

“A Shiny New Star: a nativity”

Words and Music by Jon Shepherd 2022
Bearwood Choir cast 2023

Song 1: “A Shiny New Star”

Narrator (spoken) Evie and Elva

Two thousand years ago, one night
A brand new star shone out so bright
A special baby born, and so...
Our story starts, so long ago.

Small group or solo (sung)

*Can you see the star?
Up high in the sky tonight
It's shining on you, it's shining on me
A shiny new star*

**Can you see the star?
Up high in the sky tonight
It's shining on you, it's shining on me
A shiny new star**

It brings a message of love and hope
That everyone below will see.
A light for the future, a symbol of new life
For you...and me.

**Can you see the star?
Up high in the sky tonight
It's shining on you, it's shining on me
A shiny new star**

**Can you see the star?
Up high in the sky tonight
It's shining on you, it's shining on me
A shiny new star**

*Song ends and **Mary** enters the stage with her friends, **Sarah** and **Abigail**. They are carrying brushes and cloths for cleaning. They proceed to tidy the stage then stop to rest.*

Mary (Sunaya)	Thank you for coming round to see me today. You didn't really have to help with the cleaning though!
Sarah (Barbara)	It's no problem, Mary, the chores take no time at all when you're having a good chat.
Abigail (S'vea)	Your husband Joseph is a lovely man, Mary...but he's very messy!

Mary	I know, I know...he works so hard as a carpenter that sometimes he forgets to clean off the wood shavings from his apron. They get everywhere when he brings them into the house!
Sarah	He's a good man.
Abigail	A very MESSY good man!
	<i>They smile and laugh. A baby cries offstage.</i>
Sarah	Oh dear...that sleep didn't last long. Surely Benjamin can't be hungry already?
	<i>Sarah hurries offstage. Mary and Abigail watch her go</i>
Abigail	I've never known a baby eat as much as that one! I'm glad I don't have children. Noisy, hungry, smelly things! <i>(She pulls a face and holds her nose)</i>
	<i>Sarah returns to the stage and looks disapproving at Abigail's words</i>
Abigail	<i>(hurriedly)</i> Except for your Benjamin of course...he's beautiful! <i>(pulls a face at Mary)</i>
Sarah	Hmm...if you say so. Come on girls let's get this housework finished before Joseph comes back and messes it up again!

Song 2: “Cooking, cleaning, tidying up”

Mary

Cooking, cleaning, tidying up
That’s all I seem to do!
Wiping the walls and sweeping the floor
Working the whole day through.

Cooking, cleaning, tidying up
That’s all I seem to do!
Wiping the walls and sweeping the floor
Working the whole day through.

But I don’t mind!
No, I don’t mind!
I’m looking out for you!
I’m looking out for you!

Musical interlude where Joseph enters with his tools

Joseph

Hammering nails and sawing the wood
That’s all I seem to do!
Sanding and painting, making it good
Working the whole day through.

Hammering nails and sawing the wood
That’s all I seem to do!
Sanding and painting, making it good
Working the whole day through.

But I don’t mind!
No, I don’t mind!
I’m looking out for you!
I’m looking out for you!

Mary and Joseph

But I don’t mind!
No, I don’t mind!
I’m looking out for you!
I’m looking out for YOU!

Scene ends and everyone leaves the stage. Narrator enters

Narrator (Evie) Mary and Joseph quietly and happily lived their lives together until one day Mary was home alone and received a very special visitor...

*The **Angel Gabriel, Angel 1 and Angel 2** enters the stage. Gabriel knocks on the door...*

Gabriel (Greta) HELLO! Mary...is there anyone home?

Angel 1 (Jasneet)	I don't think she's in boss
Angel 2 (Harlii)	Why don't we just appear inside? We are angels after all!
Angel 1 (Jasneet)	Yeah! We shouldn't have to knock
Angel 4 (Harlii)	It's embarrassing!
Gabriel	You two are embarrassing! Do you want to scare her witless? Go and wait over there. I'll go and see if she's in on my own.

