Final

(Lights come up on a snowy, festive town square. Kids are dressed in their Christmas coats and scarves, ready for the town's annual Christmas competition! Kids can be finalizing decorations as they sing. Finalists show their Christmas spirit through visual and performing arts- inspiring the whole county to get into the Christmas spirit. They start moving and singing as soon as music begins to "Christmas in Snowflake County.")

Christmas in Snowflake County

Words and Music by
CHRISTY SEMSEN
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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MAYOR HALLMARK: **Merry Christmas, everyone! As the Mayor of Snowflake County, I officially welcome you all to the spectacular holiday event we look forward to all year long—Snowflake County's Christmas Extravaganza!** *(cheering)* **Today, our town square is THE place to see the biggest, most elaborate Christmas displays in the whole state!** *(cheering, applause)* **We are sure to get you in the Christmas spirit! Now I'd like to introduce my intern, Joey, who has been a fantastic addition to our staff this year. Why don't you give us a little more background on this competition, Joey?**

JOEY: **Each year the contestants use both visual and performing arts to demonstrate the Christmas spirit in unique and creative ways. Gone are the days of basic nativity sets and simple Christmas pageants. If it's been done before, we won't do it! If we want to be relevant, we need to speak the language of today's culture—that means production! That means professionalism! That means performance!**

MAYOR: **Thank you, Joey! Finalists, are you ready with your entries?**

MITCH MISTLETOE: **Just a few finishing touches and we'll be ready for evaluation!**

HOLLY BERRY: **One more tweak, and my team will be ready with our ice skating display!**

CANDIE APPLETON: **I can't wait for you all to see the surprises I've included this year!**

MAYOR: **Excellent! We can't wait to see what new and exciting things each of your teams have created this year.**

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JOEY: **And, as you all know, we pride ourselves here in Snowflake County in staying at the very forefront of technology. I'm sure you all noticed the updates to the competition schedule today, which were on our Snowflake County website.** *(kids agree)*

*(*7 *Christmas texting alert goes off- Joey stops and looks around.)*

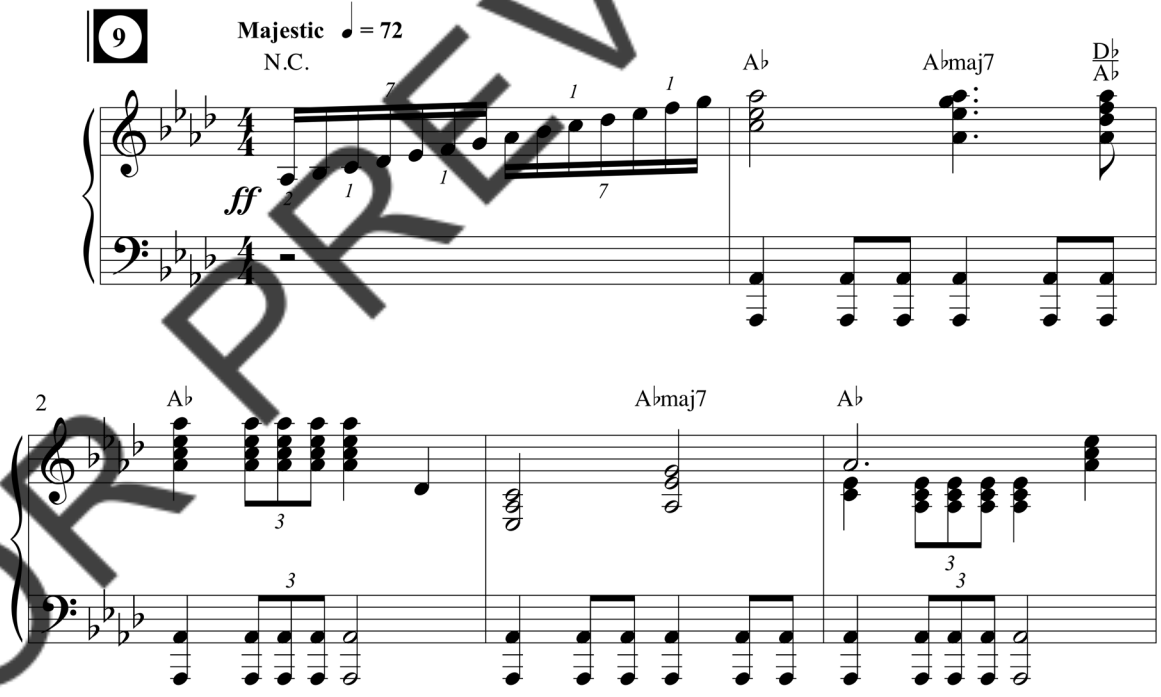
MAYOR: *(pause, then realizes it's her phone)* **Oh, I'm sorry, that's my phone.** *(looking at it)* **Looks like we've just added ten new followers on the tweeter! Isn't that wonderful!** *(Christmas texting alert* 8 *)* **What's that? Oh, it's from you, Joey?** *(reading his text)* **Oh, "Twitter," right. Twitter, tweeter, it's all the same.** *(laughs)*

