Under w Starry Sky

A Dramatic Musical for Christmas

Created by Joel Lindsay and Jeff Bumgardner
Script by Heidi Petak

Arranged and Ordustrated by Daniel Semsen



Under a



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CLARINET 1, 2
LARINET 3
(doubles Viola)
BASS CLARINET
(doubles String Bass)
SOPRANO SAX
(doubles Oboe)
ALTO SAX 1, 2
(doubles Horn 1, 2)

JTE 1, 2

TENOR SAX/BARITONE T.C. (doubles Trombone 1, 2)
BARITONE SAX (doubles Tuba)
HORN 1, 2
TRUMPET 1, 2
TRUMPET 3
TROMBONE 1, 2
TROMBONE 3/TUBA
VIOLIN 1, 2*
VIOLA*

BASSOON (doubles Cello) PERCUSSION 1, 2 PERCUSSION 3, 4 HARP RHYTHM STRING BASS STRING REDUCTION LEAD SHEETS

*simplified parts included as needed ** instrumentation may vary by song



This symbol indicates a track number on the Accompaniment Compact Disc. Selecting a given CD track number will start the accompaniment track at the corresponding musical section indicated in the choral book.

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Music Engraved by Brent Roberts

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Covered in Christmas



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SCENE 1

(music begins to "Covered in Christmas-Underscore," page 23

MICKEY: Nice work, choir! Let's take a break and be back in five.

(CHOIR members check their phones, talk quietly with each other, drink water, etc.)

MELODY: (stepping down from risers) Mickey, I'm sorry, but I need to leave early tonight. We have Travis's company party at 7.

MICKEY: (teasing) Since when does a company party trump choir rehearsal?

MELODY: Since unemployment rates went up again this month

MICKEY: Good point. (waving her off) Trump ava

MELODY: (putting on her coat) Thank you. (to her stiend) Oh, April, I'm getting the gifts tomorrow for the "Share the Light" gift drive. I'll bring them by your house.

APRIL: Great! Thanks, Melody

MELODY: Hey, I've been where they are. It's just nice to finally be in a place to be able to making quotation marks with her fingers) "Share the Light."

APRIL: I'm with ya. See you tomorrow.

They hag. Melody exits. Lights fade out on the choir and rise on a living room set where Travis is chasing his young children, Evie and Josiah.)

JOSIAH. (laughing) Daddy! You can't catch me!

EVIL (squealing) Over here, Daddy!

You two are fast! Good thing I'm faster! (catches them both) Now, listen, your mommy will be home in a few minutes and I need to talk to her about something, so . . . head downstairs. Frosty is waiting.

EVIE: Yay! Frosty!

JOSIAH: Awesome! Let's go, Evie!

(They exit. "Covered in Christmas - Underscore" ends.)

TRAVIS: (looking on his phone) How to deliver bad news. First, wear a

funny hat. (he reaches for a silly Christmas hat on the lamp table and puts it on). Second, begin by stating something positive. (thinking)
Positive, positive. Hey! (He pulls a mug out of a giftbag.) We have a

new mug! Third . . .

(We hear Melody singing or humming offstage as she "travels," arrive

home, and enters.)

TRAVIS: (standing) Hi, honey! Welcome home!

MELODY: Ooh, nice hat. (taking off her coat) What do you think of getting

Evie an Easy-Bake Oven®? I've heard it hears up to 300 degrees

with a light bulb.

TRAVIS: Sounds dangerous. And expensive.

MELODY: But this year, money is no object because you (pokes his chest) have

a job. (giggles) Tomorrow I'm getting gifts for needy families, poinsettias for the neighbors, gifts for the kids, and (she smiles) something for you. (beat Hey—don't we need to leave in a few

minutes? Tell me that's not what you're wearing.

TRAVIS: Nope, we are doing just fine on time.

MELODY: I thought your party started at 7?

TRAVIS: It does. It did. I mean, for those who are going, it will.

MELODY: What?

TRAVIS. (pulls out the mug) Look! We got a new mug!

MELODY Nice. What does that have to do with your company party?

