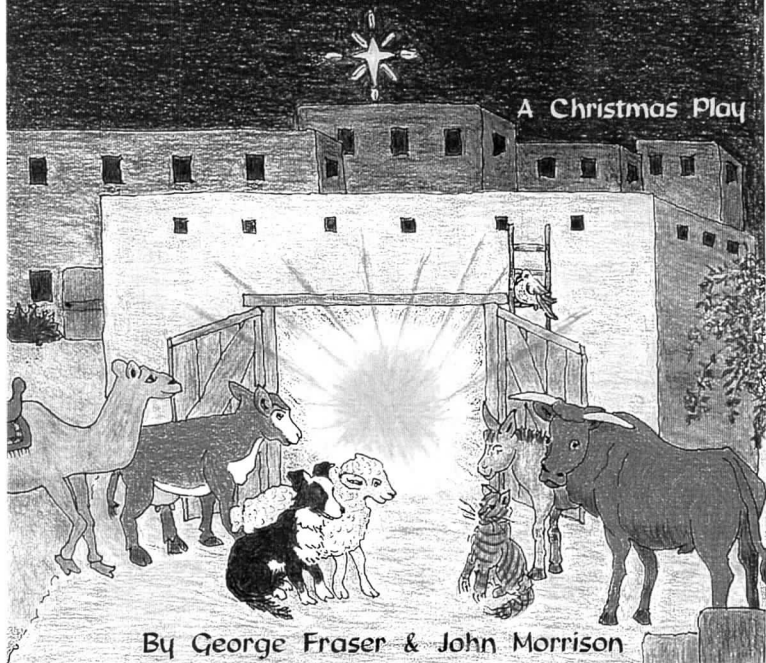


WE COULD GO IN

A Christmas Play



By George Fraser & John Morrison

We Could Go In

A Christmas Musical Play

Booklet Contents:

Song Lists from accompanying CD's
Script

Costume Ideas and directions

Additional scripts available from:
Ravenscroft

1900 N. La Canada Dr., Apt. 2227
Tucson, AZ 85704
ravens@matched-pair.com

We Could Go In A Christmas Musical Play

Music by George Fraser Book and Lyrics by John Morrison

Recording of Complete Musical

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Introduction | 9. Ox and Cow; Dove |
| 2. The First Noel | sings There is a Child |
| 3. Dog and Donkey | 10. Ox, Dog, Sheep, Dove |
| 4. Away in a Manger | Camel. Chorus sings |
| 5. Ox and Cow | Wise Men Leave Your |
| 6. If I Want To Be Miserable | Contemplations. Gloria |
| 7. Cow, Ox and Dove | 11. Ox, Donkey and Cow |
| 8. Ox, Cat and Cow | 12. There's a Wonder, |
| | Ox, Cow |
| 13. Concluding dialogue, Ox and Cow. | |

How silently, How silently the wondrous gift is given.

We Could Go In A Christmas Musical Play

Cueing Tracks Only

(Recording of music only -
Backing tracks for your performers)

1. First Noel with vocal. Sing along with track.
2. Away In A Manger. Sing along with track.
3. If I Want To Be Miserable. Piano track only.
4. Shepherds In The Fields Abiding. .Gloria.
5. Gloria.
6. There is a Child. Piano track only.
7. Wise Men Leave Your Contemplation.
8. There's A Wonder. Piano track only.
9. How silently, How silently. . Sing along with track.

When actors behind scenes and audience in front are all ready & quiet, chorus and audience join in singing the carol "The First Nowell" - 1, 2 or 3 verses and then begin:

WE COULD GO IN

THE CURTAIN OPENS ON A RATHER BARE STAGE REPRESENTING THE OUTSIDE OF THE STABLE. TWO OR THREE BALES OF STRAW (BOXES) AT STAGE RIGHT. A STEPLADDER DISGUISED TO LOOK LIKE PART OF A TREE AT STAGE LEFT.

(ENTER SHEEPDOG FROM STAGE LEFT & DONKEY FROM STAGE RIGHT.)

DOG: Where are you from, stranger? What are you doing here?

DONKEY: I might ask you why you aren't with the sheep.

DOG: Oh, they're all right. But where have you come from?

DONKEY: From Nazareth in Galilee.

DOG: (WHISTLES) You've had quite a journey. Are you alone?
Where are your people?

DONKEY: In the stable there. We just got here in time.

