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**Puppet Musicals** *(These musicals were written with puppets in mind, but could be adapted for use with live actors.)*

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Resource Guide

This guide is to help you know the difference between all the different products available for the various Christmas musicals. Please note that every publisher is slightly different in terms of what they offer. This is meant as a general guide to help you determine what resources will work best for you.

Songbook
Songbooks typically contain the song lyrics, simple melody accompaniment, and all the printed dialogue for the program. Some publishers also include some simple production tips and activities for the children.

Listening CD
This CD is a recording of the complete musical, including all the music, drama, solo and choir singing voices. If you are performing totally with puppet, without any live parts, this is the only CD you need.

Preview Pack
Preview Packs contain a copy of the songbook and a copy of the listening CD. Typically, the Preview Pack costs less than the other two items individually. Limit one per organization. Note: this item is non-returnable.

CD Bulk Pack
Some publishers offer bulk packs of a large quantity of listening CD’s. The intention is that you would distribute CD’s to your performers so they have something to practice with. This is because it would be a violation of copyright laws to make your own copies to hand out. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item. Note: this item is non-returnable.

Fun Pack
Some publishers offer “Fun Packs” which can be handed out to kids participating in your production. These usually include a copy of the listening CD as well as a few keepsake items such as a poster or toy. The actual items vary from program to program. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item. Note: this item is non-returnable.

Director’s Resource or Resource Kit
Director’s Resources often feature production notes including direction on costuming, staging, and props. Other features may include running scripts, spiritual lessons, devotional materials, and more. Some may be available in printed (loose leaf or bound) format or digital (CD-ROM / DVD) format. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item.

Demonstration DVD
Demonstration DVD’s typically include a demonstration performance of the program which can help provide ideas for your own production. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item.

Accompaniment CD (Split-track)
This CD has the instruments only on one track, and the singing voices on the other track. It must be played on a sound system that has a “left and right” or stereo speaker control. This makes it possible to dial the voices out and have just the music. You can also chose to leave the voices in slightly to assist your kids as they sing. Accompaniment CD’s generally DO NOT contain the recorded dialogue. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item. Note: this item is non-returnable.

Accompaniment CD (Stereo)
This CD is a stereo accompaniment track for performance use. It is the instrumental track only, no vocals are included. These CD’s typically DO NOT contain recorded dialogue. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item. Note: this item is non-returnable.

Accompaniment DVD
Some publishers now offer these DVD’s to add an extra visual element to your program. These DVD’s may feature the song lyrics on screen, background scenery, or other visuals to enhance the program. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery. Note: this item is non-returnable.

Performance Kit
A very limited number of programs offer a Performance Kit. These typically include a director’s manual, reproducible singers parts, and a studio trax CD. Please allow up to three weeks for delivery of this item. Note: this item is non-returnable.

Note: Our return policies state that media items such as CD’s and DVD’s cannot be returned once they have been opened. Due to the policies of the publishers of Christmas musical resources, items such as Accompaniment CD’s, demo DVD’s, and digital director resources cannot be returned UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

Note: It is a violation of copyright law, and therefore illegal, to make copies of items like listening CD’s or songbooks and distribute them to your performers.
All About That Baby

Created by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word (2016)
Length: 42 minutes

Song Titles:

Waiting for a Miracle with O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Sheep Stuff
Messiah
All About That Baby
Star in the Sky with We Three Kings
That Holy Night with O Holy Night
He Shall Reign Eternally
Hope for a Broken World

Characters:

This production has eleven main speaking parts with several other “one-line” or non-speaking parts. Five of the characters are sheep, which lend themselves well to be portrayed by puppets or kids.

Summary:

The events of the first Christmas are told through the eyes of a scatter-brained shepherd named Nathaniel. He meets up with some travelers who have come to Bethlehem for the census. Other important characters include Nathaniel’s friends...his sheep!

Comments:

This is a program better suited to larger groups due to the number of speaking parts. This is a program, however, that lends itself well to puppetry. Five of the speaking parts are sheep, which can easily be portrayed by puppets. This would make a great addition to your choir production. Some puppet teams may even want to portray the entire production with puppets.

Bottom Line:

This program does a nice job of telling the Christmas story from a different point of view than what we’re used to. It’s size and scope, though, are not well suited to groups looking for a smaller production.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-09 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-09 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-09 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-09 BULK
- Director’s Book: KMC-09 DIRECTOR
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-09 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-09 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-09 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Angels Say What?!  
Created by: Nick Robertson, Ana Clark and Alisen Wells  
Published by: Lillenas (2018)  
Length: 18 minutes

**Song Titles:**
- That’s What Angels Say
- Waiting for the King
- Gloria with Angels We Have Heard on High
- His Name is Jesus
- Can’t Sing Loud Enough! With Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Characters:**
This production has six main speaking parts for kids of various ages. The characters are all angels.

**Summary:**
The story of Christmas is told through the eyes of the angels. They discuss giving the news to Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men.

**Comments:**
Kids Christmas programs don’t come much simpler than this one. Even with five songs, it still only clocks in at 18 minutes in length. The costuming is simple; all you’ll need are some robes and angel wings. Plus, the script is short and easy to learn.

**Bottom Line:**
Though we don’t encourage you to wait till the last minute to put together your Christmas program, if you do find yourself in a time crunch, this is a program that is easy to pull off quickly.

**Resource materials available:**
- Preview Pack: KMC-26 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-26 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-26 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-26 BULK
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-26 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-26 ACC SPLIT
Back to the Manger

Written by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word (2010)
Length: 45 minutes

Song titles:

Back to the Manger
Can You Hear the Bells with Angels We Have Heard on High
Let Us Love
Come, Let Us Adore Him with O Come All Ye Faithful and Away in A Manger
Ring, Ring-a-ling
Song of the Sheep and the Goats
Peace on Earth with I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Ring the Bells
Back to the Manger

Characters:

There are six main characters plus eight minor parts, and non-speaking parts for the “manger scene” diorama.

Main characters:

Betty – adult grandmother
Henry Olsen – 72 year old absent minded inventor
Two male children, plus two female children

Summary:

The setting of the musical is a Christmas Eve caroling outreach. Due to malfunctions of a “time machine,” the children are transported back in time (think “Back to the Future”) and visit the 70’s, 90’s, 80’s, 50’s, and 40’s, and eventually all the way back to the birth of Christ. There’s a “disco” song, a “boy band,” a do-wop number, a “big band” style, and more.

Comments:

This musical is one of our most popular musicals. It’s lots of fun, with a great message, songs from each decade, plus a “compassion/outreach” message. The “Song of the Sheep and the Goats” is LOTS of fun with a strong message, and could stand alone as a “single” or as a puppet song.

Bottom line:

This musical is an excellent choice. It is a little long (45 minutes) but there is a suggested option to cut out the “80’s” song to shorten it, which seems to be wise advice. If you haven’t already performed this one, you’ll not go wrong with it.

Resources available:

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
The Best Christmas Present Ever

Written by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Word (2009)
Length: 40 minutes

Song titles:

RSVP
Good News! Great Joy!
I Heard You Knocking
Nothing is Impossible With God
Wise Guys (Walkin’ in the Light)
Let’s Go and Tell the People Today! with Go Tell it on the Mountain
Time to Begin
What Will You Do?
Happy Birthday, Jesus with Away in a Manger
Finale: Celebrate, Love the Lord, and Good News! Great Joy!

Characters:

There are 15 speaking parts: two “adult” parts; Miss Wright, the leader of the children who is helping plan the Christmas party, and Rod Stark the sarcastic local TV anchorman who doesn’t want to help publicize the party.

In addition, there are 10 “children” parts plus the three wise men, who sing “Walkin’ in the Light.”

Summary:

A group of children and their leader are planning a huge “Birthday Party for Jesus,” and they are using all the “electronic” ways to invite people, but they learn that a face-to-face invitation with people works better.

The local news anchorman lets them make their announcement on the air, but puts the children and their “silly party” down.

Each song and the dialog in general points to the question “What will you do with Jesus?”

Comments:

This is an easy to produce, fun musical with an exceptionally strong, clear salvation message. The music is lively but expressive, with good variety and opportunity to give many children short solos.

Bottom line:

You will not find a stronger, more clear message of why Jesus came to earth, and how important it is for us to celebrate Him and allow Him to be our King.

The “Best Christmas present Ever” is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and we must always remember and emphasize that Christmas is a celebration of His birth.

Resources available:

Preview Pack
Songbook
Listening CD
Listening CD Bulk (10 pack)
Teacher Resource Kit (loose leaf)
Teacher Resource Kit (digital)
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track)

KMC-46 PREVIEW
KMC-46 BOOK
KMC-46 CD
KMC-46 BULK
KMC-46 DIRECTOR
KMC-46 DIREC DIG
KMC-46 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.

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The Case of the Reluctant Innkeeper

Written by: Ruth Elaine Schram and Mark Cabaniss
Published by: Jubilate Music/Word Music (2011)
Length: 16 minutes

Song titles:

Overture
No Vacancy
Angels In the Sky
Change Things Around
All Because of Bethlehem
Joy to the World with Change Things Around

Note: several verses, segments, and choruses of Traditional Christmas songs are included in these listed song titles.

Characters:

Five main characters plus three or four “jury” members, who have a very small part.
Judge Jody Justice
Attorney Sam Shepherd
Hee-Haw the Donkey
Malachi Mutton the Sheep
Innkeeper Benjamin Holiday

Summary:

Innkeeper Holiday is on trial for refusing to give a room to Mary and Joseph. Sam Shepherd is the prosecuting attorney who’s getting to the bottom of this case by calling key animal witnesses to the stand.
We learn that God can turn a stable into a cathedral, the greatest miracle of all happened there, and that God can always turn things around for good.

Comments:

This is a short, fun musical intended for presentation by grades K-4. It has a small cast, clever lines, plays on words, and would be perfect to use puppets for the donkey and lamb’s parts. It is relatively inexpensive, as the Teacher Resource Kit includes reproducible singer’s pages and the accompaniment CD.
At the end, innkeeper Holiday says he just might go out and start a chain of inns… (Holiday Inns); then reconsiders and says maybe he’ll name the chain of inns after his wife Ramada. (Guaranteed to elicit both laughs and groans!)