TRAVIS: We got the mug instead of the party.

MELODY: You're funny. If that was true, I'd say your company is really

cheap. And the kids are already at the sitter's.

TRAVIS: No, they're actually downstairs watching *Frosty*.

MELODY: Okay, now I'm really confused. Can you please tell me what's

happening?

TRAVIS: The company decided they were . . . overstaffed.

MELODY: **Overstaffed. Meaning...?**

TRAVIS: They ... let me go.

MELODY: They ... let you go? You're saying you lost your job? Today?

(beat) No, no, no, you did not lose your job!

(music begins to "Where Is My Star?," page 26 11

TRAVIS: I did.

MELODY: Right before Christmas? Well, of all the cheap, low down things . . .

TRAVIS: Honey... Honey, look on the bright side ...

MELODY: What bright side? There is no bright side.

(Travis turns on a light on his kat)

MELODY: Please take off that hat.

TRAVIS: (taking off the hat I'm just rying to make you smile, Mel. It's

going to be okey. Really. We always tell the kids Christmas isn't

about presents, anyway.

MELODY: Yeah, well, a Baby in a manger and a star that showed some wise

men which way to go seems a little far away right now. (beat) It's not fair! (agitated) I want to buy poinsettias and mail Christmas cards and surprise the kids with fun gifts . . . and now what are we gonna do? Sit around and sing carols? (beat) And then what? And then I go back to work again, which we both decided I wouldn't do

while the kids were still young!

TRAVIS I'm sorry, honey. I wish it were different, too.

MELODY: I need some fresh air. I'll be back in a while.

(Melody puts on her coat and exits. Travis throws the hat on one end of the couch and sits down hard on the other end, his head in his hands.

Melody crosses the stage and stops to look up at the sky.)

Covered In Christmas-Underscore



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Where Is My Star?



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SCENE 2

(music begins to "Going on a Journey-Underscore," page 40 [16 [24]) In living room set, Travis is sitting back down on the couch, with his head in his hands. Evie and Josiah enter and run to Travis. Josiah hugs him.)

JOSIAH: Are you okay, Daddy?

EVIE: Where's Mommy?

TRAVIS: I'm okay, bud. Mommy just went for a walk.

JOSIAH: At night?

TRAVIS: Yep.

EVIE: Should I pray for her?

TRAVIS: You can pray for all of us.

(Josiah pulls Travis offstage and they exit together. Evie bows her head. Music and lights begin to create a swirling, "magical" effect in response to Evie's prayer. Melody, still "outside" the house, turns around, disoriented. A few extras may cross the stage quickly and intently, carrying shopping bags and packages. Some are dressed modern, some in Riblical fashion. Melody crosses the stage, looking at each of them as they pass, searching for answers. She accidentally bumps into Anna, upsetting the bundle of wrapped items Anna is carrying. The outro/swirling music ends with a dissonant crash. The swirling lights begin to subside.)

ANNA Oh! Well, honey, whoever said women had eyes in the back of their heads never met you!

MELODY I'm so sorry. (helping her pick things up)

ANNA: No matter, no matter. Now, are you lost?

MELODY: You could say that.

ANNA: Or *you* could say that. It wouldn't be my place to say that, though

if it were my place, I'd say . . . you look lost. Where are you

headed?

MELODY: I don't really know.

ANNA: Well, where was your husband born?

MELODY: Why.

ANNA: Because that's where you need to go. Now, where was he born?

MELODY: I said, Why.

ANNA: No, honey, you don't say why, you ask why.

MELODY: My husband was born in the very small town of Why, Arizona

Why is the name of the town.

ANNA: Hmm. Well, I've never heard of it, but my inclination is that it's

inhabited by an overwhelming number of curious 3-year olds. (beat) My daughter is headed to Bethlehem . . . with her fiancé.

MELODY: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania?

ANNA: No, Bethlehem, the City of Pavid

MELODY: Why?

ANNA: Not Why. Bethlehem. You know why—because of the tax-hungry

C.A. who wants a census of all the inhabited earth. Which, of

course, includes my daughter, who is greatly with child.

