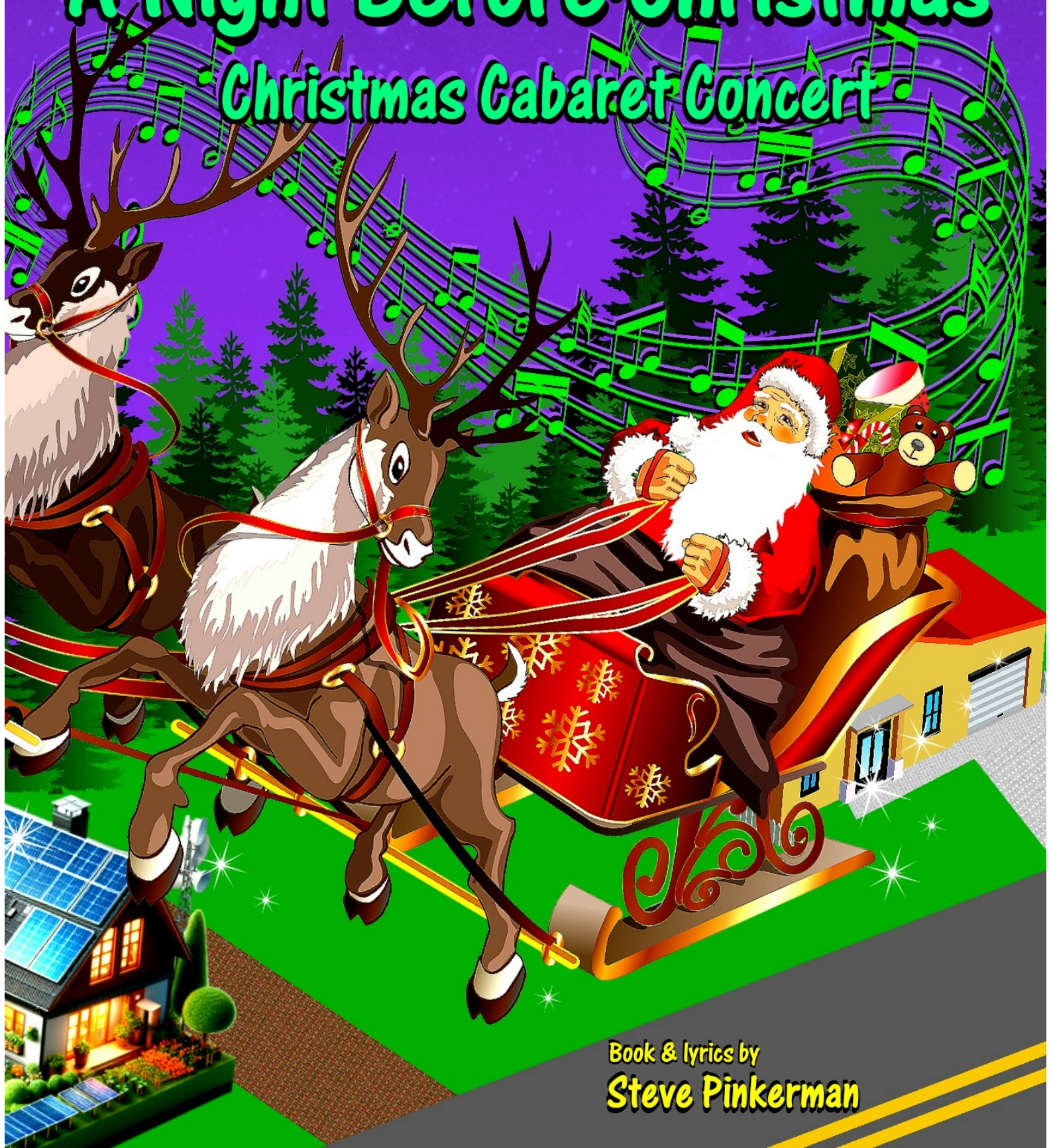


A classic tale modernized for the times of today
with 17 original seasonal songs!

A Night Before Christmas

Christmas Cabaret Concert



Book & lyrics by
Steve Pinkerman

A Night Before Christmas
Christmas Cabaret Concert

Script by
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A NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS by **STEVE PINKERMAN**
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A musical sleigh ride down memory lane, and back to the future, exploring Christmas times from the days of our youth to what the holiday season truly means through the eyes of a parent.

We'll be rockin' down the highway with a classic holiday tale, modernized for the new reality of today's Christmas, including 17 original seasonal songs.

A night of family memories re-lived with a story of song and dance, and the starting of new family traditions.

Roles: 6M, 6F.

Ensemble Singers: 6M, 6F.

Non-gender Specific Roles: 2

You may choose to use any combination of Male/Female.
Director's Choice.

(Running Time is approximately 90 minutes.)

SETTINGS:

Your story takes place in the Klopeck family living room, which is filled with Christmas decorations. Including a decorated Christmas tree at stage left - with lights, a star on top and lots of wrapped presents underneath. There is a fireplace with a 'roaring fire' at stage right - with Christmas cards on the mantle and stockings hung. There is also a music box on the fireplace mantle. There is mistletoe hanging from the 'ceiling' at stage right center. There are sofas and chairs in a 'U' shape at upstage center (You need to be able to seat 13 family members at one time).

When the words "Family Members" are written into the script, we are referring to:

- Grandma & Grandpa Klopeck
- Leif & Holly Froughmeyer
- Carol & Jacob Froughmen
- Camford & Joy Klopeck
- Maggie & Tommy Klopeck
- Brice & Noelle Klopeck and
- Eve Marie Yulogree

CHARACTER ROLES:

BURGESS MERRIWEATHER:

Narrator, Male. Early 60's.

GRANDMA KLOPECK:

An older female in her early 60's. Grandmother, Mother and In-Law to all.

GRANDPA KLOPECK:

An older male in his early 60's. Grandfather, Father and In-Law to all.

HOLLY FROUGHMEYER:

A female about 40, eldest child married to Leif Froughmeyer, mother to Carol and Jacob.

LEIF FROUGHMEYER:

A male about 40 married to Holly, father to Carol and Jacob.

CAROL FROUGHMEYER:

A female teen about 16 daughter to Holly and Leif, sister to Jacob.

JACOB FROUGHMEYER:

A male teen about 15 son to Holly and Leif, brother to Carol.

CAMFORD KLOPECK:

A male about 30 second child, eldest male. Married to Joy, father to Maggie May and Tommy

JOY KLOPECK:

A female about 30 second child, married to Camford, mother to Maggie May and Tommy.

CHARACTER ROLES (CONT.)

MAGGIE MAY KLOPECK:

A young female child about 12, sister to Tommy, daughter to Camford and Joy.

TOMMY KLOPECK:

A young male child about 10, brother to Maggie May, son to Camford and Joy.

BRICE KLOPECK:

A male about 25, third child.

NOELLE KLOPECK:

A female about 24, youngest child.

EVE MARIE YULOGREE:

A female about 24, college roommate and friend to Noelle.

TWO ELVES:

2 x Non-gender specific elves.

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS:

Minimum of 6 male singers and 6 female singers.

SONG CATALOGUE:

All music is digital and licensed for your use with the appropriately purchased performance licence.

Song #1: SANTA CLAUS IS COMING

All on Stage, Ensemble, Ensemble Solo's, Maggie May Solo, Tommy Solo.

Song #2: IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME

All On Stage, Family Solo's, Grandpa Solo, Grandma Solo.

Song #3: SANTA WILL YOU PLEASE

All On Stage, Brice Solo, Male Ensemble, Eve Marie Solo, Female Ensemble.

Song #4: CHRISTMAS MEDLEY - MUSIC BY ROD BEST

Ensemble, Ensemble Solo's.

Song #5: DO YOU HEAR THE BELLS

Holly.

Song #6: CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR ME

Camford Solo, Joy Solo, Camford & Joy Duet.

Song #7: CHRISTMAS FOR MY CHILD

All On Stage.

Song #8: THE CALLING

Noelle.

Song #9: LITTLE STAR IN BETHLEHEM

Maggie May Solo, Tommy Solo, Ensemble.

Song #10: HER SIDE OF THE STORY

Carol Solo, Female Ensemble, Female Ensemble Solo.

Song #11: THAT FABULOUS FEAST

Ensemble, Ensemble Solo's.

SONG CATALOGUE (CONTINUED) :

Song #12: MY HOLIDAY

Grandma Solo, Grandpa Solo, Family Members.

Song #13: YOUR CROSS TO BEAR

Jacob Solo.

Song #14: RUDOLPH HAS BEEN REPLACED

Grandpa Solo.

Song #15: SANTA HAS BEEN FIRED

Camford Solo, Two Elves Duet.

Song #16: SANTA AIN'T BLUE NO MORE

Leif Solo.

Song #17: CHRISTMAS WINDS

All Cast Members

"Christmas Medley" instrumental music used with permission of "Rod Best Music".

"Christmas for My Child" and "The Calling" instrumental music licensed through "Excel Music".

All other instrumental music is licensed through "Tribe of Noise Pro".

KEY PROPS LIST:

- High-backed Chair on Wheels (Burgess).
- Storybook (I.e. Narrator's script).
- Coffee Cup (Filled or empty).
- Boardgame (Director's choice).
- Baby Carriage/Pram.
- Loaf of Bread (Tommy).
- Mule - Real or not - Director's choice
- Pocket Voice Recorder (Burgess).
- Mobile Phone - Grandma.
- Mobile Phone - Delivery Driver.
- Package for Delivery.
- Projection of Delivered Package with message
"Your package has been delivered".
- Blue Santa Suit
- Dark Sunglasses x 2

COSTUMES:

Burgess:	Lounge Robe & Xmas Hat
Two Elves:	Matching Elf Costumes and Slippers (Red & Green)
Maggie May:	Pajamas & Christmas Attire
Tommy:	Pajamas & Christmas Attire
Remaining Family Members:	Pajamas & Christmas Attire
Ensemble Members:	Christmas Attire
Delivery Driver Outfit:	Grey Trousers and Shirt with "On-Time Couriers" on shirt front pocket.

KEY SFX SUGGESTIONS:

The suggested SFX for this play have been composed and provided, royalty free, by the writer. These sound files may be used in your production. You may edit, cut and/or loop any soundtrack to suit your production. You may also choose to create or source your own SFX recordings within the confines of the copyright regulations in your region. Director's Choice.

Mobile Phone Ringing

Provider: Steve Pinkerman

Composer: Steve Pinkerman

Mobile Phone Message Beep

Provider: Steve Pinkerman

Composer: Steve Pinkerman

ACT 1

(It is Christmas time; and we are in the Klopeck family living room.)

(At rise, the stage is dimly lit. Two elves enter upstage left and are pushing Burgess the Narrator onto the stage, he is sitting on a high-backed chair dressed in a lounge robe and Christmas hat, he is carrying a storybook and a coffee cup.)

