

Log it!

Log each song
you sing on your
CCLI Return



BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

A Light And Fluffy Musical Nativity



By Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey

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Musical Nativity***

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theschoolmusicalscompany.com

A PASSION FOR WHAT WE DO!



At **The School Musicals Company**, we feel passionately that all children should be given engaging resources that will help them to grow and learn, and have a huge amount of fun along the way! We want to spark the imagination and nurture a love of drama, singing and musical theatre that will last a lifetime.

We started **The School Musicals Company** to bring stories to life with an up-to-date, humorous approach that actually 'gets kids' and what they enjoy. We know that both children and their teachers want scripts that they can really get their teeth into, filled with intriguing characters who leap off the page. Children are also pretty savvy: they love to sing contemporary, well-crafted songs with strong melodies that are enjoyable – and in no way embarrassing – to perform. When we create a new musical, we tweak, revise and sharpen our scripts and songs based on the feedback of experts – teachers, children and their audiences.

We would love to hear from you! Email us with your comments or reviews and share with us on social media.

Have a great show!

Matt and Tom

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BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

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Printed in the UK by **Pureprint**

ISBN: 978-1-7399005-4-0
First published July 2022

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The School Musicals Company uses paper produced in the UK with elemental chlorine-free pulp, harvested from fully sustainable, renewable forestry.

INTRODUCTION

Our knowledge of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus comes predominantly from the gospels within the Bible. The details vary from gospel to gospel, meaning that our understanding of what constitutes the 'true' story is sketchy at best. As such, the 'traditional' nativity is actually a composite of characters, events and locations, neatly structured and compressed into a tidy story that can be told simply. Nevertheless, even bearing in mind the artistic licence already on display in the 'traditional' nativity, it does seem unlikely that a baking competition took place in a nearby inn, and that the winning cake was delivered as a present to baby Jesus. These elements are clearly fictitious, but we hope help to make 'Bethlehem Bake-Off' a really engaging, accessible and informative piece of theatre. And as the saying goes, sometimes in baking you need to take a whisk.

SYNOPSIS

At an inn in Bethlehem, a special live edition of the popular television programme, Bethlehem Bake-Off, is about to be filmed (**BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF**). The show's presenters welcome viewers to the show, introduce the show's judges – Lou and Saul – and set off the contestants on their first task – to make some delicious unleavened bread.

As the contestants get cracking, Lou and Saul ask some of them – a group of shepherds – what has led them to take part. The shepherds tell the story of their visit by a choir of angels, bringing them news of a very special baby who was to be born in a nearby stable (**TALE OF THE SHEPHERDS**). The shepherds had run all the way to Bethlehem and arrived early – so early that they could take part in the competition.

The presenters make their way over to three other contestants – the Three Wise Men. Their story is equally peculiar, following a star from the East that has led them all the way to Bethlehem (**BETHLEHEM IS A LONG WAY OFF**). We see a flashback of their journey along with their entourage.

Back in the inn, it is time for judging. One of the Wise Men, Balthazar, is delighted when he receives a handshake from Saul. Other people's offerings fall rather flat – literally.

Our presenters introduce a VT reminding us what this special edition of the show is all about – we see Joseph and Mary – on a donkey – as they make their way into Bethlehem (**ONWARDS TO BETHLEHEM TOWN**).

It is time for the second challenge – a special birthday cake. Saul provides some (un)helpful advice and away the bakers go. Josiah asks the angels what constitutes a perfect cake. They acknowledge that baking isn't their greatest strength, but that making anything with love will make it taste much better (**ADD A LITTLE LOVE INTO YOUR RECIPE**).

With five minutes of the challenge remaining, action relocates to the stable. Mary and Joseph are already there. In a manger lies baby Jesus. Gradually the stable fills as first the shepherds and angels, then the Wise Men and production crew enter. The Wise Men offer their presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. The Angel Gabriel then offers his cake – for which he has won Celestial Baker – to Mary and Joseph, and everyone joins in the celebrations (**CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS**).

CHARACTER LIST

The play has been written with 30 speaking parts, though this could easily be adapted (see p.8). There is also plenty to do for a large ensemble. The parts fall roughly into the following groups:

- Presenters, judges and production crew
- Shepherds
- The Three Wise Men plus entourage
- Mary, Joseph and the donkey
- Angels

All characters could be played both by boys and girls, with names altered to suit if felt necessary.

Page 6 details the number of lines spoken by each character.

Page 7 details which characters appear in which sections of the play.

EDITABLE SCRIPT

At The School Musicals Company, we know that schools invariably need to make amendments to the script before handing it out. As such, for a small additional charge we provide a copy of the editable WORD script, just to make the process a little bit easier.

If, having already purchased the main pack and performance licence, you decide that you would like an editable version of the script component, please email us at info@theschoolmusicalscompany.com or use the contact form on the website.

The editable script can also be purchased directly from our website, but only at the same time as the performance licence.

