

# **THE NURSERY NATIVITY**

**A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR YOUNG  
CHILDREN**

**by**

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# THE NURSERY NATIVITY

## STORY OUTLINE

Nursery rhyme characters, led by Father Christmas and Little Boy Blue, help two children to understand the meaning of the Nativity story. They come to life in their dreams on Christmas Eve, and nursery rhyme characters act out the Nativity during the night. In the morning, Christmas Day, the children celebrate and now understand why they have a room full of presents.

## STAGING SUGGESTIONS

The play can involve a large cast of children. There are several speaking parts with Father Christmas and Little Boy Blue (LBB) having the largest proportion of dialogue. The youngest children can be cast as stable animals. The songs may be sung by the whole cast, and/or by those present on stage, and/or a separate choir (of older children) could be used to bolster the sound. Feel free to adapt stage suggestions to suit your cast and facilities.

Costumes should be obvious and straight-forward. The nursery rhyme characters should be dressed as themselves, but can assume a simple crown, head-dress, or cloak to show they are pretending to be a biblical character.

Piano/vocal scores are available from [www.music-scores.com](http://www.music-scores.com)

### **SPEAKING CHARACTERS:**

Little Boy Blue (LBB)/Gabriel  
Santa (FC)  
Mum  
Christopher  
Susan  
Little Bo Peep/Shepherd  
Mary Had A Little Lamb/Shepherd  
Master/Shepherd  
Dame/Shepherd  
Little Boy Who Lives Down The Lane/Shepherd  
Old King Cole/Innkeeper  
Jack/Joseph  
Jill/Mary

### **NON-SPEAKING CHARACTERS:**

Baa Baa Black Sheep  
Flock of sheep  
Fiddlers Three (1)/Wise Man  
Fiddlers Three (2)/Wise Man  
Fiddlers Three (3)/Wise Man  
Angels  
Stable Animals  
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

*(Overture)*

## **SCENE 1**

*Bedroom. Christmas Eve. Two children, Christopher and Susan, are in bed reading books as they settle down to sleep. Susan is reading Bible stories, while Christopher reads nursery rhymes. Mum tells them tomorrow is Christmas Day, a day to celebrate a special birthday. She tells them that Father Christmas will put presents in their stockings.*

**Mum:** Now come on you two. Settle down to sleep. Tomorrow is a special day, and I don't want you tired and grumpy in the morning.

**Christopher:** What's happening tomorrow, Mum?

**Susan:** Oh don't you know anything?! It's Christmas Day of course. Father Christmas will fill our stockings with lovely Christmas presents.

**Mum:** Yes, it is a special day. A birthday. Now finish reading, and settle down to sleep. *(She exits)*

**Christopher:** Is it Father Christmas' birthday?

**Susan:** No, silly! In my book it says Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Christopher:** But why do we get presents? My book is full of nursery rhyme characters, not Jesus.

**Susan:** You'll understand one day. Now turn your light out. I'm feeling sleepy. Goodnight.

**Christopher:** 'Night.

*(Mysterious, enchanting Christmas music.)*

## SCENE 2

*Still in the bedroom, but beds moved aside left and right to create central space. Blue half light. Large screens/flats looking like 2 giant books are turned around – one is nursery rhymes, the other childrens bible stories.*

*Father Christmas (FC) appears and fills their stockings. Then Little Boy Blue (LBB) peers out of the giant nursery rhyme book to check children are asleep. LBB creeps up behind FC.*

**LBB:** Hello Santa.

**FC:** *(startled)* Uh? Oh, hello Little Boy Blue. What are you doing here?

**LBB:** I overheard the children talk about Christmas. They didn't seem to understand why they get presents when it's not their birthday.

**FC:** Yes, I often wonder myself. My sacks are getting heavier every year. Why can't Mums and Dads just order presents off the internet? It would be much easier. I'm glad it's the last house, and my sack is empty *(waves it in the air)*.

**LBB:** I can see it must be tiring. Perhaps you should have a rest before you fly home. There's a drink and a mince pie here. And a carrot for Rudolph. Sit there and read Susan's book. Now I'll blow my horn to get my friends out of Christopher's book, to help us all understand this special birthday.

**FC:** Good idea, Little Boy Blue. Come blow your horn.

**LBB:** OK then. I'll be the angel Gabriel announcing the wonderful news to the shepherds.

*(Angels enter, singing and dancing. Plenty of razzamatazz! Add additional off-stage singing if necessary.)*

**SONG 1:** Come blow your horn  
Take a big deep breath  
Ev'ryone gather round  
Come blow your horn  
Take a big deep breath  
Ev'ryone hear the sound  
There's faces you know so well  
Helping us all to tell  
This wonderful story  
Not to mention  
Some extra ones as well  
So blow your horn  
Take a big deep breath  
We guarantee one thing  
There's nothing to top it all  
Nothing so musical  
Blow your horn now to begin  
There's nothing to top it all  
Nothing so musical  
Blow your horn now to begin.

