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### A SHEEP-ISHLY FUN CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR KIDS

CREATED BY CHRISTY SEMSEN

ARRANGED BY

Approximate Performance Time: 40 Minutes

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## EDITED BY ANISSA SANBORN MUSIC TRANSCRIBED AND ENGRAVED BY BRENT ROBERTS COVER DESIGN BY DARNELL JOHNSON ART PRODUCTION BY FUDGE CREATIVE



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## **FOREWORD**

am excited to introduce you to the new musical, "All About that Baby!" In a return to a more traditional Christmas Nativity setting, this musical takes place in Bethlehem in the two days Leading up to Jesus' birth. But in a non-traditional "twist," this musical features some very cool talking and rapping sheep (the humans are oblivious to these talented sheep!). We get to peek into two different worlds with different perspectives on the events preceding the birth of Christ.

The musical is narrated off-stage by "Older Nathaniel," while we see a younger Nathaniel (played by another actor) living through the adventure as it happens. After Nathaniel, a slightly absentminded shepherd who dearly loves his sheep, literally runs into Joanna and her little sister Simone who are in Bethlehem to be counted in the census), he invites them to the fields to meet his sheep and his sheepher. siblings. Little do they know that evening they will get a front row seat to the angels' annumce of the birth of Jesus. As the children and sheep react to the angels' news of the birth of a Baby King, Nathaniel wonders if it is really all about that Baby!? Eventually, the sheep steep the roup in a mad dash to the Nativity where they all kneel and quietly worship the Baby Jesus in the manger

It is my hope and prayer that each child who sings these songs and he ars the message will learn about God's Gift of His Son and will feel the wonder of the Christmas story again! As the songs revisit the feelings that people felt as they were waiting for a Messiah to free them from their captivity, I pray that your kids will recognize the need in their own lives to be freed from the captivity of sin. May God bless each one of you for your faithfulness as you serve Him in the lives of these kids!

Feel free to contact me with questions or to share the great things that God is doing in your groups. Check out my Facebook group: "Christy Semsen's Epic Gids Choir Forum." You can become a member and use it as a resource to communicate with other directors who have posted questions, photos, and nail.com and I'd love to hear from you personally. videos of their productions. My email is csemsentos I'm thrilled to be part of this journey with you!

#### Christy Semsen

## animent DVD

- g in Bethlehem arn erscore 1A)
- Morning in Bethlehem (Und rscore 1B)
  - Waiting for a Miracle with
  - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- Sheep Trip (Underscore 2)
- 5. Sheep Stuff
- 6. A Deep, Dark Night (Underscore 3)
- 7. Messiah
- 8. All About that Baby
- 9. Star in the Sky We Three Kings
- 10. Plan B (Underscore 4)
- 11. SFX-Crickets

- 12. Sheep Run (Underscore 5)
- 13. That Holy Night with O Holy Night
- 14. He Shall Reign Forevermore
- 15. Hope for a Broken World with Sheep Stuff and All About that Baby
- (Reprise) 16. Sheep Bows

Optional SFX (on data disc #2) Field Atmosphere Town Atmosphere



Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE. NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION\* NIV Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society\* Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

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## **Morning in Bethlehem**

(Underscore 1A and 1B)



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#### SCENE 1

[1] music begins to "Morning in Bethlehem (Underscore 1A)"]

(Lights come up slowly on a Bethlehem street where we see two girls: the older girl is gathering flowers and her little sister is playing with sticks and small rocks.)

#### **OLDER**

NATHANIEL: (narrating from offstage, starting in meas. 9) That day began just like any other day. I woke up early and was leisurely strolling through the field to take my turn watching the sheep. a shepherd running frantically across the stage. covering on, and eating pita bread. Music stops abruptly at meas. 14 and the shepherd freezes in a funny, panicked posed freezing right before bumping into the two girls). Okay, okay. I had intended to get up early, but as usual, things weren't going quite like I'd planned. I know, I know . . . it's hard to believe, but I wasn't always the polished, respected shepherd I am today . . .

> (Action resumes [3] music begins to "Morning in Bethlehem [Underscore]

(56) Opt. SFX Jown Anne sphere)

into Oops—sorry. I'm just running a little late! NATHANIEL: (to girl he bumpe

There sure are a lot of people traveling today.

census. We all have to be counted by decree of Caesar JOANNA:

ustus. I'm Joanna and this is my little sister, Simone.

(eagerly) Want to stay and play with us? SIMO

Sorry—I need to go watch my sheep. Nice to meet you. Gotta **goooo!** (runs off stage)

THANIEL:

(narrating from offstage) What I didn't know was that day had set into motion events that would change the course of my life . . . and of history . . .