CHARACTERS BY LINES

Characters	Lines	Characters	Lines
Josiah	14	Angel 2	2
Joanna	13	Angel 3	2
Saul	12	Angel 4	2
Lou	11	Angel 5	2
Matthew	7	Angel 6	2
Martha	7	Attendant 1	2
Caspar	6	Attendant 2	2
Melchior	5	Shepherd 4	1
Balthazar	5	Shepherd 5	1
Shepherd 1	4	Shepherd 6	1
Shepherd 2	4	Attendant 3	1
Shepherd 3	4	Attendant 4	1
Mary	4	Attendant 5	1
Joseph	4	Innkeeper	1
Angel 1	3	Innkeeper's Wife	1

CHARACTERS IN EACH SECTION

The bulk of the action in 'Bethlehem Bake-Off' takes place in the inn where the competition, divided into two tasks, is being held. Two flashbacks occur during this time, telling the story of the shepherds and the Wise Men. At one point, we also leave the inn to watch Mary and Joseph as they close in on Bethlehem. The final part of the nativity relocates the action to the stable.

Because there are no specific scenes, it may be useful to view the nativity in sections. The characters and songs for each section can be seen below:

Section	Characters	Song
Prologue	Presenters, Judges, Contestants, Production Crew, Ensemble	Bethlehem Bake-Off
Task One	Presenters, Judges, Shepherds, Angels	Tale Of The Shepherds
Wise Men Flashback	Three Wise Men, Entourage, Ensemble	Bethlehem Is A Long Way Off
Mary & Joseph VT	Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Ensemble	Onwards To Bethlehem Town
Task Two	Presenters, Judges, Angels	Add A Little Love Into Your Recipe
The Stable	Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, Shepherds, Wise Men, Angels, Ensemble	Christmas, Christmas

ADAPTING FOR SMALLER CASTS

If you need to adapt 'Bethlehem Bake-Off' for a smaller cast, you may wish to consider the suggestions below. For a small additional charge, we can provide you with an editable script to make the process a little easier (email us at info@theschoolmusicalscompany.com)

- Reduce the number of attendants from five to two, redistributing lines as necessary.
- Reduce the number of shepherds from six to three, redistributing lines as necessary.
- Reduce the number of angels from six to three.
- The Innkeeper's Wife's line could be given to the Innkeeper.

If you have a particularly small cast but would still like to put on the play, get in touch with us and we will happily talk through other ideas.

ADAPTING FOR LARGER CASTS

In terms of ensemble/non-speaking roles, you could add as many production crew, shepherds, angels, attendants, sheep and stable animals as your stage can safely accommodate.

If you wish to increase the number of speaking roles, try the following:

- Give some of the production crew some lines during the 'presenter' sections.
- Write some lines for the camels of the Three Wise Men.
- Add an extra scene before the action relocates to the stable, during which we see Angel Gabriel being awarded the prize of 'Celestial Baker'.
- Add an extra scene in which we see/hear some of the residents of Bethlehem talking about the competition and wondering why it was taking place.

If you would like any help with the adaptation process, please email tom@theschoolmusicalscompany.com for further ideas or a request for additional dialogue.

STAGING SUGGESTIONS

The play uses the framing device of a baking competition which conveys and reflects upon the events leading up to the birth of baby Jesus. The Inn, complete with workbenches for the bakers, should remain on stage for all but the final part of the play which takes place in the stable. Keep plenty of space free in front of the benches, though, for the flashbacks and exterior moments.

Focus On The Performance

The general rule with a production is to keep things as simple as possible and focus on the performance of the children – ensuring that they can be heard, that they are clear and expressive, and that they are where they are meant to be at the right time! Of paramount importance, too, is that each child can be seen by their loved ones in the audience.

Keep Up The Pace

Beyond the performances, another key consideration is how to keep the play moving at a good rate, avoiding lengthy transitions between scenes and ensuring the movement on and off stage is done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Here are some suggestions about how to approach this, depending on the resources available to you:

- Bring people on and off from every possible entrance and exit, perhaps even through the auditorium – and practise the logistics lots!
- Use scene change music to keep the audience interested and involved in the action. Some is mentioned in the script, but use backing tracks for any of the songs if you feel they enhance the production.

Additional Staging Suggestions

- Whenever possible, stage things as far forwards as you possibly can. Downstage Centre is the most powerful position on stage that helps connect with the audience.
- Use repeated actions and movement within the songs. Not only does it make it more interesting to watch, but it also helps children to remember the lyrics.
- Try to vary the levels on stage with carefully positioned blocks or treads.
- If you have lighting available, create different lighting states to capture the feel of the different locations and moods.

PROPS

A few choice items of baking equipment would add to the feel of the nativity and help the contestants with their acting and baking. Real food is best avoided, but cardboard cakes and bread designed by the children would be a nice alternative.

Other props include the gold, frankincense and myrrh offered to Jesus by the Three Wise Men, a manger and doll for baby Jesus, and perhaps some makeshift cameras and furry microphones for the production crew.

SONG NOTES

BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF (p.15)

The opening song is a light-hearted, up-tempo number that should be a lot of fun for the cast to perform. It outlines the traditional 'ingredients' for a nativity, including shepherds, angels, kings and camels. The song follows a simple verse-chorus structure, with three verses, the first and third of which are the same.

