SHEPHERDS AND AND ADramatic Musical for Christmas

Created by
Joel Lindsey, Jeff Bumgardner, Heidi Petak and Daniel Semsen
Arranged and Orchestrated by Daniel Semsen



SHEPHERDS AND A Dramatic Musical for Christmas

Created by Joel Lindsey, Jeff Bumgardner, Heidi Petak and Daniel Semsen

Arranged and Orchestrated by Daniel Semser

Performance Time: 55 Minutes

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INSTRUMENTATION:

SCORE	RHYTHM	ALTO SAX 1, 2
FLUTE 1, 2 / PICCOLQ	VIOLIN 1, 2*	(doubles Horn 1, 2)
OBOE	VIOLA*	TENOR SAX / BARITONE TC
CLARINET 1,2	CELLO	(doubles Trombone 1, 2)
HORN 1, 2	STRING BASS	BARITONE SAX
TRUMPET 1, 2	CLARINET 3	(doubles Tuba)
TRUMPET 3	(doubles Viola)	STRING REDUCTION
TROMBONE 1, 2	BASS CLARINET	LEAD SHEET
TROMBONE 3 / TUBA	(doubles String Bass)	CHORD CHART
PERCUSSION 1, 2	BASSOON	
PERCUSSION 3, 4	(doubles Cello)	* Simplified parts included as needed
MARP	SOPRANO SAX	** Instrument doubling may vary by song
	(doubles Oboe)	ma, m, o, ong

Edited by SARAH HUFFMAN

Music Engraved by **BRENT ROBERTS**

Cover Design by DAN HARDING

Art Production by FUDGE CREATIVE



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FOREWORD

This isn't the musical we set out to write. My co-writer, Jeff Bumgardner, and I were writing a completely different Christmas musical and we were pretty excited about it. Then life happened, as it does. When I should have been Christmas shopping, decorating the tree and preparing to host the annual Christmas Carol Sing-Along at my house, I was instead visiting doctors, having tests run and enduring chemotherapy treatments. This is not at all what someone who loves Christmas as much as I do wanted to be doing during the holiday season!

I admit, it got me down a little. The season of joy certainly wasn't living up to *my* expectations.

As I was getting ready to fly from my home in California to Tennessee for yet another sheme treatment, a real "God-moment" in a diner not only changed the course of my own personal Christmas, but also changed the storyline behind this very musical. I was reminded that God shows up in the middle of our sorrows, our struggles and our weakest moments. I was reminded that I wasn't alone in my suffering and that other people were suffering as well.

For a lot of us, the holidays are not always happy times. People facing sickness, loneliness, financial distress and so many other things can often feel separated from the joy we're supposed to be feeling at Christmas.

I hope this musical reminds you that God came to know us in our joys and in our pain. He sees us where we live, and He embraces us with the same grace and mercy that brought Him to us that very first Christmas.

Joel Lindsey

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CHRISTMAS MAKES US ONE

(music begins to "Christmas All Over the World")

(While the choir and carolers sing this opening song, Extras are crossing the stage with their shopping bags, putting money in the bucket in front of the carolers, coming into the diner, being seated and served. A few diners are already seated, eating. A teen waitress, Caroline, serves the diners. Mr. Mattiello, the owner of the diner, adds a Christmas decoration to the cashier's counter. Susanna crosses the stage toward the front door of the diner. She sees her friends from church singing, stops to listen, then claps for them as they fixish.

Christmas All Over the World
(Opener)

Words and Music by JOEL LINDSEY and JEFF BUMGARDNER Arranged by Daniel Semsen



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 $[*]Accompaniment\ split-track\ includes\ carolers\ throughout.$

















Underscore 1

(Susanna Arrives)

Bright and cheerful

mp

D2







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SCENE 1

(6 **2** "Underscore 1" begins, p. 18)

SUSANNA: That was wonderful! Lisa, you did it! You got everyone

here. Thank you. This is such a special night.

LISA: (crosses to Susanna, they hug) I'm so glad you asked us. Is

she here yet?

SUSANNA: I hope not. She usually doesn't get here for at least another

half hour.

DAN: **How are you feeling?**

SUSANNA: Tired. My treatment on Tuesday completely apped me. So

pray I have the energy to get through tonight, okay?

LISA: Oh, believe me, we are.

(Another choir member, Chris, is looking in their tip bucket)

CHRIS: Look at this! We made 11 smackaroos so far! And it's all

for you!

SUSANNA: For me! (Lighing) Thank you! I will spend it on something

special. Or maybe (looking at the restaurant) on someone special. Thank you. (she puts the money in her coat pocket and checks the time on her phone) Ooh, I should go in.

(Susanna enters the diner, takes off her coat, hangs it up, begins

to tie on her apron. Mr. Mattiello crosses to her.)

("Underscore 1" ends)

MR. MATTIELLO: Susanna King, you are two minutes late.

SUSANNA: I know. I'm sorry.

MR. MATTIELLO: In Italia we say, "Those who sleep . . . don't catch any fish."

SUSANNA: (with him) ... don't catch any fish. (continuing) I know, but

last week you said, "Better late than never"! (smiling) I was just thanking my friends from church for being out

carolers tonight.

