

# The Lovely Sounds of Christmas

Music, Lyrics, Mini-Musicals, & Book by: Michael Malthaner

## Act I

(Curtain will open as music begins. Cast assembles as staged for song):

### **“Christmas Is For The Young (And The Young At Heart)”** (Children’s and SATB Adult Chorus)

**Children:** Christmas is made for children like me. Candy and presents under the tree.  
Christmas is Santa Ho, ho, ho-ing, Christmas is fun when it is snowing,  
Christmas is seeing bright lights glowing on the houses and the trees, Yes!  
Christmas is for kids like me, Christmas is made for children like me.  
Christmas is made for children like me.

**Adults:** Christmas isn't just for young ones. It's also for the young at heart.  
Outside it may be snowing, inside we'll be mistle-toeing, sitting by the fire  
Glowing; sipping on some Christmas cheer! It's the best time of the year,  
Christmas isn't just for young ones. It's also for the young at heart!

**Chil./Adults:** Christmas is for the young! Christmas is made for children like me.  
Christmas is for the young at heart!  
And the young at heart! Christmas isn't just for young ones. It's also for the  
young at heart!

(After song, grandmother takes her two grandchildren, a boy approximately 8 years old, and a girl approximately age 7, to the stage left proscenium decorated as a living room. She sits on couch and they join her).

**GRANDMOTHER:** Hello, children. I'm so happy your mom and dad asked me to watch you while they went out shopping. It's nice to spend some time with you so close to the Christmas Holidays.

**BOY:** We're glad to be here, grandma. Did you make any of your Christmas cookies, yet?

**GRANDMOTHER:** You bet I did, and (teasing them) I suppose you can have some a little later. Would you like that?

**KIDS:** Yeah!

**GIRL:** What's your favorite thing about Christmas, grandma?

**BOY:** Mine's getting presents!

GIRLS: Mine too!

GRANDMOTHER: I like presents, too, but it's really hard to say what my favorite part of Christmas is. One of the things I look forward to every year, though, is the music we hear during the holidays.

GIRL: Why is that, grandma?

GRANDMOTHER: Well, as you know, Christmas is filled with so many different emotions. For instance, some things about Christmas are so much fun---like presents!

BOY: And food!

GIRL: And Santa Claus!

GRANDMOTHER: That's right. And, Christmas can make you feel really happy inside--the way I do when I give you a (leans toward kids and give them a big hug) Great-----Big-----Hug! (kids laugh and return hug)

BOY: But what does that have to do with music?

GRANDMOTHER: You see, like Christmas, music is also filled with many different emotions. Some Christmas songs are funny and happy, while other Christmas songs can make us feel warm all over, like the hug you just gave me.

BOY: Oh, I get it!

GIRL: So there are all kinds of different Christmas songs?

GRANDMOTHER: Oh, my yes. There are many lovely sounds of Christmas. Let's listen.

(focus now on stage)

### **“The Lovely Sounds Of Christmas”**

**(SATB Chorus and soloists)**

**Octet: Ooh**

**Solo 1: The lovely sounds of Christmas ringing joyfully through the air,  
Is bringing Yuletide wishes to all people everywhere.**

**Octet: Ooh**

**Solo 2: The sounds of Christmas have been alive since that very first Christmas morn,  
I hear it in the sounds of people rejoicing that Christ was born!**

**SATB: Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna in the highest  
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna Gloria!  
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna in the highest**

**Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna Gloria!**

**Octet: Ooh**

**Solo 3: The sound of children's laughter op'ning gifts 'neath the Christmas tree,  
We celebrate God's greatest gift which He gave to you and me!**

**SATB: Allelu, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia...**

**Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna in the highest  
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna Gloria!**

**The sounds of Christmas have been alive since that very first Christmas morn,  
I hear it in the sounds of people rejoicing that Christ was born!**

**Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna in the highest  
Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelcis, hosanna Gloria!**

(after song)

**GIRL:** How long have there been Christmas songs, grandma?

**GRANDMOTHER:** For many, many years!

**BOY:** Did they sing them even when you were a kid?

**GRANDMOTHER:** (laughs) Oh, my yes! And, Christmas songs can come in many different styles from countries all over the world.

**GIRL:** What do you mean?

**GRANDMOTHER:** Christmas is a special holiday everywhere, not just here in our country.

**BOY:** I knew that because Santa delivers presents to everyone, everywhere, right?

**GRANDMOTHER:** That's right. And, people have been writing and singing Christmas songs for many years. In fact, there are new songs written for the holiday season every year. For instance, let's listen to one called the "Alleluia Calypso".

### **"Alleluia Calypso"**

**(SATB Chorus)**

**Men:** Sing to the baby lying in the manger, sing to the baby in the bed of hay.  
Sing to the baby lying in the manger, sing to the baby this Christmas Day!

**Women:** Sing Alleluia, Al-le Alleluia, Sing to the baby in the bed of hay, Sing  
Alleluia, Al-le Alleluia, Sing to the baby this Christmas Day!

**Chorus:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (Song continues to layer with added voices on text)

(after song)

GIRL: Are you going to put out milk and cookies for Santa Claus this year?

GRANDMOTHER: Of course.

BOY: Grandma, there's one thing I've been wondering about.

GRANDMOTHER: What's that, dear?

BOY: Santa's kind of a, well, you know, (holds out hands to indicate he is fat) a big guy, right?

GRANDMOTHER: Yes, I suppose he is.

BOY: Well, how can he fit through the chimney?

GRANDMOTHER: Oh, he manages. Although, I remember hearing about one time when he did get stuck!

KIDS: Really! (ad lib:) What happened? How did he get out? What did he do?

GRANDMOTHER: Well, here's what happened.

## **“The Night We Saved Santa Claus”**

### **The Night We Saved Santa Claus**

an opera in one Act

cast: Mother, Father, Santa Claus, Son, Daughter, Chorus

music and lyrics: Michael Malthaner

*written in the style of a Mozart opera*

### **Overture**

### **Opening**

(Mother entering the dark living room of a house with a flashlight at 4:00 AM Christmas morning. Chorus acts as Narrator and is off to one side)

**Mother: I swear I heard a noise, I swear I heard a noise. It woke me up and frightened me  
A very strange sound what could it be? I swear I heard a noise.**

(Father enters and turns on light-Mother continues)

**It sounded rather odd; I never heard that sound before.**

**Like a distant sound outside our door it sounded somewhat like a muffled moan**

**It sounded rather odd.**

**Chorus:** She heard a sound that frightened her, a very strange sound we do concur.  
It began outside then moved in here, it frightened her that's clear!

**Father:** Are you sure it wasn't a dream. There is nothing in here it would seem.  
The house looks the same it appears to me it's all decorated with the Christmas tree  
I can't see where there's any change, I can't find anything that's strange.

**Chorus:** He can't find anything that's strange, the house looks the same there is no change.  
Could this have been just a dream? A nightmare it would seem!

### **Recitative**

**Mother:** (walking toward fireplace)  
It was not a dream, I heard a strange sound and it came from somewhere over here. It woke me up and sounded rather frightening. I could swear, someone was yelling for help.

**Father:** Are you sure? I don't see anything different. It's the same as we left it last night.  
You could well have been dreaming.

**Mother:** That's it! There is something wrong.

**Father:** What's that?

**Mother:** It's Christmas morn and there are no presents underneath the Christmas tree.  
Surely Santa would have been here by now.