DOG: Time? Time for what? What are doing around so late anyway?

DONKEY: You're a great one for asking questions. Now let me ask you one.
Do you feel anything strange tonight, anything different?

DOG: Well, my skin is prickling a little.

DONKEY: There will be world-shaking happenings tonight.

DOG: World-shaking happenings ?! No, I can't wait. I've got to get
back to the sheep now.

(DOG EXITS STAGE LEFT. DONKEY STANDS LISTENING)

CHORUS: (SINGS, OFFSTAGE, "CRADLE HYMN".)
Away in a manner, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(DONKEY NODS. THEN SLOWLY EXITS STAGE LEFT.
ENTER FROM STAGE RIGHT OX AND COW. OX IS VERY ANGRY.)

OX: I won't. I won't have it! I won't! I won't!!

COW: There's no need to make such afuss. They won't be here long.

OX: How do you know they won't? May be here for months and months.

COW: The poor Lady needs some place to rest tonight.

OX: And who said they could have MY stable?

COW: There was no room for them in the inn.

OX: So I have to go out here.

COW: You would come out - there was no need. We could go in again.

OX: And see them in MY manger, sleeping in MY hay! And me practically fainting with hunger. Certainly not!

COW: Come on, let's go in.

OX: (SINGS) If I want to be miserable,
Then I mean to be miserable
And nobody, nobody, nobody can cheer me up,
If you think I'm disagreeable
I'll be more disagreeable
Till everyone, everyone, everyone will give me up.
Oh, it's cold out here
And it's dark out here
And nobody cares for a poor, frozen ox;
So just as long as I'm able
I have every mortal right
To complain all day and night
Till I get back to my nice warm stable.

COW: We could go in, you know.

OX: Are you deliberately trying to annoy me? I'm not going in.
(SINGS) I'm an ox, but I'm so reasonable,
In the right and so reasonable,
As everyone, everyone, everyone can surely judge.
If you don't think me sensible
It's just incomprehensible
And nobody, nobody, nobody will make me budge.
So I'll stay out here
In the cold out here
With wind whistling round me and hunger and pain,
But just as long as I'm able
If it's short or if it's long
Till I get back to my nice warm stable.

COW: I don't feel any wind whistling particularly.

OX: That's not the point. It could be whistling any moment now.

COW: But we could go in.

OX: I've told you, I'm not going in. I'm going to sleep out here. In the cold.

CHORUS:(SINGS, OFFSTAGE, "SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS ABIDING")
Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er their flocks by night,
God wth man is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant light.
(SINGS CHORUS "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO")

OX: What's all that noise? Now we can't even get any peace here. It's enough to try the patience of a saint.

(ENTER TURTLE DOVE FROM STAGE LEFT)

DOVE: This must be the place. There's the star. Please, have you seen a child here?

OX: Child? There's no child here. But let me tell you I've been robbed of my manger and my hay.

COW: Don't pay any attention to him, Turtle Dove. Go right in there..

CHORUS: SINGS CHORUS AGAIN "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO"

(TURTLE DOVE EXITS STAGE RIGHT)

OX: Such nonsense! A star. A child. How am I supposed to get any sleep with all this going on.

(ENTER CAT FROM STAGE LEFT)

CAT: Exactly what I say. Very sensible of you Ox. Though, as a matter of fact, I like sleeping by day better. Why don't we form an "Animals' Protective Association"? Ox, You could be president..

COW: Now, Cat, that's enough of you and your associations. Some of us have work around here.

OX: Well, I don't know. Cat may have something there. Sounds sensible to me. Not like the nonsense that pigeon was talking.

CAT: (PERKS UP) Did you say pigeon? Where? Where? (LOOKS AROUND)

OX: What do you want with pigeon?

CAT: Oh, nothing...nothing.

COW: It's Turtle Dove, not pigeon. And just let me see you trying any

of your tricks with Turtle Dove, Cat, and you'll be sorry.

CAT: Now you know me.....

COW: Yes, I know you. Only too well. Be off with you.

CAT: (GOING) I'll talk to you some other time, Ox. (GOES, THEN
REAPPEARS) When we can be alone.
(EXIT CAT, STAGE LEFT, CHASED BY COW.)

COW: That Cat wants watching.

OX: Oh, Cat's all right. I thought her idea of an association was not bad.

(ENTER TURTLE DOVE, FROM STAGE RIGHT, VERY EXCITED.)

