

**SLEEPOVER AT THE STABLE:
A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL**

Play by Douglas J. Eboch

Music and Lyrics by Lauren Mayer



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**Sleepover at
the Stable:
A Christmas Musical**

Music and lyrics by Christy Long

Script by Douglas J. Eboch

CAST OF CHARACTERS**DONKEY****MULE****GOAT****COW****CHICKENS 1, 2, and 3****SHEEP****CHOIR*****PRODUCTION NOTES***

Synopsis: It's bedtime at the stable and the menagerie is snoozing soundly. Suddenly, two humans crash the scene! The humans' donkey strikes up a conversation with the other animals. Their repartee gives a play-by-play of the birth of baby Jesus. There's the trio of Chickens who say everything in triplicate, the grouchy Goat who's trying to sleep, the weary Donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem, the kind Cow, the chatty Sheep, and the wisecracking Mule. There isn't a single human in this charming performance, but still the complete Nativity story is told.

Cast: The Chickens are written so they may be played by younger children who might have difficulty with memorization. You may expand the number of children involved by having them sing in the choir.

Costumes: The animals may be easily conveyed with symbolic costuming. Donkey may be dressed in brown, and Mule may be dressed in gray. Both of them should wear long ears made of felt to match the color of their costumes. Goat may be dressed in white with a small beard and horns. Cow

may be dressed in white with large black spots. Sheep may be dressed in white with cotton balls glued to the costume. Chickens may be dressed in yellow with construction paper beaks. The children in the choir may wear animal costumes or robes if desired.

Lighting: Some simple lighting instructions are included, but if your performance venue is without theatrical lights, simply disregard these directions. The play is equally effective either way.

Set and Staging: Use bales of hay to create varied levels for staging. Goat, Mule, Cow, and Donkey reside in stalls Upstage. The four stalls may be conveyed by cubicle dividers covered in brown paper for a rustic look, or simply by hay bales stacked up. If a spotlight is unavailable, you will need to hang a large cardboard star covered with aluminum foil from the ceiling. The Chickens should run around energetically — like chickens! When the animals look at the humans in their stable, they look out toward the audience.

Music: This musical features five original songs with piano accompaniment. Solo parts are suggested throughout. Smaller groups may prefer that all the characters sing every song without solos. Do what works for your group's size, age, and experience.

All Scripture is taken from the King James Version.

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SONG LIST

1. **Bethlehem Lullaby**
2. **One Foot in Front of the Other**
3. **Star, Star, Star**
4. **Glory Be to God on High**
5. **Wake Up!**

1 (*MULE, GOAT, and COW are in place at their stalls.*
 2 *CHICKENS are Downstage. If available, lighting suggesting*
 3 *moonlight reveals the stable where the ANIMALS sleep.*)
 4

5 **SONG: "Bethlehem Lullaby"**

6 **ALL:** (*Singing*) **Peaceful night, silent night,**
 7 **Quiet fills the air tonight.**
 8 **As Bethlehem turns out its lights,**
 9 **You hear this quiet lullaby ...**

10
 11 **Chorus:**
 12 **Lu, rah, lu, rah, lu, rah.**
 13 **Lu, rah, lu, rah, lie.**
 14 **Lu, rah, lu, rah, lu, rah**
 15 **In Bethlehem tonight.**
 16 **Lu, rah, lu, rah, lu, rah.**
 17 **Lu, rah, lu, rah, lie.**
 18 **Lu, rah, lu, rah, lu, rah,**
 19 **A Bethle'm lullaby.**

20
 21 **Close your eyes, rest your head.**
 22 **Snuggle safely in your bed.**
 23 **As moonlight shines in sunlight's stead,**
 24 **You hear this quiet lullaby.**

25
 26 (*Repeat chorus*)

27
 28 **Peaceful night, silent night,**
 29 **Hear this Bethle'm lullaby.**

30
 31 (*A commotion awakens the ANIMALS, and DONKEY enters,*
 32 *taking an empty stall next to MULE.*)

33 **DONKEY:** Good evening.

34 **GOAT:** Quiet! I'm trying to sleep.

35 **DONKEY:** I beg your pardon?

- 1 MULE: Don't mind him, kid.
- 2 COW: He's in a bad mood because all the coming and going
3 at the inn has kept us awake.
- 4 CHICKEN 1: He's always —
- 5 CHICKEN 2: Always —
- 6 CHICKEN 3: Always —
- 7 CHICKEN 1: In a bad mood.
- 8 GOAT: Shut your beaks, Chickens!
- 9 COW: I wonder what's going on tonight that all the humans
10 are running about so?
- 11 DONKEY: The human king has ordered them to return to
12 the place of their ancestors so they may be counted.
- 13 GOAT: Humph. Typical human foolishness. I'll tell you how
14 many there are. Too many!
- 15 DONKEY: I like my humans. They are very kind.
- 16 CHICKEN 1: Look!
- 17 CHICKEN 2: Look!
- 18 CHICKEN 3: Look!
- 19 MULE: Those two act like they intend to sleep here.
- 20 GOAT: Ridiculous!
- 21 DONKEY: Those are my humans. There's no room at the
22 inn, so they must sleep in the stable with us.
- 23 GOAT: Well, that's just terrific. Just what we need — a
24 bunch of smelly humans in our stable. Probably snore,
25 too.
- 26 MULE: No creature snores as loud as you, Goat.
- 27 CHICKEN 1: None!
- 28 CHICKEN 2: None!
- 29 CHICKEN 3: None!
- 30 GOAT: Quiet, Chickens!
- 31 MULE: Oh, fine! Go ahead, sleep in the hay. That's just our
32 dinner for the next week.
- 33 GOAT: See? This is what I'm saying. Humans in the stable
34 are nothing but trouble.
- 35 MULE: (*Ignoring GOAT*) So, kid, where are you from?