MR. MATTIELLO: Those are your friends? (pretending to be angry)

SUSANNA: (a little worried) Yes.

(8 23 music begins to "Underscore 2," p. 23)

MR. MATTIELLO: (still looking angry) I have one word for them . . . (suddenly

smiling) Sopraffino! Tell them they can sing at Mattiello's anytime! (pretending to be stern). If ... they don't make you

late for work.

SUSANNA: (smiling) I'll do that. (aking a pen and small notepad out of

the pocket of her apron, then suddenly seeing Mrs. Shepherd,

she gasps! She's here already?

MR. MATTIELLO: Earlier than usual. (elbows her) I guess she was really

looking forward to the special.

SUSANNA: She's had the special on the same night every week for the

past, what, five years? Why did she have to come early

tonight? It's just mostaccioli!

MR. MA TELLO: Just mostaccioli? Just mostaccioli? No, not "just

mostaccioli"! Mattiello's Marvelous Mostaccioli! Glorious pasta, beef, and ricotta, baked under a trio of the most

beautiful cheese the Italian cow has to offer.

SUSANNA: But Mr. Mattiello, this is not good! What if she isn't here

for her surprise?

MR. MATTIELLO: Ah, we will find a way. Perhaps her tiramisu will take a

looong time to prepare tonight (winks).

(Caroline, the other waitress, crosses past them.)

CAROLINE: Now that *you're* finally here, your favorite diner is all yours.

I'm crowning her the Queen of Grouchland.

(Caroline gives Mrs. Shepherd's check to Susanna. Susanna

puts it in her apron pocket.)

SUSANNA: If she's extra grouchy, I'm not surprised. Today is her

birthday, remember? And she has no idea what she's in for. She just needs a little Christmas, and she's about to get it. (pause) Come to think of it, we could all use a little

Christmas. (pause) I'll go say hello.

CAROLINE: (in passing again) Good luck.

MR. MATTIELLO: In Italia we say, "In bocca al lupo." May you be eaten by a

wolf.

SUSANNA: Then I'm glad we're not in Italy

("Underscore 2" ends. Mr. Mattiello exits backstage to the "kitchen." Susanna crosses to Mrs. Shepherd's table with a

coffee pot.)



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SUSANNA: (spoken dry) Well, hello, Mrs. Shepherd! That's a beautiful

scarf. Would you like some more coffee?

MRS. SHEPHERD: No.

SUSANNA: Alrighty. And how was everything? Did you enjoy your

mostaccioli?

MRS. SHEPHERD: I did not.

SUSANNA: I'm so sorry. (picking up her empty plate and looking at it

pointedly) I'm glad vou were somehow able to ... get it al

down.

MRS. SHEPHERD: The singing is too loud and (pointing up) that vent is blowing

hot air directly on my head.

(Mrs. Shepherd takes off her scar and sets it on the seat next to her.)

SUSANNA: Oh. I was hoping you would like the carolers. Can I bring

you some tiramisu to make it up to you?

MRS. SHEPHERD: No. I hate tiramisu.

SUSANNA: You liked it last week.

MRS. SHEPHERD: And this week I don't. Are you planning to give me my

check? (holding out her hand)

SUSANNA: Ves, of course. (stalling) I mean, no, I can't give it to you yet.

You sure you wouldn't like some tiramisu?

MRS. SEEPHERD: Do I look sure?

SUSANNA: Well, yes . . . yes, you do. Okay, I have your check right

here. (She moves very slowly, finding the check in her apron pocket and handing it to Mrs. Shepherd. Mrs. Shepherd reaches for it. Susanna pulls it back.) Actually, on second thought...I'm sorry, but I can't let you pay for your

dinner tonight.

MRS. SHEPHERD: Oh, you can't? And why not?

SUSANNA: First of all, you said you hated the mostaccioli. Which I

would not tell Mr. Mattiello, by the way. He would be ...

deeply hurt.

MRS. SHEPHERD: (waving her off) I didn't hate it. It was fine. Now, give me my

check.

SUSANNA: And second, it's almost Christmas, so . . . I would like to buy

your dinner tonight!

MRS. SHEPHERD: You? I don't need your charity. (10 24 music begins

for "We All Need Christmas," p. 28) I have plenty of money.

SUSANNA: I know you do, Mrs. Shepherd. But my friends gave me

a gift a little bit ago, and I told them I would spend it on something special. And I've decided . . . that's you! So tonight, your dinner is on me. Please stay as long as you

like. Merry Christmas!

(Mrs. Shepherd tries to object, but Susanna smiles, pats her shoulder and walks away. Mrs. Shepherd sits, shocked. She stays at her table, still grouchy, sipping her coffee. Susanna finds her coat, takes the money she received from the carolers out of her pocket and goes to the register to pay Mrs. Shepherd's bill. Caroline and Susanna continue to serve guests during the song. Out front, a shopper stays to show a friend a gift that he/she bought for a loved one. Mr. Mattiello sets out a sign that reads, "Free Mattiello's Merry Mochas Tonight!" A few passersby put money in the bucket in front of the carolers. At the end of the song, Dan enters the diner and approaches Mr. Martiello

We All Need Christmas



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SCENE 2

MR. MATTIELLO: (to Dan) (p. 41) Welcome to Mattiello's and Merry

Christmas! In Italia we say, "Buon Natale!" What can I get for you? Mattiello's Marvelous Mostaccioli? Mattiello's

Magnificent Manicotti?