(frightened) **AHHHH! I think we've been robbed!**

**AHHH!** (passes out in his arms then looks at audience) **I think I'm going to faint!**

**Father:** Be still now. There must be a logical reason for this dilemma.

### **The Dilemma**

**Chorus:** They know not what the sound can be, there's nothing **Ô**neath the Christmas tree.  
Oh what are they going to do? The kids will wake in just an hour or two!

The children were so glad, and now they'll be so sad.

When they see not a present to own, they'll think that Santa Claus thought they were bad.

Oh what an awful predicament (Mother) What shall we do?

With not even one new present (Father) We have to think!

They'll find the source of this sound, and then their presents will be found!

### **Santa Discovered**

(Santa is heard behind the chimney--voice somewhat muffled):

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho, ho!

**Mother:** There is that sound again!

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho, ho!

**Mother:** There is that sound again! (walks to fireplace) **And it's coming from over here---I am filled with so much fear!**

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho, ho!

**Father:** I hear it now!

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho, ho!  
**Father:** I hear it now! And it's coming from the chimney, but what could this strange sound be? Dear give me the flashlight, it's much too dark for my sight.  
**Mother:** (hands him the flashlight) Oh, be careful. You are courageous. Oh please be careful, this could be dangerous.  
**Father:** I have to find the source of this sound, then our presents may be found!

(music underscores Father looking up fireplace with the flashlight)

**Mother:** What do you see?  
**Chorus:** What do you see? What is making this strange sound?  
**Father:** (emerging from fireplace) I can't believe my eyes---it's Santa Claus and he can't get down!

**Chorus:** Santa Claus is in the chimney (Mother) AHHH! (Father) Don't worry!  
He's stuck and he can't get through. (Mother) AHHH! (Father) We'll save him!  
They'll have to work fast so Christmas can be saved but what can they do?

### Children Enter

(Son and Daughter enter, obviously awakened by the noise)

**Son:** Mother and Father it's 4 AM, what are you doing out of bed?  
**Daughter:** You'll wake the other children with all this noise you should be quiet and sleeping instead.  
**Mother:** Our eldest son and daughter, you won't believe what we're going through.  
Santa Claus is in the chimney, he's stuck and we don't know what to do!  
**Son/Daughter:** Santa Claus is in the chimney, he's stuck and he cannot move.  
We'll have to get him out of here, a difficult task to prove.

### The Solutions

(Family paces around trying to come up with ideas to save Santa while music underscores)

**Son:** I have a thought!  
**Chorus:** He has a thought!  
**Son:** It just might work.  
**Chorus:** It just might work.  
**Son:** We can try and see what will transpire. We'll make him sweat to lose some weight-  
If underneath of him we build a fire! (proudly) This will work like a sauna  
If underneath of him we build a fire!  
**Family:** A fire is far too dangerous, Santa Claus could get burned.  
It was nice of you to think of a flame, but we'll do something different just the same.  
**Chorus:** Building a fire, this idea they'll pass.  
Building a fire, you may burn Santa's (Father interrupts)  
**Father:** But! I have another thought, it is creative, it is brilliant, it is magnificent.  
I'll be rewarded when I tell you what to do.  
I should have thought of this before, but then this would have been a very short score.

**Chorus:** Don't pat yourself on the back, just tell them what to do.

**Father:** You're right I shouldn't bask in glory, I'll tell you what to do.  
 Dear, we'll need some butter, about a half a dozen pounds.  
 We'll melt it in a large pan, in the chimney we'll pour it down.  
 Then Santa Claus will slip through the flu, it's brilliant and it's what we ought to do.

**Mother:** But we do not have that much butter. We'll have to think of something different.  
 Your theory is O.K., We just need to find another way.  
 (pacing continues until daughter gets an idea)

**Daughter:** I have a thought, please don't laugh at me. I'm trying to be real.  
 What if we used something else that's slippery, what if we used banana peels?

**Chorus:** (with great excitement) **Banana peels in the chimney! We wonder if they can pry?  
 Someone as round as Santa Claus, who know but it's worth a try!**  
 (Son runs off and quickly reenters with bananas. Family begins to devour them as music continues to build with excitement. Finally after father collects the peels he sings with mouth still filled with banana)

**Father:** **Son, take these to the roof and drop them all around Santa Claus!**  
 (Music again builds as son exits. All pace until father impatiently breaks silence)

**Father:** **I wonder what is taking him so long?**  
 (Soon we hear the son off stage as if on the roof)

**Son:** **How gross!**

**Father:** **Son, what's the matter? You sound like you're in stress.**

**Son:** **I'm fine father. I just didn't know eight tiny reindeer could make such an awful mess! Well, here we go!**  
 (He drops peels down the chimney and we see Santa fall through fireplace and onto the stage covered with banana peels. Santa is not moving, obviously stunned from the fall)

**Chorus:** **AH! Speak to us Santa, you must have something to say!  
 Speak to us Santa, for this is Christmas day.**

### **Santa Is Saved**

(Santa slowly begins to sing, then accelerates as he recovers from fall)

**Santa:** **Ho, ho, ho, ho. Ho, ho, ho, ho. Ho, ho, ho, ho. Ho, ho, ho, ho.**  
**I'm out of the chimney, and once again I'm free.**  
**I spent the night drinking milk and eating cookies at every single home I ate.**  
**Now I see by eating at every single home made me put on quite a bit of extra weight.**  
**But now I'm free!**

**Chorus/Family:** **Ho, ho, ho, ho. Santa Claus is free!**

**Santa:** **Ho, ho, ho, ho.**

**Chorus:** **Santa Claus is out of the chimney now we have nothing to fear.  
 So we sing to you dear Santa, Merry Christmas and a Happy New year!**

**Santa;** **Ho, ho, ho, ho.** (Santa gives family their gifts before exiting up fireplace)

**Chorus/Family:** **Ho, ho, ho, ho. Merry Christmas Santa Claus and a Happy New Year!  
 Merry Christmas Santa Claus and a Happy New Year!** (all wave as Santa exits)

(after show)

**BOY:** That was pretty smart how they saved Santa!

GIRL: And funny, too. Grandma, how many Christmas songs do you know?

GRANDMOTHER: Oh, I know so many Christmas songs that I couldn't even begin to guess. I do know that every single song at Christmas is special in its own way. Hey, I even heard two of my favorite songs sung together. They are "Ding Dong Merrily On High" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing". Do you want to hear them?

KIDS: O.K.!

GRANDMOTHER: Good. Why don't we listen to them now?

**“Ding Dong Merrily On High/Hark The Herald Angel’s Sing”**  
(SATB Chorus)

**Chorus: Ding dong merrily on high! The bells are gaily ringing.  
Ding dong happily reply, the angels all are singing.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!**

**Ding dong carol of the bells, awake now do not tarry.  
Sing now loud the good Noel, our Lord is born of Mary.  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!**

**T./B.**

**S./A.**

**Hark the herald angel’s sing  
Glory to the newborn king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With th’angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king!**

**Ding dong merrily on high  
The angels all are singing  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!**

**Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn king!**

**Chorus: Christ the highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord.  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the favored one.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king!**

**(A.) Ding dong merrily on high  
(S.) Hark the herald angels sing. Ding dong merrily on high  
(A.) To the king.  
(S.A.) Hark the herald angels sing.**

**T./B.**

**S./A.**

**Hail! The newborn Prince of Peace    Bring out merry, merry bells  
Hail! The Son of righteousness!    The angels all are singing.  
Light and life to all He brings    Ding dong swing the steeple bells  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.    Sound joyous news we're bringing.  
Mild He lays His glory by,    Gloria!  
Born that man no more may die.**

**Chorus:            Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!**

**Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!  
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Hark the herald angels sing.  
Hosanna, Hosanna in excelsis!**

(after song)

GIRL:            I have another question, grandma.