(music begins to "Our Extravaganza")

And now, let's begin the opening ceremonies of the contest I know you have all been looking forward to, The Super Spectacular, Snowflake County Christmas Extravaganza! *(All cheer)*

Our Extravaganza

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SUZY: *(at m. 16, tapping mime on the shoulder)* **Excuse me, what's extra-extravadanza?** *(mime starts to mime an answer)*

JOEY: *(interjecting)* **Let me look that up for you! The dictionary defines "Extravaganza" as** *(looking at his iPad) "***a spectacular show or event." It's basically a fancy way of saying something's really big and exciting!**

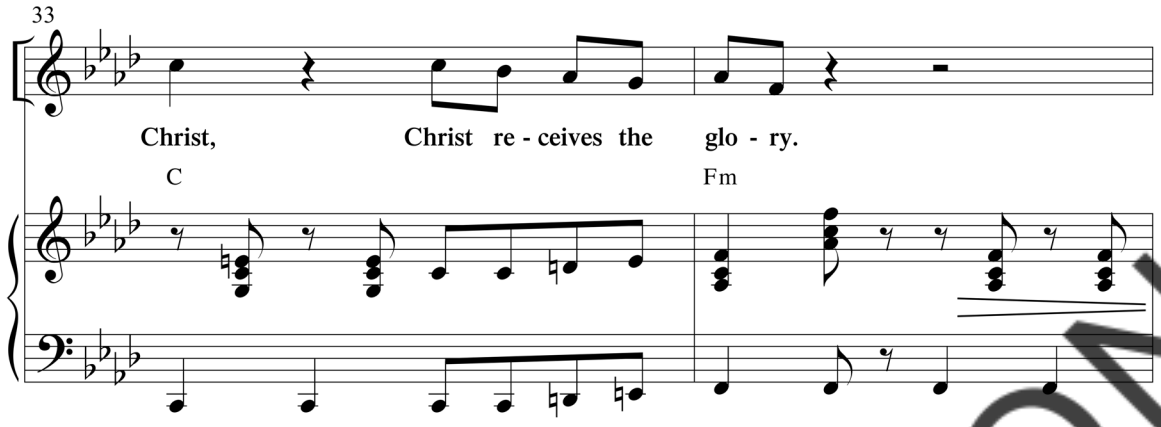
SUZY: **Oh, thanks!**

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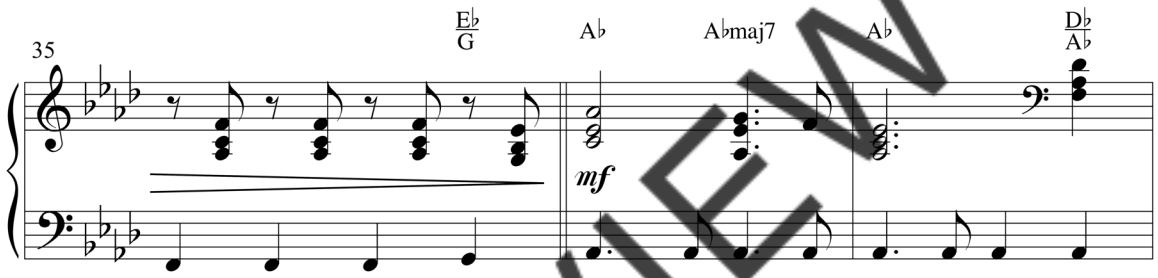


