

ANGELS: MISSION POSSIBLE

**A Christmas Musical
By Christy Long**

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STORY OF THE PLAY

The angel Gabriel has a very important job that God has given him. His mission is to deliver messages concerning the birth of Jesus. Even though Mary is quite surprised by Gabriel's words, she yields to God's plan right away. Joseph, with some helpful persuasion from Positive and some not so helpful ideas from Negative, also decides to follow God no matter what the cost. This humorous program is highlighted with imaginative original songs as well as traditional Christmas carols arranged with a "twist."

Also included is an optional way to perform the program, a simple Scriptural narrative, using the same songs. Whichever version you use, the final message of God's love will touch the unsaved and inspire the believer to become a messenger for God. This contemporary play requires no set.

ANGELS: MISSION POSSIBLE

(The Play Version)

CAST OF CHARACTERS *(*Denotes singing role.)*

***GABRIEL:** Head angel who brings the message of Jesus' birth.

***MARY:** Jesus' mother.

***JOSEPH:** Mary's husband.

POSITIVE: Joseph's positive thoughts personified.

NEGATIVE: Joseph's negative thoughts personified.

***KING 1:** Bearing gifts for Jesus.

***KING 2:** Another.

***KING 3:** Another.

PROPS

Gabriel - Sunglasses, trench coat, wings, piece of paper.

Three Kings - Gifts.

Mary - Baby wrapped in a blanket.

Extra - Sign reading "9 Months Later."

SONG 1: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA.

VS. 1:

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING, "GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!
PEACE ON EARTH AND MERCY MILD, GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED"
JOYFUL ALL YE NATIONS RISE! JOIN THE TRIUMPH OF THE SKIES!
WITH ANGELIC HOST PROCLAIM, CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!

CHORUS:

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING. NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA.
GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING. NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA.

VS. 2:

CHRIST BY HIGHEST HEAVEN ADORED, CHRIST THE EVERLASTING LORD
LATE IN TIME BEHOLD HIM COME, OFFSPRING OF THE FAVORED ONE
VEILED IN FLESH THE GODHEAD SEE, HAIL TH' INCARNATE DEITY
PLEASED AS MAN WITH MEN TO DWELL, JESUS OUR EMMANUEL.

VS. 3:

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (LISTEN TO THOSE ANGELS SING)
GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING (PRAISE TO THAT BABY KING)
PEACE ON EARTH AND MERCY MILD, GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED
JOYFUL ALL YE NATIONS RISE (COME ON NOW, GET UP AND SING)
JOIN THE TRIUMPH OF THE SKIES (JOIN THEIR PARTY IN THE SKY)
WITH ANGELIC HOST PROCLAIM, CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!

(GABRIEL, wearing sunglasses and a trench coat, enters like a spy, trying to sneak around during the musical intro to "Mission Possible." He removes his glasses as he starts singing the song.)

SONG 2: "Mission Possible"

CHORUS:

I'M ON A MISSION, A MISSION FOR GOD
I'M ON A MISSION, I GOT THE WORD
I GOT MY INSTRUCTIONS, THE PLAN HAS BEEN LAID
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, I'M LEAVING TODAY
I'M ON A MISSION, A MISSION FOR GOD.

VS. 1:

I'M NOT A SPY FROM SOME FOREIGN LAND
I'M NOT A SECRET AGENT WITH A GUN IN HAND
I'M NOT JAMES BOND, FOR GOODNESS SAKE
BUT YOU BETTER LISTEN CLOSE 'CAUSE THERE'S A LOT AT STAKE.

VS. 2:

I DON'T WORK FOR A KING OR A PRESIDENT
I DON'T WORK FOR A NATION OR A GOVERNMENT
THE CIA AND THE FBI
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO, ONLY GOD ON HIGH.

VS. 3:

THE NEWS I BRING ISN'T CLASSIFIED
MY MISSION ISN'T SECRET, I GOT NOTHING TO HIDE
THE THINGS I SAY ARE LIKE A PRECIOUS PEARL
THEY'RE MESSAGES FROM GOD THAT WILL CHANGE THE WORLD.

GABRIEL: *(Addressing the audience.)* That's right. I'm on a mission, a mission for God. What's that you ask? Who am I? Well, that's classified information, but I suppose that I can give you my name, rank and serial number. *(Acting like a soldier.)* Gabriel, high archangel, number one. There, did that answer your question? I really thought that the wings would have given me away. *(HE realizes that his coat is covering his wings and he takes it off feeling a little embarrassed.)* Well, anyway, like I said, I'm on a mission. God has instructed me to bring some very important news to a little lady, and I hope that she has the faith for what I have to tell her. Why don't you come along with me and you can hear the good news, too!