DAN: Actually, can I get two Mattiello's Merry Mochas for me

and my wife? (motioning outside the diner)

MR. MATTIELLO: (pretending to be angry) You are one of Susanna's carolers,

yes?

DAN: Yes.

MR. MATTIELLO: (still pretending to be angry) I have one word for you

... (suddenly happy) Sopraffino! You are making my restaurant a very popular place tonight. And because of that, I will bring Mattiello's Merry Nochas out to every one

of you . . . on the house

DAN: Are you sure?

MR. MATTIELLO: In Italia we say, "Non't look a gift horse in the mouth."

DAN: Okay, then fere in our country, we just say, "Thank you!"

laughs

(Dan then sees Susanna stop to lean against the counter, losing her eyes for a moment and breathing deeply. Mr. Mattiello turns away from Dan and begins assembling the mochas. Dan looks at Susanna, then back at Mr. Mattiello.)

DAN: Mr. Mattiello, you know about Susanna's diagnosis, right?

MR. MATFIELLO: I know, I know. She told me a few weeks ago. Thanks for

ruining my night with the reminder.

QAN: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean . . .

MR. MATTIELLO: (interrupting) Why good people like Susanna get cancer is

... out of my mind. I hate to see her this way.

DAN: We all do. Turns out cancer runs in her family. But she's

taking the treatments like a champ and fighting for all she's

worth. And we're fighting with her.

MR. MATTIELLO: Well, between you and me, I don't know how long she can

keep working here. The job might look easy, but in Italia we say, actually doing it is "another pair of sleeves."

DAN: Oh, but sir, she needs this job, for the health insurance

benefits. As a single woman, there would be no way she

could pay for her treatments.

MR. MATTIELLO: I know, I know. She told me. And I told her she can work

here as long as she likes.

DAN: Well, go easy on her, okay?

MR. MATTIELLO: No worries. Susanna is ... special to me. My wife and I

never could have children.

DAN: I'm sorry, sir. My wife and I save one son. A teenager.

MR. MATTIELLO: Then, I'm sorry for you, too! (longhs)

DAN: (laughs) Thanks, (pointing to Mrs. Shepherd) Is that Mrs.

Shepherd?

MR. MATTIELLO: Yes... and she'd better treat Susanna well tonight. She has

no idea how much trouble that girl has gone to for her.

DAN: Sasanga has a big heart. Thanks again for the mochas!

MR. MATTIELLO: It is nothing. (loudly) Many Mattiello's Merry Mochas

coming right up!

(Mr. Mattiello exits to the "kitchen" to finish making the mochas. Dan exits the front door of the diner to join the carolers again. The focus shifts to Susanna, who takes a deep breath, rubs her forehead, and then approaches Mrs. Shepherd's

table with a coffee pot again.)

SUSANNA: Looks like you need a warm up on your coffee. (refilling her

coffee) I've heard it's supposed to be chilly tonight.

MRS. SHEPHERD: Cold, but no snow. Never any snow. We haven't had snow

on this day in twenty years.

SUSANNA: 20 years? Wow. You have a good memory.

MRS. SHEPHERD: I was married then. My son was just a boy. It was snowing.

And it was my 40th birthday.

SUSANNA: Wait. (pretending she doesn't know) If twenty years ago

today was your fortieth birthday...that means today is your birthday and you're...you're sixty! Happy Birthday,

Mrs. Shepherd!

MRS. SHEPHERD: (still grouchy) I figured you knew . . . buying my dinner and

all that rigamarole.

SUSANNA: Okay, maybe I did know. But it's still exciting.

MRS. SHEPHERD: Well, I'm not celebrating.

SUSANNA: Then we'll celebrate for you! A sixtieth birthday is a

milestone! Hey—I could get Mr. Mattiello to sing.

MRS. SHEPHERD: No thank you. I've heard him sing. And I said I'm not

celebrating.

(18) wst begins to Hopes and Fears," p. 46)

SUSANNA: Why not?

MRS. SHEPHERD: Because it's not snowing. And my husband is gone. And my

son is stationed overseas.

SUSANNA: I know, Mrs. Shepherd. I'm so sorry. That must be very

ard

MRS. SHEPHERD: \(\) don't need your pity.

SUSAN I'm not giving you my pity, just my concern. How long has

he been gone?

MRS_SPEPHERD: Which one? My husband or my son?

SUSANNA: Either. Both.

MRS. SHEPHERD: My husband, John—six years. Died of cancer. (pauses,

takes a drink of her coffee) My son, Michael, left in that uniform of his 3 years ago. (hands her a photo from her purse) He writes me emails, but I don't know where he is exactly. I guess he can't even tell his own mother his

whereabouts.

SUSANNA: (looking at the photo) This is him? Sooo handsome! I know

you must miss him a lot. (pause, handing the photo back) I

guess we all have our secret pain, don't we?

MRS. SHEPHERD: You're young. What do you know of pain?

