OUTREACH

COORDINATOR #1: Merry Christmas, everyone, and thank you for joining us at our annual caroling outreach! By giving people a tangible taste of God's love, we are really getting back to the *true* meaning of Christmas.

Back to the Manger

Words and Music by CHRISTY SEMSEN



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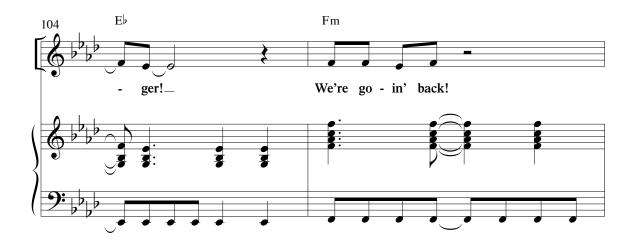




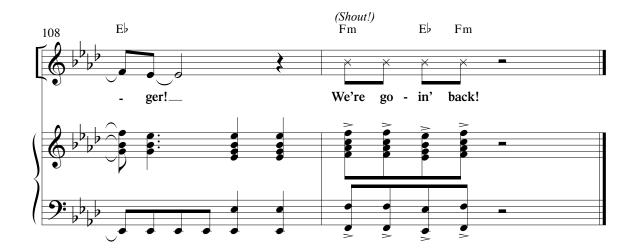












Scene 1

(Lights slowly fade up outside Midway Community Church. The church's bell tower is visible in the background. A banner is draped across it, and reads, "66th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 2010." The crowd is gathered center stage, excitedly awaiting the outreach coordinator's instructions. Jackson and his grandmother enter the stage walking toward the crowd.)

GRANDMA: Come on, Jackson, we'll be late for the Caroling

Outreach!

JACKSON: Aw, Grandma! I don't want to go. Do I look like a

singer?

GRANDMA: Now dear, you know this church has been giving Christmas

gift baskets to those less fortunate for more than 60 years. I've been at this outreach since I was a little girl. Will you

give it a chance?

JACKSON: Can we just stay home? I want to go spend the money I've

been saving on a new Wii game! (He waves his allowance

envelope in front of Grandma.)

GRANDMA: Holy guacamole, Jackson! I think you'll be surprised.

JACKSON: Why do you always say that, Grandma: "Holy

guacamole!"?

GRANDMA: Well, I suppose I've said it since I was young. It's a good

memory.

JACKSON: From back in the "olden days?"

GRANDMA: Yes, from back in the "olden days". I just call it the past.

JACKSON: Things from the past don't count. The future is cool.

GRANDMA: But Jackson, the past is a valuable part of who we are today.

JACKSON: Huh?

GRANDMA: (sees Jasmine) Oh, hello, Jasmine! How's your grandmother

doing? I haven't seen Carol lately.

JASMINE: Oh, she's great, Mrs. Worthington. She's over helping set

up the baskets in the fellowship hall.

GRANDMA: Well, I think I'll go help her. Jasmine, this is my Grandson,

Jackson. He's staying with me for the holidays. I'll be

back in a few! (she leaves)

JASMINE: Hi!

JACKSON: (unenthusiastically) **Hey.**

JASMINE: This is my cousin, Gloria.

GLORIA: Hi!

JACKSON: (long pause) **Hey.**

JASMINE: (Trying again) I love coming to this outreach! Do you like

music?

JACKSON: Music? Yeah. Caroling? No! (music begins to "Can You

Hear the Bells?") Real music—mostly Hip Hop, some

Rap.

GLORIA: (excitedly) Well, I love caroling!

JASMINE: Me, too . . . and whenever I hear our church bells it just

puts me in the Christmas spirit.

JACKSON: (sarcastically) They're going to sing . . . great.