MELODY: Wait (she looks around) I must be dreaming. This is crazy. Who

are you, really?

ANNA: Just a mother, just a mother. No matter. As if it wasn't enough

that she turned up pregnant—that was a punch in the gut—and now I had to bless her head as she goes to Bethlehem to have this baby... without her mother! That's a punch in the heart! At least she has my freshly baked rosemary bread. I would have sent along this olive loaf and these figs and this skin of water and these extra linens but she said they had quite enough to carry. In my opinion they could have used them, but no matter, no matter. (beat) Here, I want you to have them. Who knows? You might need them for

your journey. (pushing them towards her)

MELODY: Thank you, but I'm not on a journey. (taking the bundle of items)

(music begins to "Already a Savior," page 42 [17] [25])

ANNA:

Oh, yes, honey, we are all on a journey. From Why to Bethlehem, and everywhere in between. If I know anything, I know this: the good Lord knows what He's doing. We can only trust Him. I can only trust my Mary and my precious grandbaby to Him tonight.

(Light fades out on Anna and Melody as they exit. Light fades in on Mary and Joseph as they "travel to Bethlehem.")

(During "Already a Savior," Travis is looking at his computer and writing on a tablet, crunching numbers in their budget to see if they can have any money for Christmas gifts. He comes up empty. Josiah and Evie are setting up a Nativity scene on a table and playing with the characters.)

Going on a Journey-Underscore

Music by DANIEL SEMSEN



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Already a Savior



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SCENE 3

(Mary and Joseph continue crossing the stage on their way to Bethlehem. Melody passes them, still carrying her bundle. Extras, dressed in Biblical costuming, may cross the stage as fellow travelers. Melody stops.)

MELODY: Well, now I am officially lost. (looking up) That star would really come in handy now, God.

(Cleo enters, looking around nervously. Melody approaches him.)

MELODY: I'm sorry, but can you tell me where I am? I have a feeling it's getting late.

CLEO: Gettin' late? What time is it?

MELODY: (looking in her pocket for her phone) Idon't know. I had a phone, but now it's gone. I'm sorry.

CLEO: Full of thieves, these streets are. Forget about it. It's a wonder the Big Man don't incinerate the whole fot of 'em. If it were me, . . .

MELODY: Sounds like the Mafia. (nervously) Who's the Big Man? The Godfather?

CLEO: You could call him that. No, I'm not with the Mafia. (proudly) I'm a proud lifetime member of the MOTHHs.

MELODY: (chackling) The Moths? Now that doesn't sound so scary.

Hey! Non't knock it. I can scare people, I tell ya. Biggest night of my life tonight. Just waitin' for the word from the Big Man. I tell ya what, those folks are gonna be sore afraid. Sore afraid! (beat)

Forget about it. Why the Big Man is goin' to all this trouble is beyond me. Like I said, if it were me, I'd incinerate the whole lot of 'em.

MELODY: Going to all this trouble to what?

CLEO: Show 'em some love. They've been waitin' a long time for this—700 years to be exact.

MELODY: Wait, wait. The Big Man . . . 700 years . . . sore afraid . . . you're you're the angel! And you're about to announce the news to the shepherds!

CLEO: Now, watch it, sister. I'm not the angel. No, I'm an angel. One of the esteemed MOTHHS.

MELODY: Where I come from, moths are not esteemed.

Oh, but where I come from, they are! It's an honor! I'm part of the (spelling it out) M.O.T.H.H.s! Multitude Of The Heavenly Hosts! (he puts his finger to his ear suddenly) Hang on. (beat) Yes, sir. Yes, I found her. (beat) No, I won't forget. (beat) It's time? (whispering to Melody) It's time! (excitedly) Oh, yes, sir, I'm ready, alright! (beat) Yes, sir. Over and out.

Wait. Before you go, can you please tell me how I can get home?

really am lost.

MELODY:

CLEO: Ah, you only think you're lost. Forget about it. (begins to exit, then turns around suddenly) Forget? I almost forgot to tell ya why I was sent to see ya.

