

Music for Schools presents...

# TRAPPED IN CYBERSPACE !

BY BRENDON RENWICK

( COVER ILLUSTRATION BY JILL ELSTOB )

**Welcome to *Trapped In Cyberspace !*** This one-act musical is for primary school leavers, aged 10-11, running for approximately 35+ minutes. It's a fast-moving show and an ideal way to showcase your school leavers' performing talents !

Your own leavers' class/year group is cleverly written into the script, accidentally sucked into cyberspace following a careless mistake by your headteacher and a cup of coffee ! However, your pupils confidently assist with the day's lesson planning - travelling through time over the internet to undertake important research for their guilty headteacher. Meanwhile the story is keenly picked up by television news, which presents short broadcasts throughout the action, eventually uncovering the mysterious truth behind this amazing cyber story.

This lively, fun musical is easy-to-stage, can involve all your school leavers, and provides great opportunities for large and small group singing. The CD (opposite) contains full and backing-track versions of each song, plus all the scripted sound effects, enabling you to stage a stunning production !

**Characters:** A large number of pupils can perform *Trapped In Cyberspace !* either as part of the on-stage class/group, or as part of a large choir. There are a handful of significant acting roles for more confident performers and good opportunities to portray your own school staff ! Plenty of smaller speaking parts enable a large number of pupils to feature on stage. Also, the *Narrator* speeches can be shared between any number of children. Non-speaking parts (for your other pupils) exist amongst the groups of 'trapped children', 'Victorian children', additional 'dinner ladies' and 'future kids'. A full list of speaking parts appears overleaf.

**Staging, costumes & scenery:** Suggestions for movement around the performance area are presented in the script. They are designed to allow for fast transition between scenes. The principal piece of scenery is the giant computer screen at the back, centre of the performance area. This is the area where your opening pupils remain throughout much of the show. The giant screen need only be a framed area (maybe like large football goal posts); enough to suggest and represent a computer monitor. Costumes, at their simplest, could be limited to plain t-shirts, although there is an obvious opportunity for some traditional 'Victorian school children' costumes and more experimental 'future kids' clothes. The *Narrators* could wear their own co-ordinated t-shirts, or perhaps be dressed in something more futuristic. The brief TV news broadcasts could be made more technically elaborate with the use of a real video camera, projecting an image of the newsreader onto a large screen, if available.

**Speaking parts (in order of appearance):**

**Narrator** (can be shared amongst many) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Child from the audience** \_\_\_\_\_

**Headteacher** (playing YOUR headteacher) \_\_\_\_\_

**Newsreader** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child 1** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child 3** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child 5** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child 6** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child 7** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child 8** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child 9** \_\_\_\_\_ **Child 10** \_\_\_\_\_

**Miss Privet** (Victorian teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

**Victorian Child 1** \_\_\_\_\_ **Victorian Child 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Victorian Child 3** \_\_\_\_\_ **Victorian Child 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cynthia** (dinner lady) \_\_\_\_\_

**Marjorie** (dinner lady) \_\_\_\_\_

**Child at front of dinner queue** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ivor Storey** (news reporter) \_\_\_\_\_

**School Secretary** (playing YOUR school secretary) \_\_\_\_\_

**Deputy Headteacher** (playing YOUR deputy head) \_\_\_\_\_

**Caretaker** (playing YOUR caretaker) \_\_\_\_\_

**Future Kid 1** \_\_\_\_\_ **Future Kid 2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Future Kid 3** \_\_\_\_\_ **Future Kid 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Teacher** (playing YOUR leavers' class teacher) \_\_\_\_\_

**CD, Sheet Music & Lyrics:** The CD contains all that is required to rehearse pupils and to perform the musical. To protect the CD, it is recommended that you store it in a hard case. If using the CD for your performance, ensure that its operator brings each backing track in promptly, using the pause button between tracks to avoid unnecessary silence. If you prefer to play the music live, the sheet music at the back of this publication can be used for accompaniment on piano/keyboard and/or guitar. The music is written out in a more simplified form than is heard on the CD. The lyrics for the songs are presented clearly throughout the script.

