

Music for Schools presents...

# One Bright Night

by **Brendon Renwick**

Illustrations by **Jill Elstob**

**Welcome to One Bright Night !** This is a one-act Christmas musical, suitable for upper Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 pupils (school Years 2 - 4 / ages 6 - 9). Younger performers can also be included in your performance, through the many lively songs, but the speaking/acting parts are best suited to the age range above.

**One Bright Night** is a starry, night-time tale of the animals living in the fields near Bethlehem who constantly dream of better food and shelter. Above them, they have noticed a small starry light which grows brighter each evening, giving them each something to wonder about. When a white dove appears to each group of cows, sheep, goats and donkeys, they follow her into the night, hoping to find a reward at the end of the journey. Instead, they are disappointed to arrive in noisy, dusty Bethlehem. But here, the white dove reveals a scene which surprises and rewards all the animals. In a humble stable, the cows, sheep, goats and donkeys take their positions for the traditional nativity scene.

**Characters:** Any number of pupils can perform **One Bright Night**. Numbers of supporting cows, sheep, goats and donkeys are not restricted. There are good opportunities for whole-group and small-group singing across both Key Stages, and plenty of speaking parts for the older children. Note that, although twenty one *Narrator* speeches appear in the script, these can be shared in any way amongst your available speakers. Please reduce or expand the number of *Narrators* accordingly. Each of the animal groups have a small amount of small-group singing in their respective songs. The traditional Christmas carol, *Away in a Manger*, appears towards the end of the show to provide a festive, musical backdrop to the nativity scene, and allow time for children to take their positions. Please note that *Away in a Manger* is not restricted by copyright and may, thus, be reproduced here. It was originally published in 1885 - author unknown - but with music composed by William J. Kirkpatrick.

# the script and lyrics...

## **Overture** (CD tracks 1 + 10)

*(After welcoming your audience, the overture can be played as your performers walk towards the stage area, either in lines or in their character groups.)*

*(By the end of the overture, small groups of the various farm animals - cows, sheep, goats, donkeys - have appeared in the performance area. Some are chewing grass, some sleeping, some standing. All remain fairly still as Narrators 1 & 2 stand to speak...)*

### Narrator 1

Long, long ago, in a land of dusty days and silent nights, the farm animals wandered the fields and valleys. By day, they worked hard for the farmers that owned them, and by night, they rested. Every day and night passed by in the same way... until now.

### Narrator 2

The animals had noticed that their nearest town, called Bethlehem, grew noisier and noisier by day. And in the sky at night, a star had become brighter and brighter.

***SONG - One Small Light*** (CD tracks 2 + 11)

**Verse 1** (all sing)

Days are hard, nights are cold,  
nothing changes, we just grow old.  
But did you know that animals dream ?  
And every night up in the sky we've seen...

**Chorus**

...there is a star above us,  
maybe trying to tell us  
that one small light  
can help to make our dreams come true.

**Verse 2**

Imagine fields with lots to eat,  
soft, warm soil for our hard worn feet,  
with golden sun and grass so green.  
But we only see it in our dreams.

**Chorus again**

**Verse 3**

Winter's cold and the nights are long,  
so stand together and sing this song  
to keep us warm until the day.  
Never let our dreaming go away.

**Chorus**

There is a star above us,  
maybe trying to tell us  
that one small light  
can help to make our dreams come true...  
...that one small light  
can help to make our dreams come true.

## Dove

Coo, coo, follow me !

## Narrator 7

So the cows followed the white dove in the light of the shining star. But very soon they plodded headlong into a flock of sheep.

## Sheep 1, 2 & 3 (together)

What is that noise ?

What is that noise ?

By our fleecy grey coats  
that are growing so long,  
leave us to sleep 'till the cold night has gone.

We are tired from the day,  
will you please go away !

We just want to dream  
of a '*waaarm*' place. OK ?

(bleating)

## Narrator 8

The cows stood still, so as not to disturb the sheep,  
and the dove fluttered down beside the sheep where  
they could see her.

## Dove

Coo, coo, there's something to see.

Coo, coo, just follow me.

Something so special, so precious and new.

If you sing me a song I'll take you along.

Coo, coo, I promise you !



### Narrator 13

The goats thought for a while and looked at each other. They trusted the dove and knew that she could see much, much further than they could.

### Goat 1

Perhaps it's a garden full of fruit and vegetables.

### Goat 2

Or leftover food from a banquet in Bethlehem.

### Goat 3

We're not fussy - as long as it's vegetarian !

### Goat 1

Look at all those cows and sheep. Whatever it is, it must be something really special !

### Dove

Sing me a song and I'll take you along.

Sing me a song and I'll take you along.

