

SONG NOTES

Song 1 Shh, Don't Wake The Baby

A great song for some wild and wacky animal actions. If you have enough children, then the song is effective when each verse is sung by a different group of animals: birds, cows, cats, pigs and sheep. If not, have your whole cast sing and act out the song.

There's also scope, if you have a confident Cockerel, for the last line of each verse to be sung/spoken by them alone.

Song 2 It's A Long Way On A Donkey

Unless you have an older child playing the role of the Donkey, we would suggest the whole cast (or choir) sing this song. The Donkey could act out some of the story and involve Mary and Joseph.

Song 3 Don't Worry Mary

There is scope for a soloist to sing the first verse of this song. The Angels should sing the chorus if possible, and a choreographed dance by them during the instrumental verse should go down well with your audience.

Song 4 No Room, No Room

A little acting can accompany this song. Have Mary and Joseph search the inns of Bethlehem for a room, giving a few innkeepers a chance to wave their arms in refusal! (Well, a school nativity play isn't complete without it, surely!)

Song 5 Wake Up Shepherds!

This song has a great chorus in which to get your shepherds up and moving. Why not encourage them to plan their own dance moves to complement the music?

Song 6 We Are Camels

The lyrics say it all in this wonderful camel song! Invent some actions with the children which mimic the lyrics so conveying to your audience the character of the camels. The chorus could easily be choreographed for the three camels.

Song 7 He's The King

A celebratory song. Only the first two lines of each verse differ, so it shouldn't be too difficult for the whole cast to learn.

Song 8 Born In A Barn

A great song to finish with. A few tongue-twisting lyrics too (*doodle-a-doodlin'*, and so on) which will make it all the more fun to sing.

CAST LIST

- Cockerel** A self-assured character needed. Thinks he rules the roost! Optional solo part in the first song (can be spoken if preferred).
- Owl** A wise old bird.
- Dog** Full of fun. Needs bone as a prop.
- Sheep** Have as many as you wish. 2 with lines to say as part of the opening stable group, and 3 speaking parts from amongst the later arrivals.
- Donkey** A key role. Helps with much of the story telling.
- Cat** A sleek creature - very debonair! A good purr or two wouldn't go amiss either.
- Cows** Again, scope for a few of these if you have children to spare. 2 have a few lines to speak (and these lines could easily be divided between more cows if required).
- Mice** As many as you like, with lovely squeaky voices. A few lines that can be spoken individually or in unison.
- 3 Camels** A bit of tetchiness is helpful for these animals! A few spoken lines and scope for some choreography in Song 6, "We Are Camels".
- In addition to the above animals, you'll need some groups of birds, cats, pigs and sheep for the first song and there's also scope for many other animals, depending on the size of your cast.
- Mary** Non-speaking role. Sits with the baby Jesus throughout.
- Joseph** Sits with Mary. Also non-speaking.
- Angels** An angelic sounding group. They sing the chorus in Song 3, "Don't Worry Mary" where there's also scope for a touch of dancing!
- Innkeepers** The stable owner sits with Mary and Joseph throughout, but you may want to include other innkeepers to mime the action in Song 4, "No Room, No Room"
- Shepherds** Non-speaking parts (as many or few as you want), with an opportunity for some dancing/actions in Song 5, "Wake Up Shepherds".
- Jesus** As this is a non-speaking part, we'd suggest you use a doll!

SCRIPT & SONG LYRICS

The scene opens in the barn stable. The crib is stage left on a slightly raised area. Mary and Joseph are watching over their new baby, Jesus.

- COCKEREL** Cock-a-doodle-doo!
- ANIMALS** Shh... you'll wake the baby.
- COCKEREL** Cock-a-doodle... baby? What baby?

The animals gesture towards the crib.

- OWL** Oh, Cockerel, don't you notice anything? You really are a hoot! He arrived last night. Such a sweet little thing too.
- COCKEREL** Well, of course I didn't notice him – I'm an early bird not a night bird. What's a baby doing in our stable?
- DOG** I don't know but do you suppose he wants to play? (*Bound towards the crib with a bone*)
- SHEEP 1** Baa... don't be so silly. He's far too young for that.
- SHEEP 2** He's just a baby.
- COCKEREL** Hmm. I don't like babies. They wake people up. That's my job. Mmm, I see what this is all about. I'm out of a job. (*Angrily*) Cock-a-doodle-do!
- ANIMALS** Shh, you'll wake the baby.

Song 1. SHH, DON'T WAKE THE BABY

Birds

- 1 I can waddle and quack,
Nibble and coo,
Flap my wings or tu-whit tu-whoo.
I can waddle and quack,
You can too,
(*Action*)
Or cock-a-doodle-doo!

CHORUS *There's a baby in our stable now,
Shh, shh... don't wake the baby.*

Cows

- 2 I can swish my tail,
Chomp and chew,
Huff and puff and moo, moo, moo.
I can swish my tail,
You can too,
(*Action*)
Or cock-a-doodle-doo!

CHORUS

Cats

- 3 I can twitch my nose,
Purr and miaow,
Arch my back, I'll show you how.
I can twitch my nose,
You can too,
(Action)
Or cock-a-doodle-doo!

