

Director's Notes

Actions For The Choir

All of the songs have actions for the choir, which complement what is happening on stage. There may be short spells *within* a song (eg. in some of the verses) when no choir actions are indicated. This is to avoid things becoming over complicated and gives the children an opportunity to rest a little before the actions start up again. Of course they don't stop singing! Directions are suggested for the on-stage performers. These may be altered to taste, of course.

Costume Suggestions

Costumes are as required for any conventional nativity (ie dressing gowns, tea towels, angel robes, animal headgear, etc).

Cast List

Mary	Several Stars
Joseph	Several Shepherds
Their Donkey	Several Sheep / Lambs
3 Innkeepers	Several Angels
Several Townsfolk (optional)	Bethlehem Star holder
Several Cows	3 Wise Men
Several Donkeys	3 Pages (optional)
Several Chickens	3 Camels (optional)

Props

Doll (baby Jesus)
Manger
Chairs for Mary and Joseph
Gifts for Wise Men
Perhaps a 'glass' and tea towel for each of the Innkeepers to use
Bethlehem star

Staging Suggestions

The children will be part of the choir all the time they are not actually on stage. This choir might be situated beneath or to each side of the performing area (which may be a raised stage or simply a large space on the floor). Whilst in the choir, the children should sit in rows of like kind (eg. shepherds together, angels together etc.). When it is the turn of a particular group of children to perform, they should make their way from the choir to the stage during the interlude music. When they have finished their little performance, and the interlude music plays again, they can return to the choir as the next group leave it to come on. This method ensures that there is almost no time wasted between songs. The changeovers become part of the production and should look very slick. As will be apparent, some children will remain on stage after their 'go', to become part of the growing crib tableau which will remain until the end.

Director's Overview

The cast enter. Once they are in position they could wriggle and jiggle to the Wriggle Music (see below, Track 13 / 26) until everyone is ready to begin.

⦿ **Track 1 / 14** **A Wriggly Nativity**

Mary and Joseph and the donkey travel to Bethlehem.

⦿ **Track 2 / 15** **Donkey Plodding**

They try to find somewhere to stay for the night.

⦿ **Track 3 / 16** **Knock On Another Door**
⦿ **Track 4 / 17** **Stable Music (incidental)**

Jesus is born. Mary rocks him gently.

⦿ **Track 5 / 18** **Rockabye Jesus**

The animals are all very excited to have this special baby born in their stable.

⦿ **Track 6 / 19** **Dancing About In The Straw**

Then everything is quiet and still. The night sky is full of twinkling stars.

⦿ **Track 7 / 20** **Twinkling Stars**
⦿ **Track 8 / 21** **Twinkle Music (incidental)**

On a hillside nearby shepherds see the sky filled with an amazing light.

⦿ **Track 9 / 22** **Skip, Skip, Skippity Hop**

Angels fill the sky.

⦿ **Track 10 / 23** **Angels**

Wise men from the East see a special star, and follow it to find baby Jesus.

⦿ **Track 11 / 24** **Bumping Up And Down On A Camel**

At last they reach Bethlehem, and they are happy to see the new baby King.

⦿ **Track 12 / 25** **A Wriggly Nativity (reprise)**

⦿ **Track 13 / 26** **Wriggle Music**
[use this music to fill gaps and to cover movement as necessary. Children sing along: 'Wriggle, wriggle, jiggle, jiggle, wriggly nativity' as shown on track 13, or the backing track alone can be played, track 26]

Please remember that all performances must be by prior arrangement with the Publishers,
from whom licences must be obtained.

A Wriggly Nativity

By Peter Fardell

[Wriggle music (© Track 13 / 26) can be played until all the children are seated as described in the Director's notes. If using the CD, fade out when ready.]

NARRATORS 1 & 2 We're very excited!

ALL We can't sit still! (*ALL wriggle!*)

ACTIONS FOR CHOIR:

"Can you feel the thrill?" "Glory, glory, what a story!" "No-one's sitting still!"



Hands on heart



Open arms



Wriggle shoulders



A WRIGGLY NATIVITY

(© Track 1 / 14)

*WRIGGLY NATIVITY, WRIGGLY NATIVITY!
SOMEHOW YOU'VE JUST GOT TO MOVE:
IT'S A WRIGGLY NATIVITY.*

*CAN YOU FEEL THE THRILL?
CAN YOU FEEL THE THRILL?
GLORY, GLORY, WHAT A STORY!
NO-ONE'S SITTING STILL!*

WRIGGLY NATIVITY... etc.

ALL

This is the story of the first Christmas!

[Wriggle Music (© Tr 13 / 26) may be played (optional) as MARY, JOSEPH & DONKEY leave the choir and come onto the stage.]

NARRATOR 1

Many years ago, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem.

NARRATOR 2

It was a long way from their home.