(They wheel him to downstage right and begin to exit upstage left.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess, who groans and shields his eyes from the light.)

(The two elves stop walking and look at each other with raised eyebrows. They 'dutifully' return to the chair and reposition it slightly.)

(Burgess nods in the affirmative and the two elves roll their eyes and now exit upstage left.)

(Burgess scans the audience slowly; he then smiles and begins to speak.)

BURGESS

(Happily.)

Good evening moms and dads, boys and girls. Welcome to "Story Time with Burgess Merriweather" and I, am Burgess Merriweather.

(Short pause.)

Tonight, since it is "that" time of the year I would like to share with you "my" favorite Christmas story..

(Very dignified.)

"A Night Before Christmas".

(Happily.)

For those of you who have heard it before, I hope you enjoy it as much as I do. And if this is your first time for this wonderful holiday experience, it is a story that tells what today's Christmas means through the eyes of a child.

(Burgess opens his storybook and begins reading, poetically.)

It is a night before Christmas, or at least that's what I thought. Because it really is no longer, what I was taught.

(Short pause.)

The season of our youth in our minds that we recall, now no longer resembles, what we remember or knew of it all.

(Short pause.)

Everything starts so much earlier and earlier than before, now it seems that today it's just a constantly revolving door, anymore.

(Short pause.)

The man in the red suit did not ask to be part of this night trade. So when leaving out his cookies and milk something in blue, might be more of his shade.

(Turns the page in his storybook.)

On tonight's journey we will toast the three paths of time we will visit. Our story doesn't have a grim reaper or scroogie ghost, just a lot of whimsical holiday spirit.

(Short pause.)

We will rock you on the first of the memory lanes, with wide open eyes of a child viewing presents pretty lights snow angels, and candy canes.

(Short pause.)

Then a drive 'round the block in Santa's little red corvette, brings a change in the sounds from his four-speaker quadraphonic stereo cassette deck

(Short pause.)

With a quick trip into the sappier scenes, you will then see what the holiday season truly means, when love takes over your heart, your soul, and all of your dreams.

(Short pause.)

Finally ending our night, by paying a price, for crimes of the times, committed on Christmas traditions of today.

(Short pause.)

With everything these days having to be here *instantaneously, spontaneously, overnight* or at least, right away.

(Short pause.)

(Speaking to himself.)

Rush, rush, rush. Everyone's in such a dang-blasted hurry now-a-days.

(Shakes his head and turns another page.)

(Short pause.)

(Enthusiastically.)

So give him a whole lotta' love and don't stop believin' in that jolly ol' soul.

(Short pause.)

(Glancing at the audience.)

'Cuz I heard it through the grapevine that soon he'll be comin' from the north pole.

(Short pause.)

(Looks back down at his storybook and resumes reading.)

We're gonna play some funky music and rock around the clock, well maybe not quite that long, but we will share with you many a seasonal song, in hopes of slowing down life's frantic, rapid pace.

(With reserved excitement.)

So sit back. Buckle up. 'Cuz we'll be crankin' it up to eleven for this new age holiday rat race.

(Short pause.)

Every boy and every girl all over the world knows it's almost Christmas time. And sweetly sung carols come with all of the bells and oh so many, oh so many more holiday chimes.

(Looks out at the audience.)

(Short pause.)

(To the audience.)

Lots of chimes, right?

(Short pause.)

There are songs for piled up snow, a reindeer's nose so aglow, and some little dude who just keeps on drumming and drumming.

(Short pause.)

Here is one you may or may not have heard before, Santa Claus Is Coming.

(Turns the page.)

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Stage lights dim to blackout.)

(Soft spotlight up on unlit Christmas tree and presents.)

(Maggie May, wearing pajamas, enters from stage right and tiptoes over to the Christmas tree.)

(Tommy, also wearing pajamas, appears in the wings at stage right and waits nervously.)

(Maggie May looks around and waves Tommy over to the tree, telling him to be quiet by holding a finger to her lips.)

(Tommy comes frantically running over to Maggie May at center stage. She grabs his shoulders gently and calms him down.)

(They look around at the Christmas tree and presents, then turn and face each other. Tommy is wide-eyed and mouths the words "look at all the presents". Maggie May nods her head excitedly in the affirmative. Silently, they both react with happiness and excitement.)

(Maggie May goes to the mantle, takes down the music box and returns to Tommy's side. She winds the box, opens the lid and it starts to play.)

(SONG #1: "SANTA CLAUS IS COMING".)

(Malfunctioning music box - intro - begins to play.)

(As and when the music box tune malfunctions, the lights on the Christmas tree and the fire in the fireplace flicker with the malfunctioning.)

(Maggie May shakes the music box trying to get it to play properly.)

(Tommy then grabs the box from Maggie May and smacks it. The intro for Song #1 then begins, during which the following happens.)

(The fire roars and the lights on the Christmas tree glow bright - except for the star on top, it remains off.)

(Tommy starts dancing happily and wildly around the Christmas tree with the music box in hand, while Maggie May is freaking out about the noise and the lights.)

(The two elves enter from stage-right and try to comfort Maggie May. They mime to her that the star on the tree is not lit because she is sad.)

(The ensemble members and all family members - except for Grandma and Grandpa - enter the stage area from both sides, dancing. Family members are wearing pajamas. Ensemble members are wearing Christmas clothing.)

(On commencement of the following lyrics - Spotlights and colored stage lights up (In a 'Disco Ball' effect.)

ALL

*JINGLE BELLS AND RUDOLPH
ARE BRINGIN' IN THE SEASON
SOON WE'LL BE DECORATING TREES
IN OUR LIVING ROOM AND FRONT YARD
BIG WREATH ON THE MAIN DOOR
STOCKINGS HUNG WITH CARE NEXT TO
ALL OF OUR HOLIDAY CARDS ON
THE MANTEL WITH A
FIRE ROARING AND EGG NOG POURING*

(Maggie May starts dancing with the two elves.)

(The two elves point to the star on the Christmas tree, the star lights up.)

ALL

*THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR
WITH OUR FAMILIES
WE HOLD SO DEAR TO US
IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THAT SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
YOU BEST BE GOOD IF YOU DO EXPECT ANYTHING*

(All on stage stop dancing.)

ENSEMBLE SOLO

IT BRINGS BACK SO MANY GOOD MEMORIES FOR ME
A CHILDHOOD HOLIDAY DREAM FANTASY

MAGGIE MAY

SNEEKIN' DOWNSTAIRS
EARLY PEEKIN' TO SEE PRESENTS UNDER THE TREE

(Tommy hugs the presents under the tree.)

TOMMY

ARE ALL OF THESE FOR ME
GEE

(All on stage start dancing.)

ALL

JINGLE BELLS AND RUDOLPH
ARE BRINGIN' IN THE SEASON
SOON WE'LL BE DECORATING TREES
IN OUR LIVING ROOM AND FRONT YARD
BIG WREATH ON THE MAIN DOOR
STOCKINGS HUNG WITH CARE NEXT TO
ALL OF OUR HOLIDAY CARDS ON
THE MANTEL WITH A
FIRE ROARING AND EGG NOG POURING
THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR
WITH OUR FAMILIES
WE HOLD SO DEAR TO US
IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THAT SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
YOU BEST BE GOOD IF YOU DO EXPECT ANYTHING

(All on stage stop dancing.)

ENSEMBLE SOLO

HAVE YOU HEARD

ENSEMBLE SOLO

SANTA'S COMING

ENSEMBLE SOLO

SPREAD THE WORD

ENSEMBLE SOLO

SANTA'S COMING

ENSEMBLE SOLO

HAVE YOU HEARD

ENSEMBLE SOLO

SANTA'S COMING

ENSEMBLE

SPREAD THE WORD

BE GOOD FOR GOODNESS SAKE

NO MATTER ALL THE CRAP YOU TAKE

IT'S BETTER TO BE NICE AND GIVE A SMILE

ALWAYS STRIVE TO GO THE EXTRA MILE

(All on stage start dancing.)

ALL

JINGLE BELLS AND RUDOLPH
 ARE BRINGIN' IN THE SEASON
 SOON WE'LL BE DECORATING TREES
 IN OUR LIVING ROOM AND FRONT YARD
 BIG WREATH ON THE MAIN DOOR
 STOCKINGS HUNG WITH CARE NEXT TO
 ALL OF OUR HOLIDAY CARDS ON
 THE MANTEL WITH A
 FIRE ROARING AND EGG NOG POURING
 THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR
 WITH OUR FAMILIES
 WE HOLD SO DEAR TO US

ALL

IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THAT SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
 YOU BEST BE GOOD IF YOU DO EXPECT ANYTHING
 THIS IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR
 WITH OUR FAMILIES
 WE HOLD SO DEAR TO US
 IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THAT SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
 YOU BEST BE GOOD
 JUST BECAUSE YOU SHOULD

(End of Song #1.)

(Lights dim.)

(All on stage stop dancing and freeze in tableau.)

(Grandma and Grandpa enter from stage-right, wearing pajamas. They stumble into the room and look around, they are upset.)

(The two elves reposition themselves behind Grandma and Grandpa.)

(Tommy snaps the lid on music box shut.)

GRANDPA

(In loud cranky, tired voice.)

What's going on with all this racket? Do you have any idea what time it is?

(From behind Grandma and Grandpa, the two elves shake their finger at the family and mockingly scold them.)

(The ensemble members scatter and exit the stage area.)

(Tommy looks around at the rest of his family, who are all frozen in place and anxious. He then walks over to Grandma and Grandpa and looks up at them happily.)

TOMMY

(In a confident happy voice.)

It's almost Christmas time.

(His family nod in silent agreement. Grandma and Grandpa look at each other and smile, nod 'yes' and start to sing Song #2.)

(Stage lighting to beat of song.)

(SONG #2: "IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME".)

GRANDPA

IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME

GRANDMA

WE'RE AT THE STARTING LINE

(The two elves high five each other, then dance around stage high-fiving the family members.)