GRANDMOTHER:    What's that?

GIRL:            How can Santa deliver gifts to everyone all over the world in just one night?

GRANDMOTHER:    Well, Santa is very special, and he's the only one who can do such a big job.

BOY:            And, he has the reindeer to help him, don't forget.

GRANDMOTHER:    I'll bet you don't know this, but there was one year that he did have another helper besides the reindeer.

GIRL:            He did?

BOY:            Who was it?

GRANDMOTHER:    My, oh my, that was quite a year!.

KIDS:            (ad lib) Tell us, grandma. We want to hear what happened. Please, grandma, tell us. etc.

GRANDMOTHER:    Alright, I'll tell you about it. Here's how the story goes.

**“Why Two K. K.?”**  
 (“Why Two Kris-Kringles?”)  
 A One-Act Musical  
 Book, Music, & Lyrics by Michael Malthaner

(**Scene 1:** Outside on a street where we see a group of people, modestly dressed, and warming themselves by a fire in a barrel. They are complaining of the expenses occurred at Christmas)

**SONG: WHAT CAN WE DO DIFFERENT THIS YEAR?**

**Solo 1:**

**I don't think I can buy a gift for anyone this Christmas Day, what can I say?**

**Solo 2:**

**My friends will think I'm cheap and then my family will turn away, on Christmas Day.**

**Solo 3:**

**Oh, it's real hard to make ends meet, there are people living on the streets, believe me it is Not a treat, financially I think I'm beat**

**All:**

**Oh, what can we do different this year, unlike the others?**

**Solo 4:**

**You pay an arm and leg and then what have you got? It's not a lot to give away!**

**Solo 5:**

**I charge my gifts and then I have a year to pay. And just in time, another Christmas Day.**

**Solo 6:**

**It's gotten too commercial and I find it very tough, it's time we change tradition and say We've had enough!**

**All:**

**There must be some way we can make a change!**

**1:** How did all this start anyway?

**2:** I don't know. Ever since we were kids we always got presents, and then when we got older, it was assumed we were supposed to start buying gifts.

**3:** Yeah, but when you're a kid, you get your gifts from Santa Claus. It's when you get older that Christmas starts to cost a lot of money.

**4:** So are you saying it's Santa that started all of this?

**3:** I suppose so----I never thought about it until now, but maybe it is his fault, technically. I don't think he meant for us to wind up in an annual holiday financial crisis, but facts are facts.

**5:** Well then, it's too late. There is nothing we can do but live with it.

**All:** (Ad lib agree)

**6:** But, it's too expensive! Isn't there anything we can do?

**Dr. Noguht:** Excuse me my friends, but I overheard your conversations, and I don't mean to pry---

**1:** But, you're going to anyway, right?

**Dr. N:** If you want my help, I'll pry. Otherwise----

**All:** (ad lib) No, go ahead, what can we do? etc.

**Dr. N:** It's really quite simple....

**SONG: (continues)**

**Dr. N::**

**I got a plan and I think you'll like it. My mind is working overtime.  
This will be tricky, and even dangerous, but if we pull it off I'll be the "King of Slime"!  
(villainous laugh)**

**For our success we must remove the problem. Then we won't have to worry Christmas Day. It's very simple, at least in theory: Don't run away from Christmas, just take Christmas away!**

**All:**

**How can you do that? What do you have in mind? You'll get rid of Christmas?**

**Dr. N:**

**Just leave it up to me and everything will be fine!  
We'll travel North to the Arctic Circle, and find the place where Santa Claus resides.  
Then we'll nab him and they'll have to cancel Christmas--we're doing this for us and for  
All others besides.**

**All:**

**It sounds so evil and impossible to do.**

**Dr. N:**

**But, we will do it. How much better it will be when we're through.**

**Dr. N:** We must leave at once. If we hurry we'll get there just before Christmas Eve.

**1:** Hey, I can't even afford presents. How am I going to buy a plane ticket all the way to the North Pole? (others ad lib in agreement)

**Dr. N:** Details, details. We're going to kidnap Santa Claus! Stowing away on an airplane should be a cinch compared to that!

**2:** Then, it's settled. I just hope you know what you are doing!

**Dr. N:** Trust me, trust me!

**All:** That's what we're afraid of.

**Dr. N:**

**Then let's be off and we can kidnap Santa, and take him very far away.  
Then when we wake on Christmas morning, it will be like waking up on any other day.**

**(Scene 2:** The scene shifts to the North Pole where Santa enters and begins talking to Mrs. Claus. Santa is apparently worried about something, and Mrs. Claus tries to comfort him.)

**SONG: YOU AND ME**

**Santa:**

**Ho, ho, ho, ho. Ho, ho, ho, hum. I know the way I feel, is really dumb. (to audience-  
Well, it rhymes) I can't explain it, but there's something wrong. It's a feeling that I feel  
That there are people here who really don't belong.**

**Mrs. Claus:**

**You always get, this time of year, a little anxious, relax my dear. And very soon you will  
Be on your way giving lots and lots of presents for the happy kids to open Christmas Day.**

**Santa:**

**It's just that I sense there is something rather strange. My keen intuition tells me somehow  
There's a change.**

**Mrs. Claus:**

**Don't waste your time on worry over what might be. Together we can face each new Adversity. Be on your way. We have work to do. And when Christmas morning comes The world will be a better place because of you.**

**Santa:**

**No, you.**

**Mrs. Claus:**

**Not me.**

**Santa:**

**O.K.**

**Both:**

**Then we. You and Me.**

**Santa:** Well, dear. I think I'm going to have to check on the elves to make sure they are working hard. Sometimes they get a bit lazy.

**Mrs. Claus:** Just be nice to them. Remember, it's not easy keeping good help these days....especially on what you pay them.

**Santa:** How much do they need? I mean, their living expenses are a minimum. They live in really small houses, they eat like birds, and they never go anywhere.

**Mrs. Claus:** I know, but be nice. (firmly) They are still our friends. Some of the elves have been with us for years. You know what your problem is? You never relax, especially around the holidays. Here, take one of these before you leave. (hands him a tranquilizer) It will help you to relax.

**Santa:** All right, all right. (takes medicine) Don't worry, I'll be nice.

**Mrs. Claus:** I think I'll check on the reindeer and make sure they are ready for the flight. Only one day to go until Christmas Eve!

**(Scene 3.** The reindeer are preparing for the flight which is just one day away. Rudolph is coaching them and doing exercises which are not well received by the other reindeer.)

**Rudolph:** (spkn. Stretch.....squeeze.....tighten your muscles. Remember, we are LEAN...MEAN...VENISON MACHINES!!

**(SONG: THE REINDEER TAP)**

**Rudolph:**

**Let's start so stand up in place where you are.**

**First we will reach to the right with our paw. (one yells---You mean hoof)**

**Then to the left, now right, again it's left and to the right.**

And after twenty reps then we can rest for a moment. (Music)  
(Spkn.) left, right, left, right (ad lib. motivates them while reindeer complain) **SONG continues**

And now, we'll work the legs to get ready for the flight.  
To pull the sleigh this year, it will take all of our might.  
'Cuz Santa's been in a melancholy mood, and when he's down he begins to eat more food  
And I have noticed he is getting rounder.