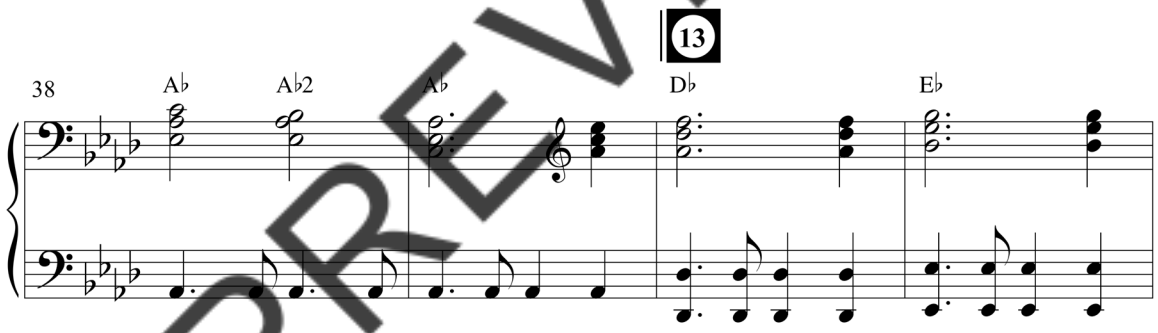
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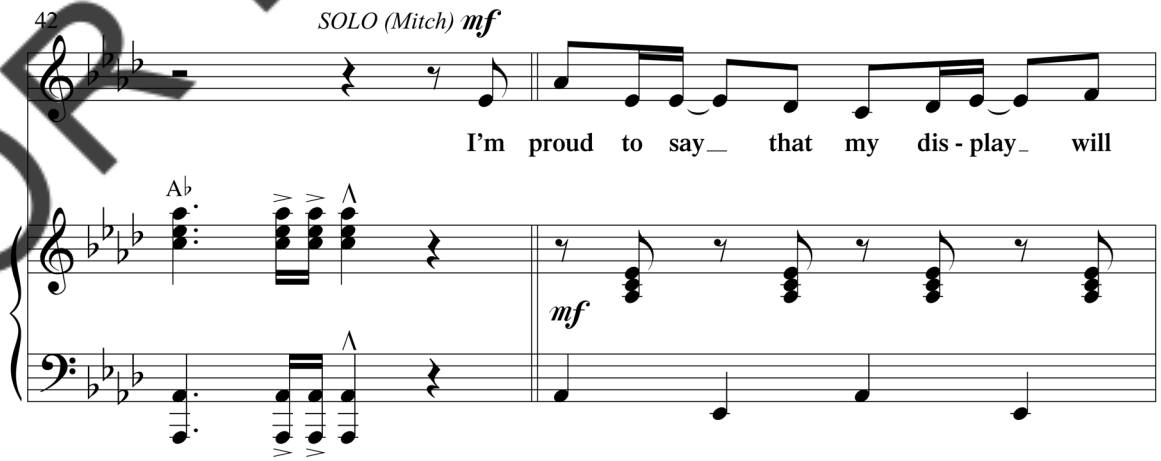
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MAYOR: *(ms. 34)* **Finalists, please come forward when I call your name. Mitch Mistletoe!** *(cheers)* **Holly Berry!** *(cheers)* **and Candie Appleton!** *(cheers)*







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MAYOR: *(ms. 60)* **Thank you, contestants! Will you help me review the rules before we begin?** *(She passes out lists to the contestants that they read aloud.)*

MAYOR and KIDS: *(enthusiastically, ms. 63)* **One.**

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HOLLY: **Always use lights. This will help the message to shine brightly!**

MAYOR
and KIDS: *(ms. 66)* **Two.**

MITCH: **Bigger is always better. The message of Christmas is too important just to be thrown together.**

MAYOR
and KIDS: *(ms. 70)* **Three.**

CANDIE: **Keep it fresh. Anything that has been used in years past can and should be avoided.**

MAYOR
and KIDS: *(ms. 74)* **Four.**

MITCH: **Know your gifts. Some of us should bring offerings that are not amplified through a microphone.**

MAYOR
and KIDS: *(ms. 78)* **Five.**

HOLLY: **Edible displays, while creative, are discouraged after last year's incident with the hungry raccoons.** *(Tiny kids dressed as raccoons run across the stage as kids giggle.)*



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MAYOR: **The winning entry, like last year, will receive a full-page write-up on the town website, as well as my personal Twitter account and Facebook, Myspace and Google+ page. Any questions?**

JOEY: *(confused)* **You still have a Myspace page?**

MAYOR: *(hands raise, pause)***. . . please post all questions on my Facebook page, and I will get right back to you as soon as possible.**

SUZY: **I have a question . . .**

MAYOR: *(not looking at her)* **Please post it on my—***(noticing her)* **oh, everyone,** *(introducing her)* **you all know my youngest daughter, Suzy . . .**