### Narrator 14

So the goats brushed their beards, ready to sing, hoping that the dove would lead them to a feast fit for a goat.

*(The goats quickly stand to face the front.)*

***SONG - Kid Trouble ! (CD tracks 5 + 14)***

**Verse 1** *(goats sing together in a group)*

We're feeling gruff and we've had enough.  
It's no big wonder that our beards are looking rough.  
They started off sweet  
now they're under our feet.  
There are two little words that we'll tell you about...  
...kid trouble !

**Chorus** *(all sing)*

All they say, everyday  
is "Nah, Nah, Nah !"  
Their attitude is getting rude...  
..."Nah, Nah, Nah !"  
We can't take them anywhere,  
they're fussy young eaters.  
We're getting fed up  
of the noisy little *bleaters* !  
Try to have a chat,  
but they just answer back...  
..."Nah, Nah, Nah !"

**Verse 2** *(goats sing)*

We're loosing our hair but they just don't care.  
They stay up late and hang around at the gate.  
We get no peace  
from the little beasts.  
There are two little words that we'll tell you about...  
...kid trouble !

**Chorus again** *(all sing)*

## Dove

Coo, coo, follow me !

## Narrator 19

So the donkeys followed the goats, who followed the sheep, who followed the cows, who followed the white dove in the light of the shining star. But very soon they arrived at the edge of Bethlehem, which had only just began to quieten down for the night. The animals fell silent because, here, they didn't feel at all happy or safe.

## Cow 1

Why have you brought us to Bethlehem, dove ?

## Cow 2

We can't find our peace and quiet here.

## Sheep 1

Where is the shelter ?

## Sheep 3

We don't want to live in Bethlehem. It's even muckier than the last place !

## Goat 1

Where is all the food ?

## Goat 2

All I can smell is roast lamb.

## All the sheep (horrified)

What ?

## Goat 2

Oops, er... sorry sheep !

***SONG - There is a King ! (CD tracks 9 + 18)***

**Verse (all sing)**

We travelled here, wandered far  
in the light of the shining star,  
for each to find and claim their prize,  
but in this stable is a new surprise.

**Chorus**

There is a King before us,  
who is here to show us,  
a special, holy light to follow evermore.

**Verse**

We travelled here, wandered far  
in the light of the shining star,  
for each to find and claim their prize,  
but in this stable is a new surprise.

**Chorus**

There is a King before us,  
who is here to show us,  
a special, holy light to follow evermore.

There is a King before us,  
who is here to show us,  
a special, holy light to follow evermore.

**The End !**

*(CD Track 13 can be used here for bowing, etc.)*

# We Will Follow You (CD tracks 4 & 13)

♩=130

Piano, keyboard or guitar. *f*

Chords: C6, C6/G, Ab7, G7(#5), C6

4 C6/G Ab7 G7 C6

(sheep sing) **Verse 1** We will fol - low you, will fol - low  
**Verse 2** no - ticed in the night there is an

Chords: C6/G, Ab7, G7, C6

6 Dm7

them, will fol - low an - y - one near (long bleating note)  
 ex - tra star - ry light near 'Beeeth' - - le - hem.\_  
 'Beeeth' - - le - hem.\_

Chord: Dm7

8 G7

There's noth - ing else to do, ap - art from  
 An ex - tra kind of bright - ness that

Chord: G7

10 C6

look - ing for some grass to chew, near (long bleating note)  
 shows up all our white - ness near 'Beeeth' - - le - hem.\_  
 'Beeeth' - - le - hem.\_

Chord: C6

12 Fma7 Cma7

(all sing) So show us some - thing new and we'll fol - low you. A  
 (all sing) So show us some - thing new and we'll fol - low you. A

Chords: Fma7, Cma7

# Sing us a Song (CD tracks 6 & 15)

♩=130

Piano, keyboard or guitar.

*f*

F/C G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> F

4 (all except donkeys sing choruses)

F C<sup>7</sup>

**Chorus 1** Don - key, don - key, sing us a song and  
**Chorus 2** Don - key, don - key, show us your dance. Those

6 F Dm

then the dove will take us a - long. We know you're shy, but  
 don - key moves are quite ad - vanced. Your tail can swish, your

9 Gm/B<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m F/C C<sup>7</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>m (donkeys sing verses)

we're re - ly - ing on you to sing your song. **Verse 1** We don't think that our  
 hooves are fast. Go on show us your don key dance. **Verse 2** We're not sure if our

13 E<sup>b</sup>m/B<sup>b</sup> F<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m

don - key voic - es have a nice ring, we don't like to sing. Per -  
 don - key moves were quite the best, let's give it a rest. Per -