**FC:** Now let's get on with the story. It says in the book that there were shepherds watching their flocks. Can you find some?

**LBB:** No problem. I'll see who I can find. (*Exits blowing his horn.*)

### SCENE 3

*Same setting. Little Bo Peep and Mary Had A Little Lamb enter looking for sheep.*

**Little Bo Peep:** Oh, I wish I could find my sheep. Do you think they're hiding here?

**Mary:** Honestly, Bo. If you can't keep an eye on those sheep, we'll have to buy you a mobile phone so you can ring for help.

**Bo:** But who could I call? A policeman?

**Mary:** Yes! A sheep-ing policeman!

**Bo;** Oh, yeah! But I don't understand why Little Boy Blue wants us here.

**Mary:** He needs sheep and shepherds to act out the Nativity story.

**Bo:** But I'm a shepherdess!

*(Sheep gradually enter, with The Master, The Dame, Little Boy Who Lives Down The Lane, and Baa Baa Black Sheep.)*

**Master:** Sheep, shepherds, and shepherdesses. That's what he needs to tell the Nativity story.

**Dame:** And we've brought Baa Baa Black Sheep.

**Little Boy Who LDTL:** Not to mention three bags full of wool.

**LBB:** *(Enters wearing a director's cap with a megaphone.)*  
*(Excitedly)* Lovely, lovely. Just what I need - sheep and shepherds. Now, where do the sheep and shepherds have to go, Santa?

**FC:** Let me see. It says here: "There were shepherds watching over their flock by night. Suddenly, angels appeared in the sky. The angel of the Lord (that's you) *(points to LBB)* said to them (that's you) *(points to Bo, Mary etc)* "Do not be afraid. I bring you glad tidings. Tonight a boy is born. A king. You will find him in a stable, and his name shall be – *(gesturing)* Jesus."

**LBB:** How exciting! OK sheep and shepherds this way. Watch over your flocks. I have something important to tell you. A-hem. *(Grandly)* "Do not be afraid. I bring you glad tidings. Tonight a boy is born. A king. You will find him in a stable, and his name shall be - *(gesturing)* Jesus."

**Bo, Mary, etc** *(General hubbub and approval for LBB's over-acting.)* Ooo. Very good. Wasn't that wonderful news. So exciting. Makes you tingle.

**Mary:** What shall we do then, Little Boy Blue. Er...I mean...Gabriel?

**LBB:** *(Grandly)* "Go to the stable in Bethlehem and worship him."

**Master:** Come on then everybody. I'm the Master, so follow me. Hurry along now. Don't dawdle at the back you sheep. Look lively. Look lively. Hurry along.

**SONG 2:** We're heading off to Bethlehem  
 To see what we can find  
 Shepherds and their flock of sheep  
 Nobody's left behind  
 And step by step  
 And side by side  
 There's plenty room for more  
 Pick up your bags and off we go  
 Jesus Christ is born  
 Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Hallelu! Glory! Hallelujah!  
 Pick up your bags and off we go  
 Jesus Christ is born.

*(After the song Bo, Mary, Dame, Master, Little Boy, and sheep all exit.)*

**LBB:** Isn't this going well Father Christmas?

**FC:** Yes, splendid Little Boy Blue. But now we're going to need some more of your friends. In the book it says Mary and Joseph find an inn, but there's only room for them in the stable. We need a Mary, a Joseph and an Innkeeper.

**LBB:** Of course! I'll ask Jack and Jill. They've gone up the hill to fetch a pale of water. I'm sure they won't mind being Mary and Joseph. *(He blows his horn, and Jack and Jill enter.)* Hello Jack and Jill. Put down your pale of water. I need you to be Mary and Joseph in our Nativity story. You need to ask the Innkeeper for a room at the inn.

**Jack:** But where's the inn?

**Jill:** And where's the Innkeeper?

**LBB:** Oops. I forgot the Innkeeper. I'll go and find someone. (*Exits blowing his horn.*)

#### SCENE 4

*The children's bedroom has now become The Cosy Stable. A sign is hung on one of the giant books, which acts as a doorway.*

**SONG 3:** It's been several days since we left home  
We've been wondering,  
Wondering will we find a place to stay?  
It's been long and tough and we've had enough  
Of travelling, travelling  
And we need a place to stay  
Lord we give our lives to you  
Our faith and trust is place in you  
We're wondering  
Wondering will we find a place to stay?

**Mary:** It's been several months since this began  
I've been wondering, wondering  
Why am I part of this plan?

**Joseph:** And with all the doubts I'm bound to say  
It's frightening, frightening  
But I have the strength to pray

**Both:** Lord we give our lives to you  
Our faith and trust is place in you  
We're wondering  
Wondering will we find a place to stay?