Can You Hear the Bells? with Angels We Have Heard on High



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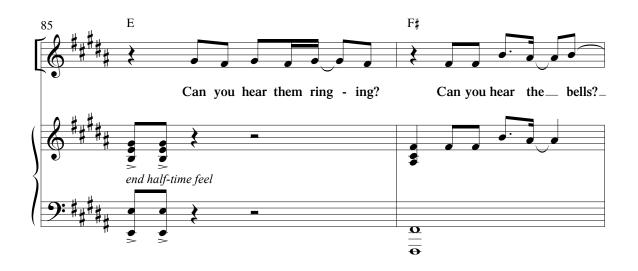




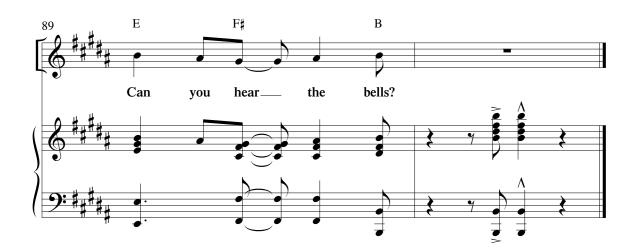
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Scene 2

NORMAN: (stage whisper) Hey, guys! Guys! Come here! I've got

to show this to someone! (Gloria and Jasmine walk toward

Norman; Jackson does so, but somewhat hesitantly.)

JASMINE: Hey, Norman! What is it?

NORMAN: (smart, geeky manner) The most amazing invention of my

short, but illustrious career as an inventor! WAIT until

you see this!

MR. OLSON: (backing out, turning machine around from Lost and Found

area) I can't believe this day has finally come! (turns around and is startled upon seeing the group) Aah! Who are

they?

NORMAN: These are my friends. Guys, you know Mr. Olson, the

church Custodian. (Kids warmly greet Mr. Olson.)

JACKSON: (wearily) **Hey.**

MR. OLSON: (absent-mindedly) Henry Olson. Nice to meet you. (under

his breath to Norman! I told you, this is top-

secret! My invention can't be revealed to anyone!

JACKSON: (snidely) His invention? I thought you said it was yours.

NORMAN: (flustered) Well, it's partly mine. I thought of . . . that lever

over there. And, and . . . (trailing off) the name. (He is met

by blank stares)

JASMINE: (dryly) What's the name?

NORMAN: (proudly) The H/O-2000 Temporal Displacement

Modulator! (Pauses for excitement with a "tada!" motion. Clearing his throat, he tries again.) The H/O-2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator! (Whispering excitedly) It's a time

machine!

GROUP: (expressions of disinterest) We've got to get going . . . It's

going to be a long day . . . Good luck!

GLORIA: Awesome! What's a time machine?

NORMAN: Thank you, Gloria. (glaring at others) A time machine, my

doubting friends, can transport you anywhere in the past

or future.

JACKSON: (sarcastically) I'd rather be caroling.

GLORIA: I think it's exciting! You could use it to visit the future!

JACKSON: The future? Cool! That's a lot better than going

backwards!

JASMINE: What are you going to do, Mr. Olson?

MR. OLSON: (jubilantly) I'm going to be rich! I'm going to go start a

new life! I'll buy stock in Microsoft in 1978. I'll become best friends with Walt Disney in 1930. Maybe pick up a few historical artifacts on the cheap. Let me tell ya, kids whoever said money can't buy happiness was just trying

to keep us all from knowing the secret to happiness.

Now, I just punch in the date, (Time Machine SFX 1 12

begins) ahh, December 24...

KID 1: Excuse me, Mr. Olson. There's a big eggnog spill in the

fellowship hall. Can you please help us?

MR. OLSON: (distracted, stammering) Yes, yes, of course. (emphatically

whispers) Kids, don't touch anything!

(Mr. Olson leaves)

NORMAN: (getting inside the machine) Ah, isn't she a beauty?

GLORIA: We're not supposed to touch it.

JACKSON: (Sarcastically, as he leans on one of the levers) Yeah, what

could happen? (Time Machine SFX 2 13) begins, lights flash

wildly, opt. strobe effect, smoke machine, etc.)

NORMAN: Jackson, what did you do?!

ALL: What was that? What is going on? Do you hear that?

