

The Angel's Harp

SCRIPT

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STORY SYNOPSIS

An Angel Orchestra is rehearsing up on a cloud above Bethlehem. As Angel Maestro brings the piece to a close, Adina Angel carries on playing her harp because she loves it so. Gabriel, leader of the angels, has been listening and asks the orchestra to play for a very special baby who will be born in Bethlehem that night. The musical angels are very excited. But Adina is more fascinated by the large number of people passing by below the cloud, and leans over the edge of the cloud to see what is going on.

Down below, lots of people are arriving in Bethlehem, because the King has ordered people to return to the town where they were born for a census and to be taxed. Mary, Joseph and their donkey are among them, and have travelled a long way to Bethlehem.

As Adina is watching, her harp is swept from her hand by a strong gust of wind and tumbles towards the earth. A raven, owl and dove accompany it as it falls. Luckily it had a soft landing on a haystack next to a very famous little stable!

Barnyard animals are awakened by the commotion. The harp plays a lively show number, to which the animals and birds perform a show stopping tap dance.

Back up on the cloud, Adina is upset about her harp and flies off to look for it. The other angels tell her to hide her wings once she gets to Bethlehem, for fear of scaring the humans below.

At the haystack, a family of gerbils have found the harp and are having “a fine old time”, dancing and squeaking to its wonderful music.

Business is booming for the Innkeeper at the local inn, ‘The Star and Camel’. Landing outside, Adina tucks away her wings and knocks on the door. The Innkeeper mistakenly thinks Adina wants a room and tells her he has no vacancies. But discovering that Adina is musical, he persuades her to help out by playing the tambourine in his lively ceilidh band, providing entertainment for his guests.

There is another knock at the door. Mary & Joseph arrive and ask the Innkeeper if he has any vacancies. He can only offer them shelter in his stable. Adina watches the scene, then says goodbye and carries on her search.

At the haystack, a family of geckos have found the harp and are having “a fine old time”, wriggling and running about to its wonderful music.

Adina stops at the side of the road. Her wings aren't very comfortable tucked away, so she gives them a stretch. Just at that moment, a group of shepherds pass by, dancing the conga and playing their pipes! Adina joins in their dance, initially unnoticed.

On spotting Adina's wings, they are very afraid. She is the second angel they have bumped into that day! After Adina reassures them that she won't hurt them, the shepherds tell her they are going to visit a special baby and invite her to join them. But Adina decides to continue the search for her harp and says goodbye.

Back at the haystack, the chickens and the cockerel have found the harp and are having “a fine old time”, line dancing to its wonderful music.

As she walks on, Adina hears a fanfare of trumpets and drums. Three rather flamboyant Wise Men and their musicians and camels appear, and Adina parades with the camels to this grand music. The Wise Men tell Adina they are on their way to give gifts to a special baby. Adina asks if they have seen her harp. The wise men point out a big star in the sky, and suggest the star may have seen where the harp fell. They travel on to the stable and lay gifts at the manger.

Adina flies up to the stars and dances with the smaller stars as she flies higher and higher towards the Big Star. Big Star tells Adina he saw where the harp fell, and asks her to listen carefully. Adina hears a gentle lullaby playing from the haystack down below. She thanks the stars and hurriedly flies back down to earth, where she is finally reunited with her harp.

The Angel Orchestra have already gathered, ready to sing and play to baby Jesus. Adina is pleased to join them again and her harp playing takes centre stage in a grand musical celebration of the birth of the baby King.

CAST LIST & LINE COUNT

The Angel's Harp works very well as a show for large number of children above 60. But if you have fewer in your group, the show can still be performed successfully with the lines of smaller parts shared between more prominent characters.

Speaking parts (and number of lines spoken):

Narrator

Angel Adina (or Angel Adam) - 50 lines plus solo verse of song

(NB: In the script the main angel is female, but the character is not gender specific)

Angel Maestro (the conductor of the Angel Orchestra) - 8 lines

Angel Arthur (plays flute) - 3 lines

Angel Alice (plays trumpet) - 3 lines

Angel Gabriel (leader of the angels) - 6 lines

Angel Amy - 2 lines

Angel Peter - 1 line

Angel Tim - 1 line

Mary & Joseph - 2 lines each

Raven - 3 lines

Dove - 5 lines

Owl - 4 lines

Donkey - 3 lines

Sheep - 3 lines

Cow - 3 lines

Innkeeper - 13

Visitor (to the inn) - 2 lines

Shepherds 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 - 2 lines each

Wise Man 1 - Caspar, with Gold gift - 13 lines

Wise Man 2 - Balthazar, with Frankincense gift - 13 lines

Wise Man 3 - Melchior, with Myrrh gift - 11 lines

Camels 1, 2 & 3 - sing lines as a trio in the song 'Fanfare for the Wise Men'

Big Star - with a large wand-like star on a light pole, to wave during dances and hold up above the stable as part of the nativity tableau - 4 lines

Stars 1, 2, 3 & 4 - 1 line each

Non-speaking acting parts:

Travellers to Bethlehem (any number)

Mary & Joseph's donkey

Musicians - instrument playing parts:

Other angel musicians in the Angel Orchestra, any number

Members of Innkeeper's band:

If you wish, change names to those of the children playing the parts:

Bert on the bodhran drum (Irish drum)

May on the fiddle (violin)

Ted on the tin whistle (alternatively a recorder)

Joe on the bouzouki (mandolin-type instrument)

George on the 'squeeze box' (accordion or concertina; George is also required to wear stripy socks, as stated in the lyrics of the song!)