SUSANNA: Oh, I suppose I don't know much yet. Believe me, I'm

learning more every day. But I'm trusting God that whatever pain lies ahead, He'll carry me through it.

MRS. SHEPHERD: (cynically) Sounds like you've got some kind of faith.

SUSANNA: That's all I have.

(During this song, Susanna puts the coffee pot away. She leans against the counter again to rest, then serves other customers while she sings. The customers continue eating as if the two women were not singing.)

Hopes and Fears

(Duet)



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SCENE 3

(24 Mrs. Shepherd is putting on her lipstick.)

SUSANNA: (to Caroline) She's putting on her lipstick. That means

she's getting ready to leave.

CAROLINE: There goes your surprise.

MR. MATTIELLO: The tiramisu!

SUSANNA: I already tried that. She doesn't want any. (pause) I guess

we'll have to let her go and . . . trust that God has another

plan.

(Susanna crosses to Mrs. Shepherd's table)

SUSANNA: You're leaving already?

MRS. SHEPHERD: No reason to stay.

SUSANNA: I'm sure the carole's have more songs for you.

MRS. SHEPHERD: They can keep their songs. I'm going home.

SUSANNA: Okay. Good night. Happy birthday, Mrs. Shepherd. And

. Merry Christmas.

(music ends. Mrs. Shepherd puts on her coat, grabs her purse, and exits. However, she accidentally leaves her scarf behind.
As she crosses in front of the carolers, Dan notices her leave.)

DAN: (dry) That was her!

Mrs. Shepherd? That can't be good.

(Mr. Mattiello and Caroline come through the diner carrying

mochas. They bring them outside to the carolers.)

DAN: Excuse me, but was that just Mrs. Shepherd, leaving?

MR. MATTIELLO: Unfortunately, yes. In Italia we say, "Che sera sera." What

will be will be. (to all the carolers) Buon Natale! Merry Christmas! (passing out the mochas) Here is a Mattiello's Merry Mocha for you, and a Mattiello's Merry Mocha for

you ...

CAROLINE: And one for you, and one for you . . .

CHRIS: Es muy fantastico! Gracias!

LISA: I think that's Spanish, Chris. He's Italian.

DAN: In Italy we say, "Sopraffino!"

He's a-speakin' my language! (to Lisa) You've got a keeper MR. MATTIELLO:

young lady.

I know I do. LISA:

MR. MATTIELLO: Never take a good marriage for granted. (pair t least

that's what my wife always says.

(They all laugh)

CAROLINE: (cynically) Yeah, from what I've seen, the term "good

marriage" is an oxymoron. Enjoy your mochas. (goes back

inside the diner)

What's with ther? CHRIS:

Her parents split last year and she's taking it hard this MR MATTIELLO:

> Christmas. They used to all come to Mattiello's together. They'd sit at the table right by the window. (points to a rucular table) And she just broke up with her boyfriend.

lt's tough being a kid.

Mr. Mattiello sees that Susanna is trying to serve customers, but she's rubbing her forehead and the back of her neck and

looking around for him)

MATTIELLO: I should get back in. Please come inside whenever you like.

(to Dan) I hear Mattiello's Marvelous Mostaccioli calling

your name. (pause) What's your name?

(laughs) Dan. I might take you up on that. Thanks again

for the mochas, Mr. Mattiello.

(All carolers thank Mr. Mattiello)

LISA: (to Dan) Funny, I've seen that waitress here before, and I

always thought she was just a typical punk kid with a bad

attitude.

DAN: Yeah, and we know all about those.

(25 music begins to "Mercy for Me," p. 62)

CHRIS: Come to find out, she's just heartbroken. (turns back to talk.)

with the other carolers)

(A single passerby crosses the stage. Then another crosses the

other direction.)

DAN: Mr. Mattiello just told me he and his wife could never have

children. And then there's Susanna, and Mrs. Shepherd, too. Makes you wonder how many heartbroken people

cross your path at Christmastime.

LISA: For you, at least one.

DAN: Who?

LISA: Well...me.

DAN: You're heartbroken?

LISA: Sure. Ora every day that Alex will be drawn to the light.

I know he's only 16, but I see things in him that really worry me. Like this new girlfriend. We haven't even met

her yet.

DAN: God's writing his story, honey. We just have to trust Him.

LISA: I know, and I do. But it still makes me sad. Especially this

time of year.

(Dan hugs her)

DAN: I know.

MISA: What makes you sad?

DAN: Me, personally? . . . Hmm. Good question. (puffs out chest)

Nothing! I'm a man! I'm invincible! (pause) No, let's see. Well, my job, for one. It's definitely not what I thought it would be. You know, I'm a people-person, and there I am

stuck in a cubicle all day.

LISA: (m. 23) I guess even in the midst of our happy Christmas

songs, we're all a little heartbroken about something, aren

we? (pause)

DAN: Yeah, I guess we are. I guess we are.

(Various carolers sing parts of this song, perhaps including the characters in the diner, Susanna, Caroline, and Mr. Mattiello.)

Mercy for Me



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SUSANNA:

(to Mr. Mattiello) Well, it's over before it even started. And I can't even come up with a Plan B. It's just (sighs) . . . I've anticipated this night for so long. (she closes her eyes and rubs her head)

MR. MATTIELLO:

(interrupting her) "Che sera sera." Take a break, Susanna. You have a seat. You need to rest.