NORMAN: I dunno, but I think it's working! (As Time Machine SFX 2

winds down, lights blackout.)

(The kids slowly take in their "new" surroundings, except for Norman, who continues staring at the time machine. The lights slowly fade up to reveal Midway Community Church. The banner across the bell tower now reads, "34th Annual

Caroling Outreach. Dec. 24, 1978.")

JASMINE: Whew! We're still here at the church. Sorry, Norman!

(music begins to "Let Us Love")

NORMAN: (continues staring at the time machine, oblivious to his

"new" surroundings) That was weird. I don't know what

happened . . .

JACKSON: Hey, what is wrong with that bro's hair? (Someone dressed

in vintage 70s clothes, complete with outrageously long or

frizzy hair, walks by, downstage of the group.)

NORMAN: Something definitely happened . . .

JACKSON: (another "70s person" walks by) Seriously, what is up with

the hair!?

GLORIA: Um, guys. I think something happened.

OUTREACH

COORDINATOR #2: Merry Christmas, everyone! And welcome to our 34th

Annual Caroling Outreach! (He continues talking in

pantomime as dialogue continues.)

NORMAN: Did you hear that? 34 years instead of 66! If this is the

34th Annual Outreach, it must be . . .

GLORIA: 1978!

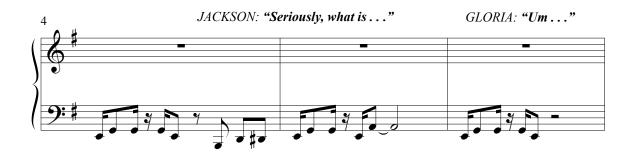
ALL: (pointing to the sign) 1978!?

(During "Let Us Love", Norman tinkers with the machine,

trying to determine how to return to "the present.")

Let Us Love









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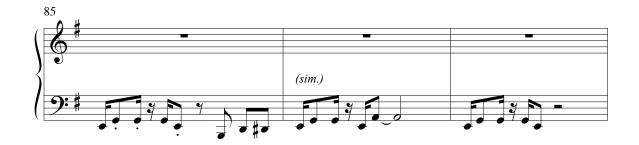
OUTREACH COORDINATOR 2:

(ms. 84) Before we go into the fellowship hall, I would like to remind you of our theme verse, 1 John 3:16 and 18: "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let's show the truth by our actions."

KIDS: (react) Yeah! Alright! (etc.)

COORDINATOR 2: "Before we go . . . "













(After "Let Us Love", Outreach Coordinator #2 and a few

people exit to the fellowship hall)

I think we have a problem. NORMAN.

You are not joking—I am simply not dressed for this time JASMINE:

period. I need to go shopping!

And I never thought I would be caught dead listening to JACKSON:

disco!

NORMAN: No—I mean, the time machine is operating on its own.

Mr. Olson didn't finish programming it, and the controls

must have been disconnected.

(Time Machine 2 SFX 3 19 begins)

GLORIA: (nervously) Guys? It's making that sound again . . .

NORMAN: That's the sound it made before it jumped through time!

Quick everyone- get inside! (kids react)

JACKSON: Gloria! Take my hand!

(Jackson grabs Gloria and pulls her inside at the last

second.)

JACKSON: How do we know where we're going?

ALL 3: We don't! (kids brace for impact, look frightened, etc., as the

time machine hurtles through time)

(As Time Machine SFX 3 winds down, lights blackout, Lights fade up slowly, again revealing Midway Community Church. Gingerly, the group surveys their newest destination. The new banner now reads, "41st Annual Caroling Outreach.

December 24, 1985.")

GLORIA: You saved me from 1978! Thank you!

NORMAN: Sadly, no one was there to save our parents from 1978.

Scene 3

GLORIA: Are we home?

JASMINE: Is everyone alright?

JACKSON: (mumbling) Well, if you can call a toxic exposure to disco

"alright" . . .

NORMAN: (looking at sign) We're not home—looks like it's 1985!* (if

using optional cut, Norman says, "1959", instead)

JACKSON: This is, like, the Dark Ages! They didn't even have

computers in 1985.

