground is a modern setting of a sitting room. MOTHER and CHILD are just putting the final tinsel on the Christmas tree.*

**MOTHER:** Just one more piece here... *(they add the last piece)*. There now, doesn't it look lovely?

**CHILD:** But why do we put all that tinsel on the tree, mum?

**MOTHER:** *(speaking to the family and audience)* Well, that's a story that happened a long time ago – a story of soldiers and spiders and twinkling stars. If you listen carefully though, I'll tell you how it all began...

## SCENE 2

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*MARY, JOSEPH and the white DOVE are sitting in the stable. ANGELS may be with them if desired. The three WISE MEN and PAGES are waiting off stage with the SHEPHERDS. All the other characters are sitting on benches at the front.*

**NARRATOR 1:** News of the miracle birth of a baby in Bethlehem spread to the farthest corner of the land. Some shepherds (minding their own business with their sheep on a hill) were amazed when a chorus of angels appeared before them, inviting them to go to the stable.

### **SONG 1: SHEPHERD'S HEY!**

*SHEPHERDS enter from the back of the hall during this song.*

**NARRATOR 2:** Meanwhile three wise men – whose hobby it was to study the night sky – noticed that there was one particular star in the east that glittered brighter than all the rest. And so they began to follow this star, which led them all the way to the stable in Bethlehem ...

### **MUSIC 2: ENTRANCE OF THE KINGS**

*The WISE MEN enter slowly and majestically from the back of the hall. They present their gifts and everyone sings:*

### **SONG 3: THE SIMPLE GIFTS OF LIFE**

*The SHEPHERDS return to their benches at the front.*

## SCENE 3

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*Action takes place in the foreground of the stage, as the WISE MEN depart on their journey.*

**NARRATOR 1:** The Shepherds and the Wise Men stayed some time in the peaceful stable. Finally, the wise men set out to begin their long journey home, but they were stopped by some passing Roman soldiers on route ...

**ROMAN 1:** Hey, you! Are you the Wise Men who travelled from the East?

**WISE MAN 1:** Yes we are.

**WISE MAN 2:** And it's true – a baby has been born in a stable in Bethlehem, just as the

24

repeat until shepherds have taken their places



## 2. Entrance of the Kings

NARRATOR 2: And so they began to follow this star, which led them all the way to the stable in Bethlehem ...

Quite slow and stately ♩ = 92

TRIANGLE  
TAMBOURINE

DRUM

F C F F/A B $\flat$  Gm $^7$  C C/B $\flat$

*ff*

5

F/A C F F/A B $\flat$  C F Dm

*ff* *p*

10

A Dm A A/G F Edim $^7$  Dm

*mf*



# 5. Song of the Dove

DOVE: I will send a donkey to you tomorrow morning to help you on your way.

**Gentle waltz time** ♩ = 120

TRIANGLE SHAKER

*The dove flutters her wings*

*mp*

*sim. sim.*

Dm B $\flat$  A $^7$  Dm

6 DOVE SOLO (optional)

*p*

1. Please guard this fa - mi - ly, Ma - ry so mild, Jo - seph the  
 2. Please guard this fa - mi - ly, God, through the night, keep them from

Dm Dm/B $\flat$  A $^7$  Dm

*p* *mf*

11 *mp*

car - pen - ter, Je - sus the child. Pray with me the child will  
 dan - ger un - til morn - ing light.

F/B $\flat$  Gm $^7$  C C/B $\flat$  Am Dm Gm

*mp*

17 *poco rit. 2nd time only*

be co - sy and safe in an - o - ther coun - try.

C $^7$  F/A F B $\flat$  F/A Gm $^7$ /B $\flat$  C F