Song 3: “Mary, won’t you let me in?”

Gabriel (sung)

Oh, Oh, Oh...Mary
Mary are you here?
I’ve got an important message for you
Exciting times are near!

The Lord God he loves you
Can you hear these words I sing?
You’re gonna give birth to a baby boy...
Gonna be the King of Kings!

Oh, Oh, Oh...Mary
Mary won’t you let me in?

Mary enters stage looking scared

Mary

You say your name is Gabriel
And you bring God’s message to me
I’m scared and afraid, don’t know who you are...
Do you have any angel ID?

Gabriel (spoken)

*Er...I don’t really carry any ID on me.
I don’t have pockets in these robes!
Can’t you just take my word for it...
I mean...the huge feathery wings and the halo are a BIT of a giveaway...*

Gabriel (sung)

Oh, Oh, Oh...Mary
Mary are you here?
I’ve got an important message for you
Exciting times are near!

The Lord God he loves you
Can you hear these words I sing?
You’re gonna give birth to a baby boy...
Gonna be the King of Kings!

Oh, Oh, Oh...Mary
Mary won’t you let me in?

Mary

Maybe I’ll just let you in!

Gabriel	Mary...you have been chosen by God to have his son
Mary	Me? Why me? I’m just an ordinary girl from Nazareth.

Angel 1	God moves in mysterious ways!
Angel 2	The baby will be a special child!
Angel 1	A future King of Kings!
Angel 2	...And you will call him, Jesus!
Mary	This is too much to get my head around!...(running offstage shouting) JOSEPH! JOSEPH!
	Joseph enters the stage in a hurry
Joseph	What is it Mary? What's the matter?
Mary	I have wonderful news! I'm going to have a baby and he will be the son of God!
Joseph	Wow! That is amazing news...and a bit of a shock!
	<i>Scene ends and everyone leaves the stage. Narrator enters</i>
Narrator (Elva)	Eight months passed and Mary grew bigger with baby Jesus,
Narrator (Evie)	But trouble was brewing...at that time the Romans were in charge.
Narrator (Elva)	They wanted to know how many people lived in the land so they could charge them taxes
Narrator (Evie)	So they sent their soldiers to count the people...
	Roman Soldier 1, Soldier 2 and Soldier 3 enter along with Nazarene 1, Nazarene 2, Nazarene 3, Nazarene 4, Nazarene 5 , nine other non-speaking Nazarenes and Joseph .
Soldier 1 (Alabi)	Ok you lot. Line up over there
Soldier 2 (Barbara)	Nice and straight please. No pushing...
Soldier 1 (Alabi)	We need to count you
Nazarene 1 (Arianne)	Why? What's the point?
Nazarene 2 (Rowan)	I bet it's so they can raise our taxes again!
Nazarene 1	I can't afford that...we already pay too much
Nazarene 2	Yeah! Haven't you heard of the cost of living crisis?
Nazarene 1	I don't want to be counted...lets make it difficult for them!
	<i>Song starts and the Nazarenes try their best to move around and make it difficult for the Romans to count while they are singing.</i>

Song 4: “ Whoops...lost count!

*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight
Nine, ten, eleven, twelve
Thirteen, fourteen...whoops lost count!
Start again...back to the beginning.*

*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight
Nine, ten, eleven, twelve
Thirteen, fourteen...whoops lost count!
Start again...there must be a better way.*

I think we need a proper census
This really isn't working, you can all go home
Let's get them all to travel to the place where they were born
Then tax them and send the money back to Rome!

*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight
Nine, ten, eleven, twelve
Thirteen, fourteen...whoops lost count!
Start again...back to the beginning.*

*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight
Nine, ten, eleven, twelve
Thirteen, fourteen...whoops lost count!
Start again...now we've found a better way...STOP!*

Song ends and Roman soldiers look annoyed. The Nazarenes are all looking mischievous .