TALE OF THE SHEPHERDS (p.18)

The second song is sung by the shepherds and sheep (and full ensemble if desired), telling of their visit by the angels to learn of the birth of baby Jesus. The song comprises four verses, each telling part of the story, so there is quite a bit to learn. Help children to visualize and understand the sequence of events, and with a few actions the song shouldn't prove overly difficult. You may also wish to have the different parts of the story acted out as part of the song.

The sheet music for this song contains different arrangements for the various verses. Should you wish, you could of course stick with one of those arrangements for all four verses.

BETHLEHEM IS A LONG WAY OFF (p.21)

This song represents the journey of the Three Wise Men and their camels as they head from the East to Bethlehem. The beat captures the movement of the camels, especially within the verses. The song comprises a verse-chorus structure, with one additional chorus to finish. The melody is relatively simple, so should lead to a strong vocal performance.

ONWARDS TO BETHLEHEM TOWN (p.23)

This gentle and evocative song takes place when Mary and Joseph are edging closer to Bethlehem after their long journey from Nazareth. It can be sung by the full ensemble, with Mary and Joseph best positioned downstage and continuing their journey through the course of the song. The final chorus has an optional harmony that would work nicely for a group of strong singers.

ADD A LITTLE LOVE INTO YOUR RECIPE (p.25)

This upbeat, bouncy song is sung by the angels (and ensemble) and explores how the process of making a cake is greatly enhanced if it is done with love. There are three verses and three choruses, with a repeat of the final line to bring the song to a close. It might be nice to have small groups of children acting out the instructions in each verse, ending with a wonderful cake to display!

CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS (p.27)

This up-tempo song is great fun and should be very easy to learn. It has two simple verses and a short catchy chorus that is sung after each verse, with an additional chorus to finish. Note the three notes on the "Christmas" of "twinkle this Christmas" which add interest but could easily be missed. Encourage big smiles from your singers, bringing the nativity to a joyful and energetic end.

BEYOND THE STAGE – FURTHER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SPREADING THE JOY

Discuss

What it is about Christmas that creates such excitement, such positivity, and an outpouring of kindness and good-will?

Share examples from your own experiences of Christmas. Do you have any particular traditions that are undertaken each year?

For some people, Christmas can be a very difficult, even unhappy, time of year. Why do you think this might be? What can we do to help?

The Three Wise Men offer gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus. What are each of these things? Why do you think the Wise Men have brought them?

What presents do you like to receive? What about your parents? Can gifts bring as much pleasure to the giver as to the receiver?

Do

A nativity provides a wonderful array of possible drawing and designing activities: posters, programmes, costumes and characters are a great way of immersing children in the production and generating momentum towards the performance.

Everyone loves a bit of cutting and sticking, so get the glue, the scissors and the coloured card and set to work on things like Advent calendars, Christmas cards of favourite scenes, or even Christmas decorations to brighten up the school hall.

Make a list of the gifts you think one of your friends or parents would like for Christmas.

Design your own wrapping paper and wrap up some cardboard boxes to go under your classroom Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS BAKING

Discuss

A Christmas Cake is very much part of the Christmas traditions within the UK. It usually contains currants, sultanas and other dried fruit, and is often topped with white icing. Has anyone ever eaten Christmas Cake? Did you like it? What might the white icing represent, given the time of year?

What gets baked in your house at Christmas? Are there particular things that your family does every year?

Do

Design a new type of Christmas Cake that you would love to eat. Draw and colour it, and write out some of the ingredients with your teacher's help.

NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

Everybody loves a wordsearch, especially when it's full of words guaranteed to get you in the mood for Christmas.

Remember, the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.
Your teacher can remind you what these terms mean.

There are also a couple of extra Christmas words hidden in there.
See if you can find them too!

ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
CENSUS
DONKEY
KINGS

JOSEPH
MARY
SHEEP
SHEPHERD
STABLE

A	N	B	E	C	E	D	M	A	R	Y
G	B	D	O	B	A	J	O	M	A	B
I	A	E	C	E	N	S	U	S	J	S
F	N	L	T	S	G	B	E	S	O	H
T	B	B	S	H	E	P	G	V	B	E
J	B	A	H	Y	L	N	F	B	E	P
W	O	T	R	W	I	E	D	H	T	H
E	Y	S	D	K	H	R	H	T	S	E
R	P	G	E	D	O	N	K	E	Y	R
T	R	H	F	P	S	H	E	P	M	D
Y	E	J	G	S	H	E	E	P	B	E
C	R	I	B	M	A	R	C	E	N	S

BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

SCRIPT

An Inn in Bethlehem. A number of workbenches are lined up, each with a contestant standing frozen behind, and judges frozen to one side. If so desired, camera operators could be dotted around and other members of the production crew.

Three of the four presenters enter.

Joanna (calling off) Josiah? Where are you? We're starting.

Josiah (from off) I'm coming, just putting on my donkey costume.

