

The Unfriendly Beasts

(No Room in the Stable)
A Christmas Musical for Children

Written & Arranged
by Ruth Elaine Schram
& Scott Schram



WHAT DO I NEED?

**TO REVIEW A MUSICAL,
YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES...**

Director's Score:

Script plus full piano/vocal version of songs, prop lists, costume and character descriptions, stage diagrams.

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THIS MUSICAL AND WANT TO SAVE
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AND PRICE LIST, PLEASE SEE THE BACK
COVER.**



Director's Score	(19911)	ISBN 0-7390-1620-2
Singer's Edition 5-Pack	(19912)	ISBN 0-7390-1621-0
Listening CD	(19914)	ISBN 0-7390-1623-7
Accompaniment/Performance CD	(19915)	ISBN 0-7390-1624-5
Preview Pack	(19916)	ISBN 0-7390-1625-3
Performance Pack	(19917)	ISBN 0-7390-1626-1

Performance Time—Approximately 20 Minutes
Cover Illustration: Jimmy Holder

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Foreword

Luke 2: 1-7

“A decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all people should return to their own towns to be registered. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem, the city of David, in Judea, because he was a descendant of the family of David. He traveled with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

The Unfriendly Beasts (No Room in the Stable) is a charming, humorous story of the manger animals who must share their crowded stable with Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus. When word reaches the stable that the animals must make room for humans, the animals protest, and Mayor Mouse leads them in preparing a “NO VACANCY” sign.

But, as the Light of Salvation gradually illumines the stable darkness, their hearts are turned from coldness to compassion. Charity Chicken is the first to make room in her heart for the holy family. Soon Caralee Cow, Sheary Sheep, Tiffany Lamb, Grum-paw Goat and the entire stable join in welcoming them. The “Unfriendly Beasts” become “Friendly Beasts,” and each in turn presents gifts to the Christ Child. Will you join them? Will you open your heart to Jesus?

This musical is designed for flexibility of teaching and staging and is intended for performance by children in grades K-6. With very simple narration and dialog, it features speaking and non-speaking roles for 12-14 children, though directors are encouraged to add dialog and characters as necessary. A choir may perform all of the songs, or some of the songs may be assigned to soloists or a few voices. When performed by larger groups such as Sunday schools or Christian schools, each song may be sung by a different class.

A reprintable program for audience/congregation participation may be found on pages 30-31. A fully supportive keyboard accompaniment, costuming, prop and staging suggestions are also included. Handy five-packs of Singer’s Editions, featuring melody, lyrics, narration and dialog, and an optional fully-orchestrated accompaniment/performance compact disc (CD) recording by Alan Billingsley are available separately.