OX: Now there's that Pigeon back again.

COW: What is it, Turtle Dove?

DOVE: (SINGS) There is a Child,
A Child in the manger.
Oh come and see him, come and adore.

CHORUS SINGS OFF: There is a Child,
A Child in the manger.
Oh come and see him, come and adore.

DOVE: I saw the light,
I saw the star.
I came to greet him from afar.

CHORUS OFF : There is a Child.....etc

DOVE: I heard a call,
I saw the light.
I flew to greet him in the night.

CHORUS OFF: There is a Child.....etc

DOVE: I saw the Child,
And joy He brings
The infant Lord, the king of kings.

(MUSIC CONTINUES SOFTLY UNDER DIALOGUE)

OX: Why can't you keep quiet? The middle of the night's no time
for singing. And what's more it's MY manger.

DOVE: It is a time for singing, If it's your manger, you should be singing, too.

DOVE: Oh, look! There are more people coming this way. They're dressed in the most wonderful robes. And they're riding on camels!

OX: Camels! Camels! They'll take the last straw. How many camels?

DOVE: (COUNTS) One, two, three. Big ones.

OX: Camels! Ugly, hump-backed, bad-tempered things.

(CAMEL'S HEAD SUDDENLY APPEARS.)

CAMEL: You were saying?

OX: Go away! What do you want here? (HEAD DISAPPEARS)

CHORUS OFF: ANOTHER VERSE OF "SHEPERDS IN THE FIELDS"
Wise men, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar.
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star..

(SING CHORUS "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO")

DURING CAROL, ENTER STAGE LEFT, CHAMBERLAIN, PAGES WITH GIFTS, THREE KINGS AND ATTENDANTS, UNPACK GIFTS, PROCESS IN STABLE, STAGE RIGHT.

OX: But they all can't be coming to see a Child?!

DOVE: (COMING DOWN FROM LADDER) Oh yes, they can. There is a Child, you know. Why don't you come in and see?

OX: Yes, sleeping in my manger, on my hay! Certainly not!

EXIT DOVE STAGE RIGHT. ENTER DONKEY STAGE LEFT. MUSIC STOPS.

OX: Now look at this. Here's another. It's a regular Noah's Ark. A circus.
(DONKEY MAKES NO REPLY) Well, can't you say something?

DONKEY: I'm Joseph's donkey.

OX: So, you're one of them that turned me out!

DONKEY: I wouldn't turn anyone out.

COW: We could go in you know.

OX: Will you be quiet!

DONKEY: I was worse than you once. Wouldn't do anything anyone else suggested. Bitter, I was. No friends.

OX: Ugh!

COW: But you brought them here.

DONKEY: Yes, I carried Her. We came a long way. And then there was
no room - till you were so kind.

COW: It was the least we could do. Something's wonderful about Them.

DONKEY: You feel it too?

(SINGS) There's a wonder in the air,
There is wonder everywhere,
For it's happening, happening, happening,
A gift that is plain to see.
You may wonder, if you care
It's a wonder we can share,
For it's happening, happening, happening
This moment in you and me.
There is no use protesting you heart is like ice.
I'm simply suggesting it can change in a trice.

CHORUS OFF: There is a wonder . . . etc.

DONKEY; (SINGS) To feed on resentment will make you grow thin.
Here's peace and contentment where all can come in.

CHORUS OFF: There's a wonder . . . etc.

DONKEY: (SINGS) The world is so dismal with us as we are.
It's a folly abysmal not to follow the Star.

CHORUS OFF: There's a wonder . . . etc.

OX: And what have you got now that's any different?

DONKEY: I've got a destiny now. I know why I'm here and what my part is.
When you know that you don't need to grumble anymore - even
when things are hard. We have even a longer way to go soon - all
the way to Egypt. But I feel as if I had wings now. You saw those
shepherds. You saw those Kings. You saw that Star. There's a
destiny here for each and very one of us - if you want it.