MELODY: You were sent to see me?

CLEO: Somewhere out there, a little girl is praying for ya.

MELODY: For me? (realizing, then whispering to herself) Evie! (to CLEO) Can

I ask what she's praying for?

CLEO: You can ask, but Kean't tell. It's not an Easy-Bake Oven®, I can

tell ya that much.

MELODY: Wait. How did you know . . .

CLEO: (interrupting) No more detours for me. I'm off to the biggest night of my life!

(music begins to "Here," page 60 [22] 🚾 6)

(Cleo exits. Melody exits.)

(During "Here," a light shines dimly on the "real" Mary and Joseph as they create the "real" Nativity scene stage left. A light also shows dimly on Josiah and Evie as they use towels and bathrobes to dress up like Mary and Joseph, creating their own Nativity, complete with stuffed animals and a doll for Jesus. Travis enters, surprised. He takes a picture with his phone. Then Evie stands and begins to dance with her doll.)

Here



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SCENE 4

(Light rises on Travis, who is alone in the living room, talking on his phone)

TRAVIS:

Quite a while ago. (beat) I know, it's getting late now. Hopefully she'll be back soon. (beat) Yeah, it's not quite the Christmas gift she was expecting this year. (beat) No, you're right. It's been a tough couple of years for us. (beat) Thanks, April. (beat) Yeah, I know you'd wanna know.

(Josiah enters, obviously searching for something. Travis doesn't see him.)

TRAVIS:

(still on phone) Okay, I will. (beat) Yep. You, too. (beat) Bye. (music ends. He puts phone down, sighs loudly, talking to himself) This just kills me.

JOSIAH: What kills you, Dad?

TRAVIS: (turning around quickly) Oh! Hey Josiah. No, no, it's just an

expression. Nothing is actually filling me. It's just, as men we have this desire to take care of our families. And sometimes, it's really hard. Sometimes it seems like . . . everything is against us.

JOSIAH: (still looking for something) Like God?

TRAVIS: (laughing No. no. not like God. We know He's never against us.

(beat) Okay yeah, sometimes when bad things happen it does seem

like God is against us.

JOSIAH: But He's not.

TRAVIS: Right. He's not. I know He's not.

JOSIAH: (finds what he was looking for) Hey, I found my monkey!

TRAVIS: (chuckling) Was he one of the Nativity animals?

JOSIAH: Yep!

TRAVIS: Nice choice. (beat, then claps his hands) All right, young man, it's

time for you to follow your sister and go to bed.

JOSIAH: I don't wanna go to bed. I hate going to bed!

TRAVIS: Gotta go to bed.

JOSIAH: Why?

(music begins to "Presidents and Kings," page 77 (30) 207)

TRAVIS: Because I love you.

JOSIAH: (frustrated) Sometimes the way you love me doesn't make any sense

TRAVIS: I know. You just have to trust me, buddy. I want you to grow strong, so you have to go to bed.

JOSIAH: Okay, I'm going. (turns to go to bed)

TRAVIS: I'll be in in a minute. (Josiah exits, Travis stands for a moment and looks up, praying) Sometimes, Father the way You love me doesn't make any sense. (chuckling) But then, do angels singing to shepherds make any sense? No. Does a king born in a stable make any sense? No. (beat) I know. Unst have to trust. I just have to trust. Help me, Father, please.

(Light fades on Travis. He exis.)

(During the next song, 'Presidents and Kings," a small group of shepherds enter the stage to join Mary and Joseph.)

Presidents and Kings



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(Light fades out on the Nativity)

SCENE 5

(Light rises on Melody, walking backwards, retracing her steps across the stage)

MELODY: And then I walked this way, and then I turned here (she turns around) past that tree, or . . . did I? Oh, I'm so lost!

(Harvey enters, yawning. He is wearing overalls and has a thick southern accent. He approaches Melody, surprising her.)

HARVEY: Pardon me, ma'am?

MELODY: (jumps) Ah! Who are you?