SUZY: *(shyly)* **Hi, everyone.**

MAYOR: **. . . and her friend, Max.** *(He just stands there)*

SUZY: **He's a man of few words.**

MAYOR: **The strong, silent Max. I like it!**

SUZY: *(whispering)* **Um, Mom. Can I show you something? It's a secret!**

MAYOR: **Of course.** *(Christmas texting alert* 17 *)* **Oh, wait, let me check this.** *(distracted)* **Oh, honey, I'm a little busy right now. Can I see it after I judge this next entry?**

SUZY: *(cheerfully)* **Okay. Come on, Max.** *(runs off)*

MAYOR: **Let's all walk over to our first entry, created by Miss Holly Berry! Will you video this for our website, Joey?**

JOEY: **I'm on it!**

HOLLY: **Hello, everyone! Before I introduce our entry, I'd like to direct your attention to the exquisite detail with the Christmas lights and the falling snow, and the spectacular Christmas spirit represented in the costumes of the performers!** *(music begins to "This Is the Time")* **In the spirit of this glorious season, my team and I would like to proudly present our entry for this year's extravaganza, "Snowflakes on Ice."** *(all react with "Ooh, ahh")*

(Solo begins, m. 9)

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Final

This Is the Time

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MAYOR: *(applause)* **Congratulations, Holly and team! That was a wonderful and festive reminder about the meaning of Christmas. Christmas is about giving, and what is really special is that** *(Christmas texting alert* 24 *)* **. . . Wait just a minute . . .** *(she texts comically* 25 *)* **these buttons—were they made for little elves? Almost done . . . and, send!**

HOLLY: **Well?**

MAYOR: *(oblivious)* **Well, what?**

CANDIE: **You were about to tell us what was *really* special!**

MAYOR: *(surprised)* **I was?** *(moving on)* **Joey, please type me an email reminding me to check into what I was going to say that was really special.**

JOEY: **I'm on it. Check back on the town website, and I'm sure we'll have it up by tomorrow.**

SUZY: *(tugging on her arm)* **Mom, are you ready to see my secret?** *(with excitement)* **You're going to love it!**

MAYOR: **Oh, sure, sweetie. But we are going over to judge . . . whose entry, Joey?**

JOEY: **Uh, looks like that would be Mitch.**

MAYOR: **Great. Suzy, honey, can it wait?**

SUZY: *(cheerfully)* **I guess so. Come on, Max.**

MAYOR: **Bye, Max!** *(He looks back at her, but doesn't respond)* **My, he is a shy one, isn't he?**

JOEY: *(* 26 *phone rings, he answers quickly and professionally on a blackberry with earpiece)* **Yes, Merry Christmas! It's a Super Spectacular Christmas Extravaganza Day in Snowflake County. How may I help you?** *(* 27 *listens)* **The Mayor is in the middle of an intense judging session. Uh huh . . . well, please leave a message on our website. Thank you!**

MAYOR: **And just what extravagant additions can we expect from *you* this year, Mitch?**

MITCH: **Well, after last year's little mishap . . .**

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MAYOR: **With the hungry raccoons?** *(Raccoons pop their head up from behind the kids, and go back down)*

MITCH: *(embarrassed)* **Uh, yes.** *(clears throat)* **This year I have decided to explore an area of musical performance that has previously been overlooked in our competition.**

MAYOR: **Ooo . . . I like that—something new! Someone's been observing Rule Number 3!**

HOLLY and CANDIE: *(enthusiastically reciting the rule)* **Keep it fresh! Anything that has been used in years past can and should be avoided.**

MITCH: **Yes, you'll notice that we have incorporated a "country" flavor to our entry as we recount the angels' visit to the shepherds, announcing the birth of Christ. Keeping with our theme, you will notice our angels are also wearing cowboy boots and hats. I think you will really get into the Christmas spirit as we present: "A Kickin' Country Christmas."**

(music begins to "Glory to God")

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Glory to God

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MITCH: *(applause, cheering)* **Please join us after the extravaganza for red and green fried chicken inside the town hall.**

MAYOR: **Well, that really *was* something! Great job, Mitch!** *(kids clap)* *(* 34 *Christmas texting alert)* **Ooo, we have fifteen new postings on our "Extravaganza" website . . . great work, everyone! Keep plugging away at making Christmas even bigger!**

SUZY: *(entering, about to burst)* **Mom, are you ready to see my secret?**

MAYOR: *(sighing)* **Honey, can you just tell me what the secret is?**

SUZY: **Nope.** *(whispering)* **It's a secret!**

MAYOR: **Max?**

(35 *Max looks at her, blankly; he doesn't respond)*

MAYOR: **You wouldn't consider texting me, would you?**

SUZY: *(giggling)* **Mom!**

MAYOR: **Okay, okay. I'm all yours after I judge this next entry. Now what do we have to look forward to, Candie?** *(Suzy and Max walk off stage)*