CHORUS

Pigs

- 4 I can grunt and snort,
Snuffle and sniff,
Wiggle my ears, just like this.
I can grunt and snort
You can too,
(Action)
Or cock-a-doodle-doo!

CHORUS

Sheep

- 5 I can bleat and baa,
Shake my fleece,
Crunch and munch and stamp my feet.
I can bleat and baa,
You can too,
(Action)
Or cock-a-doodle-doo!

CHORUS

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DONKEY

Hee-haw.

COCKEREL

Shhh. Shhh. You'll wake the baby!

DONKEY

Oh, I wouldn't worry about this little feller. He's special. I'm sure he isn't going to mind a bit of noise.

DOG

Oh great, perhaps he'll play. (*Drop bone at baby's feet*)

OWL

(*To Donkey*) And whooo are youooo?

DONKEY

Well, I was a donkey the last time I looked.

CAT

Pardon me, but what are you doing here in our barn?

DONKEY

I'm the one that brought this royal visitor to this stable.

CAT	Royal! Did you say royal? Pardon me. (<i>Outstretches paw</i>) Call me Cat... pleasure to meet you.
SHEEP 1	Baa. What is the world coming to? A stable is no place for royalty.
SHEEP 2	If we had known, we could have tidied up.
OWL	When you say "royalty", what exactly do you mean?
DONKEY	Let me explain... this little baby is a king.
CAT	I knew he would be... it's the bone structure you know.
MICE	A king, a real king?
COWS	A king?
SHEEP (ALL)	A king?
ANIMALS	A king!!!
DONKEY	Yes. He is a very special king called Jesus and I carried him all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
OWL	Nazareth! Now, that's a long way.

Song 2. IT'S A LONG WAY ON A DONKEY

CHORUS *It's a long way on a donkey,
It's a long way to go,
It's a long way on a donkey,
It's a long and winding road.*

- 1 I come from a town called Nazareth
In a place called Galilee.
I work for Joseph the carpenter
And his lovely wife, Mary.

CHORUS

- 2 One day Joseph said to me
"My wife will have God's son,
Mary will have this special child,
The holy, chosen one".

CHORUS

- 3 I carried the King to Bethlehem,
Jesus the chosen one.
I carried the King to Bethlehem,
Jesus Christ, God's Son.

CHORUS

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OWL Well I never! What an adventure.

COW 1 And what a shock for poor Mary.

COW 2 I expect she was very scared.

MICE How did she find out? Who told her?

DONKEY An angel called Gabriel.

Song 3. DON'T WORRY MARY

Don't worry Mary
 You're the special one,
 Don't worry Mary
 You will have God's son,
 Don't worry Mary
 He will be a king,
 Don't worry Mary
 Hear the angels sing.

Angels

CHORUS *Mary, Mary,
 We will look after you,
 Mary, Mary,
 God has chosen you.*

Instrumental (Angels' dance)

CHORUS

Don't worry Mary
 You're the special one,
 Don't worry Mary
 You will have God's son,
 Don't worry Mary
 He will be a king,
 Don't worry Mary
 Hear the angels sing.

CHORUS

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SHEEP 1 But I still don't understand how the Son of God ended up here, in this stable.

SHEEP 2 Yes, we really would have tidied up if we had known!

CAT There's a wonderful 5 star hotel down the road – far more suitable.

OWL I expect there was nowhere for them to go. It's a very busy time in this

town because of the census.

MICE

Census. What's the census?

OWL

A census is when the leader of the land counts all the people. Mary and Joseph must have come to Bethlehem to be counted.

DONKEY

That's right, but it was just so busy everywhere. There was nowhere to stay.

SHEEP 1

That would explain all the noise outside.

SHEEP 2

I see. That's why the Innkeeper brought Mary and Joseph into our barn.

DONKEY

It was very kind of him to find somewhere for us to stay.

Song 4. NO ROOM, NO ROOM

- 1 Knock, knock.
Who's there?
There's somebody at the door.
Knock, knock.
Who's there?
No room for any more.
(Repeat)

CHORUS *No room, no room,
We're full up,
No room, no room,
Bad luck!*

- 2 Knock, knock.
Who's there?
A traveller needs some sleep.
Knock, knock.
Who's there?
No room here since last week!

CHORUS

- 3 Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Mary needs some sleep.
Knock, knock.
Who's there?
There's a stable going cheap.

CHORUS

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COCKEREL

Mmm, he seems very quiet. Perhaps I won't be out of a job after all.

Enter flock of sheep. They are making a racket!!

- COW 1** You were saying?
- SHEEP 1** Humph. Who invited them?
- SHEEP 2** Oh dear. I hope they don't make a mess.
- SHEEP 3** Here he is. Here he is!
- SHEEP 4** This is the King. We've found him.
- SHEEP 5** The angels said we would.
- SHEEP 2** Who are you?
- SHEEP 3** We are sheep.
- CAT** We had sort of gathered that.
- SHEEP 4** We belong to the shepherds. They should be along in a minute.
- SHEEP 5** We are here because the angels told us to come. We were out in the fields when a bright light filled the sky.
- SHEEP 3** The angels were singing. They told us that a new baby king would be born in a stable, here in Bethlehem.
- SHEEP 4** We had to come and see for ourselves.
- SHEEP 2** I see.