The Wise Men's musicians:

Musicians 1 & 2 - trumpeters

Musician 3 – drummer (bass drum or other large drum)

Dancing parts:

The Wind - a costume idea might be a grey or blue leotard with streamers attached

The shepherds (also have 2 lines each, see 'Speaking parts' above)

The gerbil family (any number)

The gecko family (any number)

The cockerel and hen line dancers (any number)

Smaller stars (any number) - with glittery or illuminated star wands to wave

Optional - additional 'barnyard animals' - horses, pigs etc.

Costumes tip:

Rather than using masks for birds or animals, use face paints or headbands with animal faces stuck on them. A mask over the face will prevent children's voices projecting to the audience.

SCENE 3 - Up in the clouds

Adina stands, holding her harp.

Narrator: Adina stood watching from the edge of the cloud. She had never seen so many people. As she watched the people passing by below, a gust of wind suddenly came along and swept the harp from her hands!

CD Track 6 - Instrumental: The harp is falling

As the music track begins, The Wind rushes past Adina and sweeps the harp from her hands. The Wind proceeds to swoop the harp artistically around the stage area to the music track, as if it is tumbling and falling.

Narrator: *(spoken whilst The Wind swoops the harp about)* The harp tumbled down towards Bethlehem below.

Adina: My harp! My harp! I've dropped it off the cloud!

The other angels rush to join Adina, pretending to look over the edge of the cloud, pointing and gasping, shaking their heads, watching as the harp 'falls', whilst the music track plays.

A raven, owl and dove 'fly' onto the stage area and circle The Wind and the harp as they swoop and dance to the music. The music track is dimmed for the following dialogue.

Raven: Wraack! Well, that's a funny bird!

Dove: Coo coo... It hasn't got wings...

Raven: Wraack! Or feathers...

Dove: Coo coo... Or a beak...

Owl:

Too wit-too woo... But it can sing, listen...

The 'falling music' track volume is returned to normal. The harp continues to 'fall' and the birds fly around it until the music ends. The Wind places the harp on the haystack as the track ends. The Wind dances and swirls back to its home base.

SCENE 4 - At the haystack

The raven, dove and owl flap excitedly about the haystack, squawking, hooting and cooing.

Narrator: Luckily, the harp had fallen on a haystack next to a little stable. Animals who lived in the barns nearby were awakened by the birds' squawking and the sound of the harp as it landed on the hay.

A donkey, sheep and cow join the birds on stage. (If you have a large number of children, other barnyard animals could follow behind and join in the dance.)

Donkey: Ee-aw! What's the commotion?

Sheep: Baa! What's all the noise?

Cow: Moo! I was dreaming!

Donkey: *(to the birds, pointing to the harp)* Ee-aw! What's this?

Raven: Wraaack! It fell out of the sky!

Sheep: Baa... What is it?

Dove: Coo coo... We're not sure.

Cow: Moo... Can you eat it?

Owl: Too wit-too woo... I think I know what it is.

All animals/birds: *(making their animal noises together...)* What is it?

Owl: Too wit-too woo... It's a musical instrument called a harp. You-hoo strum it like this.

The owl brushes the harp four times with his wing.

SCENE 8 - At the Star & Camel Inn

CD Track 11 - Instrumental: The Star & Camel Inn (scene change music)

The music track plays quietly in the background. The inn door, piano and stool are placed on stage.

The Innkeeper, his band of musicians and visitors take up positions on the stage. The visitors have drinks in their hands (plastic glasses!) and stand talking and laughing. The music track ends.

Narrator: At the Star and Camel, business was booming. It was so busy, the Innkeeper had to turn people away.

A visitor knocks on the inn door. (Knocking noise is made with claves or other loud wooden instrument.)

Innkeeper: More visitors? Dear, oh dear, oh dear...

The Innkeeper opens the door.

Visitor: Do you have a room for the night?

Innkeeper: *(loudly)* Sorry, mate. *(points to 'No Vacancies' sign)* Look... 'No Vacancies'. No rooms left.

The visitor shakes his head and turns to go away.

Innkeeper: But you can come in for a drink, if you like.

Visitor: *(happy)* Don't mind if I do.

The visitor joins the group of other visitors.