CANDIE: **For our theme this year I picked the wise men. We have a couple of surprises in store for you, and I think you'll be very impressed with our display. Presenting . . ."Wise Men Wonderland."** *(kids applaud)*

(music begins to "I Wanna Be Wise")

KID 1: **"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem . . . Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star and have come to worship Him.**

KID 2: **They went on their way, and the star they had seen went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed!**

KID 3: **On coming to the house, they saw the child and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."** *(processional music ends)*

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I Wanna Be Wise

with We Three Kings

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Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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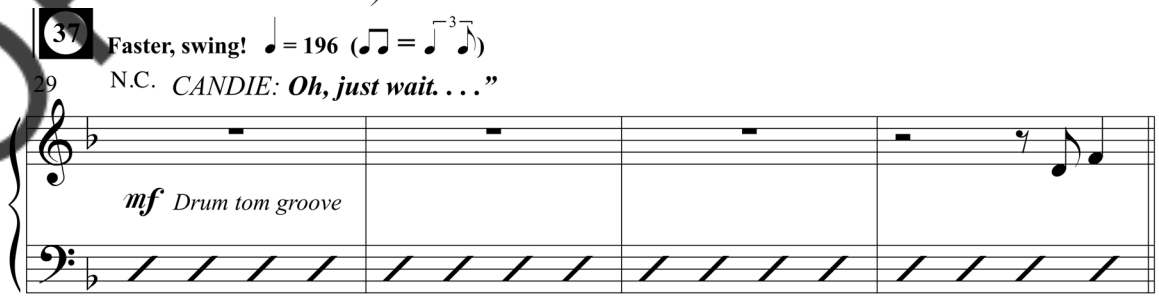
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MAYOR: *(spoken during grand pause at m. 28)* **Forgive me for interrupting, but you know our presentations have included wise men before. I'm looking for bigger and better ways to show the meaning of Christmas.**

CANDIE: *(confidently)* **Oh, just wait.** *("I Wanna Be Wise" resumes at m. 29)* **This will be different. Our wise men . . . tap dance!**

MAYOR: **I love it!** *(wise men start to pretend to tap dance- the tapping sounds are on the track)*



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MAYOR: *(all cheer) (impressed)* **Well, tap-dancing wise men! That's something you don't see every day!** *(Candie gives "high fives" to her team)*

JOEY: **You got that right! And it goes along with Rule Number Two.**

HOLLY, CANDIE and MITCH: *(excitedly)* **Bigger is always better. The message of Christmas is too important just to be thrown together.**

CANDIE: **And just to make it even bigger and better, my team has a surprise for you. When you turn our wise men display around, it transforms into a new, bonus entry!**

KIDS: **Ooo!**

CANDIE: **Everyone, get in your places for the surprise entry!** *(her team scurries around re-setting)* **As they get ready, let me tell you a bit more about what you're going to experience. My team surveyed the citizens of Snowflake County to find out their favorite musical styles and songs, and created a Christmas display with something for everyone. This way the whole county will get into the Christmas spirit!**

MAYOR: **Sounds intriguing!**

(music begins to "The Crazy Christmas Medley")

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The Crazy Christmas Medley

with Jingle Bells; O Come, All Ye Faithful; We Three Kings; The Twelve Days of Christmas; Away in a Manger; O Christmas Tree; Up on the Housetop *and* Joy to the World!

Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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47 **Urban Hiphop** ♩ = 80

AWAY IN A MANGER (Source Unknown/James R. Murray)

28

true love gave to me— A -

D G N.C.

f

30

way in a man - ger, a -

32

way in a man - ger; We sing a - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The

48

34

lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay down His sweet head. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The

