

Playstage

Junior

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## A PRESENT FOR MOTHER CHRISTMAS



Santa is on the hunt around the world for the perfect present for his wife!

A happy Christmas play with songs.



Written by

Lindsey Varley

## A PRESENT FOR MOTHER CHRISTMAS

CAST : in order of appearance.

ELVES (*Can double up with other parts below*)

TOY SOLDIER (*Non speaking*)

TOY DOLL (*Non speaking*)

FATHER CHRISTMAS

His Assistants - PING 1 & PING 2 – (*part of comedy duo*)

MOTHER CHRISTMAS (*tired from working hard in the toy factory*)

RUDOLF (*proud of his job as Father Christmas's chauffeur. Bit snooty.*)

REINDEER (*up to 8*)

QUEENIE

SOLDIERS (*up to 4, non speaking*)

PIZZA SELLERS (*suggested number 3*)

MASAI TRIBESPEOPLE (*suggested number 3*)

CHINESE MAIDENS (*suggested number 3. Need to be able to dance*)

THE AUSTRALIANS – an Aborigine, A Kangaroo, A Convict, A Bushie (*suggested number 4.*)

*21 speaking parts. Unlimited chorus/singing/non-speaking.*

*Running time approximately 40 minutes.*

## MUSIC

*Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Songs can be trimmed to whatever length required. Free sound effects sources are given below. Videos of the songs below can be found on You Tube for rehearsal purposes in class.*

### SUGGESTED SONGS, SOUND EFFECTS AND DANCE MUSIC

1/ 9 TO 5 by Dolly Parton

[http://www.backingtrax.co.uk/search\\_backing\\_tracks.asp?search=9+to+5www.ameritz](http://www.backingtrax.co.uk/search_backing_tracks.asp?search=9+to+5www.ameritz)

2/ Cartoon running sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHDWzH4HBwU>

3/ EAGLE by Abba (some word modification) <http://www.karaoke-version.co.uk/instrumental-mp3/abba/eagle.html>

4/ Screeching to a halt (sound effect used several times in the play)

<https://freesound.org/search/?q=screeching+tyres>

5/ DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER by Shirley Bassey (mimed)

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Diamonds+are+Forever+by+Shirley+Bassey+mp3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Diamonds+are+Forever+by+Shirley+Bassey+mp3)

6/ WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS (traditional)

[http://www.backingtrax.co.uk/search\\_backing\\_tracks.asp?search=We+wish+you+a+Merry+Christmas](http://www.backingtrax.co.uk/search_backing_tracks.asp?search=We+wish+you+a+Merry+Christmas)

7/ THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT by The Tokens

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B005M44JUQ/ref=dm\\_ws\\_tlw\\_trk1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B005M44JUQ/ref=dm_ws_tlw_trk1)

8/ Sound effect of lion roaring [http://www.freesfx.co.uk/soundeffects/lions\\_tigers\\_etc/](http://www.freesfx.co.uk/soundeffects/lions_tigers_etc/)

9/ NUTCRACKER Chinese dance (Various)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=the+nutcracker+ballet+music>

10/ I AM AUSTRALIAN by The Seekers

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=I+am+Australian+mp3&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3AI+am+Australian+mp3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=I+am+Australian+mp3&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3AI+am+Australian+mp3)

11/ JINGLE BELLS by Sammy Davis Jnr.

[http://www.backingtrax.co.uk/search\\_backing\\_tracks.asp?search=Jingle+Bells](http://www.backingtrax.co.uk/search_backing_tracks.asp?search=Jingle+Bells)

12/ THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=There%27s+no+place+like+home+for+the+holidays+mp3](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=There%27s+no+place+like+home+for+the+holidays+mp3)

A PRESENT FOR MOTHER CHRISTMAS

Scene 1: The workshop.