(Scene continues with kids in biblical costumes walking as if to Bethlehem. [4] was music begins to "Waiting for a Miracle with O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" During song, Mary and Joseph enter and sing.)



## Waiting for a Miracle

with

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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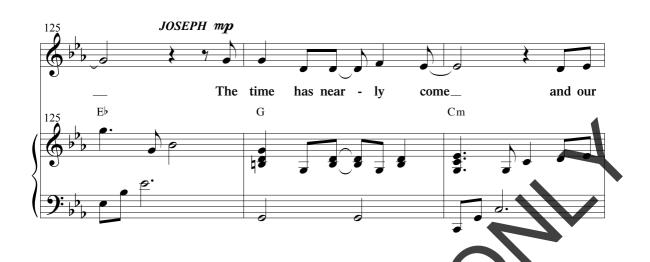


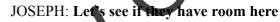




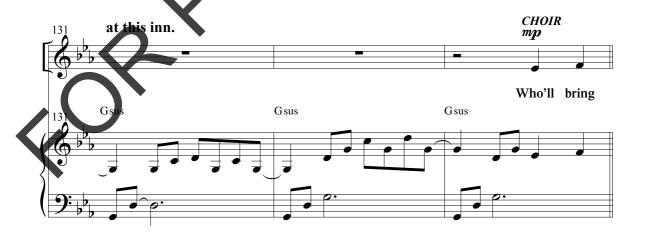
















#### SCENE 2

( 55 "Opt. SFX - Field Atmosphere" begins. Shepherds Abigail, Miriam and Judah stand talking in an open field watching their sheep [on hands and knees] that are clustered in the center of the stage.)

ABIGAIL: (irritated) Where is Nathaniel? He's late again! His shift was supposed to start ... well ... when the sun was there (pointing in the sky) and now it's there (pointing over a bit).

MIRIAM: (kindly) Don't be so hard on him, Abigail. You know he gets . . . distracted. Besides, I like having a break – being out in the fields. I think it's peaceful out here.

[ 10 224 music begins to "Sheep Trip (Underscore 2)"]



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There's enough to do helping Mom at home. (As she sits down, Nathaniel enters stage left, running towards Beatrice the sheep.) I can sit back, put my feet up and— (music ends abruptly. Nathaniel freezes just before tripping over Beatrice. Miriam, Abigail and Judah freeze as well.]

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) Those are my sisters and my older brother.

Everyone in the family helps out in the pasture. They're on the

early morning shift.

(Nathaniel unfreezes and tumbles over Beatrice, a sheep on her hands

and knees)

NATHANIEL: Oof!

MIRIAM: Oh, there you are, Nathaniel! How was the trip through town?

JUDAH: (dryly) Better than this latest 'trip" over the sheep?

MIRIAM: I heard people have been arriving by the hundreds. More people

than I have ever seen!

NATHANIEL: (matter of fact) I tripped over some nice kids: Joanna and Simone.

They're here for the census. (suddenly intense and excited) But on to more important things: the sheep. How's Max's foot? Has Beatrice been getting enough exercise? I promised JoJo I would help-him stretch out his left hind foot; he injured it last week in

our self-defense class.

ABIGAIL: (condescending) They're sheep, Nathaniel. Seriously....you talk

about them like they're your friends.

NATHANIE: (high pitched; protests too much) Pff – ha –what???? They're just

sheep, Abigail. Don't be crazy. What kinda person would be

friends with sheep?

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) I was friends with the sheep. I had the greatest

adventures with them. For me, it was all about those sheep.

ABIGAIL: Have fun with your "friends," Nate. We'll be back when the sun

goes down.

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL:

(from offstage) I had a peaceful, easy feeling with my sheep. I mean, I knew they couldn't actually talk, but when I looked in their eyes it was like I could almost hear what they were thinking . . .

music begins to "Sheep Stuff". During the song, the sheep rise to stand on two legs to perform the rap; these sheep are cool and have unique personalities. Oblivious, the human characters are unaware of the sheep's conversation and conversion, and continue to talk to the other shepherds).

## **Sheep Stuff**



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#### SCENE 3

( 56 Opt. SFX-Town Atmosphere)

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) Before I knew it, my shift was over and I was

running back through town, thinking about the great meal I

would have.

(Nathaniel runs on stage, totally distracted, and is about to bump into

Joanna and Simone again but they quickly sidestep him.)

JOANNA: Whoa... running shepherd alert! You really don't stand still

long, do you?

SIMONE: (excited, grabs Nathaniel for a long hug) Nathaniel! Can we come

on an adventure with you? I'm bored.