Enter shepherds who join Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Innkeeper.

Song 5. WAKE UP SHEPHERDS!

CHORUS *Wake up shepherds,
Jump to your feet,
Wake up shepherds,
Move to the beat,
Wake up shepherds,
Jump to your feet,
Wake up and shake up shepherds.*

REPEAT CHORUS

- 1 Out in the fields the sky shone bright,
Glory to God, a heavenly sight.
Out in the fields the sky shone bright,
Glory to God,
It gave us quite a fright!

CHORUS

- 2 Pack up your bags and make your way,
You'll find the King asleep on the hay.
Pack up your bags and make your way
To the King of the world,
Born today!

CHORUS

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- MICE** How exciting! Wait until we tell our friends. A real king, born in our barn.
- COW 2** Our barn will be full up at this rate!
- SHEEP 1** Just as long as there are no more sheep!
- SHEEP 2** I know, I tried counting them a while ago. There were so many I nearly fell asleep!
- COCKEREL** Something tells me we haven't seen the last of the visitors. Jesus is a king. He is bound to get some really important guests.
- SHEEP 2** Oh I do wish we had tidied up.
- CAT** Important guests? You can leave those to me!
- Enter three kings with three camels. The cat sees them and quickly hides!*
- COW 1** You were saying?
- CAMEL 1** At last! I never thought we'd get here.
- CAMEL 2** Your short cuts never work!
- CAMEL 3** Never mind, we are here now. We've followed the star.
- CAMEL 1** We avoided the mean King Herod.
- CAMEL 2** We've reached the stable.
- CAMEL 3** And we've brought our gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- ALL CAMELS** And we've found the baby king, Jesus – our Saviour.
- CAT** *(Coming out from hiding place)* What strange looking creatures.
- COW 2** Look at their knobbly knees.
- SHEEP 1** And large nostrils.
- CAT** And long eyelashes.
- OWL** And the most peculiar humps on their back!!

CAMELS

We're camels.

ANIMALS

Camels?

Song 6. WE ARE CAMELS

- 1 We may have knobbly knees,
Nostrils that flare
And peculiar humps on our back.
We might snuffle and spit,
Gurgle and hiss,
When we feel that we're under attack!
- 2 We may flutter our eyes,
Pretend that we're wise
And flash you a wonderful smile.
We might nibble and chew
For a moment or two,
Or lie in the sand for a while.

CHORUS *We are camels, 1-2-3,
We followed the star,
We are camels, 3-2-1,
When you've got camels,
Who needs a car?*

Repeat verses 1 & 2

CHORUS *We are camels, 1-2-3,
We followed the star,
We are camels, 3-2-1,
When you've got camels,
Who needs a car?
When you've got camels
Who needs a car?*

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CAMEL 1

I've got sore hooves!

CAMEL 2

I've got sand in my eyelashes!

CAMEL 3

My humps are killing me!

CAT

I say!

OWL

Well, I never. Something tells me this baby is going to play an important part on Earth.

COW

Yes, you heard the camels. They said he was going to be a Saviour.

MICE

What does that mean?

OWL That whenever you need help, this new King Jesus will be there for you.

MICE Wow! He really is the King.

OWL Oh yes. Jesus is the most important king of all. He's the King of kings!

Song 7. HE'S THE KING

- 1 This moment is magic,
Hold it in your hand,
There's a new day dawning for the earth,
God has sent his only son,
The Saviour, Jesus Christ.

CHORUS *He's the King
We can believe in,
He's the King
We can believe in.*

- 2 The bells will ring out,
And tell God's holy news,
There's a new day dawning for the earth,
God has sent his only son,
The Saviour, Jesus Christ.

CHORUS

- 3 Join in our song
And let us all rejoice,
There's a new day dawning for the earth,
God has sent his only son,
The Saviour, Jesus Christ.

CHORUS *He's the King
We can believe in,
He's the King
We can believe in,
He's the king
We can believe in.*

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CAT What a wonderful story.

OWL And... it's all true.

SHEEP (ALL) It's happened here in our barn.

COWS Moo.

COCKEREL I've been dying to do this for ages... cock-a-doodle-doo!

ANIMALS Jesus was born in our barn!

Song 8. BORN IN A BARN

CHORUS *Born in a barn,
A Bethlehem barn,
A beautiful baby boy.
Born in a barn,
A Bethlehem barn,
A bundle of Christmas joy!*

- 1 The cows started mooing,
The doves started cooing
When Jesus was born in our barn.
The sheep started bleating,
The pigs stopped eating
When Jesus was born in our barn!

CHORUS

- 2 The donkey was braying,
The hens were a-laying
When Jesus was born in our barn.
The owls were a-hootin',
The cocks were doodle-a-doodlin'
When Jesus was born in our barn!

CHORUS

- 3 The barn was a-singing,
The cowbells were ringing
When Jesus was born in our barn.
The world was awaking,
A new dawn was breaking
When Jesus was born in our barn!

CHORUS

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