Martha What? Why are you doing that?

Josiah How do you mean? I was told by one of the producers that I was an ass.

Matthew That's not ... she didn't mean ... oh just come on, will you!

Josiah enters. He has big donkey ears on, along with a tail and perhaps some whiskers.

Josiah What do you think? Do I look good?

The others look him up and down, then shake thier heads.

Others Neighhhhhh!

All (to camera) Welcome to the Bethlehem Bake-Off.

Everyone unfreezes as music to the opening song begins.

BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

One amazing baby,
Lying in the hay,
Add his mother Mary,
Resting from the day,
Then there's Joseph and a donkey.

It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's the story that you know,
We've just mixed it with some dough.
It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's delicious and it's sweet,
It's a tasty little treat.

Sprinkle in some shepherds,
Scatter in some sheep.
Don't forget the angels,
Looking very chic.
Magi from the East on camels.

It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's the story that you know,
We've just mixed it with some dough.
It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's delicious and it's sweet,
It's a tasty little treat.

One amazing baby,
Lying in the hay,
Add his mother Mary,
Resting from the day,
Then there's Joseph and a donkey.

It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's the story that you know,
We've just mixed it with some dough.
It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's delicious and it's sweet,
It's a tasty little treat.

It's the Bethlehem Bake-Off,
It's the story that you know,
We've just mixed it with some dough.

Joanna Bakers, welcome to The Inn and this very special edition of Bethlehem Bake-Off.

Josiah In your first challenge, Lou and Saul (*gesturing towards them*) would like you to make the perfect unleavened bread.

Martha This can be as fancy or as simple as you like.

Matthew Much like Lou and Saul. Judges, any tips?

Saul Yes, work quickly ...

Lou And don't get distracted.

Josiah Thanks, judges. I can see why they pay you the big bucks.

Joanna You have one hour. Ready ...

Josiah Set ...

All Bake.

The contestants busy themselves behind their counters. Lou and Saul walk over to three of them who are working near each other.

Lou Hello. How are our shepherds then?

Saul I see you've all flocked together.

Lou Is that a joke?

Saul Um ... well I ...

Lou I'd stick to the baking if I were you. (*turning back to the shepherds*) So, what led you all to take part in Bethlehem Bake-Off?

Shepherd 1 It was who, not what.

Shepherd 2 A choir of angels.

Saul Angels?

Shepherd 3 Yes, sent down from Heaven.

Saul I see. Are they baking fans then?

Shepherd 1 (*gesturing towards the angel contestants nearby*) It looks like some of them are.

Shepherd 2 But they didn't visit us to talk baking.

Lou No?

Shepherd 3 They came to talk babies. Well, one particular baby actually.

Music starts and the shepherds, along with the additional shepherds, move into the 'fields'.

TALE OF THE SHEPHERDS

**There we were a-sitting,
Sitting with the sheep,
Just a little bleating
Keeping us from sleep.
Suddenly a light came
Shining down from the sky,
And our world was changed
In the blinky blinky blink of an eye.**

**Slowly they descended,
Drifted through the air.
Everything was quiet,
All we did was stare.
Then a voice was speaking,
Said we'd nothing to fear.
And we must admit,
It was just the thing we wanted to hear.**

**Go to Bethlehem,
It isn't very far.
Lying in a stable
Underneath a star,
You will find the baby Jesus
There in the hay.
Then they said goodbye
And they spread their wings and floated away.**

**We were so excited,
All our fear had gone.
From the hills we hurried,
Got a wriggle on,
Made our way into the town
To see where he lay,
Cos the angels said
We should go to meet our Saviour today.
Cos the angels said
We should go to meet our Saviour today.**

Angel 1 You will find baby Jesus in a stable.

Angel 2 He will be wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Angel 3 And lying in a manger.

Shepherd 4 What about our sheep? Can they come?

Shepherd 5 They love an outing.

Shepherd 6 I'm not sure that's a good idea: there's an awful lot of them.

Angel 4 Leave your sheep, no harm will come to them.

Angel 5 Hurry to Bethlehem.

Angel 6 Follow the star. It will guide you to the stable.

The angels exit. The shepherds disperse and we return to the inn.

Saul A remarkable story. So what are you doing here then? This isn't a stable.

Shepherd 1 We ran so quickly, we got here a bit early.

Shepherd 2 The stars don't come out during the day.

Shepherd 3 So we thought we'd do some baking. We all love baking.

Lou Wonderful. Well, good luck.

Saul I'm sure you'll rise to the occasion.

Lou It's unleavened bread, Saul!

Saul I know, but I couldn't help myself.

Action shifts to the four presenters who are with three other contestants, very wise looking men.

Joanna *(reading from a cue card)* So, here we have Caspar ...

Caspar Present.

Joanna Melchior ...

Melchior Present.

Joanna And Balthazar ...

Balthazar Present.

Josiah Three presents.

Caspar We have indeed. Gold ...

Melchior Frankincense ...

Balthazar And myrrh.

Caspar They are offerings for the baby. We have travelled a long way.

