

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S  
DREAM  
THE MUSICAL**

*By  
William Shakespeare*

*Adaptation, Music and Lyrics  
by Marilyn Brown*

*Originally Directed for the Stage by Kathleen Nutt  
Selected Arrangements are by Dick Hotvedt*

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## **DEDICATION**

*For Bill Brown, far-sighted and hard-working.  
Without his selfless efforts in founding the Villa Playhouse  
Theatre, none of the resulting original projects would exist.*

## **STORY OF THE PLAY**

Humorous and poignant lyrics, accompanied by charming melodies, enhance Shakespeare's most popular play of two girls and two boys who find themselves, by accident and the mischief of the faeries, very mixed up in love. First both boys love one girl, then both girls love one boy. A situational comedy of the funniest kind, the drama is intensified by a group of bumbling rogues who perform a farcical entertainment for the King's wedding. The group's most famous member is Bottom, who, in another part of the play, becomes an attractive donkey-suitor to the confused Fairy Queen.

*Performance Time: About 2 hours.*

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(6 m, 5 w, 11 flexible, 1 child, extras)*

*(Men)*

THESEUS, Duke of Athens.

EGEUS, father of Hermia.

LYSANDER, loves Hermia.

DEMETRIUS, loves Hermia.

OBERON, King of Faeries.

PHILOSTRATE, Master of the Revels to Theseus.

COURTIERS, to the King: 2 or 3.

*(Women)*

HIPPOLYTA, betrothed to Theseus.

HERMIA, loves Lysander.

HELENA, loves Demetrius.

TITANIA, Queen of the Faeries.

MILLICENT, a Faerie.

*(Flexible)*

PUCK, Mischievous Faerie. (Also called Robin Goodfellow)

PETER QUINCE, Carpenter. (Plays Prologue)

NICK BOTTOM, Weaver. (Plays Pyramus)

FRANCIS FLUTE, Bellows-mender. (Plays Thisby)

TOM SNOOT, Tinker. (Plays Wall)

SNUG, Joiner. (Plays the Roaring Lion)

ROBIN STARVELING, Tailor. (Plays Moonshine)

PEASEBLOSSOM

COBWEB

MOTH

MUSTARDSEED

OTHER FAERIES, COURTIERS and ATTENDANTS

Changeling child – 3 or 4 years old. *(Referred to as a boy but can be either gender.)*

## **Music**

*(Performance CD available. CD track numbers indicated in script.)*

- #1 - Festival Opening (*Choreography*)
- #2 - Gather Field and Forest (*Company*)
- #3 - King's Court Entry (*Choreography*)
- #4 - The Queen's Court Entry (*Choreography*)
- #5 - Amazon Dance (*Choreography*)
- #6 - Open the Proud Portals (*Company*)
- #7 - I Will Die (*Hermia and Lysander*)
- #8 - I Will Meet Thee (*Helena, Hermia and Lysander*)
- #9 - Oh, Why Is Love So Strange (*Helena*)
- #10 - Vamp to Clowns (*Keyboard*)
- #11 - The Raging Rocks (*Bottom*)
- #12 - Roar Song (*Bottom*)
- #13 - Where Do You Go (*Faerie and Puck*)
- #14 - Hoary Frost (*Titania and Oberon*)
- #15 - Milk White Flower (*Oberon*)
- #16 - Drop Juice (*Oberon*)
- #17 - Lulla Lulla (*Faerie lullaby to Titania*)
- #18 - When You Awake (*Oberon*)
- #19 - Waking Music (*Keyboard*)
- #20 - Buzz Music (*Keyboard when Hermia wakes*)
- #21 - Vamp to Clowns Underscore (*Keyboard*)
- #22 - Follow You (*Puck*)
- #23 - The Woosel Cock (*Bottom*)
- #23a - The Woosel Cock Sing-Along (*Audience sings*)