ALL

*THE TREE HAS BEEN RAISED
SO HIGH IN IT'S STAND
THE STAR FOR THE TOP IS SHINING
SO VERY GRAND
STOCKINGS NEED HUNG
AND POPCORN NEEDS STRUNG
WHILE WE'RE DECORATING
CHRISTMAS SONGS WILL BE SUNG
IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME
SPREADING PEACE JOY AND GOOD CHEER
THIS BEAUTIFUL SIGN
SHOULD REALLY LAST ALL YEAR
IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HEAR
AND IT'S CRAFTED BY DESIGN
LOVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS
SO VERY DEAR
IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME
WE ASK WITH SUCH REVERE
AND PLEASE DO NOT DECLINE
COME ON BY
JUST TO BE NEAR US*

FAMILY SOLO

AFTER AN HOUR UN-KNOTTING THE LIGHTS

FAMILY SOLO

THE GLOW FROM THE TREE IS A SPECTACULAR SIGHT

FAMILY SOLO

ORNAMENTS HUNG DEFTLY ALL THE WAY ROUND

FAMILY SOLO

SOME OF THE BRANCHES THOUGH ARE TOUCHING THE GROUND

FAMILY SOLO

STOCKINGS ARE HUNG AND POPCORN IS STRUNG

FAMILY SOLO

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ARE STILL BEING SUNG

ALL

THE TREE HAS BEEN RAISED
 SO HIGH IN IT'S STAND
 THE STAR FOR THE TOP IS SHINING
 SO VERY GRAND
 NOW IS THE TIME
 FOR THE NOG TO BE RUMMED
 COOKIES AND CAKES AND SUGAR
 THAT HAS BEEN PLUMMED

(Singers look confused about the 'plummed' word.)

ALL

IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME
 SPREADING PEACE JOY AND GOOD CHEER
 THIS BEAUTIFUL SIGN
 SHOULD REALLY LAST ALL YEAR
 IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME
 THIS IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HEAR
 AND IT'S CRAFTED BY DESIGN
 LOVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS
 SO VERY DEAR

(Star on the Christmas tree flashes.)

ALL

*IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS TIME
COME ON BY AND LET
YOUR STAR SHINE*

(End of Song #2.)

(Star stops flashing.)

(Star then turns on and stays on.)

(All lights dim to greyout.)

(Stage lights up.)

GRANDMA

Well, since we're up, I guess Christmas came early for me. I'll put some coffee and cocoa on the stove. There are cookies and cakes I baked that we can have before we open presents.

(Short pause.)

And after that who wants to help me get our Christmas feast ready?

(Family members mumble and adlib excuses why they can't help with the feast.)

(The two elves look upset with family.)

(Maggie May and Tommy walk over to Grandma.)

MAGGIE MAY & TOMMY (TOGETHER)

We'll help you Grandma, we love you.

(The two elves hold their hands to their hearts and smile endearingly.)

GRANDMA

I love you too. You've always been my favorites...

(Giving the 'evil-eye' to everyone else.)

...and that's why I got all those presents for you.

(Grandma holds hands with Tommy and Maggie May, as the 3 of them exit stage-right.)

(The two elves follow behind them, before they exit, they turn and stick their tongues out at the remaining family members.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(All actors on stage exit the stage area. While offstage, all family members quickly swap pajamas for casual Christmas clothing.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

As we turn the page in this game of life. Our goals and purposes do now change as we strive for that coveted prize, of husband and wife.

(Short pause.)

Although the opening was so swell, but am forced to do tell, we'll need to replay Christmas eve, to right before this scene, we just saw, I am so sorry for this our "faux pas".

(Short pause.)

Now back to yesterday, the reason I say...

(To audience and slightly irritated.)

...is the author screwed up the song list and "expects us" to straighten it out this way.

(Spotlight off on Burgess.)

(At upstage, a sign lights up; it reads "YESTERDAY".)

(All family members, except for Eve Marie, enter and each takes a seat on one of the lounges. Tommy and Maggie May are sitting on the floor, playing a board game.)

(All family members are now wearing casual Christmas attire.)

(Stage lights up.)

GRANDPA

So Brice, are you going to the Christmas Eve Mixer tonight?

BRICE

I don't know, I just feel out-of-place going by myself. When I get there, it's like "Welcome to the jungle" as if I'm staring right into the eye-of-the-tiger. It can be a hard day's night with the smell of fear in the air tonight.

NOELLE

I'm meeting Eve Marie and some of my friends there, if you want to come with me, or you can go your own way.

BRICE

I wanna dance with somebody tonight, do you think you might get one or two of your friends to at least think about it? It might start an unchained melody of reactions.

NOELLE

Don't push your luck. But it's almost Christmas and people do tend to be more charitable this time of year. Maybe you might be a lucky man?

BRICE

You don't know what the sounds of silence are sis, until you've takin' a slow ride on that midnight train to Georgia.

(They all laugh.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(All actors exit.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

First you will meet, then family in church you do
seat, just to spend eternity united. Hand in hand you
proceed because your love is agreed, and this new life
gets you all so excited.

(Giggles.)

Newlyweds!

(Short pause.)

The pressure will then mount after only a short jaunt
of this glorious and lovely new marriage.

(Short pause.)

From every single angle and point of attack you do
hear.

VOICEOVER

(From offstage.)

Where is your sweet new baby carriage?

BURGESS

Girls just want to have fun with a boy by her side,
same then holds true for the guy. Only she's in the
front seat of his little deuce coupe holding on to him
along for destiny's ride.

(Spotlight dims to blackout.)

(Stage lights up.)

(Ensemble members enter and mosey-around the
stage, talking and gathering in groups.)

(Eve Marie cautiously enters from stage right
and stops under the mistletoe hanging from the
'ceiling'. Looking around she sees Brice enter
from stage left.)

(As he stops and looks around, his eyes land on
Eve Marie. He stops and continues to stare at
her from the other side of the stage.)

(The ensemble members begin to point fingers and snicker at Brice and Eve Marie.)

(SONG #3: "SANTA WILL YOU PLEASE".)

BRICE

*COLORS ARE CHANGING AROUND
LEAVES FALL DOWN WITHOUT A SOUND*

(The male ensemble members go and stand by Brice's side and shadow all his movements during the song.)

(The female ensemble members go and stand by Eve Marie's side and, likewise, shadow all her movements during the song.)

BRICE

*THE SNOW THEN COVERS THE GROUND
AND I THINK THAT I'VE FOUND MY TRUE LOVE
UNDER THE MISTLETOE.*

(Brice takes two steps towards Eve Marie then one step back.)

BRICE & MALE ENSEMBLE

*WAITING
FOR ME
DOES SHE SEE
MY HEART
ON MY SLEEVE
WAITING
FOR HER*

EVE MARIE

*I'M HERE STANDING ALONE
MY HEART IS STILL ON ITS OWN
FEELINGS ARE ONLY OUT ON LOAN*

(Eve Marie takes two steps towards Brice then one step back.)

EVE MARIE & FEMALE ENSEMBLE

WAITING
 FOR HIM
 TO SEE ME
 WITH MY HEART
 ON MY SLEEVE
 WAITING
 FOR HIM

BRICE & EVE MARIE

FATE KEEPS MAKIN' ME WAIT
 INSTEAD OF BRINGING TO ME
 LOVE FOR ETERNITY
 IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME
 SANTA WILL YOU PLEASE

(Brice takes two steps towards Eve Marie then
 one step back.)

BRICE & EVE MARIE

BRING TO ME LOVE'S SIGN
 I'M BEGGING FROM MY KNEES

(Eve Marie takes two steps towards Brice then
 one step back.)

BRICE

I SEE HER STANDING ALONE

(Brice takes two steps towards Eve Marie then
 one step back.)

EVE MARIE

HE'S LOOKING OVER THIS WAY AT ME
 I WONDER IF HE WILL SEE

EVE MARIE & FEMALE ENSEMBLE

MY HEART ON MY SLEEVE

(Eve Marie takes two steps towards Brice then
 one step back.)

EVE MARIE & FEMALE ENSEMBLE

WAITING
 TO SPEND
 ETERNITY
 WITH HIM
 WITH ME

BRICE & EVE MARIE

FATE KEEPS MAKIN' ME WAIT
 INSTEAD OF BRINGING TO ME
 LOVE FOR ETERNITY

(Brice takes two steps towards Eve Marie then
 one step back.)

BRICE & EVE MARIE

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME
 SANTA WILL YOU PLEASE

(Eve Marie takes two steps towards Brice then
 one step back.)

BRICE & EVE MARIE

BRING TO ME LOVE'S SIGN
 I'M BEGGING FROM MY KNEES
 I'VE NEVER ASKED FOR MUCH
 USE YOUR CHRISTMAS TOUCH

(Brice takes a couple of steps towards
 Eve Marie and stops.)

BRICE & EVE MARIE

BRING TO ME A LOVE
 AN ANGEL FROM ABOVE

(Eve Marie takes a couple of steps towards
 Brice and stops.)

(All ensemble members gather in groups around
 the stage.)

ALL

*SANTA WILL YOU PLEASE
I'M BEGGING FROM MY KNEES
BRING A LOVE TO ME
SANTA WILL YOU PLEASE*

(End of Song #3.)

(Brice and Eve Marie slowly move towards each other and center stage. Simultaneously, all ensemble members begin to slowly back-pedal towards offstage.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Ensemble, Brice and Eve Marie exit.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

The light of the world shines on us all and love is the answer which comes in many a form, hoping this stairway to heaven will soon become your new happy daily norm.

(Short pause.)

Then comes with it a wrinkle, a new bundle of joy, you're told your little dream.

(Short pause.)

But be careful of what you wish for, because they grow up, and turn into a nightmare as your teen.

(Looks frightened.)

(Turns a page.)

(Spotlight off on Burgess.)

(All ensemble members enter the stage area.)

(Stage lights up.)

(SONG #4: "CHRISTMAS MEDLEY" - MUSIC BY ROD BEST.)

ENSEMBLE

JINGLE BELLS
ARE RINGIN' IN THE SEASON
BRINGIN'
PEACE LOVE AND GOOD CHEER
THE REASON
IT'S THE GREATEST TIME OF YEAR
LOVED ONES
ALL GATHERING AROUND HERE
SINGING SONGS
WITH THOSE WE HOLD SO VERY DEAR
SURROUNDING
OUR HEARTS WITH MEMORIES
WHEN WE'RE APART
IT ALWAYS KEEPS YOU VERY NEAR

ENSEMBLE SOLO

CAN YOU HEAR IT
FAINTLY IN THE AIR
MY DEAR

ENSEMBLE

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

ENSEMBLE SOLO

GETTING SO MUCH LOUDER EVERYDAY
I DO SAY

ENSEMBLE

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

ENSEMBLE SOLO

I HEAR LOVE

ENSEMBLE

EVERYWHERE

ENSEMBLE SOLO

THE SOUND MY HEART MAKES
SINCE YOU'RE AROUND IN MY TOWN
WITH OUR HANDS WE NOW HOLD

ENSEMBLE

SINCE THAT CHRISTMAS BELL DID
DECIDE TO FINALLY
RING ITS SONG FOR US
AND LOUDLY DID IT TOLL.