HARVEY: I'm a shepherd.

MELODY: Well, thanks for not making me guess

HARVEY: I coulda toldja I was a lost ball in high weeds, but that mighta

confused ya.

MELODY: (skeptically) I always thought there were a bunch of shepherds.

HARVEY: They is a bunch, But I'm sa dad-blamed tah'rd I'm movin' slower

than a bread wagon with biscuit wheels. How 'bout dis rat'cheer: I lost 'em plum lost 'em. After dem angels got done with dat dare singin,' all dem yahoos "ran in haste"- they skedaddled like

they's got bees in they britches.

MELODY: And ou didn't go with them?

HARVEY: No ma'am. I's puttin' on my clodhoppers. You'd have to pin my tail and call me a donkey 'fore you'd catch me runnin' through dat

dare sheep field in bare feet.

MELODY: I get it. (beat) I'm actually lost, too.

HARVEY: Well, now, I ain't lost. I've lived in dis here town since I was knee

high to a grasshopper. But I reckon I ain't got no idear how to find

the little feller in the feed trough.

MELODY: The little feller in the feed trough...you mean the Baby in the

manger?

HARVEY: You know 'bout Him? You might could know where I could find

Him?

MELODY: I know about Him, yes. But I don't know how to find Him. Sorry.

HARVEY: Well, dadburnit anyway! If that ain't enuff to harelip the gov'nor.

MELODY: Hang on. This might help. From what I understand, He'll be in a

stable, because there was no room in the inn.

HARVEY: Well, slap my head and call me a sandwich. I reckon Mack and

Mabel's Inn's got a stable out yonder. Whatcha say we check it

out?

MELODY: Me?

HARVEY: Well, you's comin' along aint'cha?

MELODY: No, thank you.

HARVEY: Come to think of it, I ain't got nothin' to give Him.

MELODY: Here...you can give Him an dive loaf, water, linens, and figs.

(handing it to him, happy to get aid of the whole bundle)

HARVEY: Well, bless your soul. That's mighty generous of you, little lady, but

(handing back the linens) ... tou'd best keep somethin' to give Him, too.

MELODY: Thanks. Laid, I'm no coming. I just want to go home.

HARVEY: Purty please? A little company'd make me happy as a ol' pig

in the sunshine. Besides, you'd get to see the little feller, too. Whatcha gonna do? Stand around, lookin' as lost as a sheep in a

Whatcha gonna do? Stand around, lookin' as lost as a sheep in a snowstorm? How 'bout dis 'ere: you help me find the little feller,

an' I help you, so you ain't lost no more. (beat) Deal?

(she looks around, sighs)

(music begins to "Under a Starry Sky," page 94 [38]

MELODY: (weary sigh) I'm out of options. (beat) Deal.

(As the song begins, Melody and Harvey cross the stage as if traveling, and eventually enter the nativity scene. Harvey gives his gifts to Mary and Joseph, and then kneels with the other shepherds at the manger. Melody then gives Mary the linens. Mary presses them to her face and smells them. She smiles at Melody. Then, she lays the linens on "Baby Jesus" in the manger. Melody sits, watching, but doesn't look in the manger.)

Under a Starry Sky



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(Option: During "Silent Stars Go By," add beauty and elegance to the scene with a worship dance performance by a solo dancer or a trained group of young dancers)

Silent Stars Go By



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(During the last few measures of "Silent Stars Go By," Harvey and the other Shepherds begin to leave the stable. Melody says her goodbyes to Mary and Joseph and follows Harvey out. She doesn't say goodbye to Baby Jesus. All Shepherds except Harvey exit.)

SCENE 6

MELODY: (stopping Harvey) Not so fast, Mister. You said if I helped you, you

would help me. Now, I need to get home. I have a family.

HARVEY: (wiping his eyes, not listening to her) There ain't nothin' like 'at.

MELODY: I know! That's why I need to get home.