(GABRIEL exits and MARY enters. Gabriel re-enters and they sing "Mary/Gabriel Round.")

SONG 3: "Mary / Gabriel Round"

VS. 1: *(GABRIEL.)*

MARY, YOU WILL HAVE A BABY, YOU WILL NAME HIM JESUS
HE WILL HAVE THE THRONE OF DAVID, HE WILL LIVE FOREVER.

VS. 1: *(MARY.)*

HOW CAN THIS BE BECAUSE I KNOW NOT A MAN?

VS. 2: *(GABRIEL.)*

GOD WILL SEND HIS SPIRIT TO YOU, HE WILL COME UPON YOU
THEN THE POWER OF GOD WILL COME AND OVERSHADOW YOU.

VS. 2: *(MARY.)*

I AM THE LORD'S, MAY IT BE AS YOU HAVE SAID. *(MARY exits.)*

GABRIEL: That went well, don't you think? I could tell that the news of having a baby was hard at first, but God must have found just the right person to bear His Son because she yielded to his will right away. Oh, isn't this exciting! We're going to have a baby! I say we...*(Motioning to the audience.)*...because this special One to come is being born for all people everywhere. I have a feeling that there might be one person who isn't very excited about this whole thing right now. I'd better go and straighten him out. *(Exits.)*

(JOSEPH, NEGATIVE and POSITIVE enter. Joseph sits in deep thought as Negative and Positive stand at either side of him. GABRIEL stands in the background listening.)

POS.: Wow, I can hardly believe it. I'm going to be a father.

NEG.: But how can I be a father? We aren't even married yet.

POS.: Now come on, Joseph, you remember what Mary said. "This child has been conceived by the Holy Spirit."

NEG.: And I'm supposed to believe that?

POS.: Mary loves me and she would never lie to me.

NEG.: But what will people think? What will they say?

POS.: Who cares? If God has caused this thing to be, then everything will be all right.

NEG.: I think that I should just put her away quietly and wash my hands of the whole thing.

POS.: I won't do that! I shouldn't doubt Mary's word. She even said that an angel brought her the news. *(GABRIEL points to himself.)*

NEG.: I'm not going to believe any of this unless an angel comes down and hits me on the head.

(JOSEPH crosses his arms in determination. GABRIEL is indignant at this and he strides up behind Joseph. NEGATIVE and POSITIVE run away. Gabriel "zaps" Joseph and he falls over. Gabriel speaks in a booming voice.)

GABRIEL: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

JOSEPH: *(Wakes up and rubs HIS head, raises his arms to heaven, looks up and prays.)* Lord, I do believe. Help me to have faith for this...*(Pauses and thinks about HIS choice of words.)*...adventure. *(Pleased with HIS choice of words.)* Yes, this will be a faith adventure. *(JOSEPH sings "Faith Adventure," or he can exit and a choir can sing.)*

SONG 4: "Faith Adventure"

CHORUS:

FAITH ADVENTURE, WALK IN THE UNKNOWN
BELIEVE IN THINGS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN AND TRUST IN GOD ALONE
I SAY A FAITH ADVENTURE CAN TAKE YOU ANYWHERE
STEP OUT IN FAITH, DON'T BE AFRAID
ADVENTURE'S WAITING THERE.

VS. 1:

AN AFRICAN SAFARI IN THE JUNGLE MIGHT BE FUN
LIONS, TIGERS, ELEPHANTS, ALL THESE ON THE RUN
DARK QUICKSAND AND HEADHUNTERS, DANGER ON EVERY SIDE
EXCITEMENT COMES WHEN YOU DECIDE TO TAKE A...

VS. 2:

A TRIP IN SPACE MIGHT LIFT ME UP, FLY TO THE SUN AND BACK
GO VISIT MARS AND RESCUE EARTH FROM ALIEN ATTACK
DRIVE A ROCKET, TOUCH THE STARS, WALK OUT ON THE MOON
BUT I WOULD ALWAYS COME RIGHT BACK SO I CAN TAKE A...

VS. 3:

I'LL SAIL ACROSS THE SEVEN SEAS TO UNCHARTED LANDS
THROUGH STORMS AND GALES AND HURRICANES I'LL STEER MY SHIP TO LAND
AND MAYBE PIRATES WILL ATTACK BUT I WON'T BE AFRAID
BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED TO TRUST IN GOD, I THINK I'LL TAKE A...

GABRIEL: Sometimes you have to use a show of power to get through to the thick-headed ones. Well, my work here is done for now, but I'll be back.

(GABRIEL exits. SOMEONE walks across the stage with a sign that reads "9 months later" while musical interlude of "Mission Possible" is played.)