ENSEMBLE SOLO

CAN YOU HEAR IT RINGING IN THE AIR

ENSEMBLE

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

ENSEMBLE SOLO

GETTING SO MUCH LOUDER EVERYDAY

ENSEMBLE

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR
DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR

ENSEMBLE SOLO

I HEAR LOVE

ENSEMBLE

EVERYWHERE

ENSEMBLE DUET

THE SOUND MY HEART MAKES
SINCE YOU ARE AROUND
I'M SO THANKFUL FOR YOU IN MY LIFE
I'M SO THANKFUL FOR YOU IN MY LIFE
TOGETHER AS HUSBAND WIFE
FOREVER
TOGETHER FOR ONE GLORIOUS
LIFETIME

ENSEMBLE SOLO

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SINGING

ENSEMBLE

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA

ENSEMBLE SOLO

WEDDING BELLS FOR US ARE RINGING

ENSEMBLE

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA

ENSEMBLE DUET

DON WE NOW THIS NEW PERSONA
TWO ADULTS THAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE
BUT IT STARTS MY HEART A BEATING
AND RELEASES THE INNER CHILD IN ME
OUR TWO HEARTS NOW BEATING
FROM JUST THAT FIRST MEETING

ENSEMBLE

YOU ARE THE ONE FOR ME
ONE FOR ME
YOU ARE THE ONE FOR ME

ENSEMBLE DUET

WE TWO
WHEN YOU STOLE MY HEART
FROM THE START
THERE IS ONE THING YOU DID NOT KNOW
I TURNED OFF THE ALARM
CUT THE WIRE SHUT IT DOWN
DID NOT WANT TO HEAR THAT SOUND
THAT ALARM BELL RINGING
SHUT IT DOWN

ENSEMBLE

SO I SHUT IT DOWN
SO I SHUT IT DOWN
SHUT IT DOWN

ENSEMBLE DUET

JUST TO GET THOSE ANGELS SINGING

(End of Song #4.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Ensemble members exit.)

(Holly, still dressed in casual Christmas clothing, enters and stands at center stage.)

(Pin spotlight up on Holly.)

(SONG #5: "DO YOU HEAR THE BELLS".)

HOLLY

DO YOU HEAR THE BELLS
SINGING SOUNDS THAT SELLS
THE HOLIDAYS
ONCE AGAIN ARE HERE
SPREADING PEACE JOY
AND GOOD CHEER
FAR AND NEAR
FOR ALL TO HEAR
FAMILY IS DEAR
MEMORIES COME FLOWING OUT FROM

HOLLY

HAPPINESS OF LONG PAST DAYS REMINDING ME OF
ALL THE MERRY WAYS OF CHILDHOOD
MY MERRY CHILDHOOD
A TIME FILLED WITH
LOVE AND SO MUCH GOOD

HOLLY

LIFE HAS NOT CHANGED ME THAT MUCH
BUT BELIEVE ME
AS SUCH
THE WORLD I NOW SEE
WITH MY ADULT EYES
THIS IS WHAT I SEE
AND I DO BELIEVE
IT IS ALL FOR ME
THIS IS WHAT I MEAN
ONLY THING THESE DAYS
THAT WILL CATCH MY GAZE
MAKES MY HEART ABLAZE
IS THIS CHILD I WILL RAISE

HOLLY

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS
 AS YOU WILL SEE
 IS THE LOVE I HAVE
 NOTHING ELSE MATTERS
 THIS I DO BELIEVE
 IS MY LOVE I HAVE FOR THEM
 AND WHAT THEY DO GIVE BACK TO ME
 I DO BELIEVE
 NOTHING ELSE MATTERS TO ME
 ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS TO ME
 IS MY LOVE FOR THEM
 MY LOVE FOR THEM

(End Song #5.)

(Holly meanders to downstage right and exits.)

(Camford and Joy enter from downstage left.)

(Pin spotlight follows them onto the stage.
 They are holding hands and meander around the
 stage as they sing the following song.)

(SONG #6: "CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY".)**CAMFORD**

CHRISTMAS IS HERE
 THE YULE LOG'S AGLOW
 YOU'LL NEVER KNOW
 HOW MUCH YOU DO MEAN TO ME
 EVERY HOLIDAY SEASON
 THE LOOK IN MY EYES
 SHOULD BE NO REAL SURPRISE
 IT COMES FROM MY HEART
 AND EVERY OTHER PART THAT I CAN GIVE TO YOU
 FROM THE VERY START
 I WAS THERE TOO
 MY LOVE
 YOU'RE ALL I CAN THINK OF
 DAY AND NIGHT

CAMFORD (CONT.)

ALWAYS IN MY SIGHT
 NEVER WANTING ANY MORE
 THEN
 YOUR LOVE BACK TO ME
 SO WE CAN BE HAPPY FOR
 ALL OF ETERNITY
 CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR ME

(A baby pram slowly rolls in from upstage left - towards Camford and Joy. They intercept the pram and then meander around the stage pushing the pram. They continue singing.)

JOY

CHRISTMAS IS HERE
 MY HEART IS AGLOW
 THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW
 JUST WHAT YOU MEAN TO ME
 EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR YOU ARE MY GOOD CHEER
 A HEARTWARMING SMILE ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CHILD
 BRINGING LOVE TO THIS WORLD
 A MIXED-UP PLACE IS UN-SWIRLED
 SHOWING A NEW PATH I CAN CHOOSE
 THAT WILL NOT LET ME LOSE
 MY LOVE
 I PRAY YOU ALWAYS STAY
 YOUNG
 AND NEVER LOSE YOUR CHILD'S EYES
 TO VIEW THIS LIFE AND TAKE ON THE STRIFE
 AND UNHAPPINESS FATE WILL TRY TO
 BEAT
 YOU
 DOWN
 WITH
 BUT
 YOU WILL
 WILL
 YOU WILL OVER COME
 CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR ME

(Camford and Joy stop at center stage and begin swooning over the 'baby' in the pram.)

CAMFORD & JOY

CHRISTMAS IS HERE
 MY HEART IS AGLOW
 THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW
 JUST WHAT YOU MEAN TO ME
 EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR YOU ARE MY GOOD CHEER
 MY LOVE
 I PRAY YOU ALWAYS STAY WITH ME
 AS A CHILD
 FOR ALL OF ETERNITY

(End of Song #6.)

(Ensemble and all family members - except Maggie May and Tommy - enter and form an arc around Camford, Joy and the baby pram.)

(Noelle drifts away from the rest of the family and stands alone at downstage right, looking around at the happy couples and the baby pram; all the while fiddling with her unadorned ring finger and looking down at it with a forlorn look.)

(Stage lights dim to greyout.)
 (Soft spotlight up on Noelle.)
 (Soft spotlight up others.)

(SONG #7: "CHRISTMAS FOR MY CHILD".)**ALL**

COLORS CHANGING LEAVES ARE FALLING
 CRISPY AIR MEANS FALL IS CALLING
 THEN WE WILL SEE WEATHER BRAWLING
 AS THE WINTER SNOW STARTS SQUALLING
 THIS IS THE GREATEST TIME OF YEAR
 WITH THE SPECIAL SONGS WE HEAR
 SPREADING JOY PEACE AND GOOD CHEER
 WITH OUR FAMILY WE HOLD DEAR
 THEN WE'RE TOLD WE MUST GROW UP
 TO PUT AWAY OUR SIPPY CUP

ALL

THAT WE ARE NOW A GROWN ADULT
 AND THIS IS NOW THAT LONE RESULT
 CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER FOR YOU
 EVERYTHING THIS SEASON IS DUE
 BECAUSE OF AND FOR SOMEONE
 SO VERY SPECIAL TO YOU
 SOMEONE SO VERY SPECIAL
 AND EACH DAY YOU DO RENEW
 SOMEONE SO VERY SPECIAL
 A PRECIOUS LOVE SO PURELY TRUE

ALL

CHRISTMAS HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING
 WHEN YOU ARE A CHILD
 SNOW ANGELS
 PRETTY LIGHTS
 CANDY CANES
 AND ALL THE PRESENTS PILED UP
 BESIDE THE TREE
 SO HIGH FOR ALL OF US TO SEE
 DIVING IN AND TEARING OPEN
 ALL YOU GET IS SO SPECIAL
 THEN IT ALL JUST UP AND GOES AWAY
 BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BAD TO SAY
 BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT IT MEANS THESE DAYS
 THE TIME HAS A SPECIAL REASON
 THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

ALL

COLORS CHANGING LEAVES ARE FALLING
 CRISPY AIR MEANS FALL IS CALLING
 THEN WE WILL SEE WEATHER BRAWLING
 AS THE WINTER SNOW STARTS SQUALLING
 THIS IS THE GREATEST TIME OF YEAR
 WITH THE SPECIAL SONGS WE HEAR
 SPREADING JOY PEACE AND GOOD CHEER
 WITH OUR FAMILY WE HOLD DEAR
 THEN WE'RE TOLD WE MUST GROW UP
 TO PUT AWAY OUR SIPPY CUP
 THAT WE ARE NOW A GROWN ADULT
 AND THIS IS NOW THAT LONE RESULT

ALL (CONT.)

CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER FOR YOU
 EVERYTHING THIS SEASON IS DUE
 BECAUSE OF AND FOR SOMEONE PRECIOUS
 A LOVE THAT IS SO TRUE

ALL

I RESOLVE TO ALWAYS KEEP
 MY CHILDHOOD DREAM ALIVE
 AND VIEW IT THROUGH MY CHILD'S EYES
 GIVING 'EM THE HAPPY WAYS
 THAT I ONCE KNEW SO WELL AS I WAS GROWING UP
 IN THOSE DAYS
 AND I PRAY THEY ALWAYS STAY A CHILD
 AT CHRISTMAS TIME

ALL

COLORS CHANGING LEAVES ARE FALLING
 CRISPY AIR MEANS FALL IS CALLING
 THEN WE WILL SEE WEATHER BRAWLING
 AS THE WINTER SNOW STARTS SQUALLING
 THIS IS THE GREATEST TIME OF YEAR
 WITH THE SPECIAL SONGS WE HEAR
 SPREADING JOY PEACE AND GOOD CHEER
 WITH OUR FAMILY WE HOLD DEAR
 THEN WE'RE TOLD WE MUST GROW UP
 TO PUT AWAY OUR SIPPY CUP
 THAT WE ARE NOW A GROWN ADULT
 AND THIS IS NOW THAT LONE RESULT
 CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER FOR YOU
 EVERYTHING THIS SEASON IS DUE
 BECAUSE OF AND FOR SOMEONE SO
 VERY SPECIAL TO YOU
 A LOVE SO TRUE

ALL

I RESOLVE TO ALWAYS KEEP
 MY CHILDHOOD DREAM ALIVE
 AND VIEW IT THROUGH MY CHILD'S EYES
 TO DON'T FORGET THAT MAGICAL TIME
 'CUZ GROWING UP TOO SOON'S A CRIME

ALL (CONT.)

*I HOPE LIFE DOES MAKE 'EM SMILE
AND I PRAY THAT EVERYDAY WILL ALWAYS BE
CHRISTMAS FOR MY CHILD*

(End of Song #7.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Ensemble members exit the stage area.)