HARVEY: There ain't nothin' like seein' the face of that little feller—my

Savior. An' ta think God wanted me to see Him! Sendin' angels to my neck-of-the-woods. Wanted me to be one of the first to lay my two eyes on Him! Who am I? I'm a nobody. A sinner. A goodfor-nothin' buzzard on a manure pile. An' ta think he thinks I'm somethin'! Ta think God loves me! I could knelt by dat manger for the rest of my life. I was home. (Near) Well, it was nice to

meetcha, ma'am. (putting out his hand)

MELODY: (refusing his hand) Oh, no you don't! You can't leave me here. You

said you would help me get home!

(Mary and Joseph exit with their baby. Another shepherd, Vance,

enters and calls to Harvey.)

VANCE: Harvey! We cotta get back! Who knows how many sheep have

wandered off by now. We could lose our jobs! (exits)

MELODY: (ye ling after him) Yeah, well, sometimes that's just life!

HARVEY: Ma'am.

You know, you do the best you can and you think you're following God and then suddenly your husband loses his job and you're lost. And you have no idea where to go or what to do. And I tell you what, if I was God, I would reward people who follow Him. I would make good things happen in their lives, not bad things.

(beat) You know what I mean?

(music begins to "Frozen in Time-Underscore," page 121 [52] [22]

(There is no response. Harvey has frozen. She looks closely at him.)

MELODY: Hello? What in the world? (she waves her hand in front of his face) Hello! Oh, this is fabulous. The one person who maybe could've helped me get home and now he's a . . . a statue? What is this? A dream? (crossing downstage away from Harvey and looking up) Is this supposed to be a funny dream, God? Because it's not funny anymore! I want to wake up now! I just want to go home. Please (Nothing happens.) I have tried so hard to follow You . . . and obey You . . . and please You. Don't I deserve more? Don't I deserve

better?

(In the next sequence, a dim light rises on each of the characters who stand in different parts of the stage. Their voices should have reverb on them to sound "in the past." They freeze after they say each line. Melody turns to look at them, even moves toward them when they speak.)

CLEO: (repeating the exact same way he said it before) (ms. 18) Forget about it. It's a wonder the Big Man don't insurerate the whole lot of 'em!

HARVEY: (ms. 19) Who am I? I'm a nobody. A sinner. A good-for-nothin' buzzard on manure pile.

MELODY: You might be, but I'm a good woman. I'm a good person. Aren't I?

CLEO: (repeating the exact same way he said it before) (ms. 20) Forget about it. It's a wonder the Big Man don't incinerate the whole lot of 'em.

HARVEY: (repeating the exact same way he said it before) (ms. 21) Who am I? I'm a habody. A sinner. A good-for-nothin' buzzard on a manure pile.

MYLODY: (starting to crack) Okay, me too. Me, too. (ms. 22) I'm a sinner.

A good-for-nothin' buzzard on a manure pile. So, incinerate me.

Why don't You just incinerate me?

CLEO: (ms. 25) Why the Big Man is goin' to all this trouble is beyond me.

HARVEY: (ms. 26) An' ta think He thinks I'm somethin'!

CLEO: (ms. 27) Why the Big Man is goin' to all this trouble is beyond me.

HARVEY: (ms. 28) An' ta think He thinks I'm somethin'!

MELODY: (pauses, thinking) (ms. 29) You do? You think I'm somethin', God?

Then why did Travis lose his job? Why?

ANNA: (repeating the exact same way she said it before) (ms. 32) **Honey, on**

a journey. From Why to Bethlehem, and everywhere in between. (repeating) (ms. 33) Honey, we are all on a journey. From Why to

Bethlehem, and everywhere in between.

MELODY: Yeah, well now I've been to both Why and Bethlehem.

ANNA: (ms. 34) If I know anything, I know this: the good Lord knows what

He's doing. We can only trust Him. (repeating exactly the same)

(ms. 35) If I know anything, I know this: the good Lord knows what

He's doing. We can only trust Him.

MELODY: (ms. 36) Is that what this is about? You just want me to say I trust

You and then you'll let me go home? Okay, I trust You. There, I said it. (nothing happens) I trust You (nothing happens) What do

You want from me?