1 DONKEY: Nazareth.

2 MULE: Nazareth! That's quite a journey.

3 DONKEY: Yes, I'm very tired. I've traveled many days with
4 the woman on my back.

5 GOAT: You carried *her* all the way from Nazareth? No
6 wonder you're tired. She must weigh a ton.

7 DONKEY: She's going to have a child.

8 GOAT: Yeah, I can see that. She looks ready to birth any
9 moment.

10 COW: It's a shame she must travel at this late stage.

11 DONKEY: She is more weary than I am. It was a hard
12 journey for her.

13

14 *SONG: "One Foot in Front of the Other"*

15

16 Chorus:

17 DONKEY: (*Singing*) Put one foot in front of the other.

18 Walk with me, soon you will discover.

19 Put one foot in front of the other.

20 God is there, taking care of you and me.

21

22 Feeling like my hooves are on fire.

23 A little shade is all I desire.

24 This heavy load and long, long road are killing me.

25

26 (*ALL repeat chorus*)

27

28 ALL: (*Singing*) Mary, Mary, how did you do it?

29 Many miles, but you stuck to it.

30 A bumpy ride, great with child,

31 Still you are here.

32

33 (*ALL repeat chorus*)

34

35 ALL: (*Singing*) Put one foot in front of the other.

- 1 MULE or ALL: (*Speaking*) Left! Right! Left, right, left!
- 2 ALL: (*Singing*) Walk with me, soon you will discover.
- 3 MULE or ALL: (*Speaking*) Left! Right! Left, right, left!
- 4 ALL: (*Singing*) Put one foot in front of the other.
- 5 MULE or ALL: (*Speaking*) Left! Right! Left, right, left!
- 6 ALL: (*Singing*) God is there taking care of you and me.
- 7 God is there taking care of you and me.
- 8
- 9 MULE: Well, kid, welcome to Bethlehem. Time to hit the
- 10 hay. (*The ANIMALS settle in to sleep.*)
- 11 CHICKEN 1: Look!
- 12 CHICKEN 2: Look!
- 13 CHICKEN 3: Look!
- 14 GOAT: What is it now, you lousy chickens?
- 15 MULE: The humans! The woman is about to give birth!
- 16 GOAT: Ewwww!
- 17 COW: You hush, Goat. This is a beautiful moment.
- 18 DONKEY: I wonder if it will be a boy or a girl. It's their
- 19 first, you know.
- 20 MULE: How exciting!
- 21 DONKEY: Come on, Mary! You can do it!
- 22 COW: She's almost there ...
- 23 CHICKEN 1: It's a boy —
- 24 CHICKEN 2: Boy —
- 25 CHICKEN 3: Boy!
- 26 COW: He's beautiful.
- 27 MULE: They named him Jesus.
- 28 COW: That means "Savior" in the human language.
- 29 GOAT: (*Imitating COW*) "That means 'Savior' in the human
- 30 language." Aren't we just soooo smart. He looks awful
- 31 small to be a savior.
- 32 COW: Size isn't everything.
- 33 MULE: He looks cold.
- 34 GOAT: That's another problem with humans. Not enough fur.
- 35 DONKEY: They're wrapping him in swaddling clothes.

1 GOAT: Oh, don't put him there! Ugh ... I have to eat out of
2 that manger!

3 COW: He's just a baby, Goat.

4 DONKEY: Yeah, leave him alone.

5 MULE: I don't mind letting him use the manger.

6 GOAT: What a bunch of softies. Well, he'd better be out
7 before breakfast, that's all I can say. (*A bright light, if*
8 *available, appears from above.*)

9 MULE: What's that?

10 COW: It looks like ... a star.

11 CHICKEN 1: Star!

12 CHICKEN 2: Star!

13 CHICKEN 3: Star!

14 DONKEY: But it's so bright.

15 COW: What could it mean?

16 GOAT: I'll tell you what it means. It means I'm not getting
17 any sleep at all tonight.

18 COW: Keep it down, Goat. You'll wake the baby.

19 GOAT: Bah!

20

21 SONG: "Star, Star, Star" (*ALL sing except GOAT, who is trying*
22 *to sleep.*)

23

24 ALL: (*Singing*) More than a twinkle, more than a light

25 There in the sky on this Bethlehem night.

26 Telling the whole world, "The Savior is here!"

27 Filling the night with the news of good cheer.

28

29 Chorus:

30 CHICKENS: (*Singing*) Star, star, star,

31 ALL: (*Singing*) Show us the way.

32 CHICKENS: (*Singing*) Star, star, star,

33 ALL: (*Singing*) To Jesus today.

34 CHICKENS: (*Singing*) Star, star, star,

35 ALL: (*Singing*) A radiant light.

1 **CHICKENS:** *(Singing)* Star, star, star,

2 **ALL:** *(Singing)* In Bethlehem tonight.