Martha It says here you have come from the East.

Melchior Yes, we have been following a star.

Matthew You too?

Balthazar No, us three.

Matthew I mean, like the shepherds. Were you visited by angels too?

Balthazar We were not. But we saw the star in the East and knew of its huge significance

Melchior So we set off on our camels to pay homage to the baby.

Joanna How was the journey? It sounds ... bumpy.

Josiah And humpy.

Caspar It was. But we knew it would be worth it.

Music begins. The Three Wise Men join their 'camels' and entourage at the front of the stage.

BETHLEHEM IS A LONG WAY OFF

Bumpy bumpy journey,
We travel from afar,
Sitting on our camels,
And following a star.
From the East together
To meet a baby boy,
Here to bring us joy.

Bethlehem is a long way off,
But we will find our way.
Bethlehem is a long way off,
As night turns into day.

Pacing ever onwards,
Another sun and moon,
To the West we hurry,
We hope we get there soon.
Still the star it leads us,
Towards the baby boy.
Here to bring us joy.

Bethlehem is a long way off,
But we will find our way.
Bethlehem is a long way off,
As night turns into day.

Bethlehem is a long way off,
But we will find our way.
Bethlehem is a long way off,
As night turns into day.
We will find our way.

Attendant 1 *(to the other attendants)* Do you think we're nearly there?

Attendant 2 I hope so: I think I'm getting a blister.

Attendant 3 Only one? I've got blisters on my blisters.

Attendant 4 It's certainly further than I thought.

Attendant 5 I know. Who would have thought following a star across the night sky would be such a long journey?

Attendant 1 I hope we're following the right star. There's plenty to choose from.

Attendant 2 Don't worry about that. The Wise Men aren't called Wise Men for no reason. Come on, let's pick our feet up.

They hurry off. The Wise Men dismount their 'camels' and return to their counters as action returns to the competition.

Josiah You must be ravenous after a journey like that.

Joanna This is no time for eating. Well, not for them at least. Everybody, it's judgement time in our first challenge. Lou and Saul will now taste your unleavened bread.

Lou and Saul walk over to each of the contestants in turn, giving their bread a cursory glance. Now and then they utter some comments.

Saul Bit dry.

Lou A little lacking in flavour for me.

Saul You've overworked it.

Lou Did you run out of time?

They arrive at Balthazar. They taste his bread.

Lou Delicious. Crisp. Chewy. Plenty of flavour.

Saul looks at Balthazar and holds his eye for a moment. Then he offers his hand. Balthazar shakes it happily.

Saul I can't fault it.

Balthazar gasps. The other Wise Men smile generously and give him the thumbs up.

Martha A Bethlehem handshake! That alone's worth the long journey.

Matthew And speaking of journeys, let's take a look at the reason for our special edition today.

Joanna A young couple, Mary and Joseph, travelling from Nazareth for the Roman census.

Josiah It's not been easy for them, especially as Mary is with child, but they haven't far to go.

Mary and Joseph enter at the front of the stage, along with their donkey and other people making their way to Bethlehem.

ONWARDS TO BETHLEHEM TOWN

They came from afar
Under sunlight and stars in the sky.
Their journey was long
So they had to be strong to get by.

Onwards to Bethlehem Town,
At times it was scary
For Joseph and Mary,
Onwards to Bethlehem Town,
And mile after mile they were counting down.

They knew they were late,
Would a room be awaiting them there?
With worries and aches,
They would gratefully take anywhere.

Onwards to Bethlehem Town,
At times it was scary
For Joseph and Mary,
Onwards to Bethlehem Town,
And mile after mile they were counting down.

Onwards to Bethlehem Town,
At times it was scary
For Joseph and Mary,
Onwards to Bethlehem Town,
And mile after mile they were counting down.

Joseph We're nearly there, Mary: I can see Bethlehem on the horizon.

Mary That's wonderful. How far is the horizon?

Joseph Hmmm, hard to say. Not too far.

Mary Do you think we will find a place to stay?

Joseph I'm sure we will. Bethlehem is known for its warm welcome. Come on, donkey. Clip clop.

They exit. Action shifts back to the inn.

Martha	Wonderful. Now then bakers, it's time for your second challenge.
Matthew	Lou and Saul would like you to make a very special birthday cake. It should be delicious and fit for a king.
Joanna	Judges – any tips?
Saul	Try not to burn it.
Josiah	Very useful, thank you.
Joanna	Lou, anything to add?
Lou	Yes. Focus on the three Ts: taste, texture ... and timing.
Josiah	Much more useful. Bakers – ready ...
Martha	Set ...
All	Bake.

The bakers busy themselves. The presenters move over to the angels.

Josiah	So, Angel Gabriel, what makes a cake fit for a king?
Angel 1	Plenty of butter, I imagine. I don't know really, I've never baked a cake before.
Angel 2	We're more into singing than baking.
Angel 3	Perhaps we could combine the two.
Angel 4	That's a great idea. A singing cake!
Angel 5	I think, perhaps, a song about baking might be a little less ... strange.
Angel 6	Absolutely. The recipe for a perfect Christmas.
Joanna	Well we'd love to hear one. If you've got the time ...
Angel 1	We're angels. There is always time for a song.