Soldier 1	(To the Nazarenes) That was really difficult...you did that on purpose!
Soldier 2	I lost count...I think we'll have to have a proper census
Soldier 1	You'll all have to travel back to your place of birth...serves you right!
Joseph	Oh no...I was born in Bethlehem...eighty miles away!
	Two Nazarene men, Jacob and Simon enter the stage talking loudly to each other
Jacob (Joel)	Yes...I come from Sepphoris. It's only 5 miles away. Shouldn't take too long at all by donkey.
Simon (Greta)	You're lucky! I have to travel 30 miles. Thank goodness I've just traded my donkey in for a newer model.
Joseph	Jacob! Simon! My old friends!
Jacob	Joseph! Haven't seen you for ages...how are you?
Joseph	Not very good to be honest. Mary is expecting a baby any day now and the Romans have said we have to go to Bethlehem...eighty miles away!
Simon	That's not good...but it should only be a couple of days ride on your donkey

Joseph	Ah yes...that's where I have a bit of a problem...we don't have one. In fact I was going to ask you guys something...
	<i>Song starts and Joseph sings solo (or small group) towards Jacob and Simon.</i>
	<p>Song 5: "Somebody lend me a donkey"</p> <p>Joseph All of my neighbours have got donkeys 'Cos they've got money...you should hear them talk. And now we've got to go to Bethlehem Looks like we're gonna-have to walk.</p> <p>All Won't...somebody lend me a donkey Somebody lend me one please The Romans are making us walk so far We're gonna be down...on our knees. Please lend me a donkey Mary's having a baby...so Lend me one please</p> <p>Simon and Jacob Yes it's true, we do own donkeys We've got money...and yes we like to talk. And although you've got to go to Bethlehem Looks like you're gonna-have to walk.</p> <p>All Joseph, we can't lend you a donkey We need them ourselves, can't you see The Romans are making us walk so far We have to travel soon, with our families We can't lend you a donkey... Although you're having a baby, SO... Stop asking PLEASE!</p>
Simon	Sorry Joseph, we can't lend you a donkey...we need them ourselves
Jacob	<i>(patting Joseph's back) Good luck with finding one though.</i>
	<i>They leave the stage. Joseph is left alone.</i>
Joseph	Mary's not going to like this...not in her condition!
	<i>Scene ends and everyone leaves the stage. Narrator enters</i>
Narrator (Evie)	Mary DIDN'T like the news but they had no choice...they HAD to travel to Bethlehem.
Narrator (Elva)	Joseph sold some of his tools and managed to buy the last donkey in town.

Narrator (Evie)	The journey was long and hard and took them nearly a week, but finally, they arrived in Bethlehem.
	Joseph helps Mary onto the stage with the donkey. They are very tired and Mary is obviously pregnant.
Mary	Thank you donkey for helping us to get to Bethlehem. We wouldn't have made it without you!
Donkey (Bilal)	Eey-ore!
Joseph	Yes, thank you donkey. Our problem now is finding somewhere for us all to sleep. I've never seen it so busy.
Donkey	<i>(Shaking head)</i> Eey-ore!
Mary	We've tried so many places already and they're all full! I think this might be the last one...
Donkey	<i>(Nodding head)</i> Eey-ore!
Joseph	I'll go and knock...
	<i>He knocks on the door and the Innkeeper enters the stage. Song starts.</i>

Song 6: "Knock Knock"

Innkeeper:

Knock Knock...who's that knockin' on my door?
 I'm try'na get to sleep...can't take no more
 Who's outside at this time of night?
 Wakin' up my family...it don't seem right.

Joseph:

Hello there friend...my name is Joe
 We're lookin' for a room...we've no place to go
 My wife is tired...'cos we've come a long way
 It's really been an exhausting day!

Innkeeper

I'm sorry mate...I've already looked
 It's packed inside...you should have pre booked
 There's nothing more that I can do
 I've tried my best but I can't help you!