(All family members - except Noelle - sit down on the lounges at upstage. Noelle remains standing at downstage right.)

(Spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

Tales from the mouse fill up a young girl's mind with dreams as a princess pretending, of a whirlwind life as husband and wife and so much happiness that is never ending.

(Short pause as Noelle enters stage area.)

So then what is it like while out on your hike of the days that you have been spending, always searching here and there for that one who does care but you find that the rat's fairytale dream is still pending?

(Turns a page.)

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Spotlight up on Noelle.)

(SONG #8: "THE CALLING".)**NOELLE**

*UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF THIS LIFE I AM MAKING
A JOURNEY THAT AT TIMES
IS UTTERLY BREATH TAKING*

NOELLE (CONT.)

BUT THEN IT SEEMS THAT FATE IS ALWAYS FORSAKING ME
 THE CALLING THAT'S MEANT TO BE
 THEN MAKING ME A FALLING ANGEL
 WHY
 WHY DOES IT HURT SO MUCH

NOELLE

TO LIVE LIFE
 TO LIVE AND DIE
 WITH EVERY MOMENT IN TIME
 WHY
 MUST WE FIGHT
 JUST SO THAT WE CAN SURVIVE
 FEEDING ON SCRAPS OF HAPPINESS THAT FATE
 DOES PROVIDE
 THIS IS NOT HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE

NOELLE

DID THEY REALLY
 DID THEY REALLY
 LIE TO ME
 LIFE COMES WITH MANY CHOICES
 FROM A DEEP-DOWN PLACE
 YOU'LL HEAR THE VOICES
 THEY WILL LEAD YOUR HEART
 WILL YOU STAND AND FIGHT
 IT WILL TAKE ALL OF YOUR MIGHT
 AND SO MUCH MORE
 SO MANY
 UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

NOELLE

HOW DO I KNOW
 WHAT I AM SUPPOSED TO DO
 WILL THE VOICES REALLY LEAD MY HEART TO YOU

NOELLE

IS THAT THE CALLING
 FATE HAS SET FOR MY DUE
 I WISH I KNEW
 IF I WIN OR DO I LOSE

NOELLE (CONT.)

NEVER SAYING HI TO YOU
BEFORE THE DAY I DIE
I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST TRY

NOELLE

DO I WIN YOUR HEART
BEFORE THE DAY I PART
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF LIFE
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF LIFE

NOELLE

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS
OF THE CALLING FATE CHOSE FOR ME
WILL SANTA BRING MY HEART
YOU AS A ROSE
FOR ETERNITY

NOELLE

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS OF LIFE
REMAIN
UNANSWERED

(End of Song #8.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Noelle wanders over to the lounge and
takes a seat.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

A child we mold into a shadow of our beliefs, which we
hope carries on through their deeds and the words they
will speak, and will be always ready to help the poor
and weak.

(Short pause.)

For a moment in time there is a chance for us to shine,
as bright as a lone winter night's north star. With
only just a good deed or smile someone does need which
leads us to this story from afar.

(Turns a page.)

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Maggie May enters and stands at upstage center.)

(All ensemble members enter and stand behind
Maggie May at upstage center.)

(Pin spotlight up on Maggie May.)

(SONG #9: "LITTLE STAR IN BETHLEHEM".)

MAGGIE MAY

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY

(Christmas tree lights go dark, except for
the star on top, it remains glowing.)

OF A STAR THAT WAS BORN
IN A LAND LONG LONG AGO
SENT TO US TO SAVE OUR SOULS
HE WAS

ENSEMBLE

ONLY JUST A VERY SMALL CHILD
WITH A VERY BIG JOB TO DO

MAGGIE MAY

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY
OF THIS STAR WHO WAS JUST A BOY
THEY TELL ME HE WAS SO SPECIAL
LOVING ALL SOULS
GIVING PEACE LOVE AND JOY

MAGGIE MAY

IT STARTED THIS ONE NIGHT
UNDER NORMAL MOON AND STARLIGHT
LONG INTO THE FUTURE WOULD COME HIS MIGHT
FROM ALL HIS WISDOM AND INSIGHT
HE COULD HAVE TAKEN HIS GIFT
AND SHARED IT ONLY WITH HIS OWN FAMILY

MAGGIE MAY

BUT
 HE CHOSE
 TO OPEN HIS HEART
 AND LET THE WORLD IN
 SO HE COULD LIVE WITHOUT HIS SIN
 HE OPENED THE DOOR
 FOR US ALL
 HE WAS ONLY
 JUST A CHILD
 FOR WHAT HE DID
 HE COULD BE REVILED

MAGGIE MAY

FROM ALL OF THOSE WHO DID NOT BELIEVE
 ON THIS DAY BEFORE IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE
 HE SAW HER RIDING THAT MULE
 AND KNEW SHE WOULD NOT LAST ANY LONGER

MAGGIE MAY

SO HE GUIDED HER HOME
 TO LET HER REST AND GET
 SO MUCH STRONGER
 AND HAVE
 HER CHILD
 HE EVEN BROKE HIS BREAD WITH HER WITH A SMILE

MAGGIE MAY

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY OF
 A LITTLE STAR IN BETHLEHEM
 WHO CHANGED THE WHOLE WORLD WITH

ENSEMBLE

ONLY WITH
 ONLY WITH

MAGGIE MAY

HE WAS JUST A CHILD

ENSEMBLE

ONLY WITH

MAGGIE MAY

HE WAS A STAR
 WHO CHANGED THE WORLD WITH LOVE
 AND A CHILD'S SMILE

ENSEMBLE

HE WAS JUST A BOY AT DAY
 WHO SHINED TO BE
 A STAR THAT NIGHT

MAGGIE MAY

HE WAS JUST A BOY AT DAY BUT SHINED TO BE
 A STAR THAT NIGHT
 THIS INSIGHT CAME FROM A BOY
 WHO TURNED INTO A STAR
 AND HAD THIS SON
 WHO PASSED
 IT DOWN
 AND THEN
 THIS LIFE
 WENT ON AND ON AND ON

(Maggie May moves off to the side and observes.)

(A male ensemble member leading a female ensemble member who is riding a mule and wearing ancient Hebrew attire enters to center stage.)

(Tommy enters, holding a loaf of bread and also wearing ancient Hebrew attire. He joins the ensemble members at center stage.)

TOMMY

I AM SORRY
 BUT WE DON'T HAVE A ROOM FOR YOU
 TONIGHT
 LET ME TAKE YOU HOME

TOMMY (CONT.)

AND MAKE YOU COMFORTABLE
FOR
THE BIRTH
OF YOUR CHILD
AND OUR LAST LOAF OF BREAD
PLEASE SHARE

(Tommy breaks the loaf of bread in half and hands one half to the ensemble member.)

TOMMY

I WAS TAUGHT BY A GREAT MAN TO ALWAYS CARE

(End of Song #9.)

(The Christmas tree lights come on.)

(Tommy exits. The ensemble member follows him offstage.)

(Short pause, Maggie May then exits.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

My hot cocoa is getting a little chilly so we'll take a short break so I can warm up some more. Anyone else need a refill?

(Short pause.)

I'll be back in a jiffy!

(Two elves enter and wheel Burgess offstage.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(END OF ACT ONE.)

(OPTIONAL INTERMISSION.)

ACT 2

(It is still Christmas time; and we are in the Klopeck family living room filled with Christmas decorations. All family members are again wearing their pajamas. Grandma's mobile phone is now sitting on the mantle behind the music box.)

(At rise, the stage is dimly lit. The two elves enter upstage left, pushing Burgess in his high-backed chair to the same spot at downstage right. Burgess is still dressed in a lounge robe and Christmas hat. He is still carrying the storybook and a coffee cup.)

(Once the high-backed chair is in place, the two elves face the audience and take a step back behind the chair - before waving excitedly to the audience. They do a little dance and then encourage the audience to applaud and cheer for them. Burgess can see none of their antics, as they are behind his chair.)

(Once the audience's response is given, the two elves exit downstage right. Still encouraging the audience to continue their cheering, as they exit.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess, who thinks all the applauding is for him and puffs up his chest with pride.)

BURGESS

Thank you... Welcome back and get comfortable for the exciting conclusion of tonight's tale.

(Burgess scans the audience slowly; he then smiles, turns a page and begins to speak.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

Such a bundle of joy and happiness fills up your dreams.

(Short pause.)

Never would there ever be any bad from this, or so it seems.

(Short pause.)

Then they transform and do not conform, with so many things out of control which you find, is just their norm.

(Short pause.)

You try to stay sane, this does become such a bane, with this moment in between, before they do leave the scene...

(Short pause.)

...this is life living with a teen.

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Lights up on all family members - except for Tommy and Maggie May who remain offstage. They are all wearing Christmas attire and sitting on the lounges, sharing stories.)

GRANDMA

I remember our first Christmas eve after Holly was born. She slept right through it. That was our last silent night.

(Everyone laughs.)

GRANDPA

I remember when Cam was about 4 or 5, Uncle Buck got him all worked up that Santa Claus was coming in the middle of the night, He hid under his bed with his security flashlight until we dragged him out the next morning to open his presents.

(All family members laugh, except for Camford, he looks a little miffed.)

NOELLE

How about the time at Halloween with that large plastic spider in the candy dish. Carol went screaming to the neighbors.

(All family members laugh.)

(Carol stands and looks at the audience.)

CAROL

(To the audience.)

I do have these flashes of this weird cult of "Old People" harvesting body parts. And a place where all these kids are lined up and ushered in to see this scary old guy who would try and get personal information from us...

(Matter of factly.)

...when everyone knows that you don't talk to strangers.

(Short pause.)

He prods and prods, then he tries to steal my nose. Then, only after they take a mugshot of me crying, they finally let me go. It was like they were getting us ready for a Christmas Calcutta auction.

(Short pause.)

Oh, and this guy didn't take many precautions. Sure, he had gloves on, probably to hide his fingerprints I guess, but he didn't even wear a mask. And his nose was all red and shiny. I can't go to the store without full PPE, but he's so special he can share his germs with the world.

(Short pause.)

No wonder I have nightmares about the holidays. Or why I'm freaked out by a Snickers bar?

(Looking perplexed.)

I never enjoyed blowing out the candles on my birthday cake for some reason too.

(Short pause.)

They said it's from the hormones. They said it's the terrible teens. They said it's natural. They said she'll grow out of it.

(Short pause.)

Does anyone see a pattern here? I really think "they"...

(Throwing her thumb over her shoulder towards her family.)

...and their stupid games are the problem.

(Looking perturbed.)

And it sounds like my parents aren't the only culprits, there seems to be plenty of blame to go around, in this family.

(SONG #10: "HER SIDE OF THE STORY".)