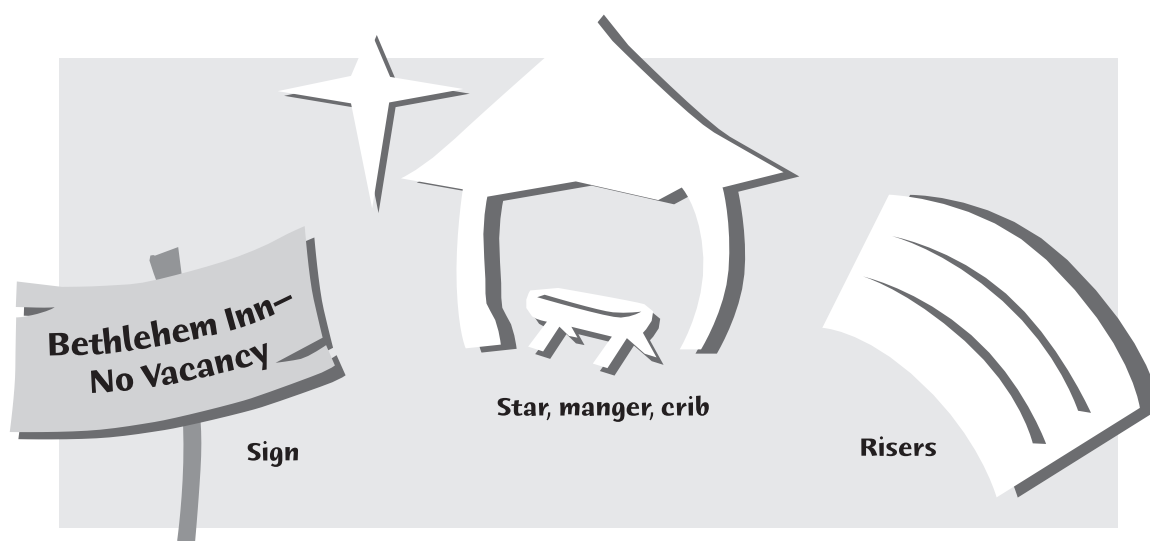
Cast of Characters, Costumes & Props

- **SPEAKING ROLES:** Narrator, Mayor Mouse, Animal One, Animal Two, Animal Three, Animal Four, Charity Chicken, Caralee Cow, Sheary Sheep, Tiffany Lamb, Grum-Paw Goat
- **SOLO SINGING** (optional): Donkey, Joseph, Caralee Cow, Sheary Sheep
- **NARRATOR:** An older girl or boy, or an adult, dressed casually.
- **MARY:** A girl wearing a robe, or blouse and long skirt, and sandals, with a head covering fashioned out of fabric or a towel.
- **JOSEPH:** A boy wearing a robe, or loose pants and shirt, and sandals.
- **INNKEEPER:** May be portrayed by a boy or girl, dressed appropriately.
- **ALL ANIMALS:** Costumes may be elaborate, but simple masks or face paint will be equally effective. Additional non-speaking animal roles may be created as appropriate to the manger scene.
- **DONKEY:** Either a boy or a girl. Donkey is a kind, hardworking animal.
- **MAYOR MOUSE:** Either a boy or a girl. The mayor is very pompous and should speak in loud, oratorical tones.
- **ANIMALS ONE, TWO, THREE & FOUR:** Both boys and girls may portray these animals. Suggestions for the various animal characters include a horse, pig, rooster and bird.
- **CHARITY CHICKEN:** A girl. Charity is a worrier, reminiscent of the hen who cried "The sky is falling!"
- **CARALEE COW:** A girl. Caralee is a very proper matron who demands proper etiquette!
- **SHEARY SHEEP:** A girl. Sheary is the mother of Tiffany Lamb.
- **TIFFANY LAMB:** A young girl. Tiffany is the innocent young child of Sheary Sheep.
- **GRUM-PAW GOAT:** May be portrayed by a boy, dressed to look like a "grandfather" goat.

Props

- A podium or stand for the narrator
- Choral risers, choir loft, or chairs for choir
- A sign that reads "BETHLEHEM INN—NO VACANCY"
- A sign for the animals to "finish painting" that reads "NO VACANCY"
- A star over the stable
- A manger "crib" filled with hay
- A "baby Jesus" for the crib, concealed by a blanket until the appropriate time
- Optional: a stable "door" with windows, 2 animal stalls

Staging Suggestions



Set Diagram

This set diagram is conceived for a sanctuary with a raised chancel or an auditorium with a stage or raised platform. However, staging may be adapted to any setting.

Set Design

- **Bethlehem Inn** - A pole with the sign "BETHLEHEM INN-NO VACANCY" will suffice. Optional: add a door, or a simple "shell" representing the structure of the inn.

- **Stable** - A pole with a star and a manger crib will suffice. Optional: add a door, or a simple "shell" representing the structure of the stable.

Staging

During the Overture, the cast takes its positions. The innkeeper moves to the inn; the choir quietly processes to the risers; the animals take their places in the stable; Mary, Joseph and Donkey enter from the rear or side and begin their "journey" to Bethlehem; the Narrator moves to the podium. When Donkey begins singing *The Long, Long Road to Bethlehem*, he should be in front of the audience, but still a short distance from the inn, with Mary and Joseph following him.

During the song *The Unfriendly Beasts*, the animals, mumbling and grumbling, will stomp and shake their heads as indicated in the score. During the song's reprise, when the animals have had a change of heart, they will scurry around the stable cleaning and preparing for their guests, and pantomime actions that are indicated in the score.