Music begins as additional angels enter to form their 'choir'.

ADD A LITTLE LOVE INTO YOUR RECIPE

How do you make the perfect cake?

What do you need to do?

Weigh things well,

And butter your tin,

Warm the oven too.

And add a little love into your recipe,

Recipe, recipe.

Add a little love into your recipe,

And see how sweet it tastes.

Butter and sugar, mix them well.

Sensibly sift the flour.

Add the eggs,

But don't overbeat,

Folding keeps the air.

And add a little love into your recipe,

Recipe, recipe.

Add a little love into your recipe,

And see how sweet it tastes.

Into the tin and in it goes,

Ready to rise and shine.

Watch and wait,

And then decorate,

It will look divine.

And add a little love into your recipe,

Recipe, recipe.

Add a little love into your recipe,

And see how sweet it tastes.

Add a little love into your recipe,

And see how sweet it tastes.

Martha

Bakers, you have five minutes left before the judges assess your cakes and one of you receives the prize of 'Celestial Baker'.

Josiah

Five minutes left!

*There is plenty movement from the bakers, suggestive of last-minute panicking. In the process, they vacate the stage as incidental music (**Onwards To Bethlehem Town – Incidental Music**) plays and the scene changes to the stable.*

Mary and Joseph are sat beside a manger, baby Jesus already in swaddling clothes and lying on the hay. A variety of animals are also present – the stable’s regular occupants.

The innkeeper and his wife stand close by.

Joseph Thank you, again. I don’t know what we would have done if you hadn’t found us a space in your stable.

Innkeeper I’m glad we could help. It’s not much, but it’s warm at least.

I’keeper’s Wife I’m sorry you have had to share it with the animals.

Mary It’s perfect. Thank you. This is where Jesus was meant to be born.

The shepherds enter quietly.

Shepherd 1 May we come in?

Shepherd 2 We were visited by angels, telling us of the baby.

Shepherd 3 A shepherd to look after us all.

Mary Please, come. He’s fast asleep in the manger.

The shepherds move further in.

The Three Wise Men enter along with their entourage.

Caspar We have travelled from the East to offer our gifts on behalf of the world.

They kneel beside Jesus.

Caspar Gold.

Melchior Frankincense.

Balthazar Myrrh.

The presenters, judges, angels and production crew also enter.

Matthew Room for a few others?

Joanna We have one more surprise ... from the winner of the Bethlehem Bake-Off ... Angel Gabriel.

Angel Gabriel enters, carrying a lovely-looking cake.

Angel Gabriel In centuries to come, people all over the world will remember this night and the birth of Jesus. Families and friends will join together in celebration. They will share gifts and dine together. It will be a time of great joy, and they will call it ... Christmas.

CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS

**Ev'ry year in December,
When it's dark and rather cold,
There's a world full of splendour,
What a wonder to behold.**

**Christmas, Christmas, twinkle this Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas, lighting up the land.
Christmas, Christmas, twinkle this Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas, lighting up the land.**

**It's a time full of kindness,
In the presents that we share,
Put our quarrels behind us,
Show our love and show we care.**

**Christmas, Christmas, twinkle this Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas, lighting up the land.
Christmas, Christmas, twinkle this Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas, lighting up the land.**

**Christmas, Christmas, twinkle this Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas, lighting up the land.
Christmas, Christmas, twinkle this Christmas,
Christmas, Christmas, lighting up the land.**

BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

**SHEET MUSIC
FOR PIANO, VOCAL
& GUITAR**

BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

Words and Music by MATTHEW CROSSEY and TOM KIRKHAM

Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 130 Swing

6

One a-ma-zing ba-by, _____ ly-ing in the hay, _____
 Sprin-kle in some shep herds, _____ scat-ter in some sheep. _____
 One a-ma-zing ba-by, _____ ly-ing in the hay, _____

10

Add his mo-ther Ma-ry, _____ rest-ing from the day, _____
 Don't for-get the an-gels, _____ look-ing ve-ry chic. _____
 Add his mo-ther Ma-ry, _____ rest-ing from the day, _____

14

Then there's Jo-seph and _____ a don-key. It's the Beth-le-hem Bake-Off. It's the
 Ma-gi from the East _____ on cam-els.
 Then there's Jo-seph and _____ a don-key.

18

A B E

sto-ry that you know, we've just mixed it with some dough. It's the Beth le hem

21

A

1.2. B

Bake- Off. It's de - li-cious and it's sweet, it's a tast-y litt-le treat.

24

3. B E

tast-y litt-le treat. It's the Beth-le-hem Bake - Off. It's the

27

A B E

stor - y that you know, we've just mixed it with some dough.

TALE OF THE SHEPHERDS

Words & Music by TOM KIRKHAM & MATTHEW CROSSEY
Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 130 With a Bright Energy

A

There we were a - sitt - ing sitt -
Slow - ly they des - cen - ded, drif -

4

ing with the sheep, just a lit - tle bleat - ing keep - ing us from sleep.
ted through the air. E - v'ry thing was qui - et, all we did was stare.