CAROL (DIRECTLY TO FAMILY.)

*YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELVES
BECAUSE OF ALL THE STUFF YOU DID
TO ME
AS A SWEET SMALL CHILD
THE EVIL GAMES
YOU STOLE MY NOSE
I WANT IT BACK
THEN I CRIED
AND YOU LAUGHED*

(Female ensemble members enter from stage right.)

CAROL

*BED
BUGS
DON'T
LET THEM BITE YOU WHILE YOU SLEEP*

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

TIGHT TONIGHT

CAROL

A FAT MAN WILL BREAK IN
TO OUR COZY SAFE ABODE
HE WILL EAT UP ALL THE COOKIES AND MILK
THEN LEAVE US NOTHING BUT COAL

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

LUMPS OF COAL

CAROL

LUMPS OF COAL
WE CAN'T USE
CUZ' IT'S BAD
FOR THE
PLANET'S SOUL

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

SOLAR REALLY IS THE ONLY WAY TO GO

CAROL

OH SO MANY MANY MORE YOU NEED TO HEAR
IF YOU WANTED TO SCARE ME STRAIGHT
YOU'RE DOIN' A DAMN GOOD JOB

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

TO STEER ME CLEAR

CAROL

THEN THERE'S THE STUFF ABOUT SITTING TO CLOSE
TO THE COLOR TV
IS BAD FOR THE EYES
YOUR FAVORITE PET WENT TO THE FARM WHEN IT DIES
EYES LEFT WIDE-OPEN POP OUT WITH A SNEEZE
CATCH YOUR DEATH WITH WET HAIR GO OUT IN THE FREEZE
ANOTHER TALL TALE TO GET YOU TO THINK
A DOOZY THAT REALLY BOGGLES THE MIND

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

STOP THAT KEEP IT UP AND YOU'LL GO BLIND

CAROL

IT'S YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT CUZ' OF
 CUZ' OF THAT PARENTS STUPID GAME
 YOU BROUGHT THIS ON AND NOW
 YOU ONLY HAVE YOURSELVES

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

TO BLAME

CAROL

SIT UP STRAIGHT
 DON'T PLAY WITH FOOD
 THIS HURTS ME
 MUCH
 MORE
 THAN

(Carol starts to mouth the word "you".)

FEMALE ENSEMBLE SOLO

WHAT KIND OF CRAP ARE YOU TRYING TO SPEW

(Carol throws thumb over shoulder and shakes
 head in the affirmative.)

CAROL

A FAIRY COMES

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

SNEAKIN' AND A CREEPIN'

CAROL

TO STEAL MY TEETH

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

TAKING AND TAKING TIL THEY'RE ALL GONE

CAROL

THEN TOSS AND TURN

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

WHY NOT COUNT AND RECOUNT SHEEP

CAROL

WARM MILK TO SLEEP

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

YUCK

CAROL

THEN SOMETHING SAID

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

ALWAYS SOMETHING

CAROL

BELIEVE IT'S TRUE

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

OF COURSE IT IS

CAROL

SOME WISDOM GAINED

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

KNOWLEDGE IS GOOD

CAROL

THIS WEDDING BAND

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

I LOVE THIS MAN

CAROL

WORDS SPOKE TIL BLUE

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

I TOLD YOU

I TOLD YOU

I TOLD YOU

CAROL

I NEVER HEAR

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

CAROL

GIRL WHEN YOU'RE OLD

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

CAROL

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

YEAH RIGHT

CAROL

I TRULY LOVE

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART

CAROL

YOU MOM AND DAD

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

EVEN THOUGH

CAROL

THANK YOU FOR ALL

FEMALE ENSEMBLE

ALL YOU HAVE DONE

CAROL

I'M OLDER NOW

(The following lines are spoken to her Mum
and Dad. AKA Leif and Holly.)

CAROL

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND

BUT I LOVE YOU BOTH

(End of Song #10.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(All family members exit.)

(Spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

Although planets collide it is for only a short
period of time. A turbulent ride a bump in the road
a mountainous mole hill you must climb.

(Short pause.)

They grow up way too fast, in just a blink of the eye.
You remember after they've left while redecorating
their ol' pig sty.

(Short pause, then to the audience.)

Now I have less groceries to buy.

(Short pause as he pulls out a pocket voice
recorder. Then to audience.)

Oh excuse me one moment.

(Speaking into recorder.)

Pick up the candy canes that have red, white "and"
green.

(Short pause as he puts away recorder.)

(He then continues reading.)

As our story is now coming to a close. The time's they
are a changin' even for Rudolph and his red nose.

(Burgess looks up from his book and holds his
hand over his nose.)

PPE's cover the glow.

(Short pause.)

Modernization has re-designed all of our lives. Now
the reindeer just sit around playing games instead of
delivering us our Christmas prize.

(Short pause.)

Then as does happen, you answer the calling, as you roll with the changes while family traditions are falling.

(Short pause.)

The holidays have become such a very different beast, let's hope that one thing never changes.

(Short pause.)

That fabulous feast.

(Turns a page.)

(Spotlight off on Burgess.)

(Lights up as ensemble members enter and gather around center stage.)

(SONG #11: "THAT FABULOUS FEAST".)

ENSEMBLE

FREE FOOD

IT'S WHY WE GATHERED ALL HERE WITH YOU

ONE COMMON LINK FABULOUS FEAST FOOD AND DRINK

IT IS

THAT TIME OF THE YEAR OF GOOD CHEER

YOU ARE THOUGHT OF

SPREADING YOUR LOVE WITH FOOD AND DRINK

ENSEMBLE

WE LOVE YA' SO

DON'T TAKE THIS ALL WRONG

BUT WHILE WE'RE SINGING OUR CHRISTMAS SONGS

ALL WE CAN THINK ABOUT IS WHAT'S ON OUR MIND

GRABBING A TURKEY LEG AND PUMPKIN PIE

ENSEMBLE SOLO

THAT MEAL WAS SO VERY HEART FELT
 TIME TO UNBUCKLE MY BELT
 TO MAKE ROOM FOR MORE FABULOUS FEASTING

ENSEMBLE

WE ONLY CAME FOR THE FREE FOOD AND DRINK
 UNDER THE TREE PRESENTS FOR ME FOOD AND DRINK
 WE CAME TO BE PAMPERED LIKE A CHILD
 PARENT'S LOVE MAKIN' ME SMILE FOOD AND DRINK

ENSEMBLE

THE MEMORIES WE'RE MAKIN'
 BAGGIES ARE FULL OF FOOD WE ARE TAKIN' TO EAT TOMORROW
 IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT FABULOUS FEAST FOOD AND DRINK

ENSEMBLE

THE MEMORIES WE'RE MAKIN'
 BAGGIES ARE FULL OF FOOD WE ARE TAKIN' TO EAT TOMORROW
 IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT FABULOUS FEAST FOOD AND DRINK

ENSEMBLE

WE LOVE YA' SO
 DON'T TAKE THIS ALL WRONG
 BUT WHILE WE'RE SINGING OUR CHRISTMAS SONGS
 ALL WE CAN THINK ABOUT IS WHAT'S ON OUR MIND
 GRABBING A TURKEY LEG AND PUMPKIN PIE

ENSEMBLE SOLO

AND SINCE I AM YOUR SPECIAL GUEST HERE
 I'LL GO NOW AND LET YOU CLEAN UP MY MESS DEAR
 AND SEE YOU AGAIN
 NEXT YEAR
 SAME TIME

ENSEMBLE

WE ONLY CAME FOR THE FREE FOOD AND DRINK
 AND ALL OF IT ON YOUR DIME
 BYE

(End of Song #11.)

(All ensemble members exit, waving to the audience as they go.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(SFX: Mobile phone ringing.)

(Lights up as Grandma and Grandpa enter. Both look confused, as they search for the ringing telephone.)

GRANDPA

It was nice when you knew where it was, attached to the wall and with a long cord - so you could go anywhere in the house. But then you had to put it back!

(Grandma finds the phone on the mantle and picks it up. As she picks it up, it stops ringing.)

(Carol, Camford, Noelle, Jacob, Holly, Brice and Tommy enter the stage area and each take a seat on one of the lounges.)

(They are all frozen in tableau unless they are speaking their lines below; in which case, they stand up, say their lines, and then sit back down.)

(Grandma presses the quick-button to retrieve all messages.)

(SFX: Message Beep.)

FEMALE VOICE

(From off stage.)

You have nine new messages.

(Grandma smiles curiously.)

HOLLY

Hi Mom, looking forward to Christmas dinner. I know you got it all covered, but let me know if you want me to bring anything more than an appetite? OK bye.

(Grandma presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

BRICE

Hi Mom, hi Dad, can't wait for that fabulous Christmas feast. Mom can you make sure there are plenty of sweet potatoes with lots of marshmallows on top...

(With a hint of snarkiness.)

...since you ran out last year. Thanks.

(Grandma presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

NOELLE

Mom, don't forget my roommate doesn't like marshmallows on the sweet potatoes. Bye.

(Grandma looks annoyed. She presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

TOMMY

Hi Grandma, in case Santa didn't get my letter, I want a Jungle Terry action figure with remote control jungle jeep, and a Commander Goatman action battle bot. And I want a...

(Grandma presses the 'Next' button, cutting the message off.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

(Tommy looks annoyed, then sits back down in tableau.)

CAROL

Hi Grandma. Remember I'm a vegan this year so I'll email my list of food that I can eat. I love you, bye.

(Grandma again looks annoyed. She presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

CAMFORD

Hi hon I... Oh shoot! Wrong button. Hi Mom, Dad, hope things are good. Hit the wrong speed-dial button. Meant to call Joy, she's not there is she? OK, looking forward to Christmas dinner. See you then.

(Grandma presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

NOELLE

Hi Mom. If you can make the nut roll with more of a fine chop on the nuts that would be great. And a gluten free one, I think Eve Marie is allergic.

(Grandma presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

JACOB

Yo' Grandmom! Capptan Cameeleeann and the Crickets are playing at the rock hall for their fifth "Farewell Tour" December 23rd. You think you and G-Pop want to go? If you do, pick me up two good tickets too. Let me know when you get 'em, I'll be by to pick 'em up.

(Grandma looks annoyed then looks up at the audience with a blank stare, shaking her head.)

(Grandma presses the 'Next' button.)

(SFX: Beep sound.)

CAMFORD

Oh yeah, I did mean to call you. We'll be by with the kids next week for trick or treating, hope you have the good candy this year. See you then, and don't forget about the extra sweet potatoes with lots of marshmallows for Christmas, don't need a replay of last year's fiasco but I'll remind you again next week. Love ya'.

(Grandma looks utterly perplexed, shaking her head.)

(Grandpa starts nervously and quietly backing away from her.)

GRANDMA

(Frustrated.)

Do you believe this?