*ELVES, TOYS, FATHER CHRISTMAS, PING 1 and PING 2, MOTHER CHRISTMAS. PING 1 AND 2 on typewriters. (They have t-shirts on saying PING 1 and PING 2 – a play on Thing 1 and Thing 2. Two ELVES are finishing making SOLDIER and DOLL and other ELVES are wrapping presents. All other cast can be either sitting on benches on stage (in which case they join in with the songs) or individual cast members come on and off the stage as required.*

SONG 1. “WORKING 9 TO 5” sung by MOTHER CHRISTMAS (MOTHER C)

*(Elves on typewriters start up and provide the chorus.)*

Tumble outta bed  
 And I stumble to the kitchen  
 Pour myself a cup of ambition  
 And yawn and stretch  
 And try to come to life  
 Jump in the shower  
 And the blood starts pumpin'  
 Out on the street  
 The traffic starts jumpin'  
 The folks like me on the job from 9 to 5

CHORUS *(swaying)*

Workin' 9 to 5,  
 What a way to make a livin'  
 Barely gettin' by  
 It's all takin' and no givin'  
 They just use your mind  
 And they never give you credit  
 It's enough to drive you crazy  
 If you let it  
 9 to 5, for service and devotion

MOTHER C (*wagging finger*)

You would think that I  
Would deserve a fat promotion  
ALL

Want to move ahead

MOTHER (*pointing to FATHER C who has his arms folded, looking the other way*)

But the boss won't seem to let me  
I swear sometimes that man is out to get me  
ALL

They let you dream

Just to watch 'em shatter

You're just a step

On the boss-man's ladder (*MOTHER looking at FATHER*)

But you got dreams

He'll never take away

You're in the same boat

With a lotta your friends

Waitin' for the day your ship'll come in

'N' the tide's gonna turn

And it's all gonna roll your way

Workin' 9 to 5

What a way to make a livin'

Barely gettin' by

It's all takin' and no givin'

They just use your mind

And you never get the credit

It's enough to drive you crazy

If you let it

9 to 5, yeah

They got you where they want you

There's a better life

And you think about it, don't you

It's a rich man's game

No matter what they call it

And you spend your life  
Puttin' money in his wallet

9 to 5, whoa  
What a way to make a livin'  
Barely gettin' by  
It's all takin' and no givin'  
They just use your mind  
And they never give you credit  
It's enough to drive you crazy  
If you let it

9 to 5, yeah  
They got you where they want you  
There's a better life  
And you dream about it, don't you  
It's a rich man's game (*rub fingers together*)  
No matter what they call it  
And you spend your life  
Puttin' money in his wallet (*hands in wallets*)

Working 9 to 5

**MOTHER C** (*in pink fluffy slippers and apron*) *slumps onto a chair exhausted.*

I'm absolutely exhaustipooped! I need to put my feet up and have a cup of tea, I haven't stopped for hours.

**FATHER C**

Come on now dear, you haven't finished work yet and we can't keep the children waiting for their presents.

**MOTHER C**

I know, I know. It's alright for you though, you get to go out and around the world on your sleigh whereas I'm here working away making all these toys. (*Looks around to everyone else who nod*). And we're up against a tight deadline. No toys mean no Christmas.

FATHER C

I know my dear, you work very hard, but we must get a move on if Christmas is going to be on time.

MOTHER C

Hmmph.

FATHER C

I'll be back later to see how you've got on.

MOTHER C

I don't know! Presents, presents everywhere and none of them for me!

*(MOTHER C pulls herself out of her chair and carries on making toys. This could be done with her wrapping big cardboard boxes with Christmassy paper and a bow. The ELVES also carry on working on their TOYS).*

ALL

Workin' 9 to 5,

What a way to make a livin'.... (fade out)

*(FATHER CHRISTMAS moves over to side of stage with PING 1 and PING 2 who have been wrapping presents. He acknowledges he's heard MOTHER C's last line.)*

FATHER C

Poor Mother Christmas, she's been working so hard. I wish I could find a way to say "thank you". *(PING 1 & PING 2 listening)*.