SUSANNA:

I am tired. Thanks, Mr. Mattiello.

(She crosses the stage and sits in the place where Mrs. Shepherd had been sitting earlier. Mr. Mattiello brings her a glass of water. Suddenly, she sees the scarf Mrs. Shepherd left behind.)

SUSANNA: (standing to get the scarf) Wait. Mr. Mattiello. Look at this!

Mrs. Shepherd left her scarf! Thank you, Jesus. (laughing to Caroline) She left her scarf, Caroline! That means she just might come back for it! And then maybe she'll be in the mood for tiramisu and it will be the perfect timing for

when . . .

CAROLINE: (interrupting) If she comes back for it. What if she doesn't

SUSANNA: Oh, if I know Mrs. Shepherd, she will.

(The focus shifts to the carolers outside the diner who are

visibly chilly.)

CHRIS: (shivering) I'm a little chilly. Would you all mind if we took

Mr. Mattiello up on his offer to go inside?

LISA: Not at all.

(Other carolers agrees 'Year," "Let's go," "Good thinking,"

etc. They all enter the diner.)

MR. MATTIELLO: Ah, there you all are! Benvenuti a casa! Welcome home!

Come in Come int Make yourselves comfortable! Put up

your feet! Have some manicotti!

Caroline begins to seat them. Lisa sees Susanna sitting and

approaches her, sitting down at her table.)

LISA: Hey, friend. We saw Mrs. Shepherd leave. I'm so sorry.

SUSANNA: She's never come that early for dinner!

LISA: Does that mean it's not gonna happen?

SUSANDA: Not necessarily, because . . . (presenting the scarf) Look at

this, Lisa! She left her scarf!

MSA: Her scarf?

SUSANNA: Which means she just might come back for it.

LISA: The party's not over till it's over!

SUSANNA: Right!

LISA: So, how are you feeling?

SUSANNA: Not so great. But I've really enjoyed the music. Thanks so

much for coming.

LISA: Sure. We've had fun out there tonight.

SUSANNA: Is Alex with you?

LISA: No, he's ... he's at home. Grounded, actually. (sight)

Again.

SUSANNA: I've been praying for him. And for you I know you need a

lot of wisdom.

LISA: Yeah, we do. Thanks. Hey, will you see your parents this

Christmas?

SUSANNA: Yeah, they come into town next week, thankfully. I'll be

glad for the help. (passe) Well, speaking of help, I guess I

should probably get up and belp.

LISA: No, you will not! We can take care of ourselves.

(Other carolers come to sit with Susanna. Chris brings her the money from their tip bucket. She is thrilled and mimes asking her/him to go put it in her coat pocket. Chris does so. Lisa crosses to Dan, who is standing, talking with Mr. Mattiello)

LISA: (to Dan and Mr. Mattiello) I told Susanna to stay put. She

seally should rest.

DAN: Hey, I could wait tables, Mr. Mattiello! Give me a notepad!

MR. MATTIELLO: It's a tough job. And in Italia we say a tough job is like

being in a ditch with lions.

DAN: I am not afraid of lions!

(The lights suddenly go black. Voices are heard in the dark.)

DAN: But I am a leeettle bit afraid of the dark.

CAROLERS: Hey! What's going on? Who turned off the lights?

MR. MATTIELLO: The power's out, my friends. I'll go check the breaker box.

Caroline, the candles and the matches are in the drawer

under the register.

DAN: Honey, where are you?

LISA: I thought you said you were invincible.

DAN: Yeah, well, I'm not.

LISA: I'm right here!

DAN: Oh, good. Is this you?

CHRIS: No, that's me.

DAN: Sorry.

LISA: *This* is me.

DAN: Oh! You look different in the dark.

CAROLINE: **OW!**

LISA: Who's that? Are you okay?

CAROLINE: Ught It's he, Caroline. And no, I'm not. I just ran into the

ounter.

SUSANNA: lisa, could you all sing something? I think that would help

me feel better.

LISA: What do you want us to sing?

(Dan begins to make up a song with the words "Let there be

light")

Very funny.

BRETT (or CHRIS): Okay, how about this one?

([30] music begins to "Everlasting Light," p. 75.

During the song, Caroline lights candles and puts them on the tables. At the end of the song, the lights in the diner come back on. The people cheer and applaud, and the song ends abruptly.)

Everlasting Light



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SCENE 5

(Mr. Mattiello enters, dragging Alex, Tyler and Barrett with

him)

MR. MATTIELLO: (dry) Well, I figured out the problem! It was this riffraff,

vandalizing the breaker box!

DAN: Alex?

LISA: Alex!

ALEX: Mom? Dad? What are you doing here?

CAROLINE: What are you doing here?

DAN: (to Caroline) You know him?

ALEX: (to Caroline) I thought it would be funny, okay?

CAROLINE: Well, it wasn't.

LISA: You're supposed to be at home, Alex. You're grounded,

remember?

MR. MATTIELLO: It's against the law, that's what it is! Tampering with

someone's breaker box!

BARRETT: Ltold you they wouldn't think it was funny.

