
GONG (☉ Track 18) [Enter VIZIER.]

VIZIER The executioner is waiting for your orders, Great Sultan.
DINAZADE O Great Sultan, wouldn't you like to hear one more story?
VIZIER Will you permit this, O Great One?
SULTAN Perhaps one more. Come back tomorrow – same time.

SCENE 10 **1001 Tales**

CHRIS What fantastic tales! No wonder the Sultan kept wanting more!
SAMMY Did Scheherazade have many more to tell?
CHRIS Any gruesome ones?
OLD MAN She certainly did. She went on telling them for a thousand nights.
SAMMY / CHRIS A thousand nights?
OLD MAN A thousand and one, in fact. And each tale was different from the last.
SAMMY And each one saved her from being killed...
CHRIS Or someone else...
SAMMY What an amazing person she was.
OLD MAN Indeed, a brave and clever person. Come with me, I'll show you some more.

[OLD MAN can pick up a fiddle from the shelf, and 'play' along with the music, or simply hold the open book, as he leads SAMMY & CHRIS around the edges of a dance (slowly, so as not to detract from the movement). The children point and whisper in response to the dance. Meanwhile, SCHEHERAZADE mimes story-telling, with hand gestures, etc.]

The dance might represent any stories from the Arabian Nights, eg Aladdin, Sinbad, the Enchanted Horse, etc., or could re-use the characters from the tales we have just seen. Alternatively, it could simply be a dance with an eastern flavour, perhaps having a magic carpet theme and using strips of colourful chiffon cloth as props.

1001 TALES (Dance) (☉ Track 14)

[After 2:30 mins cue CAST to join in – at 2:39 – for the finish:]

ONE HUNDRED AND ONE,
TWO HUNDRED AND ONE,
THREE HUNDRED AND ONE,
FOUR HUNDRED AND ONE,
FIVE HUNDRED AND ONE,
SIX HUNDRED AND ONE,

SEV'N HUNDRED AND ONE, EIGHT HUNDRED AND ONE
NINE HUNDRED AND ONE_____

A THOUSAND AND ONE TALES,
THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS.
A THOUSAND AND ONE TALES
TOLD ON ARABIAN NIGHTS!

A THOUSAND AND ONE TALES,
THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS.
A THOUSAND AND ONE TALES
TOLD ON ARABIAN NIGHTS!

*[DANCERS draw back from their finish positions to
'frozen' positions in groups upstage. OLD MAN, SAMMY
& CHRIS return to Al's Place, speaking as they move.]*

SAMMY But what happened after that?
CHRIS After a thousand and one nights?
OLD MAN Scheherazade couldn't think of any more stories.
SAMMY Oh no! What did the Sultan do?
CHRIS *(concerned - not bloodthirsty!)* He didn't kill her, did he?

*[OLD MAN points to SCHEHERAZADE, who moves to
Centre. SAMMY & CHRIS turn to look at her, sitting to
watch her sing. During the song, SULTAN & CAST fall
asleep, but not characters needing to be awake!]*

SCENE 11 No More Songs

NO MORE SONGS (☉ Track 15)

Scheherazade

I HAVE NO MORE SONGS TO SING;
MY TALE IS NEAR ITS END.
I HAVE NO MORE WORDS IN ME –
THE WELL IS DRY, MY FRIEND.
IF ONLY LIFE WERE LIKE A BOOK
OF MAGIC SPELLS AND WISHING WELLS
I'D TAKE A WISH TO
MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE...
ONE WISH WOULD DO TO
MAKE MY DREAMS COME TRUE.

DINAZADE *(moving to SCHEHERAZADE)* Is this the end? Has he no
more use for you?

*[Fade in **THE WISHING GAME** (☉ Track 16)
DINAZADE & SCHEHERAZADE embrace, cry etc.]*

SAMMY It can't be the end!
CHRIS How could he kill her now?