Adina walks on stage and approaches the inn door.

Narrator: The Star and Camel was the first place that Adina happened upon. She could hear music coming from inside.

Adina: *(listens)* I hear music! Maybe my harp is here!

Adina knocks on the Inn door. The music track is faded out.

Innkeeper: More visitors? Dear, oh dear, oh dear...

The Innkeeper opens the door.

Adina: Hello. I'm looking for...

Innkeeper: *(interrupts her)* Sorry, young lady. *(points to 'No Vacancies' sign)* Look... 'No Vacancies'. No rooms left.

Adina: I'm not looking for a room. I could hear your music and wondered if...

Innkeeper: *(finishing her sentence)* ...You wondered if you could join in! Of course you can! Can you play the tambourine?

Adina: *(taken by surprise)* Er... yes... but...

Innkeeper: *(to one of the musicians)* Bert, give the young lady a tambourine!

Adina: My name's Adina.

Innkeeper: Adina... That's a lovely musical name. Bert, give Adina a tambourine.

Bert hands Adina a tambourine. The Innkeeper sits at the piano and the rest of the band are ready to play. Everyone claps, dances and sings to the music.

Narrator: Adina found herself playing in the Innkeeper's Band, entertaining all the visitors!

CD Track 12 - Song: The Innkeeper's Ceilidh

CHORUS

**The Innkeeper's Ceilidh
At the Star and Camel,
The best music venue in Bethlehem!**

**First there's Bert on the bodhran drum,
Having fun, giving it some,
First there's Bert on the bodhran drum,
(spoken) Solo... Bert!**

CHORUS

**Innkeeper's on the pi-a-no,
Watch him go, puts on a show,
Innkeeper's on the pi-a-no,
(spoken) Solo... Innkeeper!**

CHORUS

**Then there's May on her trusty fiddle,
She's in the middle, hey diddle diddle,
Then there's May on her trusty fiddle,
(spoken) Solo... May!**

CHORUS

**Then there's Ted on the old tin whistle,
Gives a tune that special sizzle,
Then there's Ted on the old tin whistle,
(spoken) Solo... Ted!**

CHORUS

Then there's Joe on bouzouki,
Plays so well it's spooky!
Then there's Joe on bouzouki,
(spoken) Solo... Joe!

CHORUS

Then there's George on the squeegee box,
Heee rocks (in his stripy socks!),
Then there's George on the squeegee box,
(spoken) Solo... George!

CHORUS

Then there's Adina on the tambourine,
New to the band but very keen,
Then there's Adina on the tambourine,
(spoken) Solo... Adina!

FINAL CHORUS

The Innkeeper's Ceilidh
At the Star and Camel,
The best music venue in Bethlehem!
The Innkeeper's Ceilidh
At the Star and Camel,
The best music venue in Bethlehem!

Everyone cheers and whoops at the end of the song.

Mary, Joseph and the donkey come forward and get ready to knock on the Innkeeper's door.

Innkeeper: *(stands up and shakes Adina's hand)* Great rhythm, young lady! You can come again!

Adina: That was *fun!* *(hands the tambourine back to Bert)* But now, I really *must* go and...

Narrator: But just as Adina was about to leave, there was another knock on the Innkeeper's door.

Joseph knocks on the Innkeeper's door.

Innkeeper: More visitors! Dear, oh dear, oh dear...

The Innkeeper opens the door.

Joseph: Hello. Do you have a room for the night?

Innkeeper: *(shakes his head)* Very sorry, Sir. *(points to 'No Vacancies' sign)* Look... 'No Vacancies'. No rooms left.

Joseph: *(puts his arm around Mary)* Is there anywhere round here that isn't full? My Mary is expecting a baby any minute.

Mary: Please help us. We don't know where to go.

Innkeeper: You poor things. *(rubs fingers on his chin, thinking, then has an idea)* Ah! I know where you can go! There's a stable round the back, if you don't mind sharing with the animals. It's warm and dry.

Joseph: Thank you.

Mary: We are very grateful.

Innkeeper: I'll take you round the back.

REPEAT CD Track 11 here if necessary - The Star & Camel Inn (scene change music)

The Innkeeper leads Mary, Joseph and the donkey to the stable area where they take up their places in the nativity tableau around the manger. Joseph shakes the Innkeeper's hand and the Innkeeper then returns to his home base.

Adina, visitors and musicians return to their home bases. The Innkeeper's door, piano and stool are taken off stage.

SCENE 11 - At the haystack

The cockerel and hens take the stage for their line dance.

Narrator: If she had gone with the shepherds, Adina would have heard her harp! Because back at the haystack, the harp was playing for a family of chickens who lived near the haystack - and they were having a fine old time!

CD Track 16 - Instrumental: The Cock-A-Doodle-Doo Line Dance (Cockerel & Hens)

The cockerel and hens line dance to the music. When the music finishes, they bow and curtsy to the audience and return to their home bases.