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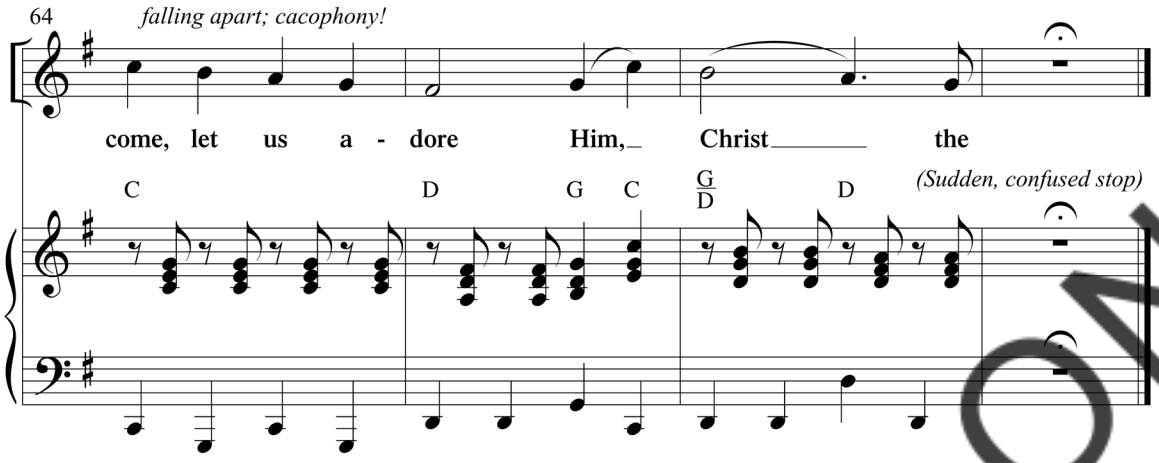


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Final



MAYOR: **Is this supposed to happen?**

CANDIE: **Oh, no! Wait! This isn't what we rehearsed. I'm so sorry; I'm not sure what happened. I was trying to follow "Rule Number 3."**

JOEY: *(on his iPad, oblivious and excited)* **Keep it fresh! Anything that has been used in years past . . .** *(trails off . . . looks around)* **Oh, wait, what's happening again?**

MAYOR: **Joey, let's hold off on the rules for a minute . . .**

CANDIE: **I just wanted everyone to get into the Christmas spirit by making it more exciting.**

MITCH: **It's okay, Candie. I've felt the sting of scandal myself.**

JOEY: **With the hungry raccoons?**

MITCH: *(overdramatically)* **Will the public ever forget?**

MAYOR: **I'm sorry, Candie, we really don't have time to start over. And if this is the last entry, I think it's time to—**

SUZY: **Wait!** *(coming in from offstage pulling a wagon behind her)*

MAYOR: **Suzy, what is it?**

SUZY: **It's time to show you my secret.**

MAYOR: *(confused)* **What?**

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SUZY: **Hit it, Max!**

(lights dim, music begins to "Silent Night! Holy Night!")

(Max is holding one single flashlight, with a homemade star hanging off a coat hanger. Max proudly shines his light on Suzy, who wears a dish cloth on her head and is looking at her stuffed bear who is wrapped up and in a shoe box that says "Manger." She sings to her baby)

MAX: *(shyly, slowly reading from a kid's Bible, beginning at m. 29)* **"So Joseph also went up from the town of Naza . . . naza-reth . . . to Bethlehem. While they were there, the time came for the Baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger.** *(Swallowing)* **And there were shepherds living out in the fields . . . an angel of the Lord appeared to them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord."**

(As Max reads the story, everyone puts down their distractions and sits or stands listening to him. Optional: at end, they all sing "Silent Night" a cappella)

SUZY: **You like my secret, Mommy? I made an entry for the contest, too!**

MAYOR: **Well . . . of course, I like it, sweetheart.**

SUZY: *(upbeat)* **It was a good secret, huh?**

MAYOR: *(hugging her)* **Yes, Suzy- a beautiful secret.** *(music to "Silent Night! Holy Night!" ends)*

You were right all along—I should have let you show me your secret sooner. I'm afraid that we have been so caught up in all the lights and production of making Christmas bigger and better, we were too busy to stop and really remember what we were singing about.

MITCH: **A baby in a manger.** *(music begins to "Hope Has Come")*

HOLLY: **Emmanuel.**

CANDIE: **God with us.**

SUZY: *(big smile on her face)* **Jesus.**

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Final

Silent Night! Holy Night!