PING 1

You could always get her a present?

PING 2

A Christmas present.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

A present? But what do you get the woman who has everything? We only have toys for children here, soldiers, dolls, x-boxes.

PING 1

Something she hasn't got maybe.

FATHER

But where do you get something for someone who has everything?



PING 2

A big department store?

*(FATHER CHRISTMAS shakes his head)*

PING1

Maybe Rudolf and the reindeer can help you?

FATHER

Good idea. I shall ask them.

*(MOTHER C AND TOYSHOP scene move off stage)*

*(FATHER CHRISTMAS, PING 2 & PING 2 move to centre. FATHER whistles with his fingers in his mouth and RUDOLF and REINDEER appear to cartoon running sound effect.)*

RUDOLF

You called?

FATHER C

Yes, Rudolf. I need a present for Mother Christmas. I want you to take me away on a trip round the world to find something she's never had before.

RUDOLF

Good idea sir, I've done the same for Mrs Rudolf and she was very happy with what I gave her

FATHER C

What did you give her?

RUDOLF

A break from me!

FATHER

Very funny. Well. As Mother Christmas is a woman who has everything, I want you and your troop of reindeer to take me far and wide, *(getting dramatic)* over mountains and forests and seas, through hill and valley ...

RUDOLF *(irritated)*

I get the picture.

FATHER

.. to find the ultimate gift that she will love. Will you and your crew be my guide?

RUDOLF

Flying tonight! One careful owner (*pointing to sleigh*). All aboard, hop on. (*To fellow reindeers*). Ready guys? (*They nod*). Then let's be off.

*(FATHER CHRISTMAS, PING 1 & PING 2 climb aboard the sleigh which is positioned centre stage, facing the audience, built up slightly at the back so we can see the passengers. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) Throughout the song, all of those in the sleigh, including the reindeer and all the cast if sitting on benches on the stage sway as if moving in the air.)*

SONG 3 – THE EAGLE

RUDOLF

They came flying from far away  
Now I'm under their spell  
I love hearing the stories that they tell

REINDEER 1 & 2

They've seen places beyond my land  
And they found new horizons  
They speak strangely but I understand

ALL

And I dream I'm a eagle  
And I dream I can spread my wings  
*(ALL moving from side to side with arms out as if flying)*  
Flyin' high, high, like a bird in the sky  
I'm an eagle that rides on the breeze  
High, high, what a feeling to fly  
Over mountains and forests and seas *(ALL arm moving outwards as if showing the sights)*  
And to go anywhere that I please

RUDOLF

I saw good friends we talked all night  
And we fly wing to wing  
I have questions and they know everything *(RUDOLF wagging finger)*

REINDEER 3 & 4

There's no limit to what I feel

We climb higher and higher

Am I dreaming or is this all real?

ALL

And I dream I'm an eagle

Is it true, I can spread my wings?

*(ALL as if flying)* Flyin' high, high, like a bird in the sky

I'm an eagle that rides on the breeze

High, high, what a feeling to fly

Over mountains and forests and seas

And to go anywhere that I please

RUDOLF

Is it true, I'm a reindeer?

Is it true, I can spread my wings?

ALL

Flyin' high, high, like a bird in the sky

I'm a reindeer that rides on the breeze

High, high, what a feeling to fly

Over mountains and forests and seas *(ALL arm moving outwards as if showing the sights)*

High, high, like a bird in the sky

I'm a reindeer that rides on the breeze

High, high, what a feeling to fly

Over mountains and forests and seas *(ALL arm moving outwards as if showing the sights)*

RUDOLF

And to go anywhere that I please

ALL

Wanna fly like a reindeer

Fly, fly

I dream, I'm a reindeer

Flyin', fly

*(END OF SONG)*

FATHER C

This is it folks, we're coming down to land. Steady on .... Woah! One, two, three ....