Bottom line:

If you’re looking for an inexpensive, short, fun musical for K-4 with a small number of characters, this would be an excellent choice.

Resource materials available:

Preview Pack* KMC-66 PREVIEW
Listening CD KMC-66 CD
Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack) KMC-66 BULK
Teacher Resource Kit CD-ROM** KMC-66 DIREC DIG

*CD plus basic information. Reproducible singer’s pages are included in the Teacher Resource Kit CD-ROM.
**Instrumental and split track CD
Chris-Myth Busters

Written by: Dennis Allen and Nan Allen
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2011)
Length: 45 minutes

Song titles:

Christmastime with Joy to the World
We Three Kings
Imagine
Where Did Christmas Go? with O Come Let Us Adore Him
What Kind of Child? with What Child is This?
Abba
God Has Come
Christmastime (reprise)

Characters:

There are five main characters plus 12 or 13 minor parts… some could play more than one minor part
Mrs. Edwards – an older woman – should be played by an older female adult or teen
Four children (Lily, Abby, Ethan, Michael)
Three shepherds, four wise men, plus five or six angels

Summary:

The children are visiting Mrs. Edwards in her living room, helping her “put up Christmas” since her husband has passed away. Ethan’s parents have recently adopted Michael, who is younger than Ethan. Michael is a brainy and annoying trivia buff, who shares that some aspects of our “traditional Christmas” perhaps are only myths. At issue are whether there really were “three” wise men, the fact that Jesus probably was NOT born on December 25, the Bible does not mention an “innkeeper,” and the Bible says nothing about “angels singing.”

Michael learns that even though the Bible is not clear on some of the aspects of Christmas we normally celebrate, the truth about why Jesus came is everywhere in scripture. Michael’s adoption is likened to the fact that when we join God’s “family,” we are “adopted” into His kingdom.

Comments

This is a relatively long musical with long drama scenes and long songs. The music is very good, and the “myth-buster” angle is interesting and resolved. The shepherds’ scene (since the birth of Jesus could have been in the summer) is depicted with the shepherds with beach chairs, beach towels, beach toys, and sunglasses.

There are three “myth scenes,” which show how the characters imagine Christmas to be without our “traditional ideas” of how it should look. (Wise Men, Shepherds, Angels). Mrs. Edwards sings “Where Did Christmas Go” and the angels do a rap song.

The overall length and the slow pace of some of the dialogues and songs will be a problem unless your actors and singers can liven it up. It may not appeal to younger children. It is more for upper elementary and possibly middle school participants. The message is strong, and the questions of “what is Biblical” and “what is traditional” are worth exploring.

Bottom line:

Unless you shorten this production by trimming drama lines and deleting or shortening a song or two, your audience may have trouble staying interested. You might add a verbal or written “quiz” for your audience regarding what aspects of Christmas are biblical and what are not.

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Christmas Around the World

Written by: Rhonda Frazier, Ed Kee, and Jonathon Willis
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2006)
Length: 20 minutes

Song titles:

- Our Promised King is Born
- Joy to the World
- Jesus, Born in Bethlehem
- Away in a Manger
- We Three Kings
- O Come, All Ye Faithful
- Spread a Little Love
- Our Promised King is Born (reprise)

Characters:

There are no “characters” as such. There are three “speakers” (Speaker #1, Speaker #2, and Speaker #3) who read some lines in between the songs. There is a spot for the traditional manger scene.

Summary:

Three children find a box of ornaments left by their teacher, and they bring out different ornaments, tell their significance, and gradually decorate the Christmas tree. The “international” flavor points out Christmas traditions and facts from Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, the Middle East, and China.

Comments:

The musical is short, simple, and easy with very traditional music. The speakers’ parts are simple. There is nothing clever or unusual, and it would work best for younger elementary or someone directing their first Christmas production.

Bottom line:

The “Christmas Around the World” theme could be stronger. You may want to add in more information about the various countries, and how each country celebrates Christmas.

Resource materials available:

- Songbook: KCM-41 BOOK
- Listening CD: KCM-41 CD
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KCM-41 ACC SPLIT
Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch

Written by: Pam Andrews
Published by: Lillenas (2007)
Length: 50 minutes

**Song titles:**
- Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch
- Home on the Range
- Christmas Out Under the Stars with Away in a Manger
- A Story of Shepherds
- Bethlehem Shepherds
- Baa Baa Better Believe
- This is the Day of the Savior’s Birth with Angels We Have Heard on High
- Gentle Shepherd with Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
- We Just Met the King
- Christmas at Bethlehem Gulch Finale

**Characters:**
There are eight main drama characters; four staff at “Bethlehem Gulch” ranch, four children from the city, plus three shepherds, four sheep, and non-speaking appearances by several angels and Mary and Joseph.

**Summary:**
A group of church kids arrive at Bethlehem Gulch, out west, for their Christmas party. The church kids soon learn that’s a sheep ranch, not a dude ranch. They all end up having a great time, sharing stories and songs celebrating Christmas.

There’s a bit part for a dog, and the sheep talk and sing. Puppets could easily be used for these characters.

**Comments:**
This is a longer musical with longer-than-usual drama scenes. It definitely has a total country/western flavor, with exaggerated western/southern accents, and music that could be described a country swing, cowboy shuffle, or “hillbilly square dance.”

The music is excellent, the drama is fun and sometimes corny, but overall with a very strong Christmas message focusing on the birth of Jesus and His life-changing power.

**Bottom line:**
If you like country/western music, you’ll really enjoy this musical. Because of the overall length and longer drama scenes, you’ll need more rehearsal time than usual, but your kids will have lots of fun with the country/western flavor.

**Resource materials available:**
- Preview Pack: KMC-33 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-33 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-33 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-33 BULK
- Director’s Resource (loose leaf): KMC-33 DIRECTOR
- Director’s Resource (digital): KMC-33 DIREC DIG
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-33 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-33 ACC SPLIT
- Accompaniment CD (Stereo): KMC-33 ACC STEREO
The Christmas Cross

Created by: Jeff Slaughter
Published by: Word (2014)
Length: 26 minutes

Song Titles:

You Can’t Have Christmas with God
Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Country Boys with Away in a Manger
The Christmas Cross with O Christmas Cross
Tell Me the Story of Jesus
You Can’t Have Christmas (Reprise)

Characters:

This program has six main speaking parts with a few other non-speaking roles.

Summary:

Miss Carolyn Bells is the director of this year’s Christmas program trying to lead the kids through their first rehearsal. As they begin to share their thoughts on Christmas, one of the kids, Mary, begins to tell everyone about a special ornament handed down by her grandmother…the Christmas Cross. The kids end up learning that you can’t have Christmas without the cross.

Comments:

This program is designed to be “super-easy-to-learn.” It’s relatively short, yet it still has some fun characters and dialogue scenes. Like several of Jeff Slaughter’s more recent productions, the music is quite contemporary and seems to be focused a bit more on soloists and small groups of singers rather than a full chorus. That’s not to say it won’t work for a kids choir, it’s just a slightly different style than many other programs.

Bottom Line:

A simple program to perform that still has some substance to its story. Probably better suited for older kids, though.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-77 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-77 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-77 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-77 BULK
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-77 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-77 ACC SPLIT
The Christmas Dream Team Parade

Created by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2017)
Length: 38 minutes

Song Titles:
- Tomorrow is Christmas! with Deck the Hall
- Christmas at the Carter’s
- Trouble
- The Christmas Parade
- It’s All About Him
- Follow the Light
- Cookin’ with the King
- My Savior Gave to Me
- Colors of Christmas
- It’s Early Christmas Morning
- Finale (It’s All about Him / Jesus, What a Wonderful Child)

Characters:
This program features 10 main speaking parts, mostly kids, as well as several other bit parts.

Summary:
It’s Christmas Eve at the Carter home, but there’s trouble. The kids are losing sight of the true reason we celebrate Christmas. Mom and Dad are even threatening to cancel Christmas! That night, the kids end up dreaming they are a part of a big Christmas parade and learn that Christmas is not about the gifts beneath the tree, but the gift of Jesus.

Comments:
This is a larger scale production with a lot of possibilities. The parade element of this program is very visual. A song about cookin’ also offers potential for some great props, imagine dancing Christmas cookies! The song “My Savior Gave to Me” is a twist on the 12 Days of Christmas that is a lot of fun.

Bottom Line:
The message of this program hits home for many kids and the parade setting is a lot of fun!

Resource materials available:
- Preview Pack: KMC-16 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-16 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-16 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-16 BULK
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-16 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-16 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
The Christmas Express

Created by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2018)
Length: 37 minutes

Song Titles:

All Aboard the Christmas Express!
Good News! Great Joy!
Jesus is the Reason for the Season
Before the Rocks Cry Out!
J is for Jesus!
A Miracle Working God
Joy to the World!
Finale (All Aboard the Christmas Express! / Joy in the Journey)

Characters:

This production has ten main speaking parts, both kids and adults. There are also a few additional small speaking parts, as well.

Summary:

Jump on board the Christmas Express as the train makes its Christmas Eve journey to Bethlehem…Pennsylvania, that is. Everyone is in a festive mood, that is, except for grumpy businessman Theodore Higgingsworth, III. Along the way, the kids on the train tell him about how the story of Jesus’ birth isn’t a “fairy tale.”

Comments:

This a program that is probably better suited to larger groups. The train theme of the program does offer a lot of opportunities for creative props and scenery. The idea of a Christmas train is one that is very popular in movies and other media right now, so this is a great way to bring this theme to your church program.

Bottom Line:

This program was created by Celeste and David Clydesdale, which is always a plus. This pair has been creating Christmas kids programs for many years and they deliver a fun and creative program once again with The Christmas Express.