The staging area should gradually grow "from darkness to light" as the animals begin to open their hearts to the holy family. The audience/congregation is encouraged to sing in the opening song and the finale.

NARRATOR:
(Luke 2: 1-5)

(As Donkey, Mary and Joseph move to the front.) On a starry night many years ago, Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. Mary was expecting her first baby, and the journey was long and difficult. As Joseph led Mary, who was riding on a gentle donkey, the stars in the sky opened their hearts to the couple and filled their paths with light.

THE LONG, LONG WALK TO BETHLEHEM

Donkey, Joseph, Opt. Choir and Audience/Congregation*

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Music by LEWIS H. REDNER

With gentle motion (♩ = ca. 100)

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The music is marked *mf* and features a gentle, flowing melody in the right hand and a steady bass line in the left hand.

4 DONKEY (opt. Choir) *mf* ⑤

The long, long walk to Beth - le - hem a - long this - dust - y

The first vocal line is for the Donkey (or optional choir). It begins with a rest for 4 measures, then enters with the melody. The piano accompaniment continues from the introduction.

8

road; with hap - py heart I do my part to bear this - heav - y

The second vocal line continues the melody from the first line. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support throughout.

* Choir may sing throughout.

12 13

load. "How far is it?" I wonder, as

15

star - light guides our way. We walk un - til we

18 (Opt.: add Choir and Congregation)
(end solo) JOSEPH *mf*

top the hill, then I hear Jo - seph say: *O

22

lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie! A -

* Words by BISHOP PHILLIPS BROOKS.

NARRATOR:
(Luke 2: 6, 7b)

(As Donkey, Mary and Joseph arrive at the inn.) When they entered Bethlehem, they looked for a place to stay for the night. But, since many people had come to be counted, there was no room anywhere in town. When they arrived at the last inn, Joseph pleaded with the innkeeper to help them, since Mary’s baby was about to be born. The kind and good innkeeper opened his heart to the couple, and offered them room in his stable.

However, when the animals heard that they had to make room for HUMANS, they became VERY upset! Mayor Mouse was the first to speak.

MAYOR MOUSE:

Citizens of our great and noble stable! I have just heard the innkeeper talking. You won’t believe who’s moving in for the night: HUMANS! We must stop this outrage! I suggest we hang up a sign to keep these strangers out, just like the innkeeper did!

ANIMAL ONE:

I saw that sign! I think it said, “NO VACATIONS.”

ANIMAL TWO:

No, that wasn’t it. Who would come to Bethlehem on vacation, anyway? I think it said, “NO VACCINATIONS!”

ANIMAL THREE:

No, that wasn’t it. The veterinarian would never go for that. I think it said, ‘NO VACUUM CLEANERS.’”

ANIMAL FOUR:

No, that wasn’t it ... and this stable could use a good cleaning! I think it said, “NO VACANCY.”

MAYOR MOUSE:

That’s it! NO VACANCY! We have NO ROOM in the stable!

ALL ANIMALS:

(getting louder and more insistent) We have no room in the stable! We have no room in the stable!

NO ROOM IN THE STABLE

Stable Animals*

THE FIRST NOEL

Brightly (♩ = ca. 132)

ACCOMP. *mf*

5 STABLE ANIMALS

mf
No —

* Optional: add Choir.

10
 room, — no — room, there is sim - ply no room. So, they just need to

15
 find some-thing else they can do. No — room, — no — room, there is

18

20
 sim - ply no room. If we add one more soul it will be like a

25 ANIMAL ONE (spoken) 26 gradual cresc. ANIMAL TWO

zoo. Does YOUR stall have room? There's NO room o - ver

gradual cresc.

NARRATOR: As the Unfriendly Beasts prepared to hang their "NO VACANCY" sign, the light of a single star filled the room, piercing the heart of Charity Chicken, filling her with compassion and love. (*Spotlight on Charity Chicken.*)

CHARITY CHICKEN: Citizens of the stable, this human family needs our help. The woman is about to have a baby.