NORMAN: Actually, the first freely-programmable computer was

invented in 1936. Of course, it was the size of my bedroom

... and of course, there was no internet.

GLORIA: **No internet?!** (Kids react)

JACKSON: Or cell phones! (Kids react)

JASMINE: (dramatically) **How did people** live?!

(optional cut to Scene 4 if desired*)

JACKSON: And why do we keep going back to this lame outreach?

Why would anyone want to waste their Christmas Eve

doing something like this?

GLORIA: I like sharing God's love at Christmas. My mom says that

Christmas is about giving!

JACKSON: ("Church Bells Cue #1," [20]) That's what my grandma

says too, but I don't get it. You're giving food and gifts to people who have no way to pay you back! You won't get

rich in life by doing that!

OUTREACH

COORDINATOR #1: I couldn't help overhearing you, young man. (music begins

to "Come, Let Us All Adore Him with O Come, All Ye Faithful") Christmas is a time when we remember the greatest gift God gave to us: Jesus! He gave without expecting anything in return—just because He loved us so much. Why don't

vou join us as we practice a few Christmas Carols?

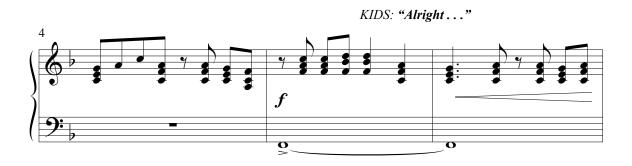
KIDS: Okay! (Jasmine, Gloria, agree; Jackson sits and watches)

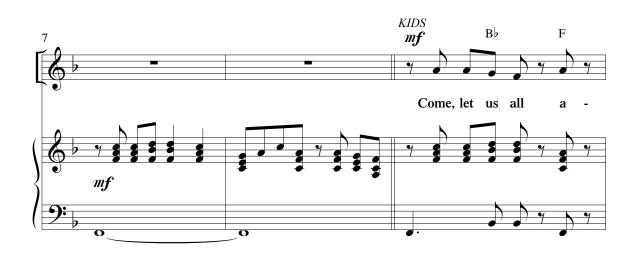
Come, Let Us All Adore Him

with O Come, All Ye Faithful and Away in a Manger

Words and Music by CHRISTY SEMSEN and DANIEL SEMSEN Arranged by Daniel Semsen

COORDINATOR #1: "... He gave without..."





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JASMINE: Norman, have you figured out how to fix the machine so

we can go home?

NORMAN: Not yet. We keep jumping between Christmas Eves. But

the years seem to be skipping randomly!

JASMINE: At least there's a warning sound before the machine

jumps. I would hate to be stuck in a place with no cell

phones!

JACKSON: Or decent music!

ALL: Yeah, me too. (general agreement)

GLORIA: (cheerfully) At least we're not lost. We're still at church.

(everyone stares at her) (Time machine SFX 4 26 begins)

JACKSON: Are you kidding me?

NORMAN: There's the sound again! Everybody get in!

(As the time machine winds down, lights blackout.)

Scene 4

(Lights fade up. Betty and her friend are walking by, dressed in 50s clothes. The church banner reads, "14th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 1959.")

BETTY: (walking by) You guys going to the Caroling Outreach?

JACKSON: Ugh—this outreach AGAIN. You'd think we could at least

travel somewhere more exciting.

GLORIA: If we don't get home soon, I think I'm going to have to call

my mom.

BETTY: I have a dime, if you want.

GLORIA: (politely) Why, thank you! (puzzled) Why would I need a

dime?

BETTY: For the phone, silly!

GLORIA: **Oh, thank you.** (clearly confused)

NORMAN: (whispering) No cell phones in 1959, Gloria! People used

pay phones when they were away from home!

GLORIA: Ohhhhhh.

JACKSON: (Jackson has noticed Betty, and is staring at her intently)

JASMINE: (Notices Jackson staring at Betty. She waves her hand in front

of his face to grab his attention.) Hello, Jackson? Anybody

home?