Resource Materials Available:

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Christmas in Black and White

Written by: Jeff Slaughter
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2013)
Length: 45 minutes

Song titles:

- Christmas in Black and White
- Silent Night Medley
- Tru Dat!
- Even a Penquin
- Thank You for Coming with O Come, All Ye Faithful
- The Manger Medley
- Black and White Reprise

Characters:

- Miss LaToe: Overly zealous, high-spirited, over-the-top middle school teacher
- Paula: A fun-loving, energetic pre-teen
- Abby: A worry-wart germophobe student who originally knows nothing about Jesus
- Ernie: A “brain” student with a dry sense of humor
- Matt: Student who likes to joke and irritate the girls
- Paw Paw: Manager of Polar Pet Park, loud, funny, appears to be a country bumpkin but really is quite wise

Four Penguins:

- Pinky: Outspoken southern belle
- Paco: An overly dramatic, geographically challenged character from South America
- Cody: A “normal” sincere penguin
- Puffy: Constantly thinking of food and snacking

Summary:

Miss LaToe, intending to circumvent “Christian Christmas” at a public school, takes her class on a field trip to the Polar Pet Park. There they meet four penguins, who decide to help the children learn about the “real” Christmas story. The “Christmas in Black and White” title comes from the involvement of the penguins, who are black and white, plus the fact that the biblical Christmas story is so obvious and clear in the “black and white” print of the Bible.

Comments:

The penguins interact mostly nonverbally with the students, but they talk amongst themselves when the students are not present. The “Tru Dat!” rap song can be really fun! The “Thank You for Coming” song is really pretty and meaningful. Paw Paw reads the Christmas story, and Abby begins to understand what it means to have a relationship with Jesus.

Bottom line:

It’s a little long, with some challenging dramatic parts. There are two versions of the listening CD, one with mostly children participants, and one with more teen and adult dramatists. The penguins could be really fun... buy you’ll need some kind of penguin costumes to make it “fly.” Puppets could be used to the penguin parts. It has a strong, biblical message, and with creative direction, can be a real winner!

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-71 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-71 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-71 CD
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-71 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-71 ACC SPLIT
Christmas is Jesus

Created by: Luke Gambill and Rhonda Frazier
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2015)
Length: 25 minutes

Song Titles:

Carol Medley
We Three Kings
O Little Town of Bethlehem
Christmas is Jesus with O Come, Let Us Adore Him
Carol Medley Finale

Characters:

This program does not have characters, as such. Rather there are short readings that occur between the songs. These are divided in such a way that they could be delivered by as many as 17 kids...or they could all be delivered by one narrator.

Summary:

Christmas can mean a lot of things: the North Pole, family traditions, candy canes, and presents. However, it all falls short when compared to the true miracle that happened in Bethlehem so many years ago. This program does not have a story in the traditional sense. It simply tells the Christmas story through the simple narration and songs. Most of the songs in this program are familiar Christmas carols.

Comments:

This program is one of Brentwood Benson’s “Simple Series Christmas Musicals for Kids.” The songs are very easy to learn. Many of the songs are probably already familiar to some of the kids in your program. The narration segments are also very easy to learn. Since these are narrations and not lines of dialogue you may even choose to have the kids read their lines from cards rather than memorize.

Bottom Line:

If you are looking for something simple, look no further. This program will not require many rehearsals or a lot of work put into props, scenery, and costumes.

Resource materials available:

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The Christmas Shoe Tree

Written by: Jeff Slaughter
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2012)
Length: 47 minutes

Song titles:

Overture - Joy to the World
Can’t Stop These Shoes (with Go Tell It on the Mountain)
Heaven and Nature Medley (Joy, Joy, Joy to the World/Joy to the World/There’s a Song in the Air)
I’ll Have a Bluegrass Christmas without Shoes
Christmas wRappin’
Walk of Love
O Come All Ye Faithful
Reprise (Christmas wRappin’/Go Tell It on the Mountain/Can’t Stop These Shoes)

Characters:

Principal Poinsettia, the middle school principal
Three siblings whose family owns a Christmas tree farm (two male and one female)
Local television news anchor Sylvia Bells
Rudy, Sylvia’s assistant
Three school group students with speaking parts (two girls and a boy)
Three rappers who sing a really cool song, “Christmas wRappers”

Summary:

Yule, Todd and Carol are the three siblings of the Loggins family, who operate a Christmas tree farm. They sell Christmas trees, and also collect pairs of shoes to donate to needy people. They are visited by a middle school field trip group and a television crew, and they share their passion for Jesus Christ, their love of Christmas, and their desire to help less fortunate people.

Comments:

This musical is meant to be paired with a “Soles4Souls Shoe Drive” in which the choir and church would collect pairs of shoes and connect with a national organization to do the distribution. The songbook has all the “Soles4Souls” organizational and logistical information.

It’s a fun musical; a bit long, but with a good variety of traditional, humorous, spiritually deep, and fun music. Some of the drama segments are a bit long, and will require experienced drama kids and/or adequate rehearsal and memorization time.

Bottom line:

It’s 47 minutes long, with lots of fun characters and excellent, varied music. The message is strong, and your choir will have fun producing it. You may want to have an actual “Christmas Shoe Tree,” a tree with shoes as ornaments, to emphasize the shoe drive and to promote the musical.

Resource materials available:

Preview Pack
Songbook
Listening CD
Demonstration DVD
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track)
Accompaniment DVD

KMC-70 PREVIEW
KMC-70 BOOK
KMC-70 CD
KMC-70 DVD DEMO
KMC-70 ACC SPLIT
KMC-70 DVD ACC

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
The Colors of Christmas

Written by: Craig Adams  
Published by: LifeWay (2017)  
Length: 31 minutes

Song titles:

The Colors of Christmas  
You make All Things New  
Mary, Did You Know?  
At the Cross (Love Ran Red)  
Nothin’ Less Than the Best  
The Colors of Christmas Finale

Characters:

Dad: Kind-hearted, knowledgeable, middle-aged man; wearing pajamas, bathrobe and slippers  
Mom: Warm, nurturing, middle-aged woman; wearing apron covering dress  
Madeline: bubbly older sister; wearing Christmas pajamas  
Hayden: comedic younger brother; wearing Christmas pajamas and a stocking cap

Summary:

A family is getting ready for Christmas by putting up the decorations. Along the way, they learn about the biblical significance of the various Christmas colors: red, white, gold, green, and more.

Comments:

With a limited number of characters and a simple setting, this is a very easy program to produce. The songs are easy for kids to learn and includes the well known song “Mary, Did You Know?” With a theme focused on color, this program has a lot of opportunities for bright and colorful visuals.

Bottom line:

This is an easy program to stage, but it still packs a punch. The use of colors to remind the audience of different aspects of the Christmas story will help the message of this program to stick with audience members throughout the Christmas season.

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Cookin’ Up Christmas

Written by: Nancy Gordon, Kellie Armstrong, and Luke Gambill
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2007)
Length: 30 minutes

**Song titles:**
- Christmas, Merry Christmas with Joy to the World
- Cookin’ Up Christmas
- Are You Missing Christmas?
- Offering
- Gloria

**Characters:**

There are eight distinct and unique characters:
- Miss Paula Queen – a dramatic southern belle, fun-loving and loves Christmas
- Emerald Lasagna – famous guest chef
- Betty Rocker – the queen of the church kitchen
- Rachel Day – sweet, friendly lady
- Bobby Grey – new kid in town… has never heard the Christmas story
- Martha Stewart – a busybody who has forgotten the real meaning of Christmas
- Alfred Brown – an intellectual “nerd” who knows an awful lot
- Uncle Earl Humdinger – a “country bumpkin” with no lines who brings possum pie to the party

**Summary:**

The kids choir has decided to do some serious cooking this year rather than just having a party. They have collected recipes from the congregation to cook up goodies to share with the community. While the children cook and wrap gifts, they learn about the real “recipe” of Christmas: God’s love.

There are five easy songs, some fun dialog, and two choices for a lengthy or shorter “Southern Belle” narrative of the Biblical Christmas story.

The music is lively, traditional, and will be fairly easy and for sure enjoyable. You could cook up cookies or other goodies to “party” with the audience after the musical.

**Comments:**

The musical takes place in the church kitchen and/or fellowship hall; with kitchen props, aprons, mixing bowls, cookies, and other goodies. There are detailed “movement suggestions” in the songbook for each song.

**Bottom line:**

This could be a fun experience for the choir children, if you actually did some real cooking projects to take to nursing homes, children’s homes, or other outreach situations.

**Resource materials available:**

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**Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.**
Counting Down to Christmas

Created by Ali Carlson
Published by: Word Music (2017)
Length: 25 minutes

Song Titles:
Countdown
What Sense Does a Census Make?
Treagonometry
He Can Count on Me
It All Adds Up with Joy to the World

Characters:
This production has seven main speaking parts, six kids and one adult. All of the parts could be played by a boy or a girl. All you would need to do is change a few character names.

Summary:
This program takes a mathematical approach to the Christmas story. Caleb’s mom, Mrs. Marlin, is hosting this year’s Sunday School Christmas party. The problem is, she’s a no-nonesense math teacher, so all the kids are concerned she’s going to turn the party into another math quiz. During the course of the evening, she shares the Christmas story as only a math teacher could.

Comments:
This is a simple program which doesn’t require a large cast or a lot of unique scenery. However, the math theme of the program does allow groups to incorporate unique visuals involving numbers or other mathematical symbols. If you are using puppets for the program, these types of visuals would lend themselves well to blacklight effects.

Bottom Line:
You don’t have to be a math genius to make this a fun program for your church or ministry. It’s simple to produce, which makes it perfect for small groups, while still having plenty of creative possibilities for staging and props.

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A Country Christmas with a City Twist-mas

Created by: Nick Robertson, Anna Clark and Alisen Wells
Published by: Lillenas (2017)
Length: 25 minutes

Song Titles:
Welcome to the Family
And That’s How It’s Done
Because a Baby Came with Away in a Manger
O Come All Ye Faithful with O Come Let Us Adore
Y’all Come Back Now, Ya Hear!

Characters:
There are seven speaking parts in this program. Six kids and one adult.

Summary:
A few kids from the city visit their country cousins for Christmas. They experience a bit of culture shock, but along the way they learn about how the love God shows to us through Christ’s birth bring families together, no matter where they are.