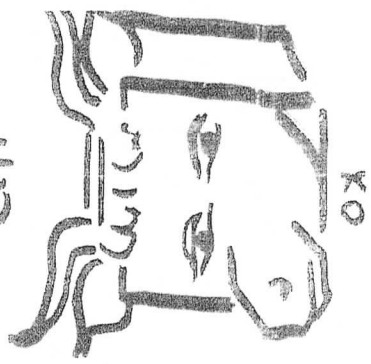
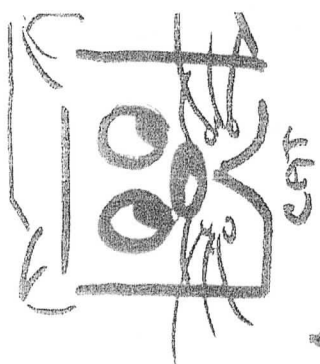
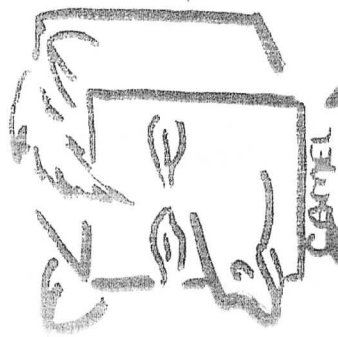
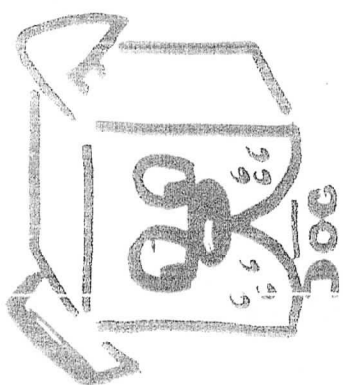
COW: Are you going in?

DONKEY: Yes, I'm needed. We're all needed. You're needed.

(DONKEY EXITS STAGE RIGHT, AS CHORUS SINGS.)

CHORUS OFF: There's a wonder in the air,
There's wonder everywhere,
For it's happening, happening, happening,
A gift that is plain to see.

OX: It's nonsense. It must be nonsense.



COSTUMES

Simple Masks

The masks illustrated on this page are made from paper bags. All of the facial features and characteristics are cut from colored construction paper and pasted to the bag. Whenever it is possible, use 3-D techniques in adhering ears, noses, and other features.

It is important that eye-holes are cut through the paper bag and that these holes are large enough for the child to have full visior coverage.

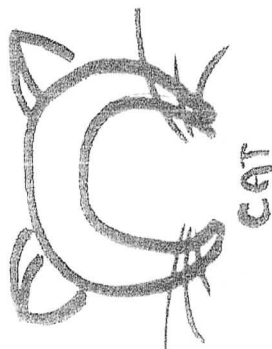
The person who plays the role of the dove will not necessarily need a mask. A white bathing cap may be worn over the head, and wings can be constructed from white poster board.



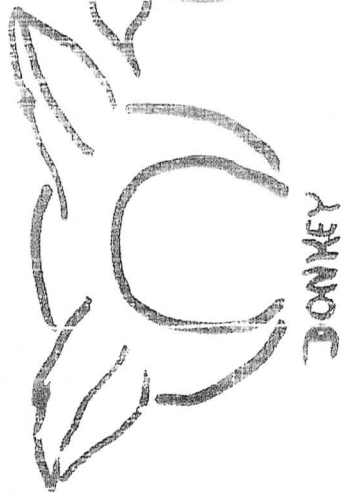
DOG



CAMEL



CAT



DONKEY



COW



OX

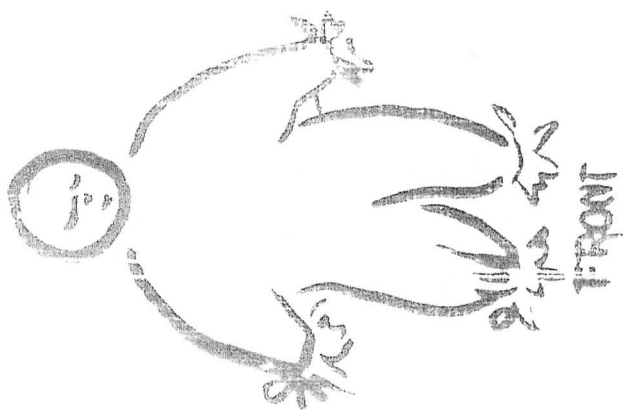
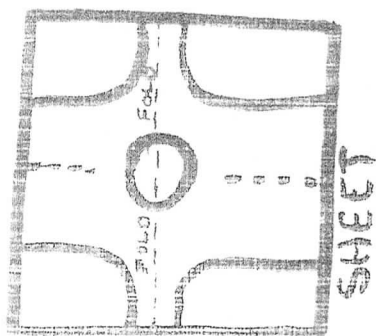
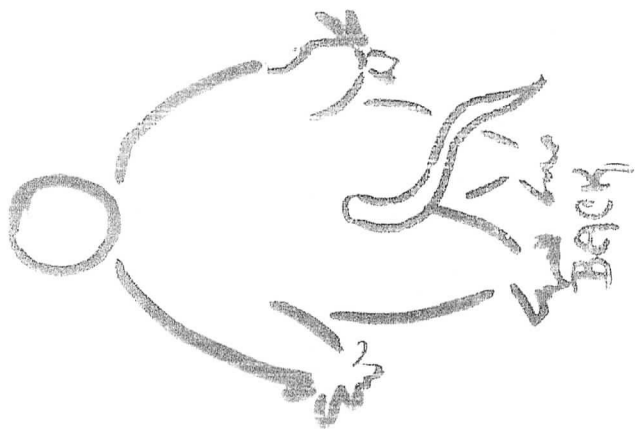
Cloth Costumes