JACKSON: (Suddenly notices Jasmine) That's weird; does she look familiar

to you?

JASMINE: (Sarcastically) Oh, yeah. Last time I was in 1959, she and

I went to the mall together.

NORMAN: That's impossible! There were no malls in 1959.

JASMINE: (Rolls her eyes dramatically) Thanks, trivia-saurus. (other

kids laugh)

BETTY:

(Church Bells Cue #2 27) Hey guys, we're just about to get started. Why don't you join us?

OUTREACH COORDINATOR #2:

Merry Christmas, everyone! Those beautiful bells you are hearing signal the start of our 14th Annual Caroling Outreach. You know, the Bible says that one of the greatest commandments is to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves! (music begins to "Ring, Ring-a-Ling") By reaching out to our friends and neighbors in our community, you are fulfilling that great commandment!

Ring, Ring-a-Ling



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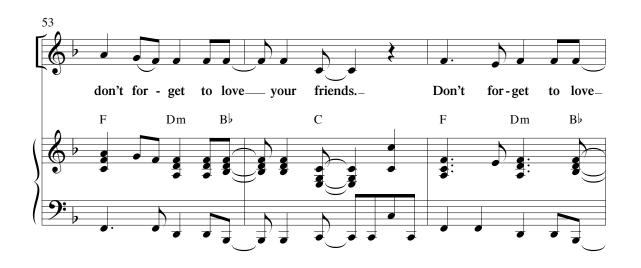


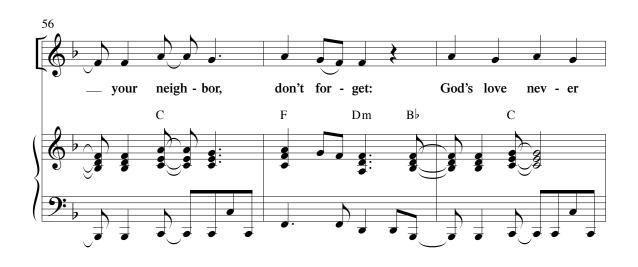


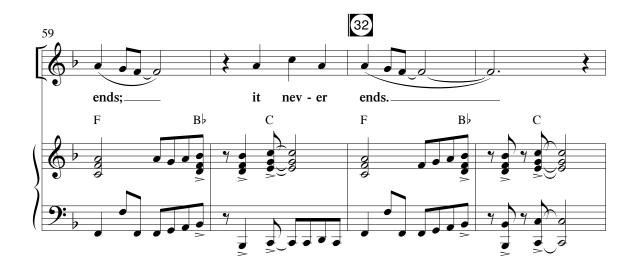










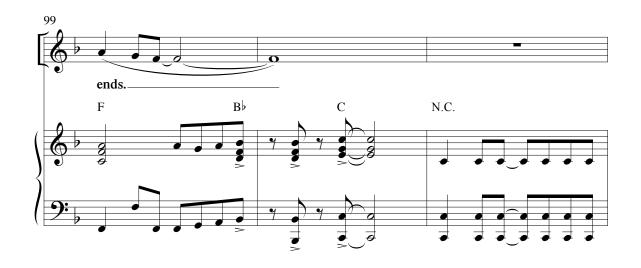


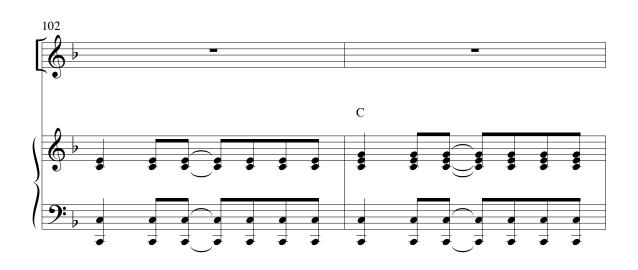














JACKSON: Okay, I understand about loving your neighbor, I guess.

But it doesn't seem practical! If you're always thinking

about someone else, who takes care of you?