*'Cos we're all
 We're all...
 We're all booked up!*

*'Cos we're all
 We're all...
 We're all booked up!*

	<i>Mary has been looking more and more cross as the song progresses. The song end and she steps forward looking annoyed...</i>
Mary	<i>(loudly)</i> STOP THIS RIGHT NOW! You're just wasting my time...
	<p>Song 7: "A Place to Sleep Tonight"</p> <p><i>Mary (sung)</i> Somebody find me a place to sleep tonight Sick of excuses and maybes. I'm tired and weary, can't feel my feet and... Don'tcha know I'm having a baby?</p> <p><i>All</i> I can feel him kicking inside Didn't really like, the long donkey ride! I've got this feeling he's coming soon So Mister Innkeeper...won't you find me a room?</p> <p><i>Innkeeper</i> I'll try to find you a room to sleep in tonight I'll do the best that I'm able. I still don't think I can find a room, but... Think we could just clean out the stable!</p> <p><i>All</i> Now I know he's kicking inside Didn't really like the long donkey ride.</p> <p><i>Joseph and Mary</i> We're tired of walking, we're losing the light...so I think the stable is...our home for the night!</p> <p>Our home for the night!</p>
Mary	If you want something done right...DO IT YOURSELF!
	<i>Narrator enters and everyone moves around the stage to set it up as the stable scene with a manger, whilst the narrators speak.</i>
Narrator (Evie)	The Innkeeper did his best to clean out the stable and make it comfortable for his visitors.
Narrator (Elva)	Mary, Joseph and the donkey settled down...and later that night, Jesus was born
	<i>Joseph gently passes baby Jesus (doll) to Mary who cradles him</i>
Narrator (Evie)	Mary laid baby Jesus in a manger bed as all around them Angels appeared and worshipped the newborn king.

	<i>Gabriel and Angels 1, 2, 3 and 4 enter stage to sing and surround the scene.</i>
	<p>Song 8: “Come and Gather Round”</p> <p><i>Solo or small group</i> Lying in a manger bed, the future King of Kings Sleeping peacefully as all around the Angels sing. In a lowly stable and away from home, so far Bathed in light, so lovely, from a shiny, brand new star.</p> <p>Come and gather round, Hear the joyous sound. Jesus, our Lord Is born.</p> <p><i>All</i> Lying in a manger bed, the future King of Kings Sleeping peacefully as all around the Angels sing. In a lowly stable and away from home, so far Bathed in light, so lovely, from a shiny, brand new star.</p> <p>Come and gather round, Hear the joyous sound. Jesus, our Lord Is born.</p> <p>Come and gather round, Hear the joyous sound. Jesus, our Lord Is born.</p>
	<i>The scene ends and everyone leaves the stage. Narrator enters</i>
Narrator (Evie)	Meanwhile on a nearby hillside, some Shepherds were watching their sheep.
	<i>Shepherd 1, Shepherd 2 and Shepherd 3 enter and sit down on stage.</i>
Shepherd 1 (Maddy)	<i>(shivering)</i> Brr...it’s going to be a chilly one tonight.
Shepherd 2 (Sadaf)	You can say that again. Let’s just hope the cold keeps the wolves away!
Shepherd 3 (Anaya)	Looks like another long boring night again...nothing ever happens around here. Wish something exciting would happen!
	<i>There is a loud “celebratory” noise and Gabriel appear on the stage. Angel 1, 2, 3 and 4 follow onstage. The Shepherds cower down and look frightened.</i>

Gabriel	REJOICE! Do not be afraid...
Angel 1	We bring you great news...
Angel 2	A new King is born in Bethlehem...
Angel 1	He has come to save all mankind...
Angel 2	Leave your sheep...go and worship him!
	<i>The angels leave the stage. The Shepherds look at each other and song starts.</i>

Song 9: “Lying in the Fields”

**Lying in the fields, watching sheep
We were just lying in the fields.
Watching over sheep
We were just minding our own business.**

The night was calm, the sheep asleep
In fields above the town.
The last thing that we thought we’d see
Were angels coming down!

The night was calm, the sheep asleep
In fields above the town.
The last thing that we thought we’d see
Were angels coming down!