**Reindeer:**

Not rounder!

**Rudolph:**

For Santa Claus has to be a three hundred pounder.

**Reindeer:**

Three hundred pounder! (Music)

**Rudolph:**

Now lift your hoof and kick it up here. And try to raise it above your antler.  
Just eight more times and we're ready, and the rest will be a snap--two--three--four--five--  
six--seven--eight.  
Get ready friends, it's time for the reindeer tap! (Music)

**Mrs. Claus:** Bravo, reindeer, bravo. I see you're in shape and ready for Christmas Eve.

**Rudolph:** We sure are. How's Santa doing?

**Mrs. Claus:** Oh, you know Santa. Every year it's the same old thing. But, on Christmas Eve he'll be bright and cheery and ready to deliver gifts all over the world--thanks in large part to you guys. Right now I think he's checking on the elves. You keep working and maybe I'll throw in a little treat with your dinner tonight. (big cheer from the reindeer as they say goodbye)

**Scene 4:** Santa's Workshop. (The elves are busy working and complaining that Santa gets all of the credit while they do all of the work.)

### **SONG: WE'RE GONNA SPREAD YOUR CHRISTMAS CHEER**

**Larry:**

Pounding a nail,

**Mary:**

Turning a screw,

**Clyde:**

If that doesn't work we use lots of glue

**All:**

But one way or another we'll get done.

**Larry:**

Santa brings a list,

**Mary:**

From Susie, Bill, and Bob,

**Clyde:**

**And millions just like them it's an overwhelming job**

**All:**

**We work like dogs so Christmas can be fun.**

**It's like this every Christmas, we work the whole year through**

**'Cuz Santa doesn't think we've got anything better to do.**

**Santa makes us mad, 'cuz people think he's cool, he ought to wear a crown**

**"ALL HAIL KING YULE" while we the elves keep working like a fool.**

**We must be crazy, it gets worse each year. We do all the work and Santa Claus is Mister  
Cheer!**

**We would work for Keebler, but living in a tree---Making Elfen Magic wouldn't be**

**Especially, any better life than the one we know.**

**So, hammer, screw, and glue, and away we go!**

**One thing that bothers us is Santa gets all the fame**

**We do all the dirty work and no one even know our name.**

**Even the reindeer have names that people know.**

**Rudolph even has a song and his very own T.V. show.**

**So it's time---- you got to know us a little, (one says: we shouldn't say little)**

**You get to find out who we are**

**We're not just Santa's little helpers, no sir,**

**We're really Santa's shining stars.**

**So, let us introduce ourselves, and then you'll know we're more than just a bunch of elves**

**And Christmas will have meaning this year.**

**Larry:** Hi! I'm Larry.

**Mary:** And, I'm, Mary.

**Clyde:** And, I'm Clyde.

**Larry:** Let me begin by telling you a little about myself. I've been one of Santa's helpers now for 127 years. I'm still an apprentice because I'm the youngest of the elves, (covers mouth as if to tell a secret), except Mary will tell you she's younger. But, we all know how old she really is because they made such a big deal over her 200th birthday last month.

**Mary:** Shut up, Larry (hits him)

**Clyde:** Yeah. Willard Scott even had *two* pictures of her on the TODAY SHOW.

**Larry:** The best part was when we lit the candles on her cake! (laughs) Scientists from all over the world thought they were experiencing an unexpected Aurora Borealis!

**Mary:** That's enough, both of you. (hits them both)

**Larry:** As I was saying, I've been an elf making toys here for a long time, but my secret ambition is to help rid the world of crime, hate, war, and other evils that contribute to the breakdown of society. (pause) You may have guessed. I would really like to be a talk show host!

**Clyde:** Yeah. He could run a three hour program devoted to small talk----get it?----smaaaall talk!

**Mary:** What a laugh! You a talk show host? You're a real comedian--a regular Rich (pause and accent) Little.

**Clyde:** Or, Pee Wee Herman!

**Mary and Clyde:** Or, Tiny Tim!

**Larry:** Very funny, both of you. Anyway, that's what I want to be when I grow up----er--get older.

**Mary:** My ambitions were always a bit more realistic. I wanted to be a dancer.

**Larry:** You? A dancer?

**Mary:** That's right. I studied ballet and tap.

**Clyde:** You did? I didn't know that!

**Mary:** Yes, and I was quite good.

**Larry:** How good?

**Mary:** I could tap on pointe!

**Larry:** Oh yeah, that I'd like to see!

**Clyde:** Me, too.

**Mary:** Well, it has been a long time.

**Larry:** Here comes the excuses.

**Mary:** O.K., Phil Donahue, here goes. (TAP DANCE)

**Clyde:** Wow, Mary. You're pretty good!

**Larry:** Yeah, not bad. I wish I could have seen you in your prime--about a century ago.

**Clyde:** I'm Clyde. I used to work the night shift, but now I'm working days. I tried politics for a while, but gave up after I lost a close election as Mayor of Munchkin Land. I would have won, too, had the Lollypop Guild thrown their support my way. Just because I suggested blacktop instead of yellow bricks to save a little money, you'd think I'd have committed a big crime!

**Mary:** How sad, Clyde.

**Clyde:** So, I ended up here and hired on working for the Big C.

**Larry:** There you have it folks. We're just regular, normal people, no different than you.

**SONG CONCLUDES**

**Elves:**

**Hey, Mister Santa. Why don't you look beyond yourself.  
And see I'm more than just an elf.**

**Clyde:**

**And that I do much more than work**

**Mary:**

**Don't smirk**

**Larry:**

**It's work, work, work.**

**All:**

**So, please listen Santa Claus  
And, if you're able push away from the table and please lend us an ear.  
It's because of us that you can spread your Christmas cheer!**

(Santa enters, still looking down and somewhat worried)

**Santa:** Hi elves, are you meeting production?

**Clyde:** Santa, you look terrible!

**Larry:** Shut up, Clyde. You're going to make him mad.

**Mary:** Yeah, Clyde.

**Clyde:** No, I mean he really looks terrible.

**Santa:** Thanks!

**Mary:** What's the matter, Santa?

**Santa:** I don't know. I've just been down in the dumps. Mrs. Claus says this happens every year, but I don't know.

**Clyde:** You need to relax. Here Santa, have a glass of water. Pass this down, Mary.

**Mary:** (looking around has a brilliant idea. All freeze at sound of wind chimes except Mary who drops tranquilizers into the glass as we hear a girls voice off stage as if Mary were talking: *“I think Santa will feel much better if he gets a little rest. These tranquilizers will help him”*. Then passes glass to Larry) Here, Larry. Give this to Santa. I’m sure this will help him.

**Larry:** Sure thing. (looks around and same situation with male voice off stage: *“Santa better get some sleep, the grouch. These tranquilizers will help knock him out”*. Takes a tranquilizers of his own and drops it in the glass, then says to Mary). You know, I agree with you Mary.

**Mary:** (surprised) You do? (cynically) About what?

**Larry:** I think Santa will feel better after he has a glass of water. Here Santa. (hands him the glass)

**Santa:** Mrs. Claus was right, I have to admit. You elves can have a calming affect on me.

**Marry & Larry:** More than you’ll ever know, Santa.

**Clyde:** What’s that supposed to mean?

**Marry & Larry:** Oh, nothing.

**Santa:** You know, maybe I’ve been going about this all wrong. Instead of rest I should get a little exercise: a long walk----or some jumping jacks.