(pause)

CLEO: (ms. 44) Somewhere out there, a hade girl is praying for ya.

(Anna exits)

MELODY: (whispers) Frie

(A dim sportight rises on Evie)

EVIE: (ms. 46) Dear God, I pray for my Mommy.

(Melody sees her, runs towards her but can't pass an invisible barrier to

get to her.)

MELODY Evie, baby, what are you praying for me? What?

EVIE: I pray that my Mommy would know...

MELODY: That I would know what?

EVIE: (ms. 48) That she is (pause) ... loved.

(Light fades on Evie. Melody stops, pauses, letting this sink in. She

begins to back up, crossing back to center.)

MELODY: (pause) (ms. 50) That I'm loved? That Evie loves me? I know she loves me. (pauses, then turns to look up, slowly) That You... that You love me, God? That You love me? Is that why You've brought me here?

HARVEY: (ms. 56) There ain't nothin' like seein' the face of that little feller.

My Savior. An' ta think God wanted me to see Him! Ta think Go loves me! I coulda knelt by dat manger for the rest of my life.

(Underscore, fades out. Melody's next lines are said dry, with no music.)

MELODY: You wanted me to see Him? To see Jesus? (beat) And I... I missed it! I was so bottled up with being mad that I missed it! I never even looked in His eyes. I want to go back! I want to go back to the manger. I want to look in Jesus' eyes. (she tries but can't pass the invisible barrier.) I want to tell Him thank you! I want to tell Him thank You for saxing me! Can't I go back? Please! Please, let me go back! (She eroxses downstage center, slowly.)

(music begins to "Going Nome Underscore," page 124 (55) [25]

Oh, Father...oh, Father, I can't kneel at the manger, but I can kneel here, now. (lateels) I'm sorry. I'm sorry for how I misjudged You. For how I doubted You. Help me trust You, for real. Thank You. Thank You for sending Your Son... for me. To show me how much You love me. You love me.

(She bows her head, weeping. Light rises dimly on Harvey. Melody continues to bow her head while he speaks.)

(repeating exactly the same way) Ta think God loves me! I coulda knelt by dat manger for the rest of my life. I was home. (repeating) Ta think God loves me! I coulda knelt by dat manger for the rest of my life. I was home. (repeating) I was home. (repeating) I was home. (repeating) I was home.

(As Harvey repeats his last line, swirling music and lights begin as in SCENE 2, magically bringing Melody back to the present. Segue into "As Far as Eyes Can See," page 126 56 2012) Travis enters hurriedly, wearing his coat. Melody is still kneeling, her head bowed.)

TRAVIS: Melody! There you are! Are you okay?

HARVE

MELODY: (standing) I'm home! Oh, Honey, am I ever glad to see you! I'm

more than okay. (She pauses a moment. This is the first time she has asked him since he lost his job, so she asks slowly and thoughtfully.)

Are you okay?

TRAVIS: I'm fine. But I've been worried about you.

MELODY: God had to take me on a journey.

TRAVIS: A journey? What kind of journey?

MELODY: (laughing) From Why to Bethlehem and everywhere in between

TRAVIS: I'm just glad you're back.

MELODY: Me, too.

TRAVIS: It's gonna be okay, you know?

MELODY: Yeah, I know.

TRAVIS: You do? How?

MELODY: Because I know . . . God loves us.

Frozen in Time-Underscore



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Going Home-Underscore



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As Far as Eyes Can See (Duet with Choir)



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SCENE 7

(During the last few measures of "As Far As Eyes Can See")

TRAVIS: (ms. 86) You ready to go in?

MELODY: Yes.

(They cross the stage and enter the living room set. Music ends. April, Josiah, and Evie enter as if from another area of the house. Choir members also enter, holding bags of groceries and other items.)

APRIL: (and other choir members) Surprise!!!

MELODY: What's all this?

APRIL: Groceries, and a few things for the kids. More to come, my friend.

More to come.

MELODY: You are too much! You didn't have to do all this.

APRIL: I know. We wanted to. We heard you needed to feel a little love

tonight.