Comments:
This program features simple songs and dialogue. It all takes place in one setting, a country home, so scenery requirements are very simple. A few familiar Christmas songs are incorporated into the program, which makes things a little easier for the kids to learn.

Bottom Line:
There’s nothing terribly flashy about this one, but if you need something easy, this is a program to consider.

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Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night

Created by: Jeff and Dana Anderson
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2018)
Length: 27 minutes

Song Titles:

Christmas Is
It’s Christmas with Away in a Manger
Gloria Medley
Take me Back to Bethlehem
Crazy, Busy, Peaceful, Holy Night

Characters:

This production has six primary speaking parts with a few other smaller parts. Most of the main parts are the members of a family, so both adults and kids will be needed.

Summary:

This program follows a family as they navigate their way through their busy Christmas season. They juggle parties, shopping, recitals, exams, cookies and more. They learn about how Jesus came to bring peace and hope into the chaos of our world.

Comments:

This is a simple program with a limited number of characters and basic sets. It also features a storyline that is very relatable to many of the people in your congregation. It’s a great reminder that we should slow down a bit and focus on what Christmas is really all about.

Bottom Line:

If you are looking for a program that is easy and which speaks to all ages, this is a great choice.

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David’s Dynasty

Created by: Gina Boe, Barb Dorn, Sue C. Smith and Christopher Davis
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2014)
Length: 38 minutes

Song Titles:

David’s Dynasty
Bethle-Boring
Somebody’s Counting
Listen to the Oldies
Angel Jam
He is God
Born to be the Savior
The King is on the Way

Characters:

There are six main speaking parts with a few other smaller parts.

Summary:

On the hills outside of Bethlehem, a family of shepherds (with epic beards, of course), learn about what the prophets said would happen in Bethlehem. They then become a part of the story unfolding on the night Jesus is born. They learn that even though you may have to wait and see it happen, God always keeps his promises.

Comments:

The title and premise of this musical plays off of the popular Duck Dynasty TV show. So you’ll be able to have fun with kids wearing large beards. A few of the songs have a bit of a down-home country flavor to them. Some of the characters do have lengthy lines and will most likely need to be played by older kids.

Bottom Line:

This musical tells the Christmas story from a unique angle. It’s emphasis on the prophecies that foretold the birth of Christ is an important theme that is overlooked by many other musicals.

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Fact or Fiction: The Christmas Edition

Created by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Lillenas (2014)
Length: 43 minutes

Song Titles:

Fact or Fiction
Who’s Gonna Win?
Your Word
Never Ever Have to be Afraid
Shine for You
Once Upon a Time
Joy! Joy! Joy to the World!
Reign in Me
Tell me the Story of Jesus with Away in a Manger and Your Word
Fact or Fiction with Once Upon a Time

Characters:

This program has eleven main speaking parts. Eight of the parts are the members of the two competing teams, four on each team.

Summary:

When two teams go head-to-head in a game show contest designed to help needy families at Christmas, they also come face-to-face with big character lessons. They learn the value of teamwork, the danger of pride, how Jesus helps us overcome fear – and that when we apply truth to our lives, God changes our hearts through the power of Jesus Christ.

Comments:

This program is written by the Clydesdale’s, which is always a plus. In addition to communicating the Christmas story, this program also has strong lessons about not being afraid and letting our light shine. The game show premise of the story is a lot of fun, but with four people on each of the two teams there are a lot of speaking parts.

Bottom Line:

This is a fun musical with a solid message. It also offers the potential of incorporating a Bible quizzing program along with your rehearsals…since the setting of the musical is a Bible quiz game show.

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Follow the Star

Written by: Susie Williams, Luke Gambill, and David Ebensberger
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2010)
Length: 23 minutes

Song titles:

Follow the Star
We Three Kings
Out of the Bethlehem Sky
Adore Him
Carol Medley (Joy to the World, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Angels We Have Heard on High)

Characters:

There are nine speaking parts, plus optional servants, shepherds, and angels.
The speaking parts are:
A Page (announcer for the King)
King Herod
Three wise men
Two chief priests
Joseph and Mary

Summary:

King Herod gets really upset when he learns that wise men have arrived in Jerusalem looking for a “new king” of Israel. The storyline centers on the three wise men, and their journey of obedience, faith, and worship. The wise men interact with Mary and Joseph, and give the Christ child their gifts and their worship.

Comments:

I like the drama sections of this musical better than some. The musical is short, easy to produce. Although the drama is not complex, the writers give a second performance option of using four narrators/speakers in between the songs as a simpler option.

Bottom line:

It’s well written, with mostly traditional music, and with focus on the role of the wise men. It’s short, easy to produce, and has a very good message true to the Bible.

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Great Big Story

Written by: Allie Lapointe and Dave Clark
Published by: Lillenas (2013)
Length: 22 minutes

Song titles:

Great Big Story
The Best Gift of All
Great News
Who, What, When?
He Included Me
Great Big Story (reprise)

Characters:

There are six speaking parts: a Sunday school teacher, three girls, and two boys. Also if you desire you could add six non-speaking parts for Mary, Joseph, an angel, and three wise men.

Summary:

A Sunday school class becomes a “tell-a-thon” when class members draw slips of paper and take turns telling the parts of the biblical Christmas story.

Comments:

This is a short, fun, easy-to-produce musical for elementary children. The music is original, lively, and very singable. The props, costumes, and staging (a Sunday school classroom) are simple and easy, but with a traditional Christmas message.

Bottom line:

It’s easy to sing, easy to stage, singable, relatively short, with limited cast and easy-to-put-together details. It’s solid but not flashy... traditional but with realistic, simple dramatic scenes. It would probably be better for lower or middle elementary children than for upper grades.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KCM-74 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KCM-74 BOOK
- Listening CD: KCM-74 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KCM-74 BULK
- Teacher’s Digital Kit: KMC-74 DIREC DIG
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KCM-74 ACC SPLIT
The Great Christmas Giveaway

Written by: Celeste Clydesdale  
Published by: Word (2011)  
Length: 39 minutes

Song titles:

- Shop ‘til You Drop
- It’s Better to Give
- The Gift Goes On/The Gift and the Giver
- The Perfect Present
- Gold, Incense and Myrrh
- I Give You Me
- Where’s the Line to See Jesus?
- Manger Song/Greatest Gift of All/Away in a Manger
- The Gift of Joy

Characters:

Eleven total, plus three “speakers” with very limited lines. Three main child characters, six minor child characters (one of these is a mall policeman, who could be an older teen or an adult), plus “Tiff,” the owner of the mall gift shop, and “Mr. Lancaster,” the children’s teacher, who appears only in the last scene. “Tiff” and “Mr. Lancaster” emerge as husband and wife in the storyline, so they would be best portrayed by an adult man and wife, if possible.

Summary:

The musical takes place in a shopping mall, where three children who are class officers are shopping for a gift for their teacher. After discussion, they visit Tiff’s Gift Shop, where Tiff teaches them that it’s better to give than receive, that love is the perfect gift we can give all year, and that God gave us His best through His only son.

The song “Where’s the Line to see Jesus” is a beautiful, haunting question that will impact the choir children and the audience. The musical starts strong, ends strong, and has variety and a strong message to all ages. Preschoolers could be included in the manger scene. The storyline ends with the children being excited to give to others less fortunate through a “giving tree” lesson.

Comments:

Our church children’s department presented this musical for Christmas 2011, so my very positive review of “The Great Christmas Giveaway” may be influenced by that. It went over extremely well, with a young couple who work with the children playing the parts of “Tiff” and “Mr. Lancaster.”

The music is great, with many styles included without tiresome repetitions many musical have. It mentions “an unemployed dad,” and has many short solos to involve more children. The setting scenery would be easy to create.

Bottom line:

An excellent choice for medium/large churches. Using an adult couple or at least an adult female and male will be more believable and effective for the “Tiff” and “Mr. Lancaster” parts. It’s a full-length (39 minutes) musical, so be sure to schedule adequate rehearsal time, and you’ll have a strong, powerful production.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-65 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-65 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-65 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack): KMC-65 BULK
- Teacher Resource Kit (digital): KMC-65 DIREC DIG
- Instructional DVD: KMC-65 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-65 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Isaiah Jones and the Seekers of the Lost Christmas Treasure

Created by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word (2014)
Length: 39 minutes

Song Titles:

Isaiah Jones
Follow the Star
Road to Bethlehem
No Room
Emmanuel
Give it Away this Christmas
Hallelujah (Light Has Come)
Finale

Characters:

This program has eleven speaking parts with a handful of other non-speaking roles

Summary:

A young boy ends up inside his favorite video game, playing the role of adventurer Isaiah Jones seeking for the Lost Christmas Treasure. He and his friends need to work their way through the various levels of the game to find the real Christmas treasure…Jesus!

Comments:

This program’s story combines two things that will appeal to young and old audiences alike. Much of the program takes place inside a video game, which will excite many kids. The game itself is an Indiana Jones style adventure that fans of those movies will enjoy. The songs are presented in a variety of different styles, even including a rap number and a jazzy swing style tune.

Bottom Line:

This is definitely what would be considered a bigger production, but it’s use of the video game and adventurer themes is hard to resist. It is one of the more original and creative musicals of recent years. Kids will love it!

Resource materials available:

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Jesus Means Christmas to Me

Created and Arranged by: Luke Gambill
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2016)
Length: 23 minutes

Song Titles:

Emmanuel
Angels from the Realms of Glory
While Shepherds Watched their Flocks
Sing we now of Christmas
Jesus Means Christmas to Me with Silent Night! Holy Night!
Emmanuel with O Come, Let Us Adore Him

Characters:

There are five speaking parts, all of which are designated as “narrators.” These parts could be portrayed by children or adults.

Summary:

This musical is part of the “simple” series of programs. It is shorter and easier to produce than many other programs. It tells the Christmas story by focusing on many of the characters from the biblical story and exploring what Jesus meant to each. We hear about the point of view of the angels, shepherds, and wise men before the audience is challenged to think about what Jesus means to them.

Comments:

This program does not require much in terms of scenery or costumes, which makes it easier to produce. However, the narration is such that larger groups can act out scenes of the angels, shepherds, and wise men if they so desire. The songs are recognizable Christmas favorites with a bit of a twist.