ANIMAL ONE: (*grumbling*) Where would we put a human baby in this place?

CHARITY CHICKEN: Couldn't we put him in the manger?

ANIMAL TWO: (*grumbling*) In the manger? But that is where we store our hay! Where would we eat? NO! There is no room for them in the stable!

THE UNFRIENDLY BEASTS

Choir*

Easy shuffle (♩ = ca. 112) (♩♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\underset{\frown}{\text{3}}}$)

ACCOMP. *mf*

4 CHOIR *mf* ⑤

The an - i - mals, they mum-bled and they grum - bled. You could

7

hear them stomp their feet on the sta - ble floor. The an - i - mals, they mum-bled and they

* Optional: add Animals.

13 (stomp
ANIMALS: Left, Right)

10

grum - bled as they wait-ed for the knock on the sta - ble door.

3 3

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score on page 15. At the top right, there is a circled number 13 followed by the instruction '(stomp ANIMALS: Left, Right)'. The score begins at measure 10. The vocal line is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are 'grum - bled as they wait-ed for the knock on the sta - ble door.' The piano accompaniment consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) grouped together. The piano part includes several triplets, indicated by the number '3' above the notes. There are also stomp marks (marked with 'v') above the piano part in the final measures. The music is in a simple, rhythmic style.

- NARRATOR:** The Unfriendly Beasts got louder and louder with their grumbling until Caralee Cow, who was expecting a baby of her own, called out to them:
- CARALEE COW:** Friends! Friends! Let's not behave like WILD animals! Remember, we're refined! We're sophisticated! We're DOMESTICATED!
- CHARITY CHICKEN:** We have so much! We have a warm stable with plenty to eat. These poor humans have nothing. Can't we share our home with them?
- CARALEE COW:** Let's show a little courtesy! Mind your manners and make room for the humans!

MIND YOUR MANNERS AND WATCH YOUR STEP

Caralee Cow*

HE IS BORN
(Traditional French Carol)

March-like, in two ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 80$)

ACCOMP. *mf*

CARALEE COW

⑤ *mf*

Mind your man - ners and watch your step! Let's brush up on our

* Optional: add Charity Chicken and/or Choir.

8

sta - ble et - i - quette. Work to - geth - er in sta - ble prep.

11

(13)

Let's make room for the spe - cial guest.

15

mf

We have plen - ty of room to spare!

19

Look a - round at our crea - ture com - forts! We have plen - ty that

THE FRIENDLY BEASTS

Caralee Cow, Sheary Sheep, Animals and Choir*

Gently (♩ = ca. 96-100)

ACCOMP.

mp *poco rit.*

5

a tempo

10 CARALEE COW
mp

"I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave Him my

15 18

man - ger - for His bed. I gave Him my hay to

* Caralee Cow may sing mm. 10-25 and Sheary Sheep mm. 27-42 as solos, or all Animals and Choir may sing throughout.

20

pil - low His head. I," said the cow, all

24

poco rit. (27) SHEARY SHEEP
mp a tempo

white and red. "I," said the

poco rit. *a tempo*

28

sheep with cur - ly horn, "I gave Him my

32

(35)

wool for His blan - ket warm. He wore my

***JOY TO THE WORLD**

19 *f*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19, 20, and 21. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a circled measure number '19' and a dynamic marking 'f'. The lyrics are 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a strong, rhythmic accompaniment with a dynamic marking 'f'.

22

King! Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, and

Detailed description: This system contains measures 22, 23, and 24. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a circled measure number '22'. The lyrics are 'King! Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, and'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with a strong accompaniment.

25

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25, 26, and 27. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a circled measure number '25'. The lyrics are 'heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and'. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with a strong accompaniment.

* Words from Psalm 98, adapted by ISAAC WATTS.

(end audience/congregation)

27

heav'n, and heav'n — and na - ture sing.

30

poco rit.

mf

③1 Slightly slower

O come to my heart, Lord

Slightly slower

poco rit. e dim.

mf

33

cresc.

Je - sus; there is room in my heart for

cresc.

37

f

rit.

Thee, — room for Thee!

f

rit.