**Lying in the fields, watching sheep
We were just lying in the fields.
Watching over sheep
We were just minding our own business.**

The night was calm, the sheep asleep
We heard the angels sing.
The last thing that we thought we’d do
Is visit a new king!

The night was calm, the sheep asleep
We heard the angels sing.
The last thing that we thought we’d do
Is visit a new king!

Visit a new King!

**Lying in the fields, watching sheep
We were just lying in the fields.
Watching over sheep
We were just minding our own business.**

Watching over sheep!

Song ends and the Shepherds look at each other

Shepherd 1 What do you think lads?

Shepherd 2 I think we should go...we’d better take the sheep with us though

Shepherd 3 *(shaking his head as they leave the stage)* I never expected THIS much excitement!

	<i>Scene ends and everyone leaves the stage. Narrator enters</i>
Narrator (Evie)	The Shepherds weren't the only visitors that night.
Narrator (Elva)	Far away in a desert land, three wise men had followed a star
Narrator (Evie)	They knew it would lead them to the birthplace of a very special baby.
	<i>Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior enter the stage. They are accompanied by their pages; Boaz, Omri and Tirzah who are carrying gold, frankincense and myrrh.</i>
Balthazar (Arianne)	Well lads, there it is. I can see the lights of Bethlehem.
Boaz (Joel)	Is that where we are going then?
Caspar (Evelyn)	The star has led us here. See how it shines above the city.
Omri (Harlii)	How can you be sure sir? There may be nothing here.
Melchior (Meera)	We have faith in our readings and our calculations.
Tirzah (Rowan)	So THIS is where we will find the new baby king!
	<i>As the song is sung the wise men and their pages "journey" around the stage.</i>
	<p>Song 10: "Start your Camels"</p> <p>We are very wise men, we ride our camels 'Cos we're very wise men, we ride not walk. Over deserts and forests we look for our saviour Over valleys and hills we look for our king</p> <p>We're following a star Following a brand new star We're following a star Following a shiny new star A shiny new star</p> <p>We are very wise men, we ride our camels We have travelled so far, but now we're near Over deserts and forests we look for our saviour Over valleys and hills we look for our king</p> <p>We're following a star Following a brand new star We're following a star Following a shiny new star A shiny new star</p>

Scene ends and everyone leaves the stage. Song 1 (reprise) starts and the tableaux of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the Angels is set up during the instrumental introduction.

Song 1 (reprise): A shiny new star

Narrator (sung)

Can you see the star?

Up high in the sky tonight

It's shining on you, it's shining on me

A shiny new star

Can you see the star?

Up high in the sky tonight

It's shining on you, it's shining on me

A shiny new star

It brings a message of love and hope
That everyone below will see.
A light for the future, a symbol of new life
For you...and me.

Can you see the star?

Up high in the sky tonight

It's shining on you, it's shining on me

A shiny new star

Can you see the star?

Up high in the sky tonight

It's shining on you, it's shining on me

A shiny new star

Song ends and Song 8 (reprise) starts. During this the shepherds come on stage kneel and then join tableaux, followed by the wise men and pages and then the remainder of the cast.

Song 8 (reprise): “Come and Gather Round”

Solo or small group

Lying in a manger bed, the future King of Kings
Sleeping peacefully as all around the Angels sing.
In a lowly stable and away from home, so far
Bathed in light, so lovely, from a shiny, brand new star.

**Come and gather round,
Hear the joyous sound.
Jesus, our Lord
Is born.**

All

Lying in a manger bed, the future King of Kings
Sleeping peacefully as all around the Angels sing.
In a lowly stable and away from home, so far
Bathed in light, so lovely, from a shiny, brand new star.

**Come and gather round,
Hear the joyous sound.
Jesus, our Lord
Is born.**

**Come and gather round,
Hear the joyous sound.
Jesus, our Lord
Is born.**

Song ends and cast are frozen whilst the first narrator reads...

Narrators
(*Evie and Elva*)

**Two thousand years ago, one night
A brand new star shone out so bright
A special baby born, and so...
Our story ends, so long ago.**

End