Bottom Line:

This program does an effective job of communicating the biblical Christmas story in a simple way. There are just a handful of speaking parts, which makes it perfect for small churches. Since the parts are all “narrators,” it isn’t even necessary to have the parts memorized. If you need a program you can learn quickly, this is an excellent choice.

Resource Materials available:

- Preview Pack KMC-11 PREVIEW
- Songbook KMC-11 BOOK
- Listening CD KMC-11 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack) KMC-11 BULK
- Accompaniment DVD KMC-11 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track) KMC-11 ACC SPLIT
Jingle Bell Beach

Created by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word Music (2017)
Length: 43 minutes

Song Titles:

Jingle Bell Beach
Joy Has Come with Joy to the World
Merry, Merry Christmas
Jesus is the Light
Reindeer Rumble
Unto Us
Our Hearts We Bow with Silent Night! Holy Night! and O Holy Night!
Hallelujah
Beachy Bows (Jingle Bell Beach Reprise)

Characters:

This program features 0 main speaking parts as well as a number of other bit parts. All of the characters are written to be gender neutral, so they can be played by either boys or girls.

Summary:

It's time for the famous Jingle Sing, a music competition that takes place each year at Jingle Bell Beach. But when a storm keeps the contestants from getting home in time for Christmas things heat up to tidal wave proportions! The result is a spontaneous, on-the-spot song competition known as the “Reindeer Rumble.” When it becomes clear that one of the contestants doesn’t understand the meaning of Christmas, everyone focuses on reminding us that Christmas is all about Emmanuel – God with us.

Comments:

This is a program best suited to larger groups. This is a very up-beat program with a lot of energy. The beach setting offers opportunities for a lot of fun sets, props and costuming. Groups that use puppets will appreciate the opportunity to portray various fish and sea creatures with their puppets.

Bottom Line:

Kids will have a lot of fun bringing a beach party to life at a time of year when the swimsuits and beach balls are usually packed away. The high-energy, contemporary style music is sure to be a hit!

Resource Materials available:

- Preview Pack
- Songbook
- Listening CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack)
- Accompaniment DVD
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track)
- Demonstration DVD

KMC-14 PREVIEW
KMC-14 BOOK
KMC-14 CD
KMC-14 BULK
KMC-14 DVD ACC
KMC-14 ACC SPLIT
KMC-14 DVD DEMO

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
A King is Coming to Town

Written by: Geron Davis, Sue C. Smith, and Craig Adams
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2006)
Length: 40 minutes

Song titles:

Extra Extra with Deck the Halls and Jingle Bells
Someone Special is Coming
The King of Rock and Roll
Egyptian King
A King is Coming to Town with the Hallelujah Chorus

Characters:

Seven speaking roles:
Greta Van Popcorn - television reporter
Mayor Big Wheel - promotes himself
Sheriff Badge - tries to keep order
Chip - Mayor’s press assistant
Barbara Booster - President of the local Chamber of Commerce
Drew and Ellie - young citizens who admit responsibility for the sign that upset everyone

There is also a camera person always on stage, but with no speaking parts.

Summary:

Someone has posted a large sign in the village of Rumor’s Mill stating that “A King is Coming to Town.” No one seems to know who put up the sign, and rumors abound. It is Elvis... or the King of the Jungle... or King Tut... or who?
The mayor makes an Elvis impersonation, Barbara Booster announces that King Tut is coming, and everyone is afraid that the king of the jungle is prowling their town.
Drew and Ellie share the “real story,” about the “real King,” and admit they were responsible for the sign that upset everyone.

Comments:

Out of the 40+ Christmas musicals we’ve sold in the past several years, this one is #2 in sales. It’s a fun, biblical production, with good possibilities for puppets to be involved if desired. Musical styles include 50’s rock, Middle East/Egyptian, African jungle, Black gospel, plus soft and sensitive with a good place for a “salvation invitation” should you desire to do so.
The gospel message is strong and clear, stating that when “the King” really comes, sin doesn’t rule any more.

Bottom line:

If you have quality actors and actresses that can carry the drama, you and your audience will LOVE this musical. The songbook includes extensive movements and choreography for each song.

Resource materials available:

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Mary Had a Little Lamb

Written by: Dan Barker
Published by: Manna/Creative Ministry Solutions (1977)
Length: 30 minutes

Song titles:

Mary Had a Little Lamb
Messiah is Coming
He is Born in Bethlehem
Good News
God’s Little Lamb
Seeking
God is King

Characters:

Two narrators; one male, one female.
Ten animals: four lambs, three camels, a pig, a cow, and a donkey. (The pig is a symbol of the Gentile world.)

Summary:

This is the traditional Christmas story told from the viewpoint of the animals that could have been present. Scenes include sheep on the hillside when the angels appeared, the stable/manger scene, and wise men. God’s plan of replacing the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb with the Messiah, who would eventually die for man’s sin, is presented in such a way that children and adults can all understand at their own level.

Comments:

Even though this musical is 30+ years old, it is still one of our best sellers, and still one of my “top three” favorites. The music is great, the character voices are excellent, and there’s humor and great spiritual depth, yet it is very understandable for children.

It is a “natural” if you’d like to use puppets for the drama and have a children’s choir sing the songs. It also works well to do the drama with puppets and show powerpoint pictures and/or song words on a screen without using a choir.

Bottom line:

You will not find a musical with a stronger explanation of God’s plan of salvation, and why Jesus’ coming to Earth was such a monumental event. It’s excellent for combining puppets with live children’s choir.

Resource materials available:

Songbook KMC-01BOOK
Listening CD KMC-01 CD
Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack) KMC-01 BULK
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track) KMC-01 ACC SPLIT
Accompaniment CD (Mono) KMC-01 ACC MONO
Mayhem in Bethlehem

Written by: Dave Noel and Jay Rouse
Published by: Praise Gathering/Word (2005)
Length: 42 minutes

Song titles:

Mayhem in Bethlehem
Pray Tell Me
Six Short Miles
Who is This Christ Child, Messiah?
Star of Wonder
Sure Look Like an Angel
Mayhem in Bethlehem Reprise
Lovely Baby
This is the Christ Child, Messiah
Praise Him in Bethlehem

Characters:

Noah Lott – the anchorman of the “30 Minute Special Report” television show
Vesta Gates – Nosy News Network female reporter
Freddie Factoid – a studio NNN research reporter
Lorna Limelight – a spoiled, flashily dressed NNN reporter
Randy Looney – an older, eccentric, cranky commentator
Bobby Joe Debonair – a country boy spokesman in the “Hair Repair by Debonair” hair growth commercials
King Herod – full of himself, pretentious, animated and cartoonish. He has a significant solo, and should be played by an adult.
Michael the Angel – an angel in disguise – dressed as a Bible character
Other possible non-speaking characters include: Joseph, Mary, Wise Men, shepherds, camera operators, and cue card holders.

Summary:

This musical is patterned after “60 Minutes,” with an anchorman, news reporters, commercials, and theme jingles. It’s a 30-minute special report on all the “mayhem” surrounding that magical night in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

Comments:

Let’s imagine the first century television team, like CNN or Fox News. In this musical, the Nosy News Network (NNN) looks into the major events surrounding Christ’s birth. Though long on imagination, the heart of this musical is the wonderful, true story of Christ’s earthly birth. As the skeptical NNN reporters close in on the story, they are convinced of the authenticity of Christ, as well as their need of the Savior. The “Hair Repair by Debonair” hair growth commercials are corny but funny… you can delete them if you think they’re “too much.”

Bottom line:

It’s a good premise, a well-written script, excellent music and a final scene where everyone kneels at the manger. It’s a bit long, but you could cut it somewhat to streamline it.

Resource materials available:

Preview Pack KMC-42 PREVIEW
Songbook KMC-42 BOOK
Listening CD KMC-42 CD
Director’s Resource Kit KMC-42 DIRECTOR
Instructional DVD KMC-42 DVD DEMO
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track) KMC-42 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.

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Meet Me at the Manger

Written by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Word (2002)
Length: 37 minutes

Song titles:
- Born to Shop
- Celebrate the King of Kings
- Christmas Without Christ
- Wise Guys (Walking in the Light)
- J.O.Y. (Jesus, Others, You)
- In Your Presence
- Heart of Gold
- Dying to Live
- Wise Men Still Follow You Today with Angels We Have Heard on High
- Celebrate the King of Kings

Characters:
There are four “lead” parts. They are:
- Mr. Herod - money hungry store owner
- Miss O’Riley - a sweet store clerk at Herod’s Department Store
- Miss Ellie - runs the Lighthouse Missionary
- Emerald - the outgoing cook at Lighthouse Missionary
Other characters include: Mary, Joseph, a shepherd, and three wise men, and some short lines by various kids.

Summary:
This musical teaches about the gifts of the wise men. The church children’s choir is singing in Herod’s Department Store, but Mr. Herod claims they are distracting his customers and he kicks them out. The children then go to Lighthouse Mission, and learn what God really wants from us, and that “wise men” still follow Him today.

Comments:
This is another very strong musical, and the musical styles range from swing, ragtime, 50’s rock, salsa, and blues to make it a very fun musical for the children to sing. There’s a good message of forgiveness.
The three gifts of the wise men are skillfully written into the dialog.
- Gold - God wants us to have a pure heart... a heart of gold
- Frankincense - our prayers are like incense to God
- Myrrh - we must die to ourselves and live for God
Greedy Mr. Herod has a change of heart, and confesses that wise men still need to follow Him today.

Bottom line:
It’s another excellent musical by Celeste Clydesdale. The music is great, it’s easy to stage, and the message of following Christ is strong.

Resource materials available:
- Preview Pack: KMC-20 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-20 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-20 CD
- Listening CD (10 Pack): KMC-20 BULK
- Teacher Resource Kit: KMC-20 DIRECTOR
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-20 ACC SPLIT
An Out-of-the-Box Christmas

Written by: Celeste Clydesdale  
Published by: Lillenas (2013)  
Length: 35 minutes

Song titles:

Places Everyone!  
This is Bizarre! This is Berserk!  
Giddy Up!  
A Super-Duper Hero of the Faith  
Are You Ready for Some Good News?  
Yo Ho Ho! And Away We Go!  
A Christmas Love Song  
A Night to Remember with Are You Ready for Some Good News?