♪ *SONG - We've Just Been Zapped* - CD tracks 3 + 23 ♪

Verse 1 ( Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ all sing )

We've just been zapped - transported through the air,  
wirelessly trapped in cyberspace we fear.  
Now we're the size of tiny kilobytes  
on this computer.

Verse 2

How did it happen? We don't really know.  
Something has caused a wireless overflow.  
Got to reverse it otherwise we're certain  
to face disaster.

Chorus

We'll never see our friends or family  
if we are trapped inside this old PC.  
And what if we're deleted before tea  
or worse still... defragmented on drive C ?

*( repeat Verses 1 & 2 )*

*( repeat Chorus )*

Verse 3

We've got to use our pixelated brains,  
find a solution - something fast and plain,  
wirelessly travel back to school again.  
Floating...  
floating...  
through cyberspace...  
feels so very strange.

Headteacher *( leaping out of his/her chair )*

I don't believe it. It's... it's... it's Class/Year \_\_\_\_ ! What are you doing on there - on my COMPUTER ?

Narrator

Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ had spotted Class/Year \_\_\_\_ huddled nervously on the desktop next to the recycle bin.

Headteacher *( leaping out of his/her chair )*

Class/Year \_\_\_\_ , are you alright ? Speak to me !

Child 1 *( speaking from the screen )*

We're fine thanks, Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ , but what's happened to us ? One moment we were in the ICT room, and now we're trapped inside your PC !

Child 2

We don't think much of your screen saver. Is that a photo from the staff Christmas party ?

Child 3 *( looking squashed )*

Yeh, and it's really crowded on this desktop - we keep bumping into your shortcuts.

Child 4

I nearly fell into your recycle bin !

*( pointing worriedly towards the bottom right corner of the screen )*

Headteacher

Enough, enough. How are we going to get you out of this mess ?

Child 5

You could transfer us to a flash drive.

Child 6

Or what about clicking on 'Shut Down'.

Headteacher

No, no, no ! Hold on Class/Year \_\_\_\_ , don't click on anything. I'd better phone technical support at the Council.

Narrator

Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ quickly picked up the phone to get through to the Council's new 'Fix-it-Fast' technical support team.

♪ *Phone Conversation - CD tracks 6 + 26* ♪  
*Sound Effect*

Headteacher (*slamming the phone down*)

Bad news Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_, they can't come out until a week on Monday. Looks like you're going to be stuck there for some time !

Child 7

Oh no ! I'll miss football training.

Child 8

I'll miss dance.

Child 9

I'll miss my birthday.

Child 10

I miss my Mum !

Headteacher (*returning worriedly to his/her desk*)

Now hold on, Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_, we've got to stay positive. But at the same time...

(*suddenly looking around, not to be overheard*)

...I'd rather keep this to ourselves. I don't want the inspectors getting wind of this or our 'Social and Emotional' score may be badly affected. Look, I'll find a solution. Let's just act calmly and naturally.

(*suddenly realising*) Oh no...

Whole class/year (*shouting out together*)

What is it ?

Headteacher

The day job. I've still got the day job to do ! In precisely 15 minutes I'm covering PPA time, starting with a lesson about Victorian Schools in class \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert suitable class name here*), then class \_\_\_\_\_'s (*insert suitable class name*) French lesson, a talk on Healthy Eating to class \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert suitable class name*) and a discussion about 'technology of the future' with class \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert suitable class name*).

Child 1

We can help you there ! There's lots of stuff online about all of those things.

Child 2

And we know where to find it !

Miss Privet

Right children, let us quickly recite our new poem again...

Miss Privet and all Victorian Children *( children speaking dully, without enjoyment )*

*I wandered lonely as a cloud  
that floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils ;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

Miss Privet

Splendid children. Now can you remember what we learned today about the internal structure of the blow fly ?

*( looking around for a response )*

Victorian Child 1 *( secretly chatting from near the front of the stage )*

I wish I didn't have to go to work this afternoon. I'm fed up with shining shoes.