GABRIEL: *(Re-enters, excited.)* Boy, the news is big this time! It's so big that God has sent a whole heavenly host to help me announce it. Now, who is to receive this great news? *(HE searches his pockets.)* I know I wrote it down somewhere. I hope I didn't leave it in my other wallet. Oh, here it is. It says, "This classified piece of information is to be announced ASAP. to the lowly shepherds tending their flocks on the hillsides outside of Bethlehem." Shepherds? The greatest news ever is to be given to shepherds? Well, if the boss says shepherds, then shepherds it is.

(CHOIR sings, "Christ Is Born Today.")

SONG 5: "Christ Is Born Today"

CHORUS:

GLORY, GLORY, GLORY HALLELUIA!
GLORY, GLORY, GLORY TO GOD!
GLORY, GLORY, GLORY HALLELUIA!
CHRIST IS BORN TODAY!

VS. 1:

CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM
CHRIST IS BORN TO SON'S OF MEN
CHRIST IS BORN, OH, HEAR US SAY
CHRIST IS BORN TODAY!

VS. 2:

CHRIST IS BORN IN STABLE BARE
CHRIST IS BORN, YOU'LL FIND HIM THERE
CHRIST IS LAID IN MANGER'S HAY
CHRIST IS BORN TODAY!

VS. 3:

CHRIST IS BORN, NOW GO AND SEE
CHRIST IS BORN FOR YOU AND ME
CHRIST IS BORN OUR DEBT TO PAY
CHRIST IS BORN TODAY!

(The THREE KINGS enter and sing "We Three Kings of Orient Are.")

SONG 6: "We Three Kings"

WE THREE KINGS, THREE KINGS WE ARE
WE THREE KINGS, THREE KINGS WE ARE
WE THREE KINGS, THREE KINGS WE ARE

VS. 1:

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE; BEARING GIFTS WE TRAVERSE AFAR
FIELD AND FOUNTAIN, MOOR AND MOUNTAIN, FOLLOWING YONDER STAR.

CHORUS:

OH, STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT
STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT
WESTWARD LEADING, STILL PROCEEDING
GUIDE US TO THY PERFECT LIGHT.

VS. 2:

BORN A KING ON BETHLEHEM'S PLAIN. GOLD I BRING TO CROWN HIM AGAIN
KING FOREVER CEASING NEVER OVER US ALL TO REIGN.

VS. 3:

MYRRH IS MINE, IT'S BITTER PERFUME BREATHES A LIFE OF GATHERING GLOOM
SORROWING, SIGHING, BLEEDING, DYING SEALED IN STONE-COLD TOMB.

VS. 4:

FRANKINCENSE TO OFFER HAVE I, INCENSE OWNS A DEITY NIGH
PRAY'R AND PRAISING ALL MEN RAISING, WORSHIP HIM, GOD ON HIGH.

(The THREE KINGS exit and GABRIEL enters.)

GABRIEL: Did you see those three guys? They just made a visit to that nasty ol' King Herod to find out where the newborn King is. Oh, and that Herod, he is a crafty one. He told the three kings to tell him where Jesus is when they find him so that he may also worship him. Herod worship Jesus? NOT! If you believe that then I've got a used car to sell you. The bottom line is that those kings don't know what Herod's up to and I've got to go warn them. *(HE exits with the music of "Mission Possible" playing. He re-enters.)* Oh, no. That sure made Herod mad when those kings didn't return. He is so mad now that he wants to kill Jesus! I've got to go tell Joseph to run!

(GABRIEL exits. JOSEPH and MARY enter with Baby Jesus. They lay down and sleep and Gabriel enters and stands over Joseph. Gabriel whispers in Joseph's ear while he sleeps. Gabriel moves to the background and Joseph wakes up and sings the first chorus of "Messenger in My Dreams" as a solo. The CHOIR finishes the song while Joseph wakes Mary and they prepare to flee.)

SONG 7: "Messenger in My Dreams"

CHORUS:

MESSENGER IN MY DREAMS, I HEAR YOUR VOICE
MESSENGER IN MY DREAMS, I HAVE NO CHOICE
YOU'RE TELLING ME IT'S TIME TO RUN
WE MUST SAVE THE HOLY ONE
MESSENGER IN MY DREAMS, I HEAR YOUR VOICE

VS. 1:

HEROD HAD AN EVIL PLAN, GUARD HIS THRONE AT ANY COST
KILL THE BABES IN BETHLEHEM, COULD BABY JESUS ESCAPE HIS PLAN?

VS. 2:

HEROD'S SOLDIERS FILLED THE STREETS BRINGING PAIN AND MANY TEARS
HEAR THEM COMING CLOSER NOW, IS IT TOO LATE TO ESCAPE?

End of Freeview

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