Characters:

There are 12 characters in all, plus minor parts for narrators and manger scene participants. Mrs. strickland is a female adult or older teen who is the choir director. There are eight parts for choir children, plus two male pirates and another adult or older teen who owns the costume shop.

Summary:

It’s the day before the Christmas musical, and the shipment of costumes has just arrived. But... when they open the boxes, the costumes are all wrong! So, the children (and the director) get creative and adapt, improvise, and devise comical but heartfelt ways to tell the traditional Christmas story in very “out-of-the-box,” nontraditional ways.

Comments:

This musical is truly a “breath of fresh air” compared to so many children’s musicals with tired storylines. Picture the angel Gabriel as a super hero, the wise men as cowboys, the shepherds as pirates and the angels as cheerleaders! The message of Christmas is still very clear, and the “Night to Remember” song parallels the birth of Christ 2000+ years ago with the “night to remember” when we accept Jesus as our Savior.

Bottom line:

This is a very fun, very singable “out-of-the-box” musical your kids will LOVE singing. It’s a toe-tapper through and through, but yet the traditional message of the birth of Christ is still very strong.

Resource materials available:

Preview Pack  
Songbook  
Listening CD  
Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack)  
Digital Resource Kit  
Production DVD  
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track)  
Accompaniment CD (Stereo)

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
The Power of the King

Created by: Gina Boe and Barb Dorn
Published by: Word (2016)
Length: 30 minutes

Song Titles:

K-I-N-G Christmas
The Power of the KING
Christmas Medley
This Thing that has Happened
How Great our Joy!
Repirse – The Power of the King with K-I-N-G Christmas

Characters:

There are eight speaking parts. Most of the characters are the various staff of a radio station.

Summary:

The staff of K-I-N-G radio must come up with a Christmas Eve broadcast when a blizzard knocks out the power, leaving them running just the backup generator. Luckily, a bus full of children’s choir members have taken refuge from the storm at the station. As the night progresses, a non-believing DJ discovers faith in Jesus and learns the real meaning of Christmas.

Comments:

This musical is a part of the Simply WordKidz Series, which are musicals intended to be easy to sing and easy to perform. With a running time of 30 minutes and a simple setting (a radio station), it’s definitely not as complicated as many other programs. The program is supposed to take place in the 1970’s. In fact, the names of the radio station staff are derived from the names of characters from the 70’s TV sitcom WKRP in Cincinatti. The music doesn’t necessarily reflect the 70’s feel, though.

Bottom Line:

This musical is not too long…not too short. The perfect fit for churches that want to do something impressive but don’t want to go over-the-top. It has a fun premise with an strong evangelistic element to the story.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-08 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-08 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-08 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack): KMC-08 BULK
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-08 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-08 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Really, Really, Really Good News

Created by: Nick Robertson, Anna Clark, and Alisen Wells  
Published by: Lillenas (2016)  
Length: 22 minutes

Song Titles:

- The Good News
- Go Tell the Story with Go Tell it on the Mountain
- Mighty King
- We Three Kings
- Joy to the World with Shout it Out and The Good News

Characters:

There are six speaking parts: An adult female and five children (2 girls and three boys).

Summary:

This musical centers on the director of the church Christmas program, Ms Oliver, as she makes sure the kids who are putting on the program don’t miss the Good News at the heart of the Christmas story. The songs have a fairly contemporary feel, though traditional Christmas hymns like “Go Tell it on the Mountain” and “We Three Kings” are incorporated. This musical is part of Lillenas’ “Easy” musical series. It has a shorter length than many programs and a more limited number of characters.

Comments:

This musical offers a simple way of telling the biblical Christmas story in an upbeat and fun way. The songs are upbeat and easy to learn.

Bottom Line:

This program is a good choice for churches that have a short amount of time to put a program together and limited resources. There are no big requirements for sets and costumes. If you’re running out of time to put the program together, this may be the choice for you.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-12 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-12 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-12 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack): KMC-12 BULK
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-12 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-12 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-12 ACC SPLIT
A Red-Letter Christmas

Created by: Luke Gambill
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2017)
Length: 27 minutes

Song Titles:

Ding Dong! Merrily on High!
Little Town
Good Christian Men, Rejoice
Away in a Manger
Red-Letter Christmas
Ding Don! Merrily on High (Closer)

Characters:

There are five speaking parts in this program. All are narrator characters that can be played by just about anyone.

Summary:

This is a musical designed to be simple to stage and produce. It focuses on the colors of the Christmas season and how they remind us of different aspects of the Christmas season. Together these colors point every heart towards the life and words of Christ.

Comments:

This program is made to easy to do. The narrations are simple and could simply be read if memorization is not in the cards. Several of the songs are Christmas standards which many members of your kids choir may be familiar with already.

Bottom Line:

If you need something that can be produced quickly and easily, this is the perfect program for you.

Resource materials available:

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
A Rockin’ Royal Christmas

Written by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Lillenas (2012)
Length: 37 minutes

Song titles:

- A Rockin’ Royal Christmas with the King!
- Bring Them to Me
- Take a Look Inside
- Unforgettable, Incredible, Not so Silent Night with Angels We Have Heard on High
- When the Little Baby Boy Was Born
- A Wise Man’s Life for Me
- If I Knew Then
- A Higher Calling to a Higher King with I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
- A Rockin’ Royal Christmas with the King with Glory Be To God

Characters:

There are four main characters, plus three shepherds, three angels, three wise men, and the Innkeeper and his wife; 15 in all. There can also be four “readers” with minor reading parts.

The four main characters are:

- Storyteller – leads the cast and the audience on this journey back in time.
- Herod – should be an adult male… he’s mad, fearful, angry, and vindictive. He wants this “baby” found!
- Sherlock Watson – an eager, young investigator hired by Herod to find out why the Wise Men never returned and where this “King Jesus” was.
- Librarian – a proper, uptight librarian who tries to keep order in the Bethlehem Public Library.

Summary:

Herod is angry and upset, and hires an “F.B.I. agent” to find out where the Wise Men went and who and where this “baby king” is. We go back in time 2000 years, and Sherlock Holmes finds the answers he needs in the Bethlehem Public Library. Sherlock decides he will serve Jesus, the King of Kings instead of Herod, his earthly king.

Comments:

This is a strong, excellent musical, with a great message for the choir and for the audience. You’ll need four strong actors and actresses for the main parts, and 11 of the 15 characters have singing parts. Although the storyline goes “back in time,” the script mentions many modern terms, such as “email,” “fax,” “google,” and “Dr. Phil.”

Bottom line:

Take a clue from the title of the musical: it’s a “rockin” musical. The musical is high-energy, driving rock in many of the songs. Although the musical includes angels, shepherds, and wise men, it is not a “traditional” manger scene scenario. It is clever, fun, hot, and challenging. It’s probably not a good choice for a really young or really new choir.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-68 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-68 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-68 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack): KMC-68 BULK
- Production DVD: KMC-68 DVD DEMO
- Digital Resource: KMC-68 DIGITAL RESOURCES
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-68 ACC SPLIT
The Secret of Snowflake County

Written by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word (202)
Length: 35 minutes

Song titles:
- Christmas in Snowflake County
- Our Extravaganza
- This is the Time
- Glory to God
- I Wanna Be Wise
- The Crazy Christmas Medley
- Silent Night, Holy Night
- Hope Has Come
- Christmas in Snowflake County (reprise) with Glory to God

Characters:
- Mayor Hallmark, the scatterbrained female judge of the “Snowflake County Christmas Extravaganza”
- Joey, the Mayor’s intern, who helps her with all her electronic gadgets
- Suzy Hallmark, the Mayor’s daughter, who is trying to get her mother’s attention to share a secret
- Max, a non-speaking comic role, with one shy, long line near the musical’s end
- Also, there are three competitors in the finals of the ‘Christmas Extravaganza”: Holly Berry, Mitch Mistletoe, Candie Appleton

In addition, there are three one-line parts for three children, plus three tap-dancing “wise men” (girls in a comic role).

Summary:
The premise of their “Snowflake County Christmas Extravaganza” is that it’s a competition of “over-the-top” Christmas excess. The “rules” of the “Extravaganza” include: Always use lights, bigger is always better, and don’t do anything you’ve done before.
In Snowflake County, Christmas performances have become so extravagant, professional, and overblown that the real message of Christmas has been totally lost. After we have line-dancing angels, dancing snowflakes, and tap-dancing wise men, plus a CRAZY Christmas medley, the real “secret,” the message of God coming to earth as a baby, finally comes out. They all realize that their emphasis on bigger and better extravagant productions is really not what Christmas should be about, and that the “Incarnation”… God becoming a man… doesn’t need to be overblown the way they’ve been doing it.

Comments:
This is a new “angle” for a Christmas musical, and the message is loud and clear in the end. It’s a little crazy at times, overblown at times, and lots of fun overall. An experienced choir and creative director could pull this off very creatively.

Bottom line:
This could be presented as an extravagant, overblown production, or minimalized according to your dramatists and choir. Your Children will have a great time presenting it. Mayor Hallmark probably should be an adult female or older teen girl.

Resource materials available:
- Preview Pack: KMC-67 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-67 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-67 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-67 BULK
- Teacher Resource Kit: KMC-67 DIRECTOR
- Instructional DVD: KMC-67 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-67 ACC SPLIT
Shepherds, Sheep, and a Savior

Written by: Ed Kee
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2009)
Length: 23 minutes

Song titles:
No Ordinary Night
Shaggy, Smelly Sheep
Glory to God in the Highest with Angels We Have Heard on High
Headin’ Down to Bethlehem
This is Jesus with Away In A Manger
Go and Tell with Joy to the World

Characters:
The main characters are five shepherds. The only other speaking parts are Mary and Joseph.