Victorian Child 2

You should try sweeping out chimneys !

Victorian Child 3

Or picking through coal.

Miss Privet

Silence, children ! You should not be talking. I asked you to refer to the internal structure of 'Calliphora erythrocephala' !

Victorian Child 4

Beg your pardon Miss Privet ?

Miss Privet

It is the Latin name for the blow fly, children.

*( all the Victorian children moan and groan )*

Now repeat after me... Muscular system...

All Victorian children *( they echo, without enthusiasm )*

Muscular system...

Miss Privet

Nervous system... *( they echo, as before )*, Alimentary system... *( they echo, again )*

Respiratory system... *( they echo )*, Vascular system... *( they echo )*,

Body Cavity... *( they echo )*, Reproductive system... *( they echo )*

*( The following song can feature some choreography, with the children stepping out from the giant screen to perform. They could possibly form lines, waving individually as each number is called. As the songs ends, they should move back again to take up their positions in the frame of the giant screen. )*

♪ **SONG - Counting in French** - CD tracks 10 + 30 ♪

Verse 1

*( Headteacher )* Un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept.

*( children echo )* Un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept.

*( Headteacher )* Et huit et neuf et dix, onze, douze.

*( children echo )* Et huit et neuf et dix, onze, douze.

*( Headteacher )* Counting in French is easy to do  
when you turn it all into a song !

Verse 2

*( Headteacher )* Treize, quatorze, et quinze et seize.

*( children echo )* Treize, quatorze, et quinze et seize.

*( Headteacher )* Dix-sept, dix-huit, dix-neuf et vingt.

*( children echo )* Dix-sept, dix-huit, dix-neuf et vingt.

*( ALL sing )* Counting in French is easy to do  
when you turn it all into a song !

Chorus

*( ALL sing )* We can count from one to twenty  
with this helpful little ditty.  
Now we know our numero  
we'll sing them fast and sing them slow.

*( repeat Verses 1 & 2 )*

*( repeat Chorus )*

*( Headteacher )* Un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept.

*( children echo )* Un, deux, trois, quatre, cinq, six, sept.

*( Headteacher )* Et huit et neuf et dix, onze, douze.

*( children echo )* Et huit et neuf et dix, onze, douze.

*( ALL sing )* Counting in French is easy to do  
when you turn it all into a...

*( small group )* ...la, la, la, ou, la, la...

*( ALL sing )* ...turn it all into a song !

*( All children quickly leave the stage, as the newsreader is quickly wheeled back on, with newsdesk, during the news programme intro music. To the side, is now gathered a news reporter ready to interview the School Secretary, the Deputy Headteacher and the Caretaker. )*

♪ *TV News Intro - CD tracks 12 + 32* ♪

*( The newsreader shuffles papers and addresses the audience as the music fades. )*

Newsreader

We interrupt your programme with breaking news on the strange disappearance of Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ school *(insert your school's name)*.

It seems that the last sighting of the missing class was shortly after morning break today. The teachers at \_\_\_\_\_ school have been speaking exclusively to our roving reporter, Ivor Storey.

Ivor Storey *( with microphone in hand )*

Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ *( insert your School Secretary's name )*, you are the School Secretary - surely no children would have been able to leave the building without being seen through your office window ?

School Secretary

Well that all depends, my love, on whether I'm reading a magazine or making a cup of tea.

Ivor Storey *( moving swiftly on )*

Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ *( insert your Deputy Head's name )*, you are the Deputy Headteacher. When did you last see Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Deputy Headteacher

It was just before morning break, but then all the teachers had to attend an important meeting in the staffroom to try and decide what date this year's staff Christmas do should be on.

Ivor Storey

What more can you tell us ?

Deputy Headteacher

Well in the end we all settled for the 8th December at the Fox and Hounds.

Ivor Storey *( moving swiftly on again )*

Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ *( insert your Caretaker's name )*, you are the school's Caretaker. Any comment...

Caretaker *( holding a large hammer )*

To be honest with you, their absence is quite handy, 'cos now I can fix those dodgy shelves in their classroom.