7

D D7 A

Sud - den ly a light came shin - ing down from the sky,
Then a voice was speak - ing, said we'd noth - ing to fear.

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10

E D⁷

And our world was changed in the blin-ky blin-ky blink of an eye.
And we must ad - mit, it was just the thing we wan-ted to hear.

13

A

Go to Beth-le-hem, it is -

16

- n't ve-ry far. Ly - ing in a sta-ble, un__ der-neath a star,

19

D D⁷ A

you will find the ba-by Je - sus there in the hay.____ Then they

23

E D⁷ A

said good bye and they spread their wings and float-ed a - way.____

26

A

We were so ex - ci - ted, all____ our fear had gone. From

29

D D⁷

the hills we hur - ried, got____ a wrig - gle on. Made our way in - to the town

32

A

____ to see where he lay,____ Cos the

35 E D⁷ A

an - gels said we should go to meet our Sav-iour to-day.

38 E D⁷

Cos the an - gels said we should go to meet our Sav-iour to-day.

41 A E A⁷

BETHLEHEM IS A LONG WAY OFF

Words and Music by MATTHEW CROSSEY and TOM KIRKHAM
Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 158 Steadily

Ab Eb Bb Db Eb

Bum-py bum-py
Pa-cing e-ver

6 E Db Eb Db Db Eb E

jour-ney, we tra-vel from a-far. Sit-ting on our ca-mels, and
on-wards, a-no-ther sun and moon. To the West we hur-ry, we

11 Db Eb Db F# Ab Eb F# Ab

fol-lowing a star. From the East to-ge-ther to meet a ba-by
hope we get there soon. Still the star it leads us, to-wards the ba-by

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16

E \flat D \flat B \flat E \flat /G B \flat /F

boy, boy, Here to bring us joy.

21

A \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat

Beth - le-hem is a long__ way off, but we will find our way.__

25

A \flat E \flat B \flat To Coda B \flat D.S. al Coda

Beth - le-hem is a long__ way off as night turns in - to day.__

29

Ø B \flat A \flat B \flat E \flat

We will find our way.

ONWARDS TO BETHLEHEM TOWN

Words and Music by MATTHEW CROSSEY and TOM KIRKHAM

Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 148 With expression

Measures 1-4 of the piano introduction. The treble staff features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. Chords E and F#m are indicated above the staff.

Measures 5-8. The treble staff has rests for the first three measures, followed by a half note in the fourth. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Chords B, A, and E are indicated above the staff. The word "They" is written below the treble staff.

Measures 9-12. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics. The bass staff provides accompaniment. The lyrics are: "came from a - far un - der sun - light and stars in the knew they were late, would a room be a - wait - ing them".

Measures 13-16. The treble staff has rests for the first three measures, followed by a half note in the fourth. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. Chords F#m, A, B, and E are indicated above the staff. The lyrics are: "sky. there? Their jour - ney was long With wor - ries and aches".

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18

F#m

so they had to be strong to get by.
they would gra - teful - ly take a - ny - where.

22

A

B

E

On - wards to Beth

26

B

F#m

- le - hem Town, At times it was sca -

30

A

B

E

- ry for Jo - seph and Ma - ry. On - wards to Beth -

34

F#m

le - hem Town, And

37

B

A

E

mile af - ter mile they were coun ting down.

41

1.
B

A

E

They

45

2.
E

B

On - wards to Beth - le - hem Town, At

49

F#m C A⁶

times it was sca - ry for Jo - seph and Ma -

52

B E F#m

- ry. On-wards to Beth - le - hem_ Town, and

57

B A E

mile af - ter mile they were coun-ting down._____

61

B A E

ADD A LITTLE LOVE INTO YOUR RECIPE

Words and Music by TOM KIRKHAM & MATTHEW CROSSEY

Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 130 Swing

C Am⁷ Dm G C Am⁷ Dm⁷ G

5 C A⁷/C[#] Dm⁷ G⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ C

How do you make the per - fect cake? What do you need to do?__
But - ter and su - gar, mix__ them well. Sen - si - bly sift the flour..
In - to the tin and in__ it goes, re - ady to rise and shine..

9 Am D F G

Weigh things well and but - ter your tin. Warm the o - ven too. And
Add the eggs but don't o - ver - beat. Fol - ding keeps the air.
Watch and wait and then de - co - rate. It will look di - vine.

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13 Dm⁷ G C⁶ Em/C Dm⁷ G C⁶ C⁷

add a lit-tle love in-to your re-ci - pe,___ re-ci - pe,___ re-ci - pe.---

17 Dm⁷ G C⁶ A Dm⁷ G⁷ 1.2. C Am⁷

Add a lit-tle love in-to your re-ci - pe,___ and see how sweet it tastes.