**Clyde:** Why not, Santa?

**Larry:** Sure----but maybe wait until tomorrow.

**Mary:** Yeah, Santa----maybe tomorrow.

**Santa:** Why wait? (with sound of a timpani or bass drum, suddenly looks straight ahead as if hit over the head and after a moment begins to yawn) I mean, (talking while yawning), why not start (slurring speech) im--me--jut--a--ly----  
I mean----ummm-edj--eee-ate--ly, immm--ayjet-a- Why not start right now. (stomps foot and points to ground)

**Mary & Larry:** Sit down, Santa, please.

**Clyde:** What’s gotten into him?

**Mary & Larry:** You don’t want to know!

**Clyde:** Yes I do! (Santa is off to the side doing jumping jacks in slow motion)

**Mary:** Well, for starters, about 50 mg of tranquilizers!

**Larry:** Make that 100 mg.

**Mary:** You gave him some, too?

**Larry:** Yeah. I didn't know you spiked his drink.

**Clyde:** Well no wonder he's acting so goofy.

**Mary & Larry:** Yeah!

**Clyde:** Santa, please lie down.

**Santa:** I am, ain't I?

**Larry:** No Santa, you're still standing. (Santa falls into a big heap on the floor) Now you are.

**Mary:** Oh my, what are we gonna do with him?

**Clyde:** I guess we'll just let him sleep right here, and if we're lucky, he'll wake up before he has to deliver all of the gifts tomorrow night! You two have done some pretty dumb things before, but this is the worst. (lights fade as Mary and Larry defend themselves in ad lib)

**Mary & Larry:** (ad lib) I was only trying to help-----I didn't know Florence Nightingale was slipping him a mickey----etc.

(As lights fade and elves exit, a spot picks up Dr. N. and crew on the other side of the stage. They sneak in and see Santa lying on the floor. Lights slowly come up as they are on stage)

## **SONG: CHRISTMAS WON'T BE CHRISTMAS WHEN IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Dr. N.**

**The fools have made it pretty easy  
Santa Claus is fast asleep  
I'll put on his clothes while you tie him up  
And then we'll hide him far away I feel like such a creep!  
And I love it! (laughs)**

**Then I'll assume the role of Santa Claus  
And no one will suspect a thing because  
They're far too busy with the holiday  
All the preparations and we're one day away!**

**Chorus**

**I can't believe it, This may work indeed.**

**This is the answer to eliminate our Christmas greed.**

**Dr. N.:** (during music he ad libs while changing into Santa's outfit. Dr. N. should have on funny boxer shorts, a tee- shirt, suspenders, high black socks, and sneakers. Meanwhile, chorus is tying up Santa to take him away) Take him far away and hide him, then make yourselves scarce. I will meet you back here tomorrow when it will be too late for Santa to make his annual trip to deliver his gifts. In the meantime, meet your new Santa Claus! (wearing Santa suit--evil laugh)

**Dr. N. (song continues)**

**Now let's remove him from this little workshop  
And take him very, very far away. (Chorus carries Santa off leaving Dr. N. alone)  
Now, we can save our money every Christmas,  
'Cuz Christmas won't be Christmas when it's Christmas Day.**

**Oh, I love it! The reason is because  
They're gonna think I'm really Santa Claus  
Oh, I love it! Our plan is underway  
And, Christmas won't be Christmas it's like any other day!**

**Dr. N.:** spkn.: (Starts to exit, then stops and snaps finger as if a thought occurs to him) I need to be convincing to everyone around here that I'm Santa Claus until tomorrow, but just to be safe, I'll try to avoid everyone as best as I can. Meanwhile, they'll get everything prepared for Santa--um, er, I mean me (evil laugh) to take off and when the time comes to leave, I'll tell them I'm not going----I'm too sick to fly! (to audience) Well, you wouldn't want me to lie, would you. I am *sick*----of Christmas, that is. (evil laugh)

**Dr. N. (repeats last line of song and then exits)**

**ÔCuz Christmas won't be Christmas it's like any other day!**

**(Scene 5** Christmas Eve. Mrs. Claus is calling for Santa and wondering where he is. She heads to the workshop)

**Mrs. Claus:** Santa-----Santa. Oh, where could that jolly man be? He better not be into the egg nog. Ugh! It's Christmas Eve and he's nowhere to be found. I'm so worried. I don't ever remember him being gone for any length of time. (enters workshop) Hi Larry, Hi Mary, Hello Clyde. Have any of you seen Santa?

**Larry:** No.

**Mary:** No. (they sing on pitches do-mi-sol)

**Clyde:** No (shakes his head no)

**Mrs. Claus:** I really am worried. I hope Santa is all right.

**Clyde:** I'm sure he's fine, Mrs. C.

**Mrs. Claus:** He better be all right, or I'll kill him.

**Mary:** (seeing reindeer coming near workshop) Here comes Rudolph and the other reindeer. Maybe they've seen Santa.

**Mrs. Claus:** Have any of you seen Santa?

**Rudolph:** No. We've looked everywhere we could think he might have gone.

**Reindeer:** We even looked in places we didn't think he'd go. (all look rejected, reindeer heads are down, elves are sitting with their face in their hands, etc.)

**Mrs. Claus:** Well, if he doesn't show up in the next few minutes, he's not going to be able to deliver the toys tonight. (all ad lib) He's got to get here--he can't miss the big flight, etc.

(**Scene 6:** Santa is away in the woods and waking up)

**SONG: HO, HO, HO, HO**

**Santa**

**Ho, ho, ho, (yawn)**

**Ho, ho, ho, (yawn)**

**Where am I? How did I get here? I'm lost I believe. (looks at watch)**

**I must get home pretty soon for it is Christmas Eve.**

**What am I doing out here all alone when I should be away on my flight?**

**People are waiting for me to arrive at their homes sometime during the night.**

**I have to think of a way to get home and away**

**With my tiny reindeer and thousands of toys in my sleigh. (suddenly excited)**

**That's it! That's it! There just may be a plan that I can try.**

**When I blow this whistle, the reindeer hear it and they come to me to fly.**

(music underscores the blowing of a silent whistle and the reindeer suddenly perk up and come to attention by doing a quick tap step. Mrs. Claus noticing their change of behavior begins to sing)

**Mrs. Claus**

**Look at the reindeer, I think they're going crazy**

**I've never seen such energy, they're normally quite lazy!**

(**Dr. N. peers into room accompanied by chorus**)

**Reindeer**

**That sound! That whistle! It passes by your ear**

**It's a piercing pitch that's only heard by tiny reindeer.  
Santa Claus is calling us, his signal's loud and clear.  
We'll go and find him everyone, there's nothing more to fear.** (they tap off stage)

(Dr. N. steps into room)

**All:** Santa! You're back!

**Mrs. Claus:** Santa, dear. You're home! (runs to hug him, but stops and says quite emphatically)  
And, where were you?