*( During the sound effect, the whole of Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ wave their arms in a floating fashion, whilst rooted to the spot. Four futuristically dressed children move onto the stage and sit, backs to each other, facing outwards from the four corners of a square formation. They are constantly touching imaginary computer screens in front of them, paying no attention to each other. )*

Narrator

Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ were suddenly transported forwards in time, having accidentally messed up the computer's month and year settings !

Child 1

I'm so dizzy. Where have we landed ?

Child 2

I dunno.

Child 3

Look - what are those kids doing, sat at those screens ?

Child 4

Where ?

Child 5

There - look, straight ahead, through this screen into that classroom.

Child 6

Hang on - but that's our classroom isn't it ?

Child 7

Yeh, but it looks really, really different.

Child 8

That's because it's in the future !

Child 9

But there aren't any teachers - they're just working on their own - that's unbelievable !

Child 10

Wow ! It looks all modern and high-tech !

Headteacher *( sitting down again, excitedly looking out towards the scene )*

This is amazing Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ , have a good look around and tell me what you can see. This will be perfect for my discussion on 'technology of the future" with class \_\_\_\_\_  
*( insert class name ).*

HeadTeacher

The coffee? Oh yes, I see - yes of course. We don't want any little accidents do we. Health and safety first !

*( puts the cup of coffee safely down )*

Now Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ , when you're all seated, I will teach you all about the wonderful world of wireless networking. Let me introduce you to our school's new Super-Gigatron Warp-Speed Wireless Router !"

Whole Class/Year

Oh, no !

Child 5

Not today Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ . We'd rather do literacy !

HeadTeacher

Nonsense ! Now, switching on - here goes...

*( there is a loud bang as 'party poppers' are released from the sides of the stage for effect )*

Oh dear. It seems to have... exploded !

Whole Class/Year *( looking at each other, clearly elated )*

Hurray !

♪ *TV News Intro - CD tracks 18 + 38* ♪

*( During the news programme music, the newsreader is wheeled, for the final time, into centre stage with the temporary newsdesk placed in front, and shuffling papers during the music. Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ quickly move to the sides, sitting on the side chairs from the opening scene. The Headteacher moves to the side of the stage to join Ivor Storey, the news reporter, who is waiting with microphone in hand. )*

Newsreader

And finally... a group of young people from \_\_\_\_\_ school *( your school )* are telling the world about their remarkable ordeal after a major technical malfunction. Although their story has been ridiculed by national computer experts, Class/Year \_\_\_\_\_ have been talking to our roving reporter, Ivor Storey, about how they literally became trapped in cyberspace, following an unfortunate incident in their ICT room. However, their Headteacher Mr/Mrs \_\_\_\_\_ , played down the story to our reporter earlier...

HeadTeacher *( to Ivor )*

I'm afraid there's absolutely nothing in this story !

# Victorian School (CD tracks 8 + 28)

♩ = 52

Am Dm Bm<sup>dim</sup> E Am Dm

piano, guitar, etc. & voices

*ff*

Verse 1 - (small group)

Verse 2 - (small group)

*f*

We work hard in Vic-  
scratch out work with a

4 Am E Am Dm E E Am

to - ri - an school, learn the facts and o - bey the rules.  
sty - lus and slate at our desks al - ways sit - ting up straight. We

7 Am Dm Am E Am Dm

Study - ing old an - a - to - mi - cal bits and read - ing, wri - ting and  
raise our hand for to ut - ter a word, o - ther wise we are

10 Am E Am F C Dm G7 C

'rith - me - tic.  
seen not heard.

Chorus - (all sing)  
8 o'clock we walk to school,  
ne-ver make a fuss.

13 F C B E F C

Af - ter - noons we all go out to earn a crust.

Chorus - (all sing)  
8 o'clock we walk to school,

16 Dm G7 C F C B E

ne-ver make a fuss.

Af - ter - noons we all go out to earn a crust.

19 E7 Am Dm Am E Am

*ff*

*ritardando*