(Throwing her hands in the air, pacing back and forth and talking to no one in particular.)

Uncaring. Unfeeling. Unloving. Ungrateful. Unthoughtful. Unappreciative. Unbelievable? I must have failed as a mother if this is the kind of children I have raised? I'm too angry to talk to them now. But this is something they all need to hear, and I only want to say it once.

(Grandma fumbles with the phone and mumbles to herself angrily. She then sheepishly looks over towards Grandpa to ask for help.)

GRANDMA

Honey, how do I make this thing text all of them at once?

(Grandpa moves over to Grandma and presses a few buttons, then moves behind her and peeks over her shoulder at what she is texting.)

(Grandma starts texting.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Pin spotlight up on Grandma.)

(Grandma starts pacing and texting at the beginning of the music, Grandpa follows.)

(SONG #12: "MY HOLIDAY".)

GRANDMA

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE ONCE AGAIN
BRINGING BACK FEAR OF WAY BACK WHEN
A TIME THAT WOULD LEAVE ME SO VERY STRESSED
INSTEAD OF FEELING COMPLETELY BLESSED
THAT COMES FROM ALL THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS
FOR PRESENTS PARTIES AND GRAND SALUTATIONS
PLANNED OUT WITH SO MANY DICTATIONS
WITH FAMILY FRIENDS AND LONG-LOST RELATIONS

GRANDMA

DAY INTO NIGHT FOR WEEKS GETTING READY
HELLO GOODBYE AND IT'S OVER ALREADY
THEY SHOW UP TO STUFF THEIR FACES
THEN SAY GOODBYE WITH STAINED SHIRT EMBRACES
AND BEFORE THE DOOR DOES CLOSE
THE SMELL OF FEAR REFILLS THE NOSE
TIME WILL FLY BY IN LESS THAN A YEAR
THE HOLIDAYS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HERE

GRANDMA

THAT WAS THE OLD ME
BUT NO MORE
YOU CAN STILL COME BY
IT'S AN OPEN DOOR
BUT BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK
AND FEED ME
IT'S MY NEW PHILOSOPHY
THIS IS THE NEW WAY
MY HOLIDAY
DEAL WITH IT
THIS IS MY LIFE
NO MORE STRIFE
I QUIT

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

WHY'D IT TAKE SO LONG
FOR ME TO REALIZE

GRANDMA

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO

GRANDPA

WHAT I DO

GRANDMA

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE
ONCE AGAIN
BUT NO MORE FEAR
MY LIFE IS ZEN
I AM SO MUCH MORE SERENE
NO LONGER STRESSING ON THE HOLIDAY SCENE

GRANDMA

THESE ARE MY WAYS
MY HOLIDAYS
DEAL WITH IT
DO IT YOURSELF
MAKE IT YOUR DAY
I'M FINE
TELL ME WHAT TIME
ON YOUR DIME
I'M IN
THIS IS MY LIFE
NO MORE STRIFE
I WIN

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

HOLIDAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

GRANDMA

THE HOLIDAYS
ARE REALLY GRAND
WHEN YOUR TIME IS NOT SO MUCH IN SOMEONE'S DEMAND
YOU MAY NOW THINK THAT THIS IS NOT SO FAIR
I REALLY LOVE YOU
BUT I NO LONGER CARE

(Family members, now looking forlorn, all cover their hearts with their hands.)

GRANDMA

THE HOLIDAYS
ARE UPON US ONCE AGAIN
NO LONGER IS THERE A FEAR OF THEM
THE TIMES ARE NOW
SO CAREFREE
TRADE THE STRESS FOR PEACE AND HOLIDAY SERENITY

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US ONCE AGAIN
NO LONGER IS THERE A FEAR OF THEM

(End of Song # 12.)

GRANDMA

(Dramatically pressing the send button.)

And... send!

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Grandma, Grandpa and family members each take a seat on the lounges. The remaining family members enter the stage area, and also take a seat on the lounges.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

Grinch's you cannot let take over the day, with the wicked and horrible words they may say.

(Short pause.)

Forgiveness, although wise in a mothers way, sometimes though,

(Wickedly.)

You just have to make them pay.

(Turns a page.)

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Jacob stands up and moves to center stage.)

(Pin spotlight up on Jacob.)

(SONG #13: "YOUR CROSS TO BEAR".)

JACOB

HE'S MEAN AND GREEN AND BIG AND BAD
THIS IS A STORY THAT IS SO QUITE UNFAIR
ABOUT SOME DUDE WITH LONG WAVY ITCHY
GREEN HAIR
THEY ALL MADE
FUN OF HIM
HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD FEEL
IF THIS WAS
YOUR CROSS
TO BEAR
A LIFETIME OF RIDICULE
AND ALL OF
THEM STARING EYES

JACOB

NO KIDS WOULD LET HIM PLAY
IN THEIR HOLIDAY GAMES
SO HE SECLUDED
HIMSELF ON
THAT MOUNTAIN
WITH ONLY HIS LOYAL DOG TO PLAY
AND HE VOWED THAT HE WOULD GET EVEN
BY TAKING REVENGE OUT ON THEM
AND RUIN THEIR SPECIAL HOLIDAY

JACOB

AND IT DID COME TRUE ONE DAY
BUT THE PEOPLE DID NOT SAY
THAT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO WERE THE CAUSE OF THIS
SOCIAL MISFIT'S RECKLESS MELEE
SO THEY DID HAVE TO PAY

JACOB

THIS STORY WAS TRUE
BUT WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW
THEY CHANGED THE SCENE
AND THE ENDING
SO THEY COULD MEET PRIME TIME TV'S
FAMILY RATING OF G FOR ALL KID SHOWS
HE GOT HIS REVENGE
AND ALL OF
THEIR PRESENTS
AND HOLIDAY SPIRIT
WENT CRASHING DOWN
FROM ATOP OF THAT HIGH MOUNTAIN AS HE
SMILED EVILLY DOWN AT THEM
THEY DID NOT
REPLY WITH SONG
HE HAD
FINALLY
GOTTEN
HIS REVENGE
AND IT FELT OH SO VERY GOOD
NO MATTER WHAT MOTHER ALWAYS SAID
THIS STORY WAS REAL

(The following is a 'semi' rant.)

JACOB

BUT THE ENDING THEY DID NOT TELL YOU THE TRUTH ABOUT
SO THEY COULD MAKE IT FOR TV AND SHIFT THE BLAME
AND KEEP THE COPYRIGHTS AND ALL OF THE STINKIN' ROYALTIES
THIS WAS
THE
TRUE STORY

(End of Song #13.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Jacob returns to the lounge and takes a seat.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

Times do change yet we learn to carry on, wayward sun
makes memories fade, not long after they are gone.

(Short pause.)

So do not be saddened, down-hearted or repulsed if
thoughts get neglected. Remember even Rudolph, did get
rejected.

(Spotlight off on Burgess.)

(Lights up on Grandpa as he rises from the
lounge and moves to center stage.)

(Grandpa begins slow dancing with himself.)

(He suddenly stops dancing and faces the
audience.)

(SONG #14: "RUDOLPH HAS BEEN REPLACED".)

GRANDPA

*CHRISTMAS THESE DAYS
HAS CHANGED IN OH SO MANY WAYS
THINGS ARE NOT THE SAME
AS THEY USED TO BE
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN*

GRANDPA

*RUDOLPH HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A
HALF A MILLION DRONES
NOW ON CHRISTMAS EVE THE REINDEER BINGE WATCH
NETFLIX AT HOME
SANTA HAS MODERNIZED AND THE
ELVES HAVE COMPUTERIZED
DELIVERING A SHOW SO SYNCHRONIZED
ANIMATING LIT UP SKIES*

GRANDPA

CHRISTMAS HAS CHANGED
 IN SO MANY WAYS FROM YOUNGER DAYS
 THINGS ARE NO LONGER QUITE THE SAME
 TODAY IT'S A VERY MUCH DIFFERENT GAME
 HOLIDAYS START SO MUCH SOONER
 EARLIER THAN BEFORE
 PRESENTS ORNAMENTS AND SANTA WE'D FIND AT THE
 LOCAL STORE
 RIGHT AFTER OUR THANKSGIVING FEAST IN
 LATE NOVEMBER
 NOW IT BEGINS AT THE LABOR DAY BARBECUE IN
 EARLY SEPTEMBER

(Grandpa begins slow dancing with himself.)

(He suddenly stops dancing and faces the
 audience.)

GRANDPA

CHRISTMAS THESE DAYS
 HAS CHANGED IN OH SO MANY WAYS
 THINGS ARE NOT THE SAME
 AS THEY USED TO BE
 THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN

GRANDPA

RUDOLPH HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A
 HALF A MILLION DRONES
 NOW ON CHRISTMAS EVE THE REINDEER BINGE WATCH
 NETFLIX AT HOME
 SANTA HAS MODERNIZED AND THE
 ELVES HAVE COMPUTERIZED
 DELIVERING A SHOW SO SYNCHRONIZED
 ANIMATING LIT UP SKIES

(Grandpa begins slow dancing and 'dances'
 himself over to his seat on the lounge.)

(He stops dancing.)

GRANDPA

*CHRISTMAS HAS CHANGED FOR US
AND IT MAY NOT BE SO FAIR
BUT IT'S SO STRESS FREE THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAYS*

(With a flourish, Grandpa sits back down
on the lounge.)

GRANDPA

FROM MY LIVING ROOM CHAIR

(End of Song #14.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

We have poked fun at the things Christmas has become,
singing many a song with still three more, yet to be
sung.

(Short pause.)

The first may make you shed a tear for such poor
treatment of the "big guy" we hold so dear.

(Short pause.)

Next the sounds of Christmas do change, as "the man"
shows off his new holiday range.

(Short pause.)

Finally a raging storm you will hear, spreading nothing
but peace love, and good cheer.

(Short pause as he turns a page.)

His color was always rosy and red but now seen only
in his bloodshot eyes, since being replaced from our
frantic lives, and banned from delivering and flying
through the friendly skies.

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Camford stands and moves to center stage.)

(The two elves enter and stand beside the Christmas tree.)

(Pin spotlights up on Camford and the two elves.)

(SONG #15: "SANTA HAS BEEN FIRED".)