MELODY: Thank you, April.

APRIL: And please don't worry about getting the gifts for the gift drive.

We'll have plenty.

MELODY: Okay (sighs) I was really looking forward to helping.

APRIL: Oh, but you can still help! We'll need someone to deliver the gifts

and just spend time with people. There are a million ways to

"Share the Light."

MENOPY: So true. (music begins to "A Million Little Lights," page 142

63 (2013) Light. I was asking God earlier for a light, for a star to show me the way. And He took me back to Bethlehem. To a Baby in a manger Who is . . . the Light of the World. Jesus. He's our Light. And no matter our situation, we can offer His light, His

love, to the world.

(During this song, the other cast members can enter the stage. By the end of the song, the entire cast should be out on the stage together,

singing.)

A Million Little Lights



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(Optional candle-lighting segment)

(music begins to "A Million Little Lights–Reprise," page 153

PASTOR:

The Light began as one Candle, Jesus, (lighting his candle) the Light of the World. After His death and resurrection, Jesus told His disciples to take His light, His love, to their neighborhoods, their communities, and to the far corners of the world.

And so tonight, we will each take our candle and share our light with someone else until this whole room is filled with a million little lights. But the sharing of light and of love won't end here in this room tonight, because we have the love of Christ here in our hearts. So tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that, may each one of us share the Light of Jesus, the Hope of the Gospel, so that the people around us will know . . . they are loved.

A Million Little Lights (Reprise)



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 $[*]Measures\ 1\ through\ 16\ may\ be\ repeated\ as\ needed\ for\ the\ candle\ lighting\ . The\ Accompaniment\ Track\ does\ not\ repeat.$











 $[*]Accompaniment\ track\ cuts\ off\ on\ beat\ 8\ of\ fermata.$

Notes

PREMIEN

The Christmas Story – originally experienced for real, in real-time; beneath a starlit sky; in the tiny, biblical town of Bethlehem; with players familiar to all...

Ary, Joseph, the Baby Jesus, the shepherds. Over time we have even "created" some characters who, though not actually present at His birth, have become part of the fabric of the Christmas story. Characters like the little drummer boy; try though you might, you won't find him anywhere in the Bible. Yet he has earned his place in the story as being representative of those not mentioned in the Bible, but who could have easily encountered the Savior and His family the night of Christ's birth.

We are a culture and a people who love stories. And historical, biblically accurate accounts of Jesus' birth are where we anchor our telling (and retelling) of His coming. It is in that spirit that we take the reality of His coming, and the telling of His story, and connect it to a cast of modern-day characters who encounter the true meaning of Christmas as their own line story is being lived out. Our main character, Melody, then begins to "encounter" fictional, Bible-time characters who lead her to the place where Christ was born. Along the way, she finds the answers to the challenges and pressures of her family's current-day crisis.

Word Music & Church Resources presents "Under a starry Sky" — a powerful, new dramatic musical designed for a small cast of players, soloists, choir and orchestra. From the skillfully crafted, powerfully written script by Heidi Petak; to the distinctly different, theatrically-styled new songs brilliantly written by award-winning composers Joel Lindsey and Jeff Bumgardner; to the unique, sophisticated, emotionally-charged arrangements and orchestrations by Daniel Semsen, this new Christmas musical represents an important achievement in modern church music. Created for churches with a passion for bringing the worlds of music ministry and musical theater together in an innovative setting, "Under a Storry Sky" is a breath of dramatically fresh air!

Set the stage for your Christmas production with the use of the visually enhancing DVD Accompaniment Track, making your presentation even more memorable and effective. Orchestrations, Stem mixes, Data Discs and more are available to help make yours a once-in-alifetime experience for your church and community!

Covered in Christmas
Covered in Christmas – Underscore
Where Is My Star?
Going on a Journey – Underscore
Already a Savior
Here
Presidents and Kings.
Under a Starry Sky
Silent Stars Go By
Frozen in Time –Underscore
Going Home – Underscore
As Far as Eyes Can See
A Million Little Lights
A Million Little Lights