3

4 Follow the light to the bed where he lay.

5 Beautiful Jesus, asleep in the hay.

6 Who would have thought that this child of low birth

7 Would bring salvation to all of the earth?

8

9 *(ALL repeat chorus)*

10

11 **Bridge:**

12 **ALL:** *(Singing)* Glowing, growing,

13 Streaming and flowing.

14 Pointing, guiding,

15 Bethlehem star abiding.

16

17 *(ALL repeat chorus twice.)*

18

19 **DONKEY:** He's so cute.

20 **COW:** And well-behaved. My first cried nonstop. *(They all*

21 *watch the baby and make faces at him, except for GOAT who*

22 *tries to sleep. A commotion sounds from Off-stage.)*

23 **MULE:** What now?

24 **GOAT:** Great. Just as I was finally falling asleep.

25 **DONKEY:** It looks like some shepherds.

26 **GOAT:** Don't tell me! First humans and now sheep?

27 **COW:** There's only one, and he seems to be hurt, poor dear.

28 *(SHEEP enters, limping.)*

29 **SHEEP:** Hello there.

30 **CHICKEN 1:** Hello!

31 **CHICKEN 2:** Hello!

32 **CHICKEN 3:** Hello!

33 **GOAT:** Quiet. Animals sleeping here.

34 **COW:** Don't mind him. What's going on?

35 **SHEEP:** It's the most amazing story!

- 1 GOAT: And I suppose you're going to tell it.
2 SHEEP: I'd be delighted.
3 GOAT: That's what I was afraid of.
4 COW: Please go on, Sheep. The rest of us are interested.
5 SHEEP: Well, we were sleeping in the hills, like we do every
6 night. The shepherds were gathered around their fire,
7 talking. They let me sit with them because I'd hurt my
8 leg. It was the silliest thing. I was trying to reach a
9 bush across this tiny little crevice ...
10 GOAT: Get to the point!
11 SHEEP: Oh, right. Where was I?
12 MULE: Sitting around the campfire.
13 SHEEP: Yes, we were sitting around the campfire when
14 there was a blinding light in the sky. It was an angel!
15 It was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. Even
16 more beautiful than the lake by the mountains at
17 sunset, which is saying a lot because ...
18 GOAT: The point, Sheep.
19 SHEEP: Right. The angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I
20 bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to
21 all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of
22 David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall
23 be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
24 swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:10-12).
25 DONKEY: Hey, like Jesus!
26 GOAT: Duh!
27 SHEEP: Wait, I'm not done yet. Then a whole bunch of
28 angels appeared and they all were singing. They said,
29 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good
30 will toward men" (Luke 2:14).
31 GOAT: Peace among humans. Not likely!
32 COW: Quiet, Goat. What happened next?
33 CHICKEN 1: Yeah, what happened next —
34 CHICKEN 2: Next —
35 CHICKEN 3: Next?

1 **SHEEP:** The shepherds ran all the way here. One of them
 2 carried me because they didn't want to leave me alone
 3 because of my leg.

4 **COW:** Do you realize what this means?

5 **GOAT:** I'm going to be very tired tomorrow?

6 **COW:** No. It means this is a holy child.

7 **CHICKEN 1:** Holy.

8 **CHICKEN 2:** Holy.

9 **CHICKEN 3:** Holy. (*The ANIMALS watch the baby quietly until*
 10 *song begins.*)

11

12 **SONG:** "Glory Be to God on High" (*ALL sing except GOAT.*)

13

14 **SHEEP:** (*Singing*) Angel hosts now fill the sky,
 15 Sending forth a mighty cry.
 16 Not just one and not just two,
 17 But lots of angels bring the news.

18

19 **Chorus:**

20 **ALL:** (*Singing*) Glory! Glory! is our song.

21 Can you hear the angel throng?

22 With the choir in the sky, sing

23 "Glory be to God on high!"

24 Christ is born in Bethlehem,

25 Peace on earth, goodwill to men.

26 Listen to the angels cry,

27 "Glory be to God on high! Glory be to God on high!"

28

29 **SHEEP:** (*Singing*) Praise the babe born in a stall.

30 Christ is worthy of it all.

31 Rejoice! Rejoice! for God is here.

32 Leave your flocks and gather near.

33

34 (*ALL repeat chorus*)

35



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