

Music for Schools presents...

# The Puzzled Penguin

Music & lyrics by Brendon Renwick

Script by Anne Gibson

Illustrations by Jill Elstob

**Welcome to *The Puzzled Penguin* !** This is a one-act musical, suitable for upper Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 pupils (ages 6 to 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 given above. It can be performed all year round - not just for Christmas - although is well suited as an atmospheric, non-religious, winter show. It was first performed in July 2002 by a class of enthusiastic Year 2 pupils from St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School, Birtley in Gateshead. It runs for about 30 minutes.

***The Puzzled Penguin*** is a moral tale of Penny, a young penguin who is convinced that she should be able to fly because of her extra large wings. Teased by her penguin colony, she goes in search of new friends and advice. As she journeys across the ice she meets many interesting characters, but none of whom seem to be able to help. Eventually she meets Nanook, the old Eskimo, whose cryptic words leave her more puzzled than ever before ! On her return, Penny's courage in a daring rescue makes her realise the power and value of her special wings. She is happily reunited with her admiring penguin colony.

**Characters:** Any number of pupils can perform ***The Puzzled Penguin***. Colonies of penguins, seals and walruses need not be limited. There are good opportunities, however, for solo singing by those pupils playing the main parts. Note that, although nineteen *Narrator* parts appear in the script, this number can be reduced or expanded to accommodate fewer or more speakers.

Narrators 1 to 19  
Penguin brothers and sisters (any number)  
(solo singer) Penny the penguin  
(solo singer) Sally the seal  
Sammy the seal  
Silky the seal  
(solo singer) Frosty the fox  
(solo singer) Wally the walrus  
(solo group singers) Dot, Cubby, Splash - walrus cubs (at least three)  
Jack Frost  
Crystal the Snow Queen  
Harriet the hare  
Nanook the Eskimo

**SONG - Penguins, Penguins** (CD tracks 2 + 14)

**Chorus** (all sing)

*Penguins, penguins waddling, waddling.  
Penguins, penguins toddling, toddling.  
We are the polar penguins  
marching through the snow.*

**Verse 1**

*We plod with our feet and flap our wings,  
we stamp and flutter everything.  
Tramping, gliding in the snow  
and zooming everywhere.*

**Chorus**

*Penguins, penguins waddling, waddling.  
Penguins, penguins toddling, toddling.  
We are the polar penguins  
marching through the snow.*

**Verse 2**

*We dive in the snow as icy as can be,  
we dart and whizz in the deep, blue sea,  
catching fishes for our tea;  
one for you and me.*

**Chorus**

*Penguins, penguins waddling, waddling.  
Penguins, penguins toddling, toddling.  
We are the polar penguins  
marching through the snow, snow, snow.*

## Narrator 2

In the penguin colony there were tall penguins and short penguins - fast penguins and slow penguins - fluffy penguins and shiny penguins... and then there was Penny.

## Narrator 3

Penny always felt very puzzled because she was the only penguin with extra large, flappy wings. And even though Penny had many brothers and sisters she always felt lonely and unhappy because they all laughed at her wings.

## Penguin brothers & sisters

Ha, ha, ha - just look at her wings. They're so large and flappy and floppy. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha !

*(All the penguins exit, leaving Penny alone on stage.)*

### Penny

Well done ! I really enjoyed that... but do you know anyone who can help me discover if I can fly ?

### Sally, Sammy & Silky

Why don't you find Frosty the Fox. He is much wiser than us - surely he will know.

### Narrator 7

The seal family had cheered Penny up for a little while, but now she started to feel lonely and unhappy again, so Penny said goodbye to Sally and her family and set off on the cold journey to find Frosty the Fox.

*(Penny continues to waddle around. The seal family exits.)*

It was a long and tiring journey but Penny waddled and toddled on through the ice, wind and snow.

*Ice, Wind & Snow Dance* (CD tracks 5 + 17)

*(Children dressed as icicles or snowflakes (etc.) circle the stage in a graceful, flowing, atmospheric dance.)*

## Narrator 8

Suddenly, Frosty the Fox sprang out at Penny and growled.

*(Frosty the fox leaps onto the stage.)*

## Frosty

Ggrrr - who are you and why are you here ?

### *SONG - I'm Feeling So Unhappy - Reprise*

*(CD tracks 6 + 18)*

#### **Penny - solo**

*I'm feeling so unhappy.*

*My wings are flappy, not like other birds.*

*All of my friends and family*

*just laugh and tease me with their penguin words.*

*I'm feeling so unhappy.*

*I'm not that heavy, surely I can fly.*

*Show me, oh will you show me*

*how I can launch myself into the sky.*

## Narrator 9

As Frosty the Fox continued to tease Penny, Wally the Walrus waddled towards them with his baby cubs, Dot, Cubby and Splash.

*(Wally the Walrus and his cubs enter.)*

## Wally

How dare you tease this little penguin. Why don't you pick on someone your own size ?



## Jack Frost

I can't tell you if you can fly, but I can help you to find the Snow Queen's palace. Quick ! Keep up - follow me.

*(Jack Frost leads Penny around the stage.)*

## Narrator 12

So Penny followed Jack Frost until they arrived at the Snow Queen's palace.

*(Jack Frost disappears and Crystal the Snow Queen enters.)*

## (Narrator 12 continues)

The palace was the most amazing thing that Penny had ever seen. It sparkled and shimmered brightly because it was made completely out of ice. There, near the entrance was Crystal the Snow Queen, catching snowflakes to make her favourite ice cream.

## Penny

Oh beautiful and wise Snow Queen. My name is Penny the penguin and I have walked a long, long way to ask you something. Look at my wings. They are so very large and flappy and I have puzzled over them for a long, long time. Tell me, do you think I can fly ?

# Penguins, Penguins (CD tracks 2 + 14)

♩ = 130

C C/B Am A<sup>b</sup>7 G<sup>7</sup> C

piano, guitar, etc. & voices

*f*

5 C Am Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C Am

**Chorus**  
Pen- guins, pen - guins wad - dl - ing, wad - dl - ing. Pen - guins, pen - guins

8 Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C C/B Am A<sup>b</sup>7 G<sup>7</sup>

tod - dl - ing, tod - dl - ing. We are the po - lar pen - guins mar - ching through the

12 C Dm<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> C C/B Am

snow. **Verse 1** We plod with our feet and flap\_\_ our\_\_ wings, we  
**Verse 2** We dive in the snow as i - cy as can be, we