**Santa:** Oh, I've been around and about.

**Mrs. Claus:** You must be distraught! Come here. (pulls him to her and hugs him)

**Clyde:** And just in time for you to leave. There's not one minute to spare.

**Dr. N.:** Oh, I don't think there's any hurry, because I'm not going!

**All:** What?!?

**Dr. N.:** You heard me. I'm not going. I don't feel well enough to fly!

**Mrs. Claus:** (pulling away from him) You're not Santa! You're an impostor.

**All:** What?!?

**Mary:** How can you tell?

**Mrs. Claus:** My husband would never cancel Christmas for any reason. Besides, his stomach is real! (she pulls pillow out of impostors suit)

**Larry:** Then where is Santa?

**Mrs. Claus:** Yes. What have you done to him?

**Dr. N.:** He's perfectly safe---and better yet, he's perfectly late. Too late to leave and deliver all of his gifts. We've (chorus enters) decided to cancel Christmas because it's far too expensive. No one person, not even Santa can make that trip in one night. So, you might as well call off Christmas, (to crowd) and we can all save a bundle of money. (evil laugh while chorus acknowledges in approval)

**Mrs. Claus**

**Santa will soon be back home where we know he belongs.  
Christmas will go on as planned he will right all your wrongs. (elves nod in agreement)  
And, for you and your miserable group standing here,**

**When Santa arrives you'll have plenty to fear.  
Do any of you have something that you'd like to say?  
Because you will fail and we're going to have Christmas Day.  
(chorus starts to look frightened, except Dr. N. who steps forward)**

**Dr. N.**

**You may have found your Santa Claus, but it won't be in time because  
It is far too late to start his flight and deliver all his gifts tonight  
It's too much for one man and his tiny reindeer band.  
So, we will be victorious, and I'll become notorious.  
So, What do you have to say? It's your very last Christmas Day?**

(music underscores Mrs. Claus' explanation of the true meaning of Christmas)

**Mrs. Claus:** Do you really think that you can stop Christmas?

**Dr. N.:** Who can stop me now, you---or you----or any of you? (evil laugh)

**Mrs. Claus:** Christmas isn't Santa giving people gifts! It's not anyone giving gifts. Santa only does that to remind us that Christmas is a time of giving of our *love* to others. It doesn't mean you have to buy expensive presents for people, it's simply showing others that you care for them, that you love them. Look at Santa. That is why he and the elves have always *made* presents for people in his workshop. In this way, the gifts come from the heart.

**Dr. N.:** When did Santa start this idea of giving at Christmas?

**Mrs. Claus:** He didn't start it. He only reminds us each year that at one time, nearly 2000 years ago, we were all given a very special gift, the greatest gift of love imaginable. It is from this first Christmas that we celebrate love for all people. So you see, you can never stop Christmas, even by stopping Santa from doing his good work. You know, at your ages, all of you, (points to chorus) you should be ashamed! I got this letter from a couple of kids just today, young kids. And, they sound more grown-up than all of you combined. They say they have a friend who is very, very poor, yet they saw her giving her lunch money to another student at school. When they asked her why she was giving away her money, knowing she had so little, she replied: "I know what it's like to be hungry. I didn't want them to know how it feels". You can hear the rest of the letter.

(Two children are seen off stage writing a letter)

**SONG: SANTA CLAUS, DEAR SANTA CLAUS**

**Both Children**

**Santa Claus, Dear Santa Claus, we write to you this night.  
We know it's late, but we had to write to you before you took your flight.**

### First Child

The letter that we sent to you about a week ago,  
Was filled with gifts we asked from you indeed

### Second Child

But, we have had a change of heart and now we realize  
That there are far more precious things we need

### Both Children

The two of us decided this year the thing to do  
Would be to give to others, that would make us more like you.  
Because you are a reminder of a Christmas filled with love.  
And you remind us that not too long ago we were given a gift from above.

So, Santa Claus, Dear Santa Claus, please take our gifts indeed  
And give them to another child, a child who's in need  
When we awake on Christmas and sit beneath the tree  
A sense of peace and happiness will be a part of me.

So Santa Claus, Dear Santa Claus, just one more thing to say.  
We love you Dear old Santa Claus, have a Merry Christmas Day!

**Dr. N.:** (crying) I had no idea. I'm so sorry.

**Chorus:** (ad libs) Yeah, I'm sorry, too, I apologize, etc.

**Larry:** But, what are we gonna do about all of the toys we made for the good girls and boys?

**Mary:** Santa still isn't back and it's too late now to finish delivering all of the gifts.

(Suddenly we hear the tapping sounds of the reindeer in the distance, and we see them returning with Santa Claus. All cheer, except Dr. N., who is apparently frightened)

**Santa:** Ho, ho, ho, ho!

**Dr. N.:** Oh no, no, no! (he hides behind the crowd of chorus members)

**Santa:** Mrs. Claus, I'm back.

**Mrs. Claus:** Santa! (he goes to hug her and she holds him back) You're not dressed.  
(Realizing this he looks embarrassed) Rudolph. Get him a change of clothes, please. (Rudolph exits)

**Santa:** The strangest thing happened. I was talking to the elves and got real sleepy all of a sudden. I've had boring conversations with them before, but this must have been a dandy. Anyway, the next thing I knew was I woke up in the middle of nowhere, and believe me, up here at the North Pole that's just about everywhere.

**Mrs. Claus:** Santa, we're so relieved that you're back, but I'm afraid you can never finish delivering all the toys tonight all by yourself.

**Clyde:** Why not use our other Santa to help?

**Santa:** What are you talking about?

**Chorus:** (pushing Dr. N. forward) Him!

**Santa:** What is this? Or do I mean who is this? Am I looking in a mirror?

**Mrs. Claus:** It's no mirror, dear.

**Santa:** Oh, good. I didn't think I was that bad looking! (Rudolph enters with his new suit, which he puts on.)

**Mrs. Claus:** It's a guy who thought he could cancel Christmas if he stopped you from delivering gifts all over the world.

**Santa:** He did, did he? No one can stop Christmas!

**Dr. N.:** I know that, now. I'm sorry, Santa.

**Santa:** Well, not only did your plan fail from stopping Christmas, I'm going to see that you actually help me save Christmas! You're going with me, right away, to deliver these gifts. This year we'll have two Kris Kringles!

**Dr. N.:** You mean I have to fly in that sleigh with you, pulled by those reindeer?

**Santa:** I'm afraid so.

**Dr. N.:** But I don't think I can. I'm too afraid to fly like that.

**Clyde:** Here, have a glass of water. It'll calm you down.

**Mary & Larry:** (holding up tranquilizers) Yeah, have a glass of water

**SONG: HO, HO, HO, HO (Reprise)**

**Santa**

**Ho, ho, ho, ho, we're on our way**

**And we'll make Merry this Christmas Day  
And when you wake up on Christmas morn  
Just remember that true happiness began the day our Savior's love was born.**

**All**

**And when you wake up on Christmas morn  
Just remember that true happiness began the day our Savior's love was born.**

(Santa, Dr. N., and reindeer exit while all wave to them)

**The End**

**ACT II** (Opens with adults and children's choruses singing arrangements of three carols)

**"Bring A Torch, Jeannette Isabella"/  
"O Come All Ye Faithful"/"Silent Night"**

(after songs)

**GIRL:** There are lot's of ways to celebrate Christmas, huh grandma?

**GRANDMOTHER:** That's right. Christmas is a celebration of many things. Presents, good food, being with your family, decorating Christmas trees----all sorts of things. And the one thing that binds them all together is love for one another.