TYLER: _____ never thought it was funny.

ALEX: That's my girlfriend, Dad.

MR. MATTIELLO: He's your son?

She's your girlfriend?

CAROLINE: Ex-girlfriend, remember? Ugh! I can't believe you would

do this to me!

MR. MATTIELLO: And to Mr. Mattiello!

DAN: That was a dangerous prank. I'm so disappointed in you.

MR. MATTIELLO: Dangerous? It is criminal mischief! I'm calling the police!

(Alex, Barrett and Tyler break free of the crowd and run toward the front door of the diner. Dan tries to catch his son but misses. The teens run in front of the diner, exiting stage left. Dan chases them, running out of the diner and also exiting

stage left.)

DAN: (shouting after him) Alex! (exits)

SUSANNA: (closing her eyes) No, no, no. This night is completely falling

apart. Please, Lord. I need You.

(Mr. Mattiello crosses to the counter to get his phone. Mrs. Shepherd enters the stage angrily and marches through the entrance into the diner, right up to the table where she was sitting earlier and where Susanna is sitting now.

(36) music begins to "Vnderscore 3," p. 95)

MRS. SHEPHERD: (to Susanna) You ready liked my silk scarf, didn't you?

SUSANNA: What?

MRS. SHEPHERD: You said it was beautiful. And then you stole it!

SUSANNA: (horrified) Mrs. Shepherd! No! You've got this all wrong!

MRS. SHEPHERD: Get up! You're hiding it!

SUSANNA: (standing, holding out her scarf) I'm not hiding anything.

Your scarf is right here. (handing it to her)

MRS. SASPAERD: (taking the scarf) I should have known better than to trust a

common waitress.

SUSANDA: Please, Mrs. Shepherd, you have to believe me. You just

forgot it, and I was holding it for you.

MRS. SHEPHERD: I don't believe you.

(Mr. Mattiello approaches)

MR. MATTIELLO: What's the problem here?

MRS. SHEPHERD: Your waitress stole my silk scarf.

MR. MATTIELLO: You will not call Susanna a thief! Not after all she has done

for you.

MRS. SHEPHERD: She is a thief, and I'm calling the police to report blatant

theft of my personal property! (she pulls her phone out of

her purse)

MR. MATTIELLO: (pointing outside) Get out of my restaurant!

SUSANNA: No! (grabbing his arm)

(With Susanna's word, "No!" and her grab of Ms. Mathello's arm, the music stops and all characters on tage freeze. After a few moments of silence, music to "Prince of Peace" begins, p. 97. Lights fade to a single spot on Susanna as she slowly lets go of Mr. Mattiello's arm, steps out of the frozen scene, and sings.)

(When the song ends, Susanna falls to the floor, downstage center. After a moment of stlence, suspenseful underscore begins, p. 105)

Underscore 3 (Accusations)



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Prince of Peace



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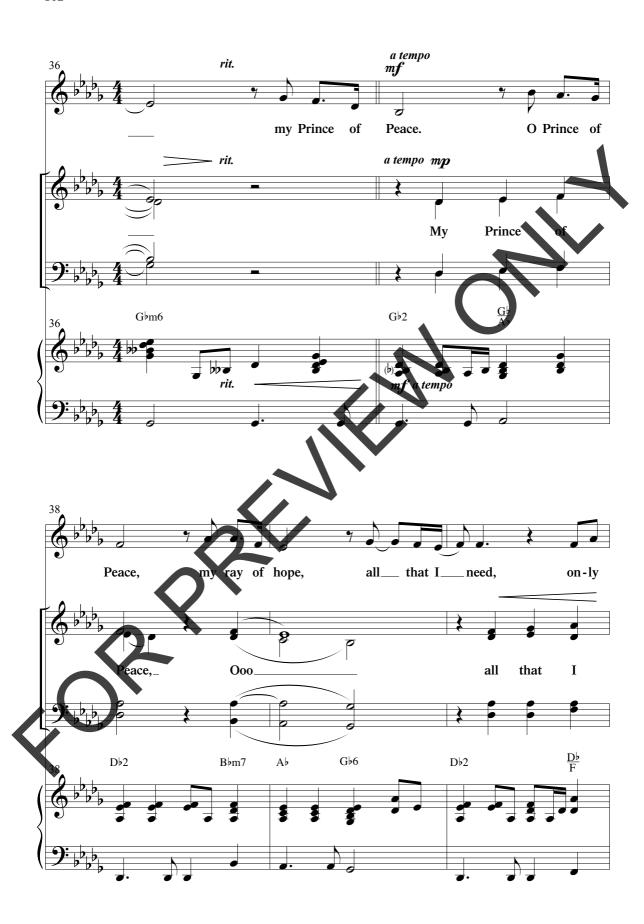
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Underscore 4 (Realization)



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SCENE 6

(All characters unfreeze. Mr. Mattiellos sees Susanna on the floor.)

MR. MATTIELLO: Susanna! (42 20 music begins to "Underscore 4,"

p. 105. He goes to his knees. Then, to Mrs. Shepherd) Look

what you have done.

MRS. SHEPHERD: What's wrong with the girl?

(Lisa runs to Susanna and kneels down by her)

MR. MATTIELLO: Her chemotherapy treatments make her very weak.