**Jack:** Come on Mary. Let's ask at this inn. *(They walk over to one of the books, which has an Inn sign "The Cosy Stable" hung up. Jack knocks.)*

*There's no answer. (As they turn to go, Old King Cole appears.)*

**Old King Cole:** Can I help you?

**Mary:** It's Old King Cole!

**OKC:** Yes, but really I'm the Innkeeper. Little Boy Blue sent me. Would you like to stay the night at my inn?

**Jack:** Yes we would. We've been travelling for several days and nights, and my wife is expecting a baby.

**OKC:** I'm afraid the inn's full. An old woman (who normally lives in a shoe) turned up with so many children she didn't know what to do. So I gave her the last family room. Sorry.

**Mary:** Oh, dear Joseph. I'm so tired.

**Jack:** Don't worry Mary. We'll find somewhere - even if it's a stable.  
*(They turn to go.)*

**OKC:** Of course! I have a stable! It's not posh, but it is cosy and warm.  
Follow me. I'll show you the way. *(They all exit.)*

## SCENE 5

*The stage has now been transformed into the inside of the stable with animals, manger with baby, straw, etc. During this time Song 4: Born In A Bethlehem Stable is sung. Jill (holding a baby), Jack and Old King Cole are centre stage.*

**SONG 4:** Born in a Bethlehem stable  
Born on a cold winters night  
Born to bring peace everlasting  
Born to turn darkness to light  
Jesus child  
Fast asleep  
Jesus child  
Rock-a-bye  
Dreamily, sleepily, happily  
Born in a Bethlehem stable  
Born on a cold winters night  
Born to bring peace everlasting  
Born to turn darkness to light.

**OKC:** Sorry it's not Buckingham Palace, but it is cosy and warm.

**Jack:** It's just right. Our baby is very happy.

*(Shepherds and sheep enter.)*

**Mary:** We've come to worship Jesus. Gabriel told us we would find him in a stable.

*(LBB and FC enter.)*

**LBB:** Look Santa! The shepherds have arrived. And there's Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. What happens next?

**FC:** It says in the book, "Three kings followed a star to Bethlehem, to worship the new born king. And they found him lying in a manger."

**LBB:** Three kings! Who can I find to help? The Three Bears!

**FC:** *(shakes head)* No porridge.

**LBB:** *(continues thinking hard)* The Three Little Pigs!

**Jill:** *(shakes head)* No wolf.

**LBB:** Three Blind Mice!

**Jack:** *(shakes head)* No farmers wife.

**OKC:** Excuse me Little Boy Blue. May I call for my Fiddlers Three?

**LBB:** Of course! The Fiddlers Three.

*(The music begins, and The Fiddlers Three as Wise Men enter chasing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.)*

**SONG 5:** Following a star to Bethlehem  
Haven't travelled very far  
Though the road is bumpy  
Camel's got the humpy  
Next time we will take the car  
Wo-o, wo-o  
We're following a star this way  
Wo-o, wo-o  
We're following a star this way  
We're following a star this way

Following a star to Bethlehem  
Haven't made a stop for days  
Though our feet are aching  
And our backs are breaking  
Can't be very far away  
Wo-o, wo-o  
We're following a star this way  
Wo-o, wo-o  
We're following a star this way  
We're following a star this way.

*(Eventually, after much chasing à la Keystone Kops they catch up with the star, centre-stage. The Nativity set should now be complete.)*

**LBB:** Well done everybody. You've helped to tell the Nativity story.

**All:** Hurray! Hurrah!

**FC:** Not quite Little Boy Blue. We haven't explained why we get presents at Christmas time.

**LBB:** So why do we give presents at Christmas time, Santa?

**FC:** To celebrate the birth of Jesus. A time when God gave to the world the gift of his son.

**LBB:** And we remember the birth of Jesus by giving and receiving presents. Now we all know. *(Turns to all Nursery Rhyme Characters, using his megaphone.)* Well done everybody. It's nearly Christmas morning. Hurry back to your pages in the book.

*(They all exit, and the stage returns to its initial scene. The 2 children are in bed asleep.)*

## SCENE 6

*The children begin waking up. There are stockings full of presents at the ends of their beds. The light brightens.*

**Susan:** Wake up Christopher! It's Christmas morning. Santa has delivered a stocking full of presents.

**Christopher:** Huh? What? I'm still sleepy. I had a wonderful dream.

**Susan:** But this isn't a dream. We really have got presents.

**Christopher:** I dreamt that the Nursery Rhyme characters acted out the Nativity story. And now I understand why we have presents at Christmas.

**Susan:** That's right. Now stop dreaming, and let's get unwrapping!

**SONG 6:  
(reprise)** Come blow your horn  
Take a big deep breath  
Ev'ryone gather round  
Come blow your horn  
Take a big deep breath  
Ev'ryone hear the sound  
There's faces you know so well  
Helping us all to tell  
This wonderful story  
Not to mention  
Some extra ones as well  
So clap your hands  
And stamp your feet  
It's time to take our bow  
Wasn't it musical?  
Highly original!  
We'll say goodbye for now!  
Oh wasn't it fun to do!  
Hope you enjoyed it too!  
We'll say goodbye for now!

# THE END