JOSEPH MOHR

FRANZ GRÜBER
Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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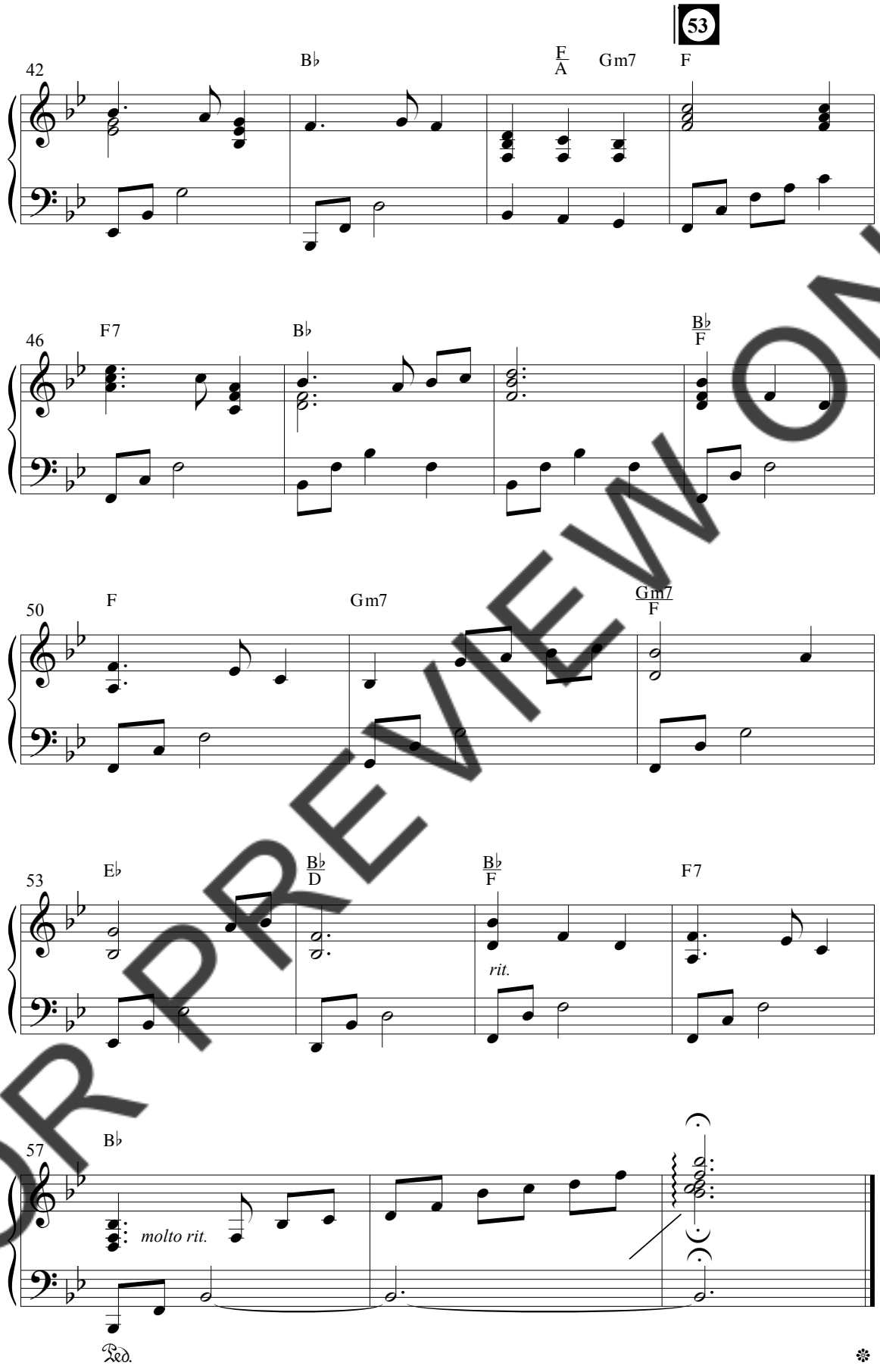
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Final

Hope Has Come

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Final



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Final

JOEY: *(getting everyone's attention)* **Mayor Hallmark, can I say something?**

MAYOR: **Certainly, Joey.**

JOEY: **Sometimes it seems the true meaning of Christmas isn't really talked about anymore. It's almost like the true message of Christmas has almost become . . . a secret. This year we've really been focused on making our extravaganza a super-dazzling production—but as we've been trying to make Christmas more exciting, I think we have hidden the true message of Christmas.**

(The crowd ad libs with various hubbub comments such as "What?" "Yes, that's true." "I think he's right" etc.)