21 Dm G C Am⁷ Dm⁷ G 3. C

25 Dm⁷ G C⁶ A Dm⁷ G⁷ C

Add a lit-tle love in-to your re-ci - pe, and see how sweet it tastes.---

CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS

Words and Music by MATTHEW CROSSEY and TOM KIRKHAM

Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 116 Joyfully

C F C G⁷ C F

4 G G⁷ C F C

Ev' - ry year time in De - cem - ber, When it's
full of kind - ness, In the

7 Am G F

dark and ra - ther cold, There's a world full of
pre - sents that we share, Put our quar - rels be -

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 116 beats per minute, marked 'Joyfully'. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into three systems. The first system consists of three measures with chords C, F, C, G7, C, and F. The second system starts at measure 4 and includes the lyrics 'Ev' - ry year time in De - cem - ber, When it's full of kind - ness, In the'. The third system starts at measure 7 and includes the lyrics 'dark and ra - ther cold, There's a world full of pre - sents that we share, Put our quar - rels be -'. The piano accompaniment includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and chords.

10 C Am G

splen - dour, What a won - der to be - hold.
hind us, Show our love_____ and show we care.

13 C F C G⁷ G C F

Christ-mas, Christ-mas, twin-kle__ this Christ mas, Christ-mas, Christ-mas,

16 G G⁷ C C F C G⁷ G

ligh-ting up__ the land. Christ-mas, Christ-mas, twin-kle__ this Christ - mas,

19 C F G G⁷ C G G⁷ C

To Coda D.S. al Coda

Christ-mas, Christ-mas, ligh-ting up__ the land.__ ligh-ting up__ the land.__

ONWARDS TO BETHLEHEM TOWN

INCIDENTAL MUSIC

Music by MATTHEW CROSSEY and TOM KIRKHAM

Arranged by TOM KIRKHAM

♩ = 148 With expression

Chord: E

Chord: B

5

Chord: F#m

Chord: A⁶

8

Chord: B

Chord: E

Chord: F#m

12

Chord: B

Chord: A

Chord: E

17

Chord: B

Chord: A

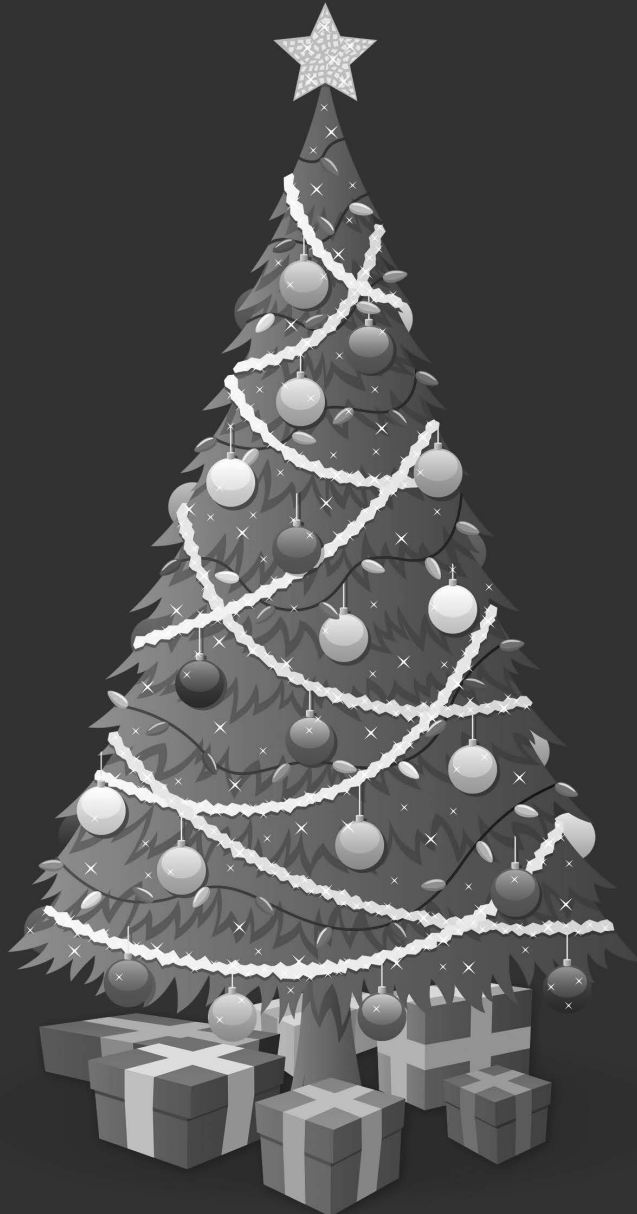
Chord: E

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Three children, two girls and one boy, are shown from the chest up, singing with their arms raised and mouths open. They are positioned behind the title text.

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BETHLEHEM BAKE-OFF

It's the night before Christmas, and Bethlehem is holding its annual baking competition. This year, though, there are a few surprise contestants: some shepherds from the local fields, a choir of angels from the heavens, and three wise-looking chaps who arrived on camels.

As the competition progresses, we learn what brought them all to Bethlehem: a very special baby is to be born in a nearby stable, and they are here for a slice of the action.

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