NATHANIEL: (still squeezed by Simone) Well, I'm that heading home for

supper—

JOANNA: We have some leftover food would you like some? We're staying

right here at the inn. We were lucky to get a room, actually. The

innkeeper told Papa it was the busiest he'd seen it in years!

NATHANIEL: (considering) Well, I guess I could eat with you and then take you

to see my sheep.

SIMONE: (excitedly chants) Sheep! Sheep! See the sheep!

JOANNA: (aughing) She just wants to avoid going to bed.

music begins to "A Deep, Dark Night (Underscore 3)"]

(The three walk as a group, heading stage left)

OLDER

NATHAMIEL: (from offstage) Simone eventually convinced me and soon we were

walking back to the fields under a deep, dark blanket of night.

NATHANIEL: (talking nonstop) You're gonna love my flock. Now, Beatrice-she's

the feisty one. But then there's Max – he's so cool, the others all

follow his lead. And JoJo – he's just so funny . . .

(The trio continue talking as they exit off stage as stage lights dim.

*Sheep enter stage in darkness.)* 

## A Deep, Dark Night

(Underscore 3)



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NATHANIEL: (from offstage) I could talk about my sheep all day. But little did I

know, something unbelievable would happen that night.

(As lights come up, the sheep are on their hands and knees, talking

amongst themselves in pasture; no shepherds in sight.)

BEATRICE: (opinionated and a bit of a diva; in middle of story) So I thought I

would try it, you know? What harm could it be to try a different style? A straightener would add a few inches and could really

elongate my midriff—

MAX: (Grunt) Beatrice, are you talking about the botched hairstyle you

tried last season? (speaks slowly and emphatically) It hoked like

you had been HIT-BY-LIGHTNING.

BEATRICE: (defensive) It's called a crimping iron, boys! It was totally "on

fleece."

MAX: On fleece?

BEATRICE: It's the latest lingo—I'm told it'll catch on soon. But anyways,

crimped wool was in fashion in the fall. Ask anyone. And that crimper had 5 stars on Shyelp! As for the wool treatment – I had that mud imported from the pasture at Lambton Abbey. If CeCe hadn't left the mud in so long I could have been the top

fashionista in the field.

JOJO: You were certainly the dirtiest. (sheep giggle) It was... baaaad.

BEATRICE: (losing patience and responds by punctuating each word) IT-WAS-

SUPPOSED-TO-EVAPORATE! The wool was supposed to—

music begins to "Messiah" on page 37. As music begins, an angel suddenly appears upstage in a bright spotlight)

(nervous, hears the music but doesn't notice the light) Stop playing

games, Beatrice. You're sheeeepin' me out!!

BEATRICE: Uh . . . that's not me. Max?

MAX: (taking earplugs out of his ears) Sorry, I had my ewe plugs in.

What's happening?

(another angel appears upstage in a bright spotlight right before

*trumpet blast)* 

CECE: (points at angel and shields her eyes) What is that?

BEATRICE: Baa! Oh my sheeeepness!

MAX: Stay calm everyone ...

JOJO: Let's try a new technique I learned at sheep defense class last

week: The Sheepinator! (motions to them) Huddle close and move

as one – left, right, left, right.

(all sheep – on all fours – sway left to right.)

BEATRICE: (deadpan) I feel silly.

MAX: This seems like just swaying. What's this supposed to do?

JOJO: I heard it scares away predators!

(another angel or two appears on tage or in a spotlight as choir

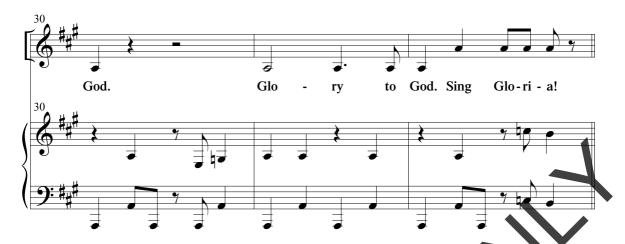
begins singing)

### Messiah



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BEATRICE: (swaying) It's not working! There are more of them appearing!

CECE: Swaaaay faster! (the sheep start swaying doubletime













(During interlude, sheep sway and lift lft arms and legs one at a time, rocking side to side in a type of routine)

NATHANIEL: (meas. 94) What in the world?

ABIGAIL: (running in) Nathaniel? There you are! Are you seeing this?!

NATHANIEL: Are the sheep okay?

ABIGAIL: (in disbelief) They're ... they're ... well, it looks like they are .

... dancing. (second guessing herself) That can't be right ...?

















### SCENE 4

(Angels exit; Shepherds, Simone and Joanna pantomime excitedly to each other during narration)

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) We could barely contain our shock and excitement

in what the angels had told us. Had the Messiah really been born And why would the angels choose to tell shepherds? As I've said before, I was not always the "popular public figure" I am today.