JOEY: *(cont'd)* **Suzy and Max have just reminded us that the gospel doesn't need decoration, and the incarnation doesn't need to be packaged in order to be life changing. We've been paying so much attention to the packaging that we've forgotten: we know a secret—Jesus, the one true Light, was born in a manger.**

MAYOR: **You're absolutely right, Joey. And this is not the kind of secret that we want to keep quiet. I think that we, the citizens of Snowflake County, need to start telling everyone about this secret. God with us. The greatest Gift of all time.**

HOLLY: **Mayor Hallmark? Mitch, Candie and I have talked about it, and we think that the winner of this year's extravaganza should be Suzy and Max for reminding us what Christmas is really about!** *(everyone cheers)*

MAYOR: **Well, I think that's perfect. From now on, Snowflake County's Extravaganza will focus on remembering the secret of the simplicity of Christmas: Hope in a humble stall.** *(music begins to "Christmas in Snowflake Country Reprise")(smiling)* **Now, let's get this secret out—Jesus is born! God with us!**

EVERYONE: **The secret of Snowflake County!**

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Christmas in Snowflake County (Reprise)

with Glory to God

Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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Final

Bows

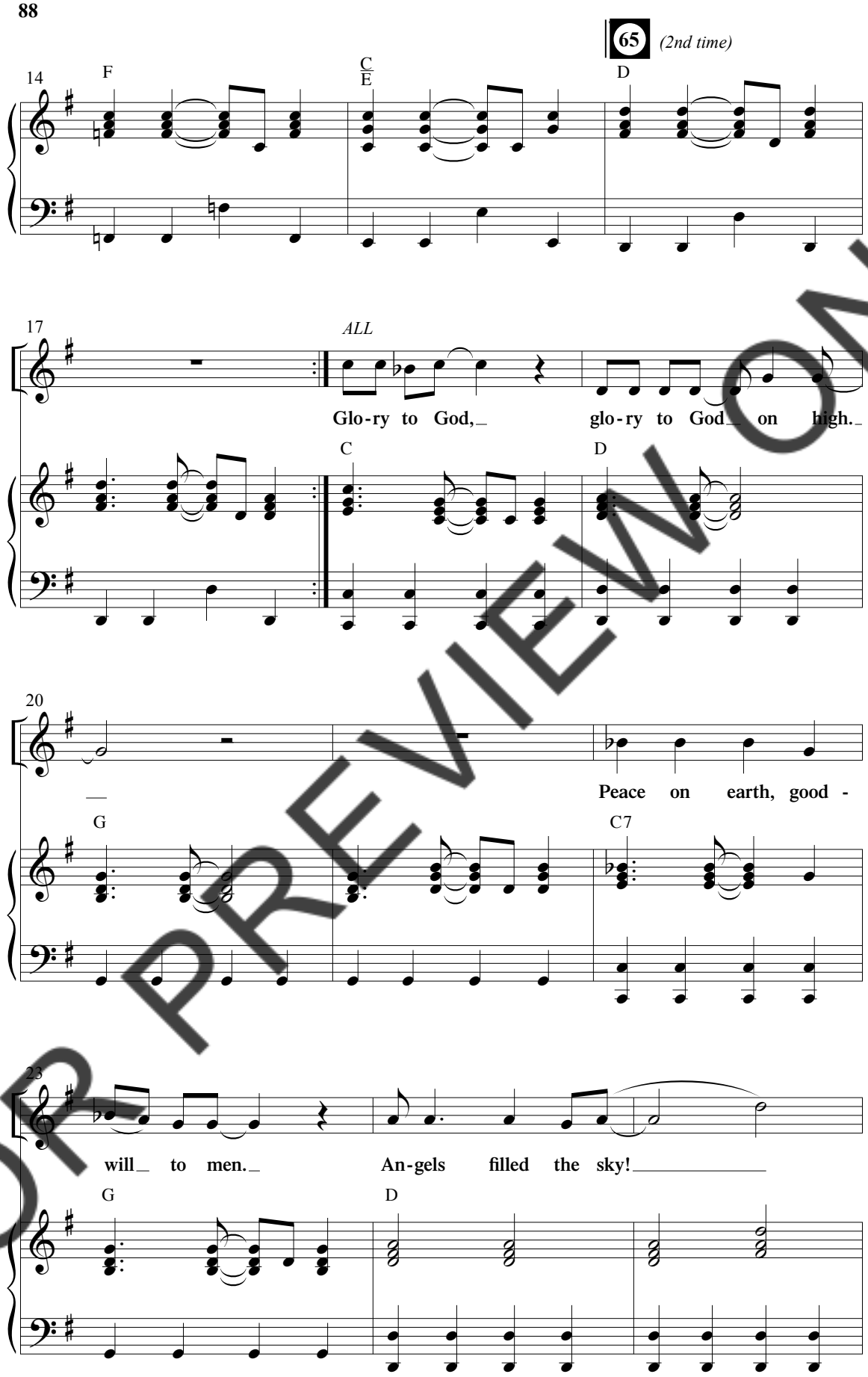
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