CAMFORD

CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER
 LIKE WE USED TO REMEMBER
 NEW RULES HAVE TAKEN OVER
 IT NOW STARTS IN SEPTEMBER
 SANTA HAS BEEN FIRED
 REPLACED WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY
 CAUGHT BY SURPRISE HE DID NOT SEE IT COMING
 THE POOR REINDEER
 HAVE IT VERY MUCH THE SAME
 NOW ALL THEY CAN DO IS PLAY THEIR SILLY GAMES
 RUDOLPH'S LEADING SPREE CAN NO LONGER BE
 BECAUSE THE UGLY PPE HIDES HIS RED NOSE

TWO ELVES

THEY DO NOT GLOW

CAMFORD

THE ELVES DID TAKE IT BAD IT REALLY MADE THEM MAD
 TAKING THE JINGLE BELLS OFF OF THEIR CLOTHES

TWO ELVES

AND OUR TOES

CAMFORD

CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER
 AS WE ONCE REMEMBER
 DECORATIONS HID TIL NOVEMBER
 GET HUNG IN SEPTEMBER
 FUNNY THING THOUGH
 IT NO LONGER SEEMS SO VERY STRANGE EVER SINCE CHRISTMAS
 DID COME IN JULY
 I GUESS IT COULD

CAMFORD

REALLY BE EVEN SO MUCH WORSE NON-DAIRY TOPPING ON SOY
 PUMPKIN PIE
 SANTA HAS NOW BEEN FIRED
 REPLACED BY MODERN THINGS
 ALTHOUGH HE IS SO TIRED
 IT REALLY STINGS
 RUDOLPH'S LEADING SPREE CAN NO LONGER BE BECAUSE THE
 UGLY PPE HIDES HIS RED NOSE

TWO ELVES

THEY DO NOT GLOW

CAMFORD

THE ELVES DID TAKE IT BAD IT REALLY MADE THEM MAD
 TAKING THE JINGLE BELLS OFF OF THEIR CLOTHES

TWO ELVES

AND OUR TOES

CAMFORD

CHRISTMAS IS NO LONGER AS
 AS WE REMEMBER IT
 ALL JUST PART OF THESE RAPID CHANGING TIMES
 SO IF THINGS GO SOUTH
 HEAR THIS FROM MY MOUTH
 AND YOU NEED TO SAVE A DIME
 REMEMBER JUST CLICK ON PRIME

(End of Song #15.)

(An ensemble member - wearing a delivery driver's outfit - enters from stage right. Without looking at Camford, he runs over to him and drops a package at Camford's feet.)

(He then whips out his phone and takes a photo of the 'delivered' package and then runs back off stage.)

(A picture of the package at Camford's feet appears on an upstage screen - or back wall - with the following message below "Your package has been delivered".)

(Projected image of package is turned off.)

(Camford picks up the package and wanders back to his seat on the lounge and sits.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(The two elves exit.)

(Spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

Yes he is still in business today but it's Paypal, Bitcoin or cash on deeeelivery. From red to blue to a color of green, his Ho-Ho-Ho has been replaced with...

(Short pause, then boldly and excitedly.)

...Show me the money!

(Short pause.)

Oh sorry about that. I always get a little carried away there.

(Short pause.)

So next time you purchase through that anonymous online eStore, just remember this, Santa, ain't blue no more.

(Turns a page.)

(Spotlight off Burgess.)

(Lights up as Leif stands up from the lounge and moves to center stage.)

(An ensemble member, wearing a blue Santa suit and dark black framed sunglasses, enters at stage right - remaining at side of stage - and pretends to play a harmonica.)

(The two elves, wearing dark sunglasses, then enter at stage right - also remaining at side of stage - and play air guitar.)

(SONG #16: "SANTA AIN'T BLUE NO MORE".)

LEIF

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN CHRISTMAS MUSIC WAS SO BLAND
 BELLS CHIMES NO SWING POP ROCK OR JAZZ
 JUST A NUTCRACKER BAND
 SANTA WAS SO BORED AND DOWN
 HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO
 THEN HE STARTED PLAYING THE HARMONICA
 SINCE THEN HE IS NO LONGER BLUE

LEIF

SANTA NOW LEADS IN A BLUES BAND
 AND HE REALLY IS THE MAN
 HUFFIN' AND PUFFIN' HIS TINY MOUTH HORN
 SANTA AIN'T BLUE NO MORE

LEIF

HE BLOWS THE CROWD AWAY GETS THEM CLAPPIN' ON THEIR
 FEET
 EVEN AFTER THE EXHAUSTING SHOW
 THEY'RE STILL DANCIN' IN THE STREET
 RUDOLPH CAUGHT THE FEVER CHANGED HIS NAME
 HE'S IN THE BAND PLAYING THE ALTO SAXOPHONE
 NOW HIS NOM DE PLUME THESE DAYS
 IS RUDE THE DUDE COOLTONE

LEIF

CHRISTMAS MUSIC HAS CHANGED THESE DAYS
 NOTHING LIKE IT WAS BEFORE
 THE NORTH POLE IS NOW SO JAZZY
 'CUZ SANTA AIN'T BLUE NO MORE

LEIF

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN CHRISTMAS MUSIC WAS SO BLAND
 BELLS CHIMES NO SWING POP ROCK OR JAZZ
 JUST A NUTCRACKER BAND
 SANTA WAS SO BORED AND DOWN
 HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO
 THEN HE STARTED PLAYING THE HARMONICA
 SINCE THEN HE'S NO LONGER BLUE

LEIF

SANTA NOW LEADS IN A BLUES BAND
 AND HE REALLY IS THE MAN
 HUFFIN' AND PUFFIN' HIS TINY MOUTH HORN
 SANTA AIN'T BLUE NO MORE

LEIF

THE ELVES DO CONTROL EVERYTHING
 BEHIND THE SCENES AND ON THE FLOOR
 WITHOUT ALL OF THEM DEAR OL' SAINT NICK
 WOULD BE SO VERY STINKIN' POOR
 THEY HAUL THE GEAR SET THE SOUND CONTROL
 THE CROWD AND TAKIN' CARE OF ALL HIS MONEY BUSINESS
 ALL THE WHILE STILL DOING THEIR MAIN JOB
 WHICH IS CHRISTMAS

LEIF

CHRISTMAS MUSIC HAS CHANGED THESE DAYS
 NOTHING LIKE IT WAS BEFORE
 THE NORTH POLE IS NOW SO JAZZY
 'CUZ SANTA AIN'T BLUE NO MORE

(End of Song #16.)

(Lights dim to blackout.)

(All cast members on the lounge stand up and move to center stage and line up across the stage - beside Leif. The two elves and the ensemble member in the blue Santa suit also move to center stage.)

(Simultaneously, all cast members who are currently offstage, enter and also line-up across the stage with Leif.)

(Stage crew members enter from upstage and line up behind the cast members.)

(Spotlight up on Burgess.)

BURGESS

(Poetically.)

As we do offer good tidings and good night for the start of this season, and I am not really sure I can tell you when it begins anymore, now with good reason.

(Music intro begins.)

So be safe on your way home and while away from this site because I can see through the frosty window, a storm is brewing tonight.

(Short pause.)

We wish only good cheer at this time of the year. Although we do pray you all, get caught in this squall, but please do not fear.

(Short pause.)

Now we bid you adieu, and thank all of you too, you were all very kind and truly so dear.

(Short pause.)

If you did enjoy yourself during this visit, take with you our holiday spirit. Knowing. That when this storm starts growing. It is only the Christmas winds blowing.

(Burgess shuts the storybook as, simultaneously, his spotlight goes dark.)

(Stage lights up.)

(SONG #17: "CHRISTMAS WINDS".)

ALL

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR
THE CHRISTMAS WINDS DO BEGIN TO START BLOWING
BRINGING WINTER SOON THE SKIES WILL BE SNOWING
AND THE HOT COCOA WILL BE OVERFLOWING
WHILE WE'RE SINGING CAROLS RINGED AROUND THE FIRE
OUT OF TUNE SONGS DEFINITELY NO CHOIR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS ALL GATHERED AROUND HERE
CELEBRATING GOOD TIMES WITH THOSE WE HOLD SO VERY DEAR
I HOPE THESE WINDS WILL NEVER DIE DOWN AND BRING A FROWN
LET THAT STORM BLOW HAPPY SOUNDS ALL AROUND MY TOWN

ALL

THINGS SHOULD BE THIS WAY EACH AND EVERY DAY
I WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN IF I HAVE MY SAY
THESE CHRISTMAS WINDS ARE BLOWING HARD
LIKE A TWISTER TEARING UP MY FRONT YARD
I'M SO HAPPY TO FEEL THEM COME MY WAY
I HOPE THEY WILL ALWAYS STAY WITH ME EVERY DAY
ALWAYS KNOCKIN' DOWN BROKEN PLAYGROUNDS AROUND TOWN
TURNIN' SMILES FROM HOPELESS BROKEN SADDENED FROWNS
THINGS SHOULD BE THIS WAY FOR ALL OF US AROUND HERE
ON EACH AND EVERY DAY OF THIS BLESSED YEAR

ALL

LET THESE CHRISTMAS WINDS BLOW THROUGH MY YARD
BRINGING HAPPINESS TO HEARTS THAT ARE SCARRED
IT'S NOT REALLY HARD TO EXPECT
MAKE SURE ALL YEAR THAT THE HALLS ARE DECKED
I HOPE THESE WINDS WILL NEVER DIE DOWN AND
AND LET THAT STORM BLOW HAPPY SOUNDS ALL AROUND TOWN
IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY EACH AND EVERY DAY
I WILL MAKE IT HAPPEN IF I DO HAVE MY SAY

ALL

IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
 IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR
 THE CHRISTMAS WINDS DO BEGIN TO START BLOWING
 BRINGING WINTER SOON THE SKIES WILL BE SNOWING
 AND THE HOT COCOA WILL BE OVERFLOWING
 WHILE WE'RE SINGING CAROLS RINGED AROUND THE FIRE
 OUT OF TUNE SONGS DEFINITELY NO CHOIR
 FAMILY AND FRIENDS ALL GATHERED AROUND HERE
 CELEBRATING GOOD TIMES WITH THOSE WE HOLD SO VERY DEAR
 I HOPE THESE WINDS WILL NEVER DIE DOWN AND BRING A FROWN
 LET THAT STORM BLOW HAPPY SOUNDS ALL AROUND MY TOWN

ALL

THESE CHRISTMAS WINDS ARE BLOWING HARD
 LIKE A TWISTER TEARING UP MY FRONT YARD
 I'M SO HAPPY TO FEEL THEM COME MY WAY
 I HOPE THEY WILL ALWAYS STAY WITH ME EVERY DAY

(While the instrumental interlude plays, all cast members take their curtain call in pairs or threes, Director's choice.)

(Once all cast members, except Burgess who is still sitting in his chair at downstage right, have taken their bows - they extend their hands towards Burgess.)

(Pin spotlight up on Burgess as he stands and bows. He then joins the other cast members at center stage for the final lyrics.)

(The cast then acknowledges the crew and audience.)

ALL

IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

(End of Song #17.)

(All cast members form a single line and bow together.)

(Lights dim to blackout, except for the Christmas tree lights and star, which remain on for a theatrical moment.)

(The Christmas tree lights and star then turn off, leaving the stage in sudden blackout.)

(CURTAIN.)

(END OF PLAY.)