And yet we could not ignore what we saw and heard!

(Shepherds freeze; lights up on sheep who are still swaying to the

beat)

BEATRICE: (with eyes still squeezed shut) Did it work? Are they gone?

MAX: (confident) Yep. They're gone.

JOJO: (triumphant) Yes! The Sheepinator worked!

BEATRICE: (shocked) That's your take-away from this?

MAX: Those were angels JoJo We just witnessed something

extraordinary!

BEATRICE: We're going go SEP this Baby, right?

CECE: (cautious) don't know . . . it sounds like a risky journey.

MAX: After seeing that, I don't think we can stay here. Plus, I bet our

main pan, Nathaniel, will want to go. We'll stick with him.

(focus onstage shifts as shepherds unfreeze; sheep freeze in their Sheepinator pose —side by side with the same leg lifted in the air)

SIMONI. (concerned) Are your sheep okay? They haven't moved in a while.

NATHANIEL: Hey, little buddies. Everything alright? Max? Beatrice? CeCe?

JoJo?

SHEEP: (unfreeze) **BAA!** 

NATHANIEL: (relieved) They were just scared. Don't worry, guys; you're safe

and sound.

SHEEP: **BAA.** (sounding like a sound of relief)

JOANNA: Did we really just see that?

MIRIAM: I wouldn't believe it if I hadn't seen it for myself.

ABIGAIL: Were those *real* angels or am I having a seriously weird dream?

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) They were definitely angels! But what was even

more unbelievable was their announcement that the Messiah was

to be born as a Baby!

MIRIAM: But we always thought that He would come with great power.

ABIGAIL: Yes! Everyone will know when the Messiah has arrived!

JOANNA: Definitely. The prophets say that Havill oring a new Kingdom!

NATHANIEL: But the angels said that the Messiah ... is a ... Baby. Could that

be true? What if He isn't supposed to lead a battle here on earth?

Could it be . . . all about that Baby?

(21) music begins to All About that Baby")

## All About that Baby



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### SCENE 5

( 55 "Opt. SFX - Field Atmosphere" begins.)

NATHANIEL: Well, if it's all about that Baby, we gotta go see Him! What are we

waiting for?

ABIGAIL: (skeptical) Let's think this through. Do we really know what we

saw?

JUDAH: I know I was feeling pretty hungry—maybe we imagined it.

ABIGAIL: People will think we are *nuts* if we go running into town talking

about angels!

NATHANIEL: But we have to tell people! The angels entrusted the Good News to

us!

ABIGAIL: (places hand on his shoulder) Listen, Nathaniel. People already

think you're nuts. (brightly) But I still have a chance.

MIRIAM: (apologetic; matter of fact) Its true ... they call you "boy who

talks to sheep."

SHEEP: (obviously short a sideway glance at Miriam) **BAA!** 

JUDAH: I'm out. I gotta go eat somethin'.

ABIGAIL: I'll go with you. (they both exit)

NATHANIEL Well, Pam IN! We have to go tell people about this Baby!

SIMONE. I'm in, too! This is the most exciting thing that's ever happened!

(the Shepherds, Joanna and Simone continue to pantomime talking and planning as lights come up on the sheep; humans don't hear the

sheep talking)

MAX: I'm with "boy who talks to sheep." We've got to see this Baby.

BEATRICE: (self-conscious) Right now? The shiny guys said "king." Did they

say king? I can not go see a king without at least a wool blowout.

That should take ... maybe till dawn if I start right now!

(straightening, dictates an order) CeCe, get me my crimper!!

JOJO: (shakes head) Again with the wool-do? Have you learned nothing?

BEATRICE: Well, I'm smart enough to know you don't go see a king without

at least making a little preparation.

CECE: Look . . . something's happening with Nathaniel.

NATHANIEL: (doubting self) Abigail's right . . . I'm already a laughing stock in

town. Plus, I've got to take care of the flock. Beatrice hasn't been

looking very well.

(Beatrice looks offended.)

BEATRICE: (super-agitated) Not looking well? Well...that's the last time I

defend you, buddy. I'll have you know I haven't been getting my usual 10 hours of sleep. I've been getting nine! And you know what nine hours does to a sheep's body! I'm working under

impossible conditions here! And if you think (cut off by Joanna)

JOANNA: What is going on with your sheep? All focus goes to Beatrice and

we hear what the kids hear: a string of quick monotone baas)

BEATRICE: Baa baa baa baa baa baa baa baa

NATHANIEL: (calming) It's okay, old girl.