**GIRL:** And also we celebrate Jesus' birth.

**GRANDMOTHER:** Yes. That is the most important thing of all. Imagine that a little baby born 2000 years ago, in such a small village, in a little manger, would become the most influential person who ever lived. No king, president, world leader, or anyone born into great wealth has even come close to making such a great and positive impact on the world. And that is why, 2000 years later, we continue to celebrate His birth, because His message was one of love and peace.

**BOY:** I wonder what it was like the night Jesus was born?

**GRANDMOTHER:** I believe it was quite peaceful, and there was a great star shining over the stable where Jesus was born. I can imagine how the shepherds felt as they looked down upon that scene.

**"A Shepherd's Carol"  
(SATB Chorus with optional recorder)**

**SSA I see a star shining brightly o'er the place where the child lay  
In a manger, on a bed of hay.  
A simple birth for the King of Kings (Alleluia)**

**the star shines brightly on this Christmas day,**

**SATB I hear the voices through the night they ring (Gloria)  
A song of praise the angels sing.  
I hear the song “Gloria in excelsis deo”,  
Gloria to the newborn King.**

**Gloria, Gloria in excelsis deo,  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis deo,  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis deo,  
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

**(S) This wondrous night brightened by a star (ATB) Ah-----  
led wise men three traveling from afar.**

**SATB The stable road was thus made bright  
While inside lay the Child of Light!**

(after song)

**BOY:** We know a new Christmas song too, grandma.

**GRANDMOTHER:** You do? Well, why don't you sing it for me.

**KIDS:** Sure! (they run to center stage and are joined by other children in the cast)

**“What Am I Gonna Buy This Year?”  
(2-part Childrens)**

**Children:** Over the river and through the woods we go traveling one and all.  
Our seasonal journey to our favorite place. We're going to --- the MALL.  
What am I gonna buy my parents this year?  
There are a million gifts to spread some Christmas cheer.  
But when I shop I find wherever I go  
I can't afford very much with such a limited cash flow.  
What am I gonna buy this year so I can spread some Christmas cheer?

**Girls:** A sweater for mom what a nice surprise.  
Maybe they'll have one in my size?  
I'm shopping for mom but see, sweaters look so cute on me.  
I'll get her something else and we'll both be glad.  
Maybe I'll combine her gift with the one for dad.

**Boys:** I think I'll buy my dad a ball glove--he'll love it!  
When he's at work I bet I can use it!  
I'm shopping for dad indeed, but a new ball glove is what we need.  
I'll get him something else when the day is done.  
Maybe I'll combine his gift with the one for mom.

**All:** Maybe we'll save money at a discount store  
Or where they sell stuff "Buy one get one free!"  
Or maybe we should try a bargain counter  
Or something's that for sale on T.V.

spk 1: Yeah! There's lots of good stuff for sale on T.V.

spk 2: And you can pay in three easy installments!

spk 3: What does that mean?

spk 2: I don't know, but what a great way to shop----by watching television!

**All:** Yeah!

(begin to rap the following in rhythms indicated)

**All:** Car Mop--Tae-bo--Quick 'n Bright, too.  
Body by Jake and Beautiful you!  
Bag 'n Seal, Vacuum, Power Wash and Dry  
Hair Remover, Total Gym, there's so much to buy!  
Ink Jet refills, Products sure to clean  
And don't forget Foreman's Grilling machine!  
Thigh Master, Bacon Magic, Trim-A-Pet and more,  
Spot Remover, Motion Lures, T.V. is my favorite store!  
Egg Scrambler, Instant Leather, Slice and Dice, Ultra Clear,  
Drain Buster, Pasta Maker, Ice It, No More Tears!  
Craftmatic Beds and stuff to stop a cough!  
And, everybody's fav'rite gift----Clap Off!  
(they clap twice--BLACKOUT)---Clap On!  
(they clap twice--LIGHTS)--Clap Off!  
(they clap twice--BLACKOUT)---Clap On!  
(they clap twice--LIGHTS)

What am I gonna buy my parents this year?  
Without much cash to spend on Christmas cheer.  
I tried to buy on credit but was turned down by a clerk.  
Who said I'd get no credit until I went to work.

So maybe for Christmas when I shop for mom and dad  
Instead of a sweater or a baseball glove.  
I'll give them a card and an I.O.U. I promise to be good!  
And I'll sign it Merry Christmas----with Love!

(after song)

**GIRL:** I'm beginning to understand now about music and how songs can make us feel differently.

**GRANDMOTHER:** Very good!

**BOY:** I really like Christmas just like you, grandma. But, I think I still might like presents better.

**GRANDMOTHER:** (laughs) At your age that's no surprise. But, you never want to get too greedy and ask Santa for too many things. It reminds me of a story I heard one time that really helped me understand the meaning of Christmas.

**KIDS:** What story?

**GRANDMOTHER:** I'm glad you want to hear it. Let's go string some popcorn and I'll tell you about it. (they exit)

**“A Christmas Message”**  
**(a One-Act Musical for Chorus and Soloists)**

(Chorus is up stage center. Soloists walk on and join chorus upon completing their solos. Santa's chair is set at stage right and a chair and chimney is seen stage left to be used by young girl. The chimney must be made to allow Santa to descend and come in through below mantle)

**Solo Girl 1:** Santa Claus, dear Santa Claus, I hope that you will stop and pause  
And read your mail today because I wrote to you dear Santa Claus.

**Chorus:** She wrote to you, she wrote to you, she wrote to you dear Santa Claus!

**Solo Male 1:** I sent my list and checked it twice, and I've been quite as the mice  
And be assured that I've been nice. Spare no expense I'm worth the price.

**Chorus:** Spare no expense, spare no expense, spare no expense he's worth the price!  
Ho, ho, ho it's very clear. Christmas day will soon be here.  
Christmas morn we'll want to see  
All our presents laying 'neath the Christmas tree!

**Solo Girl 2:** Santa Claus be on your toes in case we're getting lot' of snows  
Just follow Rudolph's bright red nose. We love you Santa Claus!

**Chorus:** Ho, ho, ho make no mistake, gifts we want all take, take, take.  
It's still your job so please come through  
With ev'ry single present that we ask of you!

**Solo Male 2:** (with baseball uniform) Santa, dear Santa, I'm really in a bind.  
Please check your mail 'cuz I wrote to you my letter you will find.  
I need a brand new contract, thirty million plus the fame.  
Then I'll be the highest paid to ever play the game!

**Solo Lady:** Santa, dear Santa, you may think this sounds strange,  
But an accident in my brand new car is what I'd like you to arrange.  
Then I'll get me a lawyer who will know what to do.  
One who will say:

**Lawyer:** (steps forward) “You don't have to pay unless (points) I get money for you!”

**Chorus:** Greed! Greed! The world is full of greed!

**Thinking only of ourselves is something we don't need.  
It's time for all to take heed.  
We must find a way to stop the greed, greed, greed.**

**(Santa enters stage right and sits in chair)**

**Santa: I can no longer believe the kind of mail I receive.  
This is like a terrible dream. Any more bad news and I think I'll scream.**

**(Elves enter and move to stage center in front of chorus. Elves can be played by children, or comically costumed adults)**

**Elves: Ho, ho, ho Santa, what are we to do?  
The greedy people asking so much of you.  
Meeting production is getting too tough.  
We're only little elves and that's not nearly enough!**

**Ho, ho, ho Santa the gifts from the past  
Were made of wood and string; toys built to last.  
Now they're computerized and cause such a blast,  
And you never have them very long Ôcuz they break real fast!**

