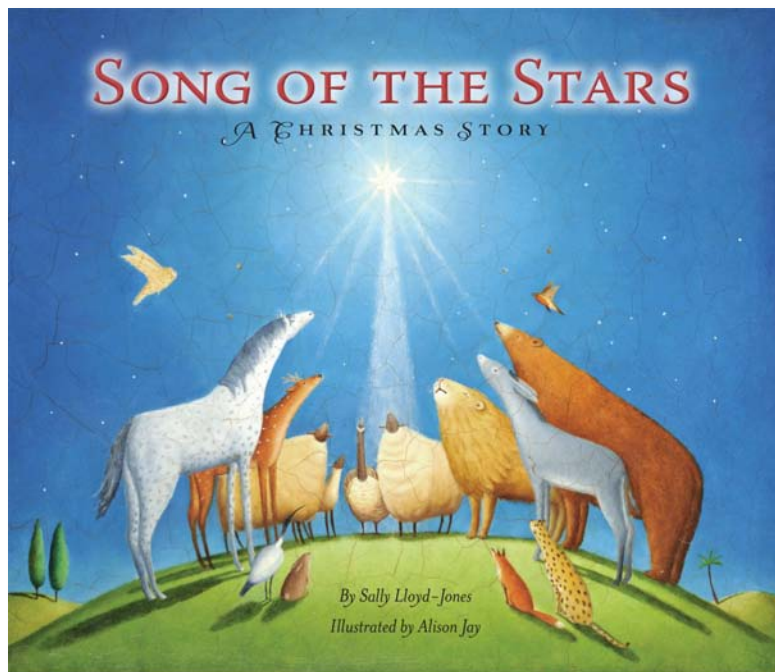


Song of the Stars

Children's Play/Dramatic Script

"It's time! It's time!"





Song of the Stars

Written by Sally Lloyd-Jones

Illustrated by Allison Jay

Children's Play/Dramatic Script

Adapted by Juliet Blight

PRODUCTION NOTES:

The Drama is suitable for performance by 4 to 7 year olds.

Cast

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Owl

Woodland creatures' leader

Flowers' leader

Sandpipers' leader

Lion

Mary

Remaining children are put into one of the following groups:

Angels, Woodland creatures, Flowers, Sandpipers, Wild Stallions, Shepherds

Scenery helpers/stage hands (optional) Their job is to hold up various scenes and pictures of creatures and the length of blue cloth (the river)

There are two narrators, but the lines could be shared between more children. These narrators should be older children from the group who are competent readers.

The narrators are required sometimes to speak loudly and sometimes softly. Some time should be spent helping them practise this and it may be worth considering the use of microphones. There is no need for them to learn the lines as these can be read.

Each group of actors should be led by an older child who can guide the younger ones.

Staging

The play can be adapted to suit any space, but a raised area or stage would be desirable. As several characters arrive through the audience, some sort of aisle would also work well. As the play progresses, more and more children are added to the scene on stage. There should therefore be enough space on stage for the whole cast to gather around Mary and Jesus for the final scene.



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Placing children on different levels, either by the use of staging or kneeling and standing will enable all to be seen.

When they are on stage, the children should be encouraged to be very still as if they are in a photograph unless they are speaking or acting.

Scenery

No scenery is necessary, but a simple backdrop of the hills around Bethlehem might add to the visual impact. Alternatively, the scene or scenes could be projected onto a screen behind the actors.

At various points in the drama, some of the children bring on pictures to hold up. These could be made by the children themselves if time allows.

The single star that appears could be a Christmas tree decoration lifted above the actors on a piece of string attached to a stick.

Costumes and Props

These do not need to be elaborate. Paper masks would work well, as would plain colored t-shirts; a different color for each group. E.g. Brown for woodland creatures, white for the angels, grey for stallions

The props that are required are lambs and a doll wrapped as baby Jesus and a length of blue cloth to suggest a river.