BEATRICE: (Beatrice's eyes viden) BAN??? (still bleeting but with the inflection

of "old?")

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) For once, I was going to follow some good advice.

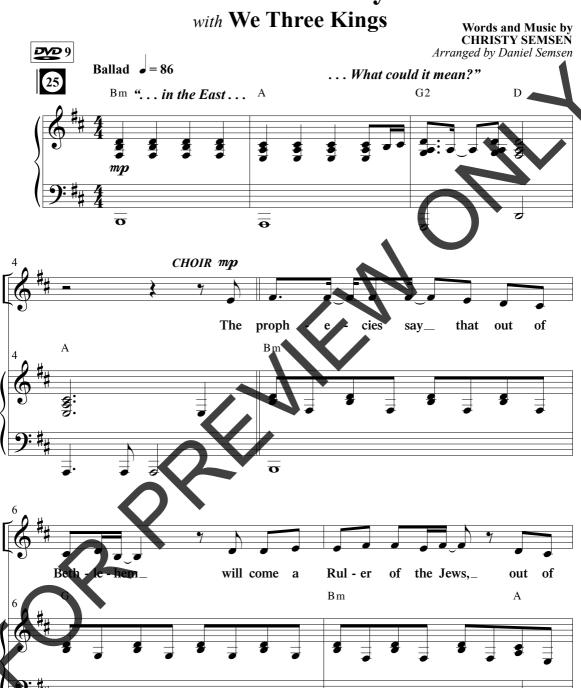
I would stay in the fields and take care of my ailing sheep. I was always too impulsive. And I needed to be responsible. The Baby could wait. What we didn't know was that far off in the East, Wise Men had seen a star and wondered what it could mean.

(from side of stage, the Wise Men study a scroll and point to a far off star on opposite side of stage)

(25 music begins to "Star in the Sky with We Three Kings")

σ

# Star in the Sky



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₹.











WISE MAN 1: Let's bring Him gifts.

WISE MAN 2: One of a kind.

WISE MAN 3: The most expensive treasures we can find.













#### SCENE 6

MAX: I don't care if these humans have gone crazy. Some glowing angel-

beings appeared to all of us. So we are going to go see what they were talking about. It's decided. We are going to see that Baby!

SHEEP: Yay!

BEATRICE: But Nathaniel thinks he should stay here. How can we conkince

him?

JOJO: We could try the Sheepinator again . . . (does the move)

MAX: I don't think so, JoJo. Let's try to communicate with Nathaniel.

Sometimes I almost think he can understand us!

CECE: (worried) What if he doesn't?

MAX: Then we go to Plan B. But let me try first. (turns to Nathaniel and

speaks earnestly and clearly. Nathaniel, I really think we should go see the Baby like the angels said. This could be one of the greatest

moments in history and don't want you to miss out on—

NATHANIEL: (not understanding, pats Max on the head affectionately) Love you,

too, buddy.

JOJO: (briskly) Plan B, then?

MAX: (sign Plan B. / [31] wusic begins to "Plan B

(Underscore 4)" on p. 81] When I give the signal, take off running in the direction the angels said to go . . . but only if I give the

signal. I'll shout, "Find that Baby!"

BLATRICE: (desperate) Oh, let's try to convince him one more time—all

together, this time.

MAX: Be my guest!

JOJO: Huddle up!

(sheep circle around Nathaniel and baa intensely using different

*inflections)* 

SHEEP: BAA, BAA, BAA, BAA, BAA (etc.)



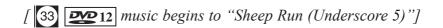


(the sheep stop and look up expectantly at Nathaniel.

32 SFX: Crickets)

SIMONE: (reacting to sheep) Why are they all staring at us?

JOANNA: Your sheep are kinda freaking me out.



**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) And suddenly, the strangest sound came out of

Max.

MAX: Baa...Baa...BABY!!

(Sheep suddenly run off stage. The kids follow frantically behinds

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) Amazingly, it seemed that my favorite sleep had

known to do what I did not: they went to find the Baby And so,





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(When the music abruptly ends, the group stops short of the manger scene and realize where they are.)

(34 music begins to "That Holy Night with O Holy Night)

NATHANIEL: (hushed) Whoa, Max, Beatrice ... I think we're here ...

JOANNA: (hushed, finishes his sentence) . . . where the angels told us the Bab

King would be.

SIMONE: Is this the Baby?

MIRIAM: The King?

NATHANIEL: The Messiah.

# That Holy Night with O Holy Night



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(Realizing the great importance, Nathaniel, the kids and the sheep quietly enter to see the Baby Jesus and reverently bow in worship.)

(spoken dialogue below starts at meas. 61)

KID 1: "For to us a Child is born,

KID 2: to us a Son is given,

KID 3: and the government will be on His shoulders.