**Oh, Santa, what are we to do?  
Oh, Santa, there's too much work to do.  
Oh, Santa, some demands that we would like  
You to give us or else we'll go on strike.**

**(As elves picket, Santa ad libs) "Get back to work". "You can't strike--you're not even a union", etc.**

**Elves: (cont.) Oh, Santa, what are we to do?  
Oh, Santa, there's too much work to do.  
Oh, Santa, some demands that we would like  
You to give us or else we'll go on strike. (elves exit humming melody)**

**Santa: (alone again) Can you believe it? Christmas is worse every year.  
Can you believe it? I used to have a great career, and now I wake up  
Living in constant fear that Mister Mailman is going to appear.**

**(Mailman enters with large sack of letters)**

**Mailman: spk. "Here's your mail, Santa".**

**(Santa slouches in his chair and opens a letter which we hear sung by a young girl who is now seen in the chair stage left)**

**Young Girl: Dear Santa Claus, I write to you, please hear what I say.  
All I want is to see you when I wake on Christmas Day.  
No candy or presents beneath my Christmas tree.  
Just to see your smile Santa is all I ask for me.**

**Santa: (SR)** My, look at this letter I received today.  
It's certainly peculiar, I don't know what to say.  
She asks only to see me, the one gift I cannot give.  
For no one is to see me as long as they live.

**Chorus:** Ho, ho, ho it's very clear. Christmas Day will soon be here.  
Christmas morn we'll want to see....

**Young Girl:** Just your smile Santa is all I ask for me. (Blackout and lights slowly come up dim indicating the passing of time into the evening)

**Chorus:** Ring the bells and sing of cheer tomorrow the big day is here!

**Santa:** Well, now it's Christmas Eve. Once again it's time to leave.  
I wear many hats and I cannot sleep, I'm  
Santa Claus, and Fed Express, and Chimney Sweep! (lights dim as Santa crosses behind to SL and prepares to descend down chimney)

**Chorus:** Time to sleep. Santa Claus will be here, soon to sleep  
He will not arrive unless we fall asleep. Good night.

(Santa descends chimney and steps through to area where young girl is sitting in her chair holding a stuffed animal. She appears to be sleeping. Upon hearing Santa, she stands and holds out her arms feeling around for the cause of the noise. We now see she is blind)

**Young Girl:** Who is there? Please tell me for I cannot see.  
Who is it? I hear you but I cannot see.

**Santa:** Oh, my dear, she's blind. What a lovely child.  
And, all she wants is to see me, and there's nothing that I can do.  
(steps to young girl and holds her hand) Hello my child. How are you?

**Young Girl:** Santa Claus! Thank you for coming to see me.  
It's such a wonderful surprise. I can see you in my heart,  
I'm filled with so much joy. Although I cannot see you with my eyes.  
And, Santa Claus I still believe and you're special to me.  
For Faith comes in believing in the things you cannot see.  
We cannot explain but we hope and we pray  
That we all see the meaning that comes on Christmas Day.

**Chorus:** Ho, ho, ho it's very clear, Christmas lives throughout the year.  
We've been blind but she taught us to see.  
Live for one another in peace and harmony.

**Young Girl:** Santa Claus, next to me, hear what I say.  
I have no gift to give you on this special Christmas Day.  
I love you, and Santa, my smile is what I give.  
And I'll always love you Santa as long as I live.

**Chorus:** Ho, ho, ho it's very clear, Christmas Day is always here.  
Sing a joyous song of cheer: "Merry Christmas all and a Happy New Year.

(As chorus continues singing, Santa reaches in sack of toys and pulls out a teddy bear for young girl. He takes her over to the chorus who welcome her. She joins in singing as Santa exits up chimney)

(All wave to Santa as he exits)      Ho, ho, ho it's very clear, Christmas Day is always here.  
Sing a joyous song of cheer: "Merry Christmas all and a Happy New Year.

## The End

GRANDMOTHER: Now do you understand that Christmas is more than just presents?

BOY: Yea. Presents are just a small part of Christmas.

GRANDMOTHER: I hope everything we talked about tonight helps you to understand more about Christmas and the music of Christmas.

KIDS: (ad lib) Yeah! I learned a lot. I had fun, grandma.

GRANDMOTHER: Before you go, I have a couple of surprises for you. First, (hands them each a cookie), here are the cookies I promised you. (Kids thank her) And, now you're going to hear one last song before your mom and dad come to pick you up. This is a song about an angel looking down on Bethlehem that first Christmas, and guess what? I'm going sing the part of the angel.

\*In premiere production, Grandmother was an excellent soprano. If this character does not sing soprano, end text **after: *This is a song about an angel looking down on Bethlehem that first Christmas***

KIDS: Oh, good!

## **"THE ANGEL SINGS"** (SSAATTBB Chorus and Soprano Soloist)

**Chorus:**      AH----

**Solo:**          Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo, Gloria!  
Gloria in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo!

**Chorus:**      Bethlehem child, the Savior of the world is born in a manger.  
The Angel sings to the newborn child.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <u><b>Chorus:</b></u>                                | <u><b>Angel (Soprano Soloist):</b></u> |
| <b>Sing! The Angel sings</b>                         | <b>Gloria!</b>                         |
| <b>Above the manger where the child is sleeping.</b> | <b>In excelsis deo.</b>                |
| <b>A song of joy to the newborn King!</b>            | <b>Gloria! In excelsis deo.</b>        |

**Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo!  
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo!**

**Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo!  
Gloria! Gloria in excelsis deo!**

**(This is repeated with chorus singing contrasting motions which form a rich harmony under the soloist. The soloist sings her own unique melody, not a typical descant)**

**Sing Glory in excelsis Deo  
Sing Glory in excelsis Deo  
Sing Glory in excelsis Deo  
Sing Glory to God!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

**Sing Glory in excelsis Deo  
Sing Glory in excelsis Deo  
Sing Glory in excelsis Deo  
Sing Glory to God!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!**

**GIRL:** You were great, grandma.

**BOY:** I had a real nice time tonight, grandma.

**GIRL:** Me, too! Thanks for teaching us about music and Christmas.

**GRANDMOTHER:** I've had a wonderful time, too. Now, one more song before you have to go?

**KIDS:** Yeah!

**GRANDMOTHER:** O.K. This is called "My Wish For You", and it says a lot of good things that I hope for you as you grow up.

### **"My Wish For You"**

**(Solo with optional SATB background)**

**Solo:** My wish for you is a Merry Christmas,  
A Christmas to last the whole year through.  
A year where each day is in a very special way,  
Like this happy, joyous holiday.

**My prayer for you is that your life will be happy  
The Christmas kind of happiness each day.  
A year that's filled with peace, and friends, and family  
For you these are the things for which I pray.**

**Not candy canes or presents underneath the Christmas tree  
Or standing underneath the mistletoe.  
Not watching snowflakes falling on a cold December night  
While sitting by the warmth of a fire's glow.**

**My wish for you is a greater joy  
A Christmas kind of year that's filled with love.  
For as you wake each day you'll know in a very special way  
That our greatest Christmas gift came from God above.**

**My wish for you is a Merry Christmas,  
A Christmas to last the whole year through.  
And when Christmas comes again, just make the same wish for your friends  
And then they can make this wish to someone new.  
And someday the world will be like Christmas the whole year through.  
And someday the world will be like Christmas the whole year through.**

**Curtain Call: Play #1 "Christmas Is For The Young and the Young At Heart"!**

**The End!**