

Change The World Together

by Sarah Baker

SCENE 1 The Tree Festival

WONDERFUL LIFE (incidental)

(☉ Track 1/20)

*[SCENE ONE CAST enter and mill around happily.
SIGN HOLDER crosses from Downstage Left to Right, holding sign that says '20__ TREE FESTIVAL' (indicating a year that's 50 years in the future). CHILD 1, 2, 3 & 4 play together. BELL RINGER rings bell to get everyone's attention, then returns to base position. MAYOR goes to Centre Stage.]*

MAYOR Welcome, welcome! What a perfect day for the Tree Festival.
[ALL applaud.]

Today we celebrate the richness of our wonderful world,
and our trees in particular. Let's hear it for the trees!

ALL *(flinging arms out or up)* The trees!

*[ALL applaud again.
CHILD 1 & 2 and TOWNSFOLK 1 & 2 join MAYOR.]*

MAYOR This festival is all about our magnificent trees.
Who can tell me why they're so important to our environment?

[CHILD 1 & 2 shoot their hands up.]

CHILD 1 *(eagerly)* They are home to so many creatures.

CHILD 2 Especially insects.

TOWNSFOLK 1 Trees protect the soil...

TOWNSFOLK 2 They give us oxygen to breathe.

CHILD 1 & 2 And they're beautiful!

MAYOR

They are – and they help make our town the most wonderful town in the world.

[SCENE ONE CAST spread across the stage to sing.]

WONDERFUL LIFE

(☉ Track 2 / 21)

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE WHEN THE TREES ARE GROWING,
WONDERFUL LIFE WITH A COOL BREEZE BLOWING.
EVERYTHING'S GREEN WHEN THE STREAMS ARE FLOWING.
WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL LIFE.

LEAVES ARE RUSTLING IN THE TREES,
CREATURES NEST AND BURROW.
HEDGEROWS HUM AND TRILL WITH SONG.
THE FLOWERS WILL BLOOM TOMORROW.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE... *(etc.)*

[Key change]

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE... *(etc.)*

WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL LIFE.
WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL LIFE.

[ALL return to base positions, except for ROBIN, OLD SOFIA & CHILD 1 & 2, who go to Downstage Centre.]

ROBIN

I love the Tree Festival.
(to SOFIA) Did you have it when you were young?

OLD SOFIA

Oh no, it's quite a new thing.

ROBIN

Oh! Why's that? Haven't the trees always been there?

OLD SOFIA

(shakes head) No. And there's a very important story you need to know about these trees.

CHILD 1 & 2

Oh please tell us!

CHILDREN

Tell us the story, Sofia!

OLD SOFIA

OK. Listen carefully. *(gathers them around her)*
Once – when I was much, much younger – there was a very rich man.
He owned all the land round here, as far as you can see.
It was a long time ago...

BACK IN TIME (incidental)

(☉ Track 3 / 22)

[EXIT all characters to base positions (or offstage) as if going back in time, perhaps slowly spiralling. Fade music when ready. SIGN HOLDER crosses downstage from Right to Left, holding up '50 YEARS PREVIOUSLY' sign, then remains Stage Left.]

SCENE 2 **Timber For Furniture**

[LANDOWNER speaks as he enters, rubbing hands greedily.]

LANDOWNER *(laughing greedily)* I'm so rich! I own all of this land!
(to audience, pointing) See that forest there? Belongs to me.
(pointing) See that river there? Belongs to me.
(pointing) See that field there?
(to CHORUS) Getting the hang of this yet?

CHORUS *(monotone chant)* It all belongs to you.

[As LANDOWNER speaks, SUNNI & JOE enter, Upstage Left, miming happy chatter. They cross to Right upstage, then go to Downstage Right.]

LANDOWNER *(indicates SUNNI & JOE)* See these people coming?

CHORUS *(chant)* They belong to you__?

LANDOWNER Er, well, not exactly! But whenever they have a problem, they turn to me. And naturally I'm happy to help... *(rubs fingers)* for a fee!

[LANDOWNER walks to Downstage Left, rubbing hands as before. SUNNI & JOE speak as they go to Downstage Centre. LANDOWNER makes it obvious he's listening to them throughout.]

SUNNI What a lovely place to live!

JOE *(nodding)* It is. Perfect for a keen gardener like me. Great weather, great soil, plenty of trees to provide a nice bit of shade.

SUNNI Shade? *(walking to Downstage Right)* I want as much sun as I can get!

*[SUNNI adopts standing sun-worship posture.
JOE continues listing benefits, ignoring SUNNI.]*

JOE Yes, it's perfect. Not too hilly, great drainage, and the river gives plenty of water to keep my garden looking beautiful.

SUNNI It's a proper paradise! Everyone should live here.

[ROWAN & ASHLEY enter and approach JOE.]

Hey, there's Rowan and Ashley! Hi you two!

[SUNNI walks over to ROWAN & ASHLEY.]

ROWAN & ASHLEY Hi!

JOE I heard you're moving here. Is that right?

ASHLEY Yes!

[LANDOWNER pricks up his ears.]