KID 4: And He will be called

KID 5: Wonderful Counselor,

KID 6: **Mighty God,** 

KID 7: Everlasting Father,

KID 8: **Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6)













NATHANIEL: (ms. 136) Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. (Isaiah 9:7)

### SCENE 7

### **OLDER**

NATHANIEL: (from offstage) That night, the Savior of the world was born in a stable. And we were the first ones to see Him!

Nearly two years later, the Wise Men would arrive after their long journey. But we never forgot the chance to be among the first ones to know about God's precious Gift.

(Midway through the song, Wise Men process in and lay their gifts before the King)

## He Shall Reign Forevermore



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 $*optional\ harmony$ 

#### SCENE 8

(Older Nathaniel comes out on stage with his sheep)

[ 46 15 music begins to "Hope for a Broken World with Sheep Stuff and All About that Baby (Reprise)"]

**OLDER** 

NATHANIEL: (from onstage) So you see, it was really a night to remember. A night that changed the course of history. Hope was born into a world that desperately needed it. (turns to Max) Ah, Max—I wish you could understand what happened. It changed everything!

MAX: (Max winks at audience) **BAA!** 

## Hope for a Broken World

with Sheep Stuff

and All About that Baby (Reprise)





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NATHANIEL: (meas. 62) That night, Jesus was born and my life was forever changed. I'm ready to tell the world: It's all about that Baby!









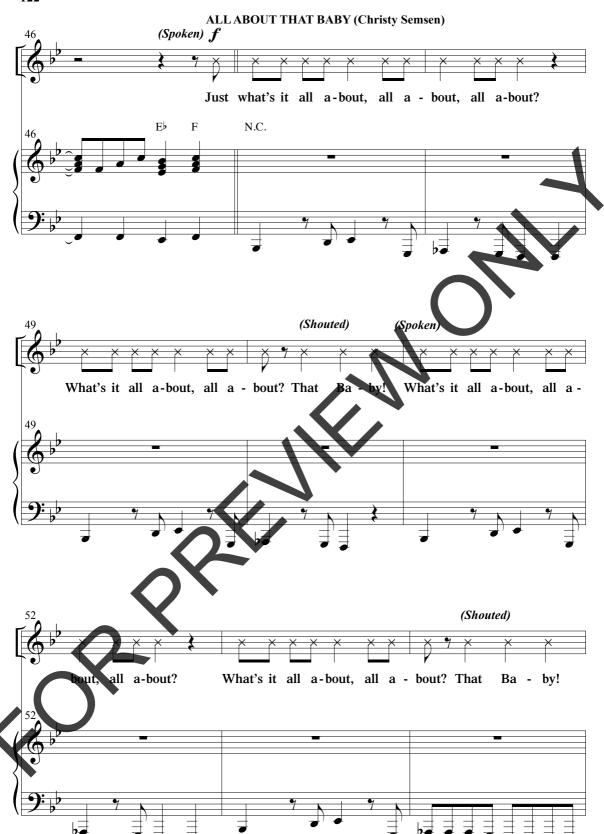
## **Sheep Bows**



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A SHEEP-ISHLY FUN CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR KIDS

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

by Christy Semsen

11 LEAD AND MEDIUM/SMALL ROLES (1 teen or optional adult)

**LEAD ROLES** (many lines)

Nathaniel: Optimistic shepher

who loves his sheep; scatter-brained & ofte

late (solo)

Joanna: Girl traveling to

Beth ehem for census; older sister of Simone

(nala)

Simone:

Girl traveling to Bethlehem for census; younger sister of Joanna (solo)

Older Nathaniel: (adult or teen)

Older version of Nathaniel who narrates

from offstage; Comes out on stage during the

last scene

**Max:** Super cool sheep;

a leader who is gruff but wise and respected (raps) **Beatrice:** Opinionated sheep;

fashion conscious diva

(raps)

MEDIUM/SMALL ROLES (4-8 lines)

Miriam: Shepherd who is

Nathaniel's sister;

sweet and understanding

**Abigail:** Shepherd who is

Nathaniel's older sister;

practical and bossy

**CeCe:** Excitable sheep who is

often nervous (raps)

**JoJo:** Funny sheep (raps)

Judah: Shepherd who is Nathaniel's brother;

man of few words

NAY KOLES (1 line)

**Kid 1-8:** One line each

Wise Man 1: One line

(solo and small trio)

**Wise Man 2:** One line (small trio)

**Wise Man 3:** One line (small trio)

**Joseph:** One line (solo)

**NON-SPEAKING ROLE** 

Mary: (solo)

**OPTIONAL ROLES** 

Townspeople in Bethlehem

Sheep in flock Angels

Angel band

Bethlehem dancers



## **CHARACTERS**

There are 11 main characters, as well as an additional number of bit parts for actors who can manage one line of dialogue (including Joseph and the Wise Men). This musical was written to be flexible. Many of the parts can be modified to fit your program and resources. Perhaps you would like to change some of the boy roles to girl roles. For example, feel free to cast a girl to play Nathaniel! She can be a girl shepherd (like Miriam and Abigail) or you can adjust her costuming to dress her like a boy shepherd.