(Mr. Mattiello helps to lift Susann's head and shoulders. Lisa

cradles her.)

MRS. SHEPHERD: Chemotherapy treatments? So she has ...

MR. MATTIELLO: Cancer, yes. (looking up of her) But what do you care? You

think she's a thief. She would never steal from you. She was living for this night. This night when she could surprise you with good things for your birthday. (standing to face her) Good things you don't deserve. To you, she is just a waitress. To me, she is the daughter I never had. (sinks back

down to his knees next to Susanna)

MRS. SHEPHERD: Cancer. The girl has cancer. (crosses stage left to sit in a chair) I am a miserable woman. God forgive me.

n a Mair) I am a miserable woman. God forgive

("Underscore 4" ends)

LISA: Susanna, can you hear me?

SUSANNA. (stirring, restless, troubled) Jesus, please. Please. We need

your light. Your white. She needs your white. Your snow. Please, Jesus, she needs Your snow. She needs Your...

white . . . snow.

MR. MATTIELLO: She's praying.

MRS. SHEPHERD: For who?

LISA: For you. That it would snow.

(43) music begins for "Winter White," p. 108)

MRS. SHEPHERD: (softly) For me? It hasn't snowed on this day in twenty

years. She's praying for . . . me.

MR. MATTIELLO: Her name is Susanna.

MRS. SHEPHERD: Susanna. (kneeling near her, reaching out her hand) Forgive

me, Susanna.

SUSANNA: (touches her hand, then says weakly) Oh, Mrs. Shepherd,

forgive you.

(As Lisa and other carolers sing, they and the Extras begin to move towards the front of the stage as if looking out the windows at the snow. During the song, the following dialogue

occurs)

MR. MATTIELLO: Susanna, look! It's snowing. Just like you wished for.

SUSANNA: (still weak) I didn't wish, Mr. Matthello. I prayed. (she rises,

with Mr. Mattiello and Lisa's help, to look out the window. As she gains strength, she sing along with the carolers and choir)

(Dan and Alex enter stage left as if they have been talking and now Alex has agreed to come back to apologize. Dan puts his arm around his son as they watch the snow. They slowly cross

to stag<mark>e</mark> right.)

Winter White



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SCENE 7

(dry)

MR. MATTIELLO: (to Lisa) I will tell you how often it snows outside

Mattiello's.

LISA: How often?

MR. MATTIELLO: In Italia, we say, "As often as the Pope dies!"

(They all laugh. Dan and Alex enter the diner. Alex crosses

downstage to Mr. Mattiello)

MR. MATTIELLO: And here's something else that happens as often as the Pope

dies.

ALEX: I'm sorry I messed with your breakers, sir. I shouldn't have

done it.

MR. MATTIELLO: I forgive you, and I will tell you low you can make it up to

me.

ALEX: How?

MR. MATTIELLO: You can wash dishes! Mattiello's Marvelous Mostaccioli

tends to be a leegttle bit messy. The kitchen is that way.

pointing)

CAROLINE: exsperated) Don't tell me he's going to work here.

ALEX: Hey, that wouldn't be so bad.

DAN: I'll help you out, son. We'll wash dishes together.

ALEX. Thanks.

(Alex and Dan exit upstage)

SUSANNA: (to Mrs. Shepherd) Mrs. Shepherd, do you believe me that I

didn't take your scarf?

MRS. SHEPHERD: I do. I believe you. (pause) Tell me, why have you been

kind to this miserable woman?

SUSANNA: Because, it's your birthday. And it's Christmas. But, more

than that, I think it's because we're a lot alike.

MRS. SHEPHERD: Alike? How are we alike? I'm old, you're young. I'm rich, you're...

(47 music begins to "Shepherds and Kings," p. 119)

SUSANNA: Poor. (laughing) I know. You're right—I am poor. Oh,

but I'm not really poor. I'm actually rich in so many ways No, I think you and I are alike because we're both . . . heartbroken. Sure, our pain looks different, but we both need Jesus to heal us. And that's why I love Christmas. Because we remember how God sent His only Son to our

broken world to heal our hearts.

MRS. SHEPHERD: (deep in thought) I've been so angry. So angry that God

doesn't seem to care that I'm all alone.

SUSANNA: Oh, but you're not alone, Mrs. Shepherd. Not ever. It's

Christmas. And He is here. God is with us!

[Joseph and Mary enter from stage right, with Mary holding Baby Jesus. Extras begin to cross from left to right, one at a time, (as various biblical, then modern characters) to meet the baby. At the end of "Shepherds and Kings," underscore

continues

Shepherds and Kings



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SCENE 8

MRS. SHEPHERD: You know you shouldn't be working here. You should be at

home resting.

SUSANNA: I don't have a choice. I need this job for the health

insurance.

MRS. SHEPHERD: And if it wasn't for the insurance, you would be at home?

SUSANNA: Yes.

MRS. SHEPHERD: I will pay for your treatments.

SUSANNA: (pause) Wait. What did you say? I thought I heard you say

something crazy like you would pay for my treatments.

MRS. SHEPHERD: I did. It's the least I can do

SUSANNA: Mrs. Shepherd! Are you sure?