BETTY: Well, God has supplied all my needs so far. I have so

much—a loving family, a place to live, swell friends—I

can't help but want to share with others.

JACKSON: You know, you really remind me of someone from school

or something.

BETTY: (shrugs) I have one of those faces, I guess.

OUTREACH

COORDINATOR 2: I see you've met our little bundle of inspiration. You know,

her family is one of the families this outreach helps—her dad has been out of work for 9 months and they have had a hard time making ends meet. But she is always thinking

of others before herself!

JACKSON: (still with an attitude, but warming up) Oh, wow. That's

really cool.

OUTREACH

COORDINATOR 2: How rude of me! Let me introduce you to ... Betty!

JACKSON: (offhandedly) **Hey, Betty.**

JASMINE: (knowingly) Hey, Jackson, isn't your Grandma's name

Betty?

JACKSON: I guess . . . (starting to realize who she might be) wait . . .

Betty?!

BETTY: Holy guacamole, there's no need to yell!

JACKSON: Holy guacamole?!! Aaaaahhh!!

BETTY: Are you okay?

JACKSON: (freaked out) Yeah! Hey, I gotta go! (running over to

Norman) Oh, my gosh—I think Betty's my grandma! (kids

react with a collective gasp of disbelief)

NORMAN: That could be a possibility. In the 1950s, our grandmas

were probably around our age! (Kids ad lib. surprises:

"What?" "No way!")

GLORIA: (taking it in stride) You're lucky, your grandma is so cool!

(Time Machine SFX 5 34 begins)

JASMINE: Quick, get in, everyone!

Scene 5

(As the time machine winds down, the lights blackout. Lights fade up, revealing the banner in front of MCC, which reads, "54th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 1998")

JASMINE: Jackson, I can't believe that girl was actually your-

JACKSON: (seeing his grandma at approximately age 50 walking toward

them) Grandma!

NORMAN: (not seeing her) No need to yell, Jackson. I'll admit, it was

weird that we met her when she was young, but there's no

need to—

JACKSON: No! She's over there!

NORMAN: Boy, has she had a growth spurt!

JASMINE: Oh, no! She can't see us here! She might remember us

from when she was a little girl! (They comically drag a few choir kids to stand in front of them center stage, and try to hide behind them. Grandma sees Jackson, anyway, and

approaches him, while the rest of the group scatter.)

GRANDMA: My, do you look familiar. Do I know your parents?

JACKSON: (anxious to escape, sarcastic) **Oh, you know them. Especially**

my mom.

GRANDMA Point them out for me!

JACKSON: (trying to cover) I'm not sure I would recognize them. I

mean . . . they've changed a lot . . . from how they look

today . . . (suddenly serious) Ma'am?

GRANDMA: Yes?

JACKSON: Do you have any grandchildren?

GRANDMA: Why, yes. Little Jackson is over in the nursery.

JACKSON: Oh, I was afraid of that. Well, if he ever, like, drops his

dad's favorite fishing pole in the lake on the Fourth of July when he's, like, nine years old, tell his dad to go easy on him. It was an accident—I promise! (Jackson runs away).

GRANDMA: He's a strange young man, isn't he?

(Church Bells Cue #3 35)

NORMAN: Yes, yes, he is.

GRANDMA: (addressing those gathered for the outreach) Merry Christmas,

everyone! Pastor Joe asked me to introduce our special guests to you. They have come a long way to play for our 54th Annual Outreach. Will you please welcome The

Manger Boys! (girls giggle and cheer for the band)

BOY BAND SINGER #1: Merry Christmas, everyone! I understand you're about to go serve those in need! (everyone cheers)

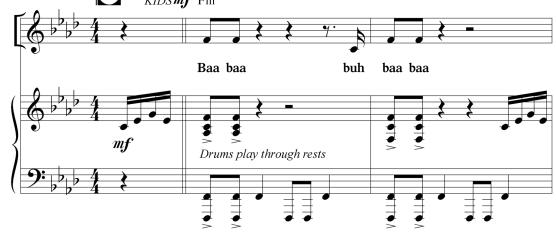
BOY BAND SINGER #2: We want to encourage you in what you're doing this Christmas. This song is a Bible story about some sheep and some goats. (music begins to "Song of the Sheep and Goats") Why don't you listen and see what happened?