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- #24 - Flower of This Purple Dye (*Oberon*)
- #25 - Helen, I Implore You (*Lysander and Helena*)
- #26 - Helena, I Love You Reprise (*Lysander, Demetrius, Helena*)
- #27 - Up And Down (*Puck*)
- #28 - Reprise of Up And Down Underscore (*Choreography*)
- #29 - Love Is Often Strange (*Puck*)
- *Intermission* --
- #30 - Entr'acte of Love Is Often Strange (*Keyboard*)
- #31 - Come, My Love (*Titania*)
- #32 - Be As Thou Wast Wont To Be (*Oberon*)
- #33 - Reprise of Gather Field and Forest (*Keyboard*)
- #34 - Reprise King's Court Entry (*Keyboard*)
- #35 - I Will Live (*The four lovers properly united*)
- #36 - Second Reprise of Vamp to Clowns (*Keyboard*)
- #37 - Second Reprise of King's Court Entry (*Keyboard*)
- #38 - Grim-Looked Night (*Bottom*)
- #39 - Oh Wall (*Bottom*)
- #40 - Snug's Roar (*Snug*)
- #41 - Adieu, Adieu, Adieu (*Thisby played by Flute*)
- #42 - Now Is the Time (*Puck*)
- #43 - Celebration Waltz (*Choreography*)
- #44 - Bless This House (*Company*)

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

*(AT RISE: The stage is a series of platforms and trees and flowers.)*

**[Track #1] #1 - FESTIVAL OPENING (Choreography)**

*(While it plays, the COMPANY enters the stage laughing, dancing, getting ready for the "gathering." There may be a Maypole dance.)*

**[Track #1] #2 - GATHER FIELD AND FOREST (Company)**

ALL:

GATHER, FIELD AND FOREST; HEAR THIS PROCLAMATION  
SOON THE GUARDS OF HEAVEN'S GATES WILL STEP  
ASIDE.  
LET THE LAMPS OF STARS AND PLANETS SHOWER UPON  
US  
ALL THE LUSTER OF THE MILKY WAY.

JOIN THE CHORUS! SING YOUR CARES AWAY!  
SOON THERE'S GOING TO BE A WEDDING DAY!

GATHER, MINSTRELS, BRING YOUR TIMBREL, LUTE  
AND TRUMPET  
LET THE MUSIC OF THE SOBER PLANETS RING.  
NOW THE WEDDING TIME IS NEAR US, HEAR OUR  
CHORUS,  
HARK, THE ENTRY OF OUR GRACIOUS KING.

JOIN OUR CLARION CALL TO REVELRY,  
HAIL THE MAID WHO SOON HIS QUEEN WILL BE.

**[Track #1] #3 - KING'S COURT ENTRY (Choreography)**

*(THESEUS enters. PEOPLE cheer with excitement. A pause.)*

**[Track #1] #4 - THE QUEEN'S COURT ENTRY**  
**(Choreography)**

*(HYPPOLYTA and her COURT enter amidst cheering and clapping.)*

**[Track #1] #5 - AMAZON DANCE (Choreography)**

*(HYPPOLYTA'S LADIES dance. The PEOPLE cheer.)*

THESEUS: Now, fair Hippolyta, our nuptial hour draws on apace. Four happy days brings in another moon. But, O, methinks, how slow this old moon wanes!

HIPPOLYTA: Four days will quickly steep themselves in night. Four days will quickly dream away the time; and then the moon shall behold the night of our solemnities.

THESEUS: Stir up the Athenian youth to merriments and awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth. Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword, and won thy love doing thee injuries; but I will wed thee in another key, with pomp, with triumph and with reveling.

*(KING and QUEEN now stand while there is a silent freeze of EVERYONE onstage. In this moment, the FAERIES make their way across the stage in little groups. TITANIA enters with the changeling CHILD, pursued by OBERON, introducing the fact that she and the child are being chased by him.)*

THESEUS: And now is the time to rejoice, my gracious subjects.

**[Track #2] #6 - OPEN THE PROUD PORTALS (Company)**

ALL:

OPEN THE PROUD PORTALS OF HEAVEN.  
WAKEN THE BRIGHT SENTRIES OF STARS.  
CALL ON THE GREAT ANGELS AS WITNESSES  
SOON WE WILL TAKE VOWS THAT WILL MAKE  
THE UNIVERSE OURS.

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