MRS. SHEPHERD: (grouchily) Do I look sure.

SUSANNA: (laughing) Yes ..., es, you do. How can I ever thank you?

MRS. SHEPHERD: You already bave.

SUSANNA: Mattiello! (standing) I'm officially putting in my

notice (sitting back down)

MR. MATTISLLO: knew the time would come. Whatever will I do without

you?

(music fades)

(Dan enters the diner from the kitchen. He's wearing an

apron.)

DAN: Mr. Mattiello! We finished the dishes. Can I try my hand

at waiting tables now?

MR. MATTIELLO: You sure you're ready to be in a ditch with lions?

DAN: I'm not afraid of lions. Cubicles, yes. Lions, no. In Italy

we say, "Sopraffino!" Does that mean "Bring it on"?

No, it does not. Your Italian will need a little work. MR. MATTIELLO:

(He notices his cell phone ringing or vibrating and he answers

it.)

Merry Christmas! (music begins to "Christmas Makes Us MR. MATTIELLO:

One," p. 133) Yes, she is here.

(continues) Yes, it is a perfect time. (pause) We have been MR. MATTIELLO:

looking forward to it. (hangs up phone, then) It's time,

Susanna.

It's time? (standing, then, to Mrs. Shepherd, sand SUSANNA:

Shepherd, it's time!

MRS. SHEPHERD: Time? For what?

Time for your surprise. It is your birthday, remember? SUSANNA:

Well, you already paid for my MRS. SHEPHERD:

SUSANNA: s from someone who's come a long Oh, this isn't from me.

way, just to be with y

(Michael enters stage right in his military uniform, holding his phone as if he was just talking to Mr. Mattiello. He puts the phone in his pocket and then crosses upstage and enters the diner. Mrs. Shepherd sees him, covers her mouth in disbelief. Michael crosses to her and they embrace. She releases to look

his face, touches his cheeks, hugs him again.)

All Cast and Choir sing this final song together, raising their arms to heaven at the very end.)

Christmas Makes Us One

with We All Need Christmas; Christmas Makes Us One; O Come, All Ye Faithful and Shepherds and Kings



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SHEPHERDS AND PRODUCTION MANUAL



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HERHERDS INCS A Dramalic Musical for Christmas

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THE PRODUCTION MANUAL INCLUDES PDF DOCUMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

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- Detailed Character Profiles
- Costuming Ideas
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rom award-winning creative songwriting team Joel Lindsey and Jeff Bumgardner, with script by Dr. Heidi Petak, Word Music & Church Resources proudly presents the new Dramatic Christmas Musical for Choir, Orchestra, Soloists, Actors and Carolers—SHEPHERDS AND KINGS.

For many of us, Christmas is a time of joy and celebration, a time to be spent with family and friends...a festive, happy time. But for others, the same holiday season only serves to underscore the loneliness, pain, and hopelessness of their own lives.

In our story, Susanna King's bright spirit and love for life overrides her circumstances: you see, Susanna has been recently diagnosed with cancer. But in spite of bad news and challenging times, she lives with the joy of Christmas in her heart.

Others (like our character Mrs. Victoria Shepherd, in spite of being wealthy and in good health) find no reason to celebrate the Christmas season, largely because they have no joy in their lives.

It is with this premise that our story begins. Mrs. Shepherd is a regular customer at Mattiello's Diner. Susanna, a waitress at the diner, has discovered that today is Mrs. Shepherd's birthday. Despite her battle with cancer, Susanna has made it her goal to help Mrs. Shepherd celebrate her birthday and hopefully impart a little Christmas spirit in the process. Susanna, her group of friends from church who are singing carols just outside the diner, and Mr. Mattiello, the owner of the diner, are all "in on" the plan to bring some special joy into Mrs. Shepherd's life. But they are in for a challenge, as Mrs. Shepherd is a reluctant participant in any kind of celebration—birthday or Christmas! Susanna is determined to show love and share the message of Christmas with someone who is in desperate need to know that God loves and cares for her

This is an emotion-filled story, rich with beart. It omes alive with great new songs that are sometimes powerful, sometimes celebratory, sometimes po gnant; sometimes happy, sometimes sad; songs that propel the story along while speaking to our hearts with the love language of God's Christmas story...the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

Designed to bring your musicand drama ministries together, SHEPHERDS AND KINGS proclaims a strong, vibrant message about the power of love—our love for one another, our love for God, and most importantly, God's desire that ALL would come to know of His great love for us. Share the hope and good news of Christ has with your church and community this year, through your presentation of SHEPHERDS AND KINGS.

> CHRISTMAS ALL OVER THE WORLD (Opener)

UNDERSCORE 3 (Accusations)

UNDERSCORE I (Susanna Arrives)

UNDERSCORE 4 (Realization)

UNDERSCORE 2 (Mattiello's)

WINTER WHITE

PRINCE OF PEACE

WE ALL NEED CHRISTMAS

SHEPHERDS AND KINGS

HOPES AND FEARS (Duet)

CHRISTMAS MAKES US ONE

MERCY FOR ME

We All Need Christmas

Christmas Makes Us One O Come, All Ye Faithful

EVERLASTING LIGHT

Shepherds and Kings