Song of the Sheep and the Goats

CHRISTY SEMSEN *Arranged by Daniel Semsen*

Words and Music by





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Scene 6

(Mr. Olson walks by with a broom, muttering to himself while sweeping. In this scene, he appears to be about 60 years old.)

NORMAN: I have an idea. (runs over to Mr. Olson) Um, excuse me . . .

Mr. Olson?

MR. OLSON: (absent-mindedly) Yes? Can I help you, young man?

NORMAN: Mr. Olson, my name is Norman, and, um, I'm wondering

if you could help us with something. Our machine is

broken.

MR. OLSON: What kind of machine?

NORMAN: Um, well, let me just show you.

MR. OLSON: Alright, I suppose I can try. (Norman and the other kids

lead him back to the time machine. Mr. Olson reacts with shock and quickly pulls out and unfolds a piece of paper from

his pocket.)

MR. OLSON: IMPOSSIBLE! It's just the way I dreamed it!

NORMAN: It's The HO-2000 Temporal Displacement Modulator. You

invented it!

MR. OLSON: (surprised but jubilant) I did?! (takes a beat) I must be rich!

(dances a jig) I can quit my job, travel the world, become

even richer!

JASMINE: (apologetically) Actually, Mr. Olson, we kinda, sorta,

accidentally took your machine. So you haven't even

gotten a chance to use it yet!

GLORIA: But it's broken and now we can't get home!

MR. OLSON: Now, that is a problem! There should be . . . (As Mr. Olson

examines the machine, Jackson is casually leaning in front of the time control lever) a lever that would control the direction you would go in time. But I don't see anything

like that . . .

JACKSON: Hey! I think I saw something like that.

GLORIA: (looking behind him) I think you're leaning on it!

NORMAN: Yes! And he was leaning on that when the machine went

off the first time.

ALL: Jackson!

JACKSON: **Ahh, sorry, guys...** (steps away from the lever)

MR. OLSON: Yes, there it is, but it's been disengaged from the Hydraulic

Evaporators. That explains why you've been jumping through time! (fidgets with machine) Here you go—that should fix it. BUT, be careful not to push the lever too far! (Time Machine SFX 6 begins) If you push it too far in any direction, there's no telling how far you would travel.

It could be catastrophic!

JACKSON: (yelling over machine) Don't push it too far—got it! But Mr.

Olson, now all we need to know is which way to re-engage the lever to point the machine toward home. Is down the right way? Mr. Olson?! (As time machine winds down, lights

blackout.)

Scene 7

(Lights fade up on MCC once again. The church banner reads, "1st Annual Caroling Outreach, December 24, 1944.")

40s WORKER: (carrying boxes) Can you fellas give a girl a hand? (boys

help her)

GLORIA: Jasmine, look at the sign! This is the FIRST Annual Outreach!

NORMAN: Uh oh—I'm guessing the lever was supposed to point up,

not down. We went even further back in time!

40s WORKER: Thanks, boys- it's great to know we can count on you to

support the cause.

JACKSON: No problem—wait, what cause?

40s WORKER: (laughs) The war effort, of course. Merry Christmas!

JACKSON: What's going on? (Church Bells Cue #4 43)

NORMAN: (music begins to "Peace on Earth") Jackson, it's 1944! It's

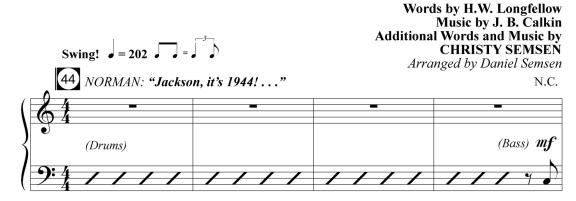
World War 2!