Summary:
The shepherds are watching their “shaggy, smelly, sheep” near Bethlehem, feeling very sorry for themselves. Travelers pass by, holding their noses, looking down on the shepherds, who have the lowest, most demeaning job in their society. An angel (or lots of angels) appear and announce the birth of a Savior, and the shepherds “Head Down to Bethlehem” to worship the newborn King.

Comments:
It’s the traditional story, with a small drama cast and fun singable songs and carols. There’s some humor and the drama scenes are well written. The voices on the demo CD are very good... this could be a total puppet musical (23 minutes) or one using puppets to do the drama and children to sing the songs.

Bottom line:
It’s a good choice for a relatively easy, small-cast production. It has the traditional manger scene, and the set is simple to design.

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Special Delivery

Created by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2016)
Length: 43 minutes

Song Titles:

Any Moment, Any Time
Fa-la-la-la-la
Call His Name Jesus
Do Not Be Afraid!
Joseph Son of David
You Can Count on Jesus
A Million Miracles!
Glory in the Highest
All is Well
A Special Delivery

Characters:

There are eight main speaking parts, all of whom are various angels. There are a handful of other incidental speaking parts. Other non-speaking roles include, Mary and Joseph as well as other characters from the biblical Christmas story such as shepherds and wise men.

Summary:

The “God Squad” of angels is getting ready for the Father’s plan to be put into motion and to find out what their role will be in proclaiming the arrival of Jesus to the world. Michael and Gabriel help the other angels review some of the prophecies surrounding the birth of Christ. Along the way they learn that God is a miracle-making God and that because of Jesus “All is Well.”

Comments:

This program is written by Celeste Clydesdale, who has been the author of some of the most popular kids Christmas programs in recent years. Her track record for creating great Christmas programs can’t be beat.

Bottom Line:

This musical has a simple premise, but is well suited to those who want to have a BIG production. Like Cydesdale’s other productions, it has high-energy orginal songs and a script peppered with humor that will appeal to audiences of all ages.

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Star of Wonder

Written by: Dave Clark and Jayme Thompson
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2010)
Length: 30 minutes

Song titles:

Look Up with This Little Light of Mine
Hangin’ Around the Heavens
God Chooses Who He Uses
Big Band of Shepherds
Wee Three Kings
Shine On Us
Constellation Celebration
Look Up with This Little Light of Mine

Characters:

All the drama scenes consist of six “star” characters who have speaking parts.
“Superstar” – a movie star diva type
“Falling Star” – falls a lot; clumsy
“Shooting Star” – cowboy character; leads other stars “on a mission from God.”
“Lucky Star” – carries four-leaf clover
“Rock Star” – carrier rock guitar
“North Star” older grouchy character.
Additional non-speaking parts include a “moon” character and nativity scene characters. Also there are “Three Wee Kings” (perhaps played with actors on their knees) and a “Big Band of Shepherds,” which could be a section of the choir.

Summary:

The star characters are all excited because “the biggest news this side of the Milky Way” is about to happen. Since the stars are always “hanging around in the heavens,” they have a great view of what God is doing. “Shooting Star” leads the others to the “Big Event,” the birth of the Christ child. The shepherds have a song, and the “wee kings” have a song.

As the stars gather to see the nativity scene, Michael W. Smith’s excellent song “Shine on Us” is sung. The musical ends with a lively song “Constellation Celebration” and “Look Up,” followed by “This Little Light of Mine.”

Comments:

Songs are very strong, with good variety and a minimum of repetition. The drama scenes are short, so memorizing lines should be easy. You’ll need to costume the children (or the puppets) as “stars,” which shouldn’t be difficult. Overall, this musical should be easy to produce and enjoyable for participants and audiences.

Bottom line:

This musical fits grades 1-4 well; for 5th and 6th graders it may seem “below” them. The drama sections are simple and at times a little silly, but the songs help make the musical a winner. The six “star” characters could be played by “star” puppets, or with Funzle puppets coming through star-shaped foamcore shapes, or with “regular” rod-arm people puppets with large star shapes on their fronts.

Resource materials available:

Preview Pack KMC-59 PREVIEW
Songbook KMC-59 BOOK
Listening CD KMC-59 CD
Fun Pack KMC-59 FUN PACK
Demonstration DVD KMC-59 DVD DEMO
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track) KMC-59 ACC SPLIT
Star Search

Created by: Gina Boe and Barb Dorn
Published by: Word Music (2018)
Length: 26 minutes

Song Titles:

- Illumination Celebration
- Stars Gazing
- If You Wanna Be a Star
- Time to Shine
- Away in a Manger with Star of Wonder (We Three Kings)
- Star Finale

Characters:

This production has eight speaking parts of various sizes. Most of the characters are supposed to be stars, so they will require some creative costuming.

Summary:

You’ve heard the Christmas story from the point of view of the animals, or the angels, but now we get the story of the search for the star that will light the way to the King of Kings on that first Christmas night.

Comments:

This program was created to be easy to produce. It has simple songs, a simple script, and at 26 minutes long is a nice manageable length. The main challenge of the program is that the main characters are stars, so you will need to use some creativity when coming up with the costumes. You may want to consider using puppets to portray the stars. Star puppets are available to order from Creative Ministry Solutions.

Bottom Line:

This is a simple program to produce, but it will still be memorable for both your audience and your performers. Kids will especially enjoy having the chance to play stars, rather than the regular parts of angels, sheep, and shepherds that show up in many other programs.

Resource Materials Available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-24 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-24 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-24 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack): KMC-24 BULK
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-24 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-24 ACC SPLIT
Straight Outta Bethlehem

Created by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word Music (2018)
Length: 38 minutes

Song Titles:

Straight Outta Bethlehem
Anything Can Happen
Barnyard Boogie
The Dream
Blake’s Song
Disco Gloria
What Can I Give with Away in a Manger
Orphan’s of God with Blake’s Epiphany and Straight Outta Bethlehem

Characters:

This production has six main speaking parts with five more smaller parts. It also features several background parts for members of the choir, including various animals, angels, and inn guests.

Summary:

This program presents the events of the first Christmas from the point of view of a group of orphans who live in the very same inn where Mary and Joseph stay when they come to Bethlehem for the census.

Comments:

This program is simple enough to be performed by small groups, but also has many opportunities to turn it into a “bigger” production. If you have a lot of kids, you can easily fill out the cast with lots of animals and angels. Since the animals do play a role in this production, it also lends itself well to being presented with puppets.

Bottom Line:

This program is filled with fun and energetic characters. It also features a variety of different musical styles, including rap, disco and more. It’s a program with a lot of potential for your group to express their creativity.

Resource Materials Available:

- Preview Pack (KMC-25 PREVIEW)
- Songbook (KMC-25 BOOK)
- Listening CD (KMC-25 CD)
- Listening CD Bulk (10 Pack) (KMC-25 BULK)
- Accompaniment DVD (KMC-25 DVD ACC)
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track) (KMC-25 ACC SPLIT)
A Tree Lot Christmas
Created by: Celeste Clydesdale
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2015)
Length: 38 minutes

Song Titles:
‘Twas the Week Before Christmas
A Very Merry Christmas!
My Family Tree
Christmas Bake Sale Boogie
Keep Christ in Christmas
Evergreen
In Jesus’ Name
Infant Holy with God So Loved
With Joy! / My Family Tree (Reprise)

Characters:
This program has nine speaking parts. Six of them are kids, the other three are adults.

Summary:
A group of kids are selling Christmas trees outside of Mr. Carmichael’s toy store to help raise money to buy toys for children in need. The kids learn what it means to be a part of God’s Family Tree and demonstrate the powerful love of Christ to the greedy Mr. Carmichael.

Comments:
The simple setting of a tree lot makes this musical an easy one to stage. The general message of the program focuses quite a bit on the concept of “paying it forward” and how God paid it forward for us when he sent his Son. There is good musical variety in the songs…including a somewhat 50’s style number called “Christmas Bake Sale Boogie.” The Mr. Carmichael role is a great villain part for one of the adults in your church.

Bottom Line:
This program is written by the Clydesdales, and their musicals are always worth taking a close look at. This particular show is pretty easy to produce with several fun songs and characters.

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An Unplugged Christmas

Created by: Susie Williams and Luke Gambill
Published by: Brentwood-Benson (2014)
Length: 28 minutes

Song Titles:

- Biggest, Brightest Christmas
- Born is the King (It’s Christmas)
- Silent Night Rap
- An Unplugged Carol Medley
- Joy to the World (Sing Joy)

Characters:

There are eleven main speaking parts with a handful of other small speaking and non-speaking parts.

Summary:

Lindsey and her friends are putting on a Christmas show and are determined to win the local TV station’s contest for the “Biggest, Brightest Christmas Show Ever.” They plan to impress the secret judge with lots of lights and exciting music. But all of the sudden, the lights go out! Through this they are reminded that Jesus is the true light of Christmas.

Comments:

The storyline of this program is simple and offers a good variety of both high-energy songs and softer more reflective numbers. It is part of the Simple Plus series of kids programs, so it’s easy to learn but still offers opportunities to make the program quite impressive. Some of the story, with a bunch of kids trying to put on a big Christmas program but having to do something simpler, is not all that different from the classic TV special A Charlie Brown Christmas.

Bottom Line:

This program has both strong songs and dialogue scenes. It is simple enough for churches of any size to be able produce successfully.

Resources Available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-78 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-78 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-78 CD
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-78 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track): KMC-78 ACC SPLIT
We Three Spies

Created by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word (2013)
Length: 44 minutes

Song Titles:

Undercover (Christmas Intelligence Kids)
Spylent Night
I Don't Like Christmas
God with Us
Glory
Hope was Born this Night
Be Still, My Soul
Nativity Medley
I Love Christmas

Characters:

This program has eight primary speaking parts with a handful of other smaller parts.

Summary:

This program centers on Agents E, L, and F; recruits with the CIK (Christmas Intelligence Kids), a covert group of spies who secretly bring Christmas cheer to the needy. However, this year they face an especially difficult challenge as they try to keep the Scrooge-like Ms. Harriet King from evicting them from their headquarters and cancelling their Christmas program.