Many characters in this musical have musical solos in addition to lines of dialogue. However, you are not limited to keep the solos with the actors if they are not strong singers. I never want to keep talented actors from getting cast in a part just because they are not soloists! And, as always, add additional fun parts so all your kids can play a specirole in this musical! For example, add lots of sheep, townspeople in Bethlehem, angels, and dancers – there is LOTS of room in this musical to expand.

## SOLOS OR SPECIAL COMBINATIONS

Song 1: Waiting for a Miracle Solo 1, 2, 3; Simone solo (opt. young child);

Mary-solo; Joseph-solo

Song 2: Sheep Stuff Max-rap, Beatrice-rap, JoJo-rap, CeCe-rap

Song 3: Messiah Angel 3-solo, Angel 2-solo, Angel 3

(or opt Angel 1 & 2 Duet), Choir 1 & Choir 2

Song 4: *All About that Baby* Solo 1, Solo 2, Small group

Song 5: *Star in the Sky*Simone-solo (*opt. young child*),
Nathaniel-solo, Joanna-solo,

Wise Man 1-solo, Wise Men-trio

Song 6: That Holy Night

Song 7: He Shall Reign Forevermore

Song 8: Hope for a Broken World

long 9: **Sheep Bows** 



## **SETTING**

This musical takes place in the town of Bethlehem and in the fields on the outskirts of Bethlehem. The town is overrun with travelers to be counted in the census.

## THEME

It's all about Jesus!

## **PLOT**

This musical takes place in and around Bethlehem in the two days leading up to Jesus' birth. We meet Nathaniel, a slightly absentminded shepherd, who dearly loves his sheep in the family's flock. After literally almost running into Joanna and her little sister Simone (who are in Bethlehem to be counted in the census), he invites them to the fields to meet his sheep and his shepherd siblings. Little do they know that evening they will get a front row seat to the angels' announcement of the birth of Jesus. As the children and sheep react to the angels' news of the birth of a Baby King, Nathaniel worders if it is really *all about that Baby!?* Eventually, the sheep steer the group in a mad dash to the Nativity where they all kneel and quietly worship the Baby Jesus in the manger



#### Choir:

"All About that Baby" T-shirts, available at *wordmusic.com*, are a great costume for your choir! Just add jeans or black pants and black shoes to complete the look!

#### Cast:

One of the great things about presenting a "traditional Nativity" is that many churches already have biblical costumes for children. You can also adapt adult costumes to children with lots of pins and tape.

#### **Nathaniel**

Shepherd's robe, headpiece, staff or shepherd's crook

#### Older Nathaniel

Same shepherd's robe as "Nathaniel" (or as similar as possible)

#### Joanna/Simone

Biblical robes and head coverings

#### Miriam/Abigail/Judah

Shepherd's robe, headpiece, staff or crook; girls wear head coverings

#### Wise Men

Wise Men/kingly robes and crowns; lack clothes, crowns

#### Mary/Joseph

Biblical robes; Mary should wear a head covering

#### Townspeople

Biblical robes



THE COSTUMES

White angel or choir robes (traditional angel) or white pants and shirts, gold fedoras gold sequined bow ties and/or suspenders (modern angel)

#### Angel Band

White clothes with gold sequined fedora hats, gold ties, gold suspenders for "cool" musician angels, sunglasses (opt.: traditional angel robes)

#### **Bethlehem Dancers**

Biblical robes

#### Sheep

Costume the sheep in a white hoody sweatshirt and black pants; add a backwards white baseball cap with fuzzy sheep ears sewn on top. Additionally, encourage the sheep actors to wear some sort of padding on their knees (since they are down on their hands and knees on all fours for a majority of the musical. They can wear volleyball-type pads or make cushions out of tube socks to wear under their pants.).

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO CAST ADDITIONAL ROLES,
BELOW IS OPTIONAL DIALOGUE FOR UP TO 7 ADDITIONAL SHEPHERDS

## SCENE 2

After MIRIAM: Don't be so hard on him, Abigail. You know he gets... distracted.

Besides, I like having a break-being out in the fields. I think it's

peaceful out here.