*Screech sound effect. They all pull back together then fall forwards, giving the effect of break landing. Meanwhile, QUEENIE has entered stage right. She looks like Shirley Bassey, with long dress and is dusting her crown with a feather duster. She has a toy corgie dog on a lead.*

FATHER C

Beg your pardon your majesty *(to the cast on the sleigh in a stage whisper)* It's the Queen of England! *(bowing)* Excuse me for dropping in unannounced, I had no idea I was aiming the sleigh for Buckingham Palace, the SATNAV must have been off course.

*(FATHER CHRISTMAS looks at RUDOLF who looks slightly annoyed. RUDOLF looks snooty as though he's done no wrong).*

QUEENIE

Those things are so unreliable aren't they? Anyway, hello Father Christmas - or should I call you Santa? *(She gives him her hand and he takes it and goes onto one knee. Then he stands.)* Fancy you popping in and it's not even Christmas yet! What a pleasant surprise. How can I help you?

FATHER C

We're on a mission. I'm looking for a present for Mother Christmas and my trusty crew here *(they bow)* are taking me around the world looking for the perfect gift.

QUEENIE

Well, I might be able to help you. I could lend you one of my corgies ...

FATHER C

*(He looks round at his crew who shake their heads all together but look a bit awkward)*

Hmmmm ...

QUEENIE

No, I think I'd miss I would miss Rover too much. How about one of my crowns? *(She shows him the crown in her hand that she is dusting).* I have too many as it is and a girl can only wear one crown at a time.

FATHER C

Well, that's a wonderful idea your majesty, as long as you feel you have one spare.

QUEENIE

Darling! I'm dripping in diamonds, they are the perfect gift for any wife (*exaggerated wink at audience*), and remember, diamonds *are* a girl's best friend.

FATHER C

I thought I was her best friend!

QUEENIE

Well, a diamond or two will last forever. As I keep telling myself ...

SONG 5 (*QUEENIE – miming to Shirley Bassey song, with all the exaggerated hand movements*)

Diamonds are forever, they are all I need to please me  
 They can stimulate and tease me  
 They won't leave in the night  
 I've no fear that they might desert me  
 Diamonds are forever, hold one up and then caress it  
 Touch it, stroke it and undress it  
 I can see ev'ry part, nothing hides in the heart to hurt me  
 I don't need love, for what good will love do me?  
 Diamonds never lie to me  
 For when love's gone, they'll lustre on  
 Diamonds are forever, sparkling round my little finger  
 Unlike men, the diamonds linger  
 Men are mere mortals who are not worth going to your grave for  
 I don't need love, for what good will love do me?  
 Diamonds never lie to me  
 For when love's gone, they'll lustre on  
 Diamonds are forever, forever, forever

*At the end of the song, QUEENIE hands FATHER CHRISTMAS her crown with a bow. He bows back as do the reindeer and everyone on the sleigh bow.*

FATHER C

Thank you, your majesty, I'm sure my wife will love this crown. (*heading towards sleigh*) We must fly to get back in time to give it to her before for Christmas. Thank you very much.

QUEENIE

Any time, Santa - and a happy Christmas to you all. Say hello to Mother Christmas from everyone at the palace. Do drop in again. (*She does a royal wave and exits*).

FATHER

Thank you and goodbye. (*Turns to Rudolf and crew. Puts the crown in a sack*). Well, there's a right royal present for starters. And now, howsabout something from a little further afield?

RUDOLF

Where were you thinking, sir?

FATHER

Just head south and let's see where we get to, right?

PING 1

Right

PING 2

Right

ALL

Right!

RUDOLF

Then off we go again ...

*(They all lean backwards as though the sleigh was climbing upwards)*

SONG 6- JINGLE BELLS (*everyone - even, perhaps the audience?*)

Dashing through the snow  
 In a one horse open sleigh  
 O'er the fields we go  
 Laughing all the way  
 Bells in bobtails ring  
 Making spirits bright  
 What fun it is to ride and sing  
 A sleighing song tonight