Comments:

This program is a bit like a combination of Mission: Impossible and the classic A Christmas Carol. The spy theme provides a lot of opportunities for the cast to use fun costumes and gadgets. There’s also a lot of solid humor to this production which isn’t corny. The songs are high energy and will appeal to kids and adults alike. Speaking of which, this is a good program for mixing a cast of kids and adults. The villainous Harriet King would be best if portrayed by an adult.

Bottom Line:

With so many Christmas musicals on the market, sometimes it’s hard to find one that covers new ground. However, the secret agent theme of this program is something original that creates a fun atmosphere for this program.

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Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Where’s Baby Jesus

Written by: Cherry Garasi
Published by: Lillenas (2013)
Length: 15 minutes

Song titles:
Jump for Joy, It’s Christmas
Oh Dear, Where Can the Baby Be?
Where Will I Find Jesus
He is Immanuel
Jesus Love Me
He is Immanuel (reprise)

Characters:
There are three main parts, plus several solos and five or six one-line speaking parts. The three main parts are the “main adult” character, plus two child parts which have only four or five lines each.

Summary:
The children are preparing for Christmas by assembling the Nativity scene, and are very upset when Baby Jesus is missing. They search for Baby Jesus, and parallel that search with our spiritual search to find Jesus and ask Him to live in our heart.

Comments:
This is a fantastic musical for preschoolers. The songs are easy but delightful, with good opportunity for actions and movements. The drama lines are very limited, spread among many children, and are easy to learn. The message is that God is with us and loves us no matter what.

Bottom line:
Your preschoolers will be jumping, singing, and learning about the REAL meaning of Christmas

Resource materials available:
Songbook with CD KMC-75 PREVIEW
Listening CD Bulk (10 pack) KMC-75 BULK
Performance Pack KMC-75 PERFOR KIT
Accompaniment CD (Split-Track and Stereo) KMC-75 ACC SPLIT
Wrapping All the Way

Created by: Christy Semsen
Published by: Word (2015)
Length: 35 minutes

Song Titles:

- It’s Christmas Every Day
- Wrapping All the Way with O Little Town of Bethlehem, Deck the Halls, and Joy to the World
- Tinsel Mania
- Mary’s Song
- A Light has Dawned with O Come, O Come Emmanuel
- He Will Be Called
- Bethlehem Skies
- Finale

Note: There are also several short “raps” sprinkled throughout the production

Characters:

This program has eight main speaking parts. There are a few more smaller roles with just a few lines each.

Summary:

In the town of Tuneville the “Tunies” love Christmas so much that the King has declared that Christmas will be celebrated everyday! But when a power outage strikes during the big Tinsel Mania celebration, it’s up to Tansy, gift wrapper and music rapper, to teach the others rhythm so they can rap all about Jesus, the Light of the World.

Comments:

This program takes place in a town where every day is Christmas, so there are a lot of great possibilities for sets and props. The images that came to my mind was of a town like Whoville from the classic How the Grinch Stole Christmas. The rap aspect of this program is something unique. Kids will have a lot of fun creating the beat and doing the raps.

Bottom Line:

The storyline involving something going wrong with the big show has certainly been done before, but the rap songs make this musical fresh and original.

Resource materials available:

- Preview Pack: KMC-04 PREVIEW
- Songbook: KMC-04 BOOK
- Listening CD: KMC-04 CD
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): KMC-04 BULK
- Director’s Resource: KMC-04 DIRECTOR
- Demonstration DVD: KMC-04 DVD DEMO
- Accompaniment DVD: KMC-04 DVD ACC
- Accompaniment CD (Split-Track and Stereo): KMC-04 ACC SPLIT

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Christmas Through the Years

Written by: Todd Liebenow  
Published by: Creative Ministry Solutions (2011)  
Length: 26 minutes

Song titles:

- The First Noel (“The King”)  
- Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (’60s)  
- Joy to the World (disco)  
- We Three Kings (rap)  
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (hair band)

Characters:

- Johnny Moonbeam, your Christmas Eve DJ  
- Helicopter Helen, KRAZ’s traffic reporter, anxious to finish her Christmas shopping  
- Tim Bucktoo, sports reporter covering the annual Christmas Eve snowball fight  
- Slush Sloviak, captain of the Northside team (can be offstage voice)  
- Caller One, Four and Six, elderly woman (can be offstage voice)  
- Caller Two, adult male (can be offstage voice)  
- Caller Three, little boy (can be offstage voice)  
- Caller Five, young woman (can be offstage voice)

Summary:

Get ready to join everyone’s favorite DJ, Johnny Moonbeam, for his big Christmas Eve broadcast. He’s spinning some of the greatest Christmas classics from the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s, ’80s, and ’90s! He’s joined by Helicopter Helen, bringing the Christmas traffic report, and sports reporter Tim Bucktoo. Plus, he’s got a special message for everyone about the true meaning of Christmas. This trip through the decades features five classic Christmas carols, done in classic rock n’ roll styles. This program was created with puppets in mind. Soundtracks for the songs are not available.

Comments:

This program has a strong message, but is also very funny. The songs are all familiar Christmas carols, but done in musical styles that cover many eras. With songs that reflect the style of Elvis, Motown, and even rap, there’s something here for everybody.

Bottom line:

With its simple format and limited number of characters, this is a very simple program to produce. It also has room for a lot of creativity. The humor is a big plus that will help keep your audience’s attention.

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Countdown to Christmas

Written by: Dale VonSeggen
Published by: Creative Ministry Solutions (2002)
Length: 27 minutes

Song titles:
- We Three Camels
- We’ve Got News for You
- What Can I Give to the King?
- Little Packages
- Wise Men Still Adore Him
- My Gift is Me

Characters:
- Cameron Camel, a fun-looking camel music DJ, the host of the show
- Cairo Carl, a fast-talking salesman who sells camels like cars
- Big Bob Goodman, an overly-friendly Bible salesman
- Kathleen Stone, representative for Providential Life Insurance
- Announcer, TV voice of CMTV, Camel Music TV

Summary:
This fun Christmas musical stars Cameron, a crazy camel DJ coming to you on CMTV in the Middle East. His witty newscasts, weather report, and sports highlights are interspersed with his presentation of the top five Christmas songs. You’ll also hear humorous commercials that you’ll enjoy staging. Soundtracks are included for songs. This program was written with puppets in mind but could be adapted for children’s choir.

Comments:
The songs in this program are great, but there is also a lot of fun humor in the commercial segments. With its limited number of characters (many of whom only have one scene), this is a very easy program to produce. It also has a sequel, “Countdown to Easter,” you can perform a few months later.

Bottom line:
This program’s simple format makes it popular one with groups who are short on time or have a limited number of performers to work with.

Resource materials available:
- CD/Script Book: DSC-03
- Listening CD Bulk (10 pack): DSC-03X
- Bulletins: DSC-03P BULLETINS
- Posters: DSC-03P POSTERS

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Cowboy Christmas

Written by: Tawnya Albright
Published by: Creative Ministry Solutions (2002)
Length: 25 minutes

Song titles:

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Jingle, Jingle, Jingle
Born in a Barn
Come On, Ring Those Bells

Characters:

Sal, the ranch cook, who provides good-natured support and terrific food to the ranchhands
Jeb, a ranchhand who shares God’s love with his friends
Flint, a ranchhand who doesn’t understand the meaning of Christmas
Wesley & Cow Patty, neighboring ranchhands who celebrate by playing cards and drinking
Narrator, he helps to explain the story
Ranchhands, additional characters who will be needed for singers and non-speaking parts
Animals, optional stable animals who can add atmosphere and sing backup parts

Summary:

This musical has plenty of country flavor with a strong Christmas message for all ages. Main characters include ranch hand Jeb, who gives a new lasso as a Christmas gift and uses it to tell about God’s love, Sal, the good-natured mess hall cook, and Flint, a cowpoke who figures he knows how to run his own life without God. Soundtracks are included for songs. This program was written with puppets in mind but could be adapted for children’s choir.

Comments:

The western setting of this program opens up great possibilities for scenery, props and costumes. It also features a strong message about how Jesus tries to “get his lasso around us,” just like the cowboy out looking for that lost cow.

Bottom line:

This program features a message that will speak to kids and adults alike. Plus, the fun western songs will have the clappin’ along… y’all!

Resource materials available:

CD/Script Book DSC-01
Listening CD Bulk (10 pack) DSC-01X
Bulletins DSC-01P BULLETINS
Posters DSC-01P POSTERS

Accompaniment CD/DVD and Preview Packs are non-returnable. Opened CD/DVD are non-returnable.
Super Christmas

Written by: Todd Liebenow
Published by: Creative Ministry Solutions (2002)
Length: 27 minutes

Song titles:
Super Duper Christmas
Deck the Halls
Joy to the World
The Night Before Christmas
C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S
A New Heart for Christmas
Super Duper Christmas Reprise

Characters:
Jacob, a young boy who takes his work seriously at the Christmas command center
Missy, a young, happy girl working at the Christmas command center
Haley, an enthusiastic woman at the Christmas command center
Jackson, a busy man easily disturbed by the Christmas rush
Christmas Crusader, a super hero whose mission is to share the true meaning of Christmas
Dude, a ‘50s style guy who thinks Santa is the center of Christmas
Kringle Krew, three ‘50s style guys who sing with Dude
Children, additional characters needed for backup singers and non-speaking parts

Summary:
This musical is set in a Christmas Command Center. The main character is Christmas Crusader (a super hero) who knows exactly what makes Christmas super. There are several kids who help keep the control center going and a “cool dude” who thinks Santa is the center of Christmas. This musical is perfect for using lots of props, lights, and decorations. Soundtracks are included for songs. This program was written with puppets in mind but could be adapted for children’s choir.

Comments:
This program has great songs, all of which could work as stand-alone puppet performances. The program addresses some of our secular Christmas traditions, but brings them to a spiritual focus. The song “A New Heart for Christmas” especially makes this a great program for an outreach event. The ‘50s style version of “The Night Before Christmas” is also a lot of fun.

Bottom line:
Superheroes are very popular, so this program will have a big appeal for many of the kids in your church. The upbeat songs also give many opportunities for creativity in your presentation.

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