The dramatic script begins on the following page.



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Narrators 1&2 stand on opposite ends of the stage

On stage to one side are woodland creatures (some standing, some kneeling)

Next to them are little flowers, standing, heads bowed

As each additional group enters they join the group on stage, building the scene as the good news is passed on so that by the end all the children are on stage ready for the arrival of the long-awaited rescuer

Narrator 1: The world was about to change forever.
And it almost went by unnoticed ...

Narrator 2: *(quietly)* But the leaves, that night,
Rustled with a rumor.
News rang out across the open fields.
A song drifted over the hills.

Narrator 1: *(As he speaks the owl runs through the congregation/audience)*
A barn owl took flight.
Woodland creatures stirred *(they look up)*

Woodland Creature leader: It's time!
Woodland Creatures: *(louder)* It's time!

Narrator 1: In the pinewoods
The faces of little flowers lifted
to the skies ...

Flowers leader: *(lifting their heads)* It's time!
Flowers: *(louder)* It's time!

Narrator 2: *(As each sea scene or creature is mentioned its picture is held up)*
The *skies* shouted it to...
The *seas* that thundered it to ...
The *waves* that roared it to ...
The *great white whales* that sang it to...
The *starfish* in the deep.

Narrator 1: And tiny sandpipers danced it
on shining sands ...

(Sandpipers dance to join the others on stage)

Sandpiper leader: It's time!
Sandpipers: It's time!



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*(Two children hold up long length of blue cloth between them to suggest a river
As each river creature is mentioned its picture on a stick is moved about above the river)*

Narrator 1: The running rivers bounded over boulders...
the otters clapped and played and sang to ...
the ducklings that splashed and quacked to ...
the salmon that leaped and leaped.
Its time!

All on stage: *(louder)* It's time!

(Wild stallions appear and pound the ground with their feet)

Narrator 1: Wild stallions drummed it to the ground

Narrator 1&2: Get ready! Get ready
(louder) Be glad! Be glad!

(A lion appears on a raised platform. His head is bowed)

Narrator 1: On a lonely peak
a lion raised his strong head
(much louder) and roared it out
to the empty wilderness ...

Lion: *(very loud)* The Mighty King!
The Prince of Peace!

(All the animals look towards the lion as children holding up stars and a group of shepherds holding lambs appear)

Narrator 2: All the stars joined together
in a chorus that rang out through the heavens ...

Narrator 1&2: The Bright and Morning Star!
And on a hillside overlooking a little town
sheep nuzzled their new lambs ...

Narrator 1&2: The Good Shepherd!

Narrator 1: In the little town
in a little shed
in a little window
a candle flickered in the dark.

(An army of angels run through the congregation/audience)
(louder) Suddenly angels lit up the whole sky
and a great choir sang it out loud ...

Angels: It's time! He's come! At last! *(louder)* He's here!



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(All the children kneel and Mary appears and steps on to the stage holding Jesus)

Narrator 1: *(Speaking quietly)* A tiny cry rang out in the cold night air.
(A single star appears above all the children. They gaze at it)
And high above
a single star
set in the highest heavens
shone out brighter than all the others
and poured down silver
onto the little shed ...
“A Light to light up
the whole world!”

(Some of the animals standing near Mary quietly gather round her, some kneeling.)
(All the children look at Jesus)

Narrator 2: The animals stood around his bed.
And the whole earth
and all the stars and sky
held its breath ...

Mary: *(looking up and speaking slowly)* The One who made us
has come to live with us!

Narrator 2: A young mother
with no place to rest
nowhere to stay
kept it as a song
inside her heart ...

Mary: Our Rescuer!

(The stage is full. The children are still)

Narrator 2: And they gazed in wonder
at God's great gift.
Lying on a bed of straw
wrapped in rags—
a tiny little baby.

Narrator 1: Heaven's Son
sleeping under the stars
that he made.

A carol is sung: O little Town of Bethlehem