→ Optional Insert (p. 22)

SHEPHERD 1: (optimistic) That's true. If Father didn't need the extra

help this season, we wouldn't even be out in the fields.

SHEPHERD 2: I hope he gets here soon. We have enough to do without

waiting around forever for Nathaniel to stumble in.

SHEPHERD 3: Oh... you know our lives would be a lot more boring

without our favorite brother around. (all agree)

After JUDAH: (*dryly*) Better than this latest "top" over the sheep?

 $\rightarrow$  Optional Insert (p. 23)

SHEPHERD 1: (agreeably) Come on now...

SHEPHERD 4: Did you see anything interesting?

SCENE 4

After JOANNA: Did we really just see that?

→ Optional Insert (p. 54)

SHEPHERD 4. That was incredible!

SHEPHERD 5: Amazing!

SCENE 5

After JUDAH: I know I was feeling pretty hungry–maybe we imagined it.

→ Optional Insert (p. 66)

SHEPHERD 6: Maybe our minds were playing tricks on us.

SHEPHERD 7: I think we'd be better off staying here in the fields,

watching the sheep.

After ABIGAIL: I'll go with you. (they both exit)

→ Optional Insert (p. 66)

ALL SHEPHERDS: Me, too. Let's go. Outta here! (follow Judah and Abigail)



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ew from Christy and Daniel Semsen and WordKidz, ALL ABOUT THAT BABY is a delightfully fresh presentation of the blessed story of Jesus' birth. We know from Biblical accounts that Mary and Joseph had to find rest in a stable, where the baby Jesus was born. We're told of Wise Men traveling from the East in search of the newborn King, and of shepherds visited by angels and told of His coming. Our new Christmas musical version of the story introduces you to some entirely new, fictional characters, and wonders what it might have been like had they enjoyed a "front row seat" to the events of that holy night!

#### Angels and shepherds and...talking sheep? Oh, my!

People everywhere are making the journey to the place of their birth, in compliance with Caesar's decree that everyone should register for the census. This results in the little town of Bethlehem overflowing with people arriving from out of town. Nathaniel, a lovable but scatter-brained, late-for-work shepherd, bumps into two bf those travelers, Joanna and Simone, as he rushes to take his shift at watching the flock. The other shephere (his sisters Miriam and Abigail), along with Judah, are waiting for Nathaniel–late once again—to arrive. Thus begins a story that is **ALL ABOUT THAT BABY**, with some shepherds, angels, "out-of-towners". and singing, talking sheep to guide us along the way!

Nathaniel may be scatter-brained and disorganized, but when it comes to his sheep he is all business. The other shepherds tease him about "treating the sheep like they were his friends," like real people! To Nathaniel, they are his friends and he takes his job caring for them very seriously, in spite of his perpetual tardiness and seeming lack of focus. And taking care of this particular flock of unusual sheep is no easy task!

Let's meet some of the more well-known members of the flock:

First up, there's **Max**-leader of the flock, gruff, but wise and respected, and he is super cool!

Next, meet **Beatrice**, an extremely opinionated, very fashion forward sheep.

Her makeup routine and constant hairstyle updates are truly epic!

**CeCe** is our ultra, over-the-top-nervous shee

Finally, there's **JoJo**, the jokester of the flock, who makes everybody laugh!

**ALL ABOUT THAT BABY** is a new, sheep-ishly funny story that packs a lot of fun and humor into its presentation. But it never gets away from pointing us back to the true message of that holy night...back to the moment when our Savior was born, bringing great joy and light and life to all people. **ALL ABOUT THAT BABY** points the way to Bethlehem and the gift of salvation that was imparted to human hearts by a loving, heavenly Father who sent His Son to save us from our sins

Make use of the visually dynamic DVD Accompaniment Track and the Instructional DVD to make your presentation of ALL ACOUTTHAT WBY a long-lasting, heart-changing experience for your Kids Choir and congregation alike!



MORNING IN BETHLEHEM (UNDERSCORE 1A & 1B)

WAITING FOR A MIRACLE O COME. O COME. EMMANUEL

SHEEP TRIP (UNDERSCORE 2)

SHEEP STUFF

A DEEP, DARK NIGHT (Underscore 3)

MESSIAH

ALL ABOUT THAT BABY

STAR IN THE SKY WITH
WE THREE KINGS

PLAN B (UNDERSCORE 4)

SHEEP RUN (UNDERSCORE 5)

THAT HOLY NIGHT

O HOLY NIGHT

HE SHALL REIGN FOREVERMORE

HOPE FOR A BROKEN WORLD

WITH SHEEP STUFF

ALL ABOUT THAT BABY (REPRISE)

**SHEEP BOWS** 