The chief advantage of cloth head-coverings is that faces and facial expressions of the actors may be seen by the audience. Often this adds much to the mood of the play.

Full pattern costumes may be purchased from any sewing store or sewing section of a department store, if one desires to become too much involved. Parents sometimes volunteer to make these.

However, simple cloth costumes may be made from scraps and from inexpensive material.

Let's begin with the head covering. A simple hood with a draw-string is a good start. Select or dye material to match the color of the animal's skin. After the hood is constructed, sew on ears and other features.



For the rest of the costume, we suggest using an ordinary bed sheet. The sheet can be dyed a color to match the animal's hide.

The first step is to cut a hole, large enough to fit over the child's head, in the center of the sheet. A small pattern has been illustrated above for you. Fold the sheet on the small dotted line marked "fold" and cut the corners away as marked, to allow the costume to fit the arms and legs.

Leaving material folded, sew up side seams. Then place costume over child's head. Gather up arm holes around child's wrists and secure with a ribbon or string.

If the sheet is slit between the child's legs (heavy dotted line) you will be able to gather and tie each section around one of his ankles.

Just gather ankles, do NOT sew between legs as you need to put the costumes on like a shirt unless you want to get extremely fancy with expensive zippers etc.



Above is a photograph of
George Fraser in 1946
(No photo of John Morrison was available
at time of this publication)

George Fraser and John Morrison were fellow Scots, giants of theater and music. Gifted with boundless creativity, their wit and humor was tempered with sensitivity to people and their needs. They were a team, but different. Fraser, the musician and the shorter of the two, seemed to bound through life, providing a sergeant's organizing tone when needed. Morrison radiated a quieter charm, with eyes that could twinkle or grow stern as called for by the moment.

Fraser, born in 1905, was pianist and leading boy soprano at the Episcopal church he attended.

Morrison, born next to his father's church in 1906, was a brilliant student of Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus. While still students, each committed his life to service expecting church careers. In their 20s they met what was then called the Oxford Group, left the beaten path, and spent their lives serving God, investing their hearts, minds and talents in the lives of others around the world.

John spoke many languages, and published some of his stream of poetry as "Poems for People." George spoke "music," the universal language. They collaborated on hundreds of songs, among them the haunting "Sun & Wind & Sea," written as they sailed on their first journey westward across the Atlantic. Fraser's last composition was a setting for the Twenty-third Psalm. They are among 30+ Fraser singles recorded on two CDs to be published in early 2008.

Peter Howard wrote book & lyrics for Fraser's three musical dramas: The Vanishing Island, Give a Dog a Bone, and The Crowning Experience. Fraser's versatility is apparent in the stylistic differences of these productions.

He died 1967 while involved in Up With People's explosive early years. Morrison died in Inverness in 1978, survived by his wife and son.

Eight Fraser CDs are available from ravens@matched-pair.com
2 CDs of The Vanishing Island - musical for statesmen, 1955
2 CDs of We Could Go In - musical for Christmas, 1956
1 CD of The Crowning Experience - musical of the life of Dr Mary MacLeod Bethune, 1957 - also on DVD
1 CD of Give a Dog a Bone - musical for children, 1964 - also on DVD
2 CDs of George Fraser's Songs, 1936-1967 (available 2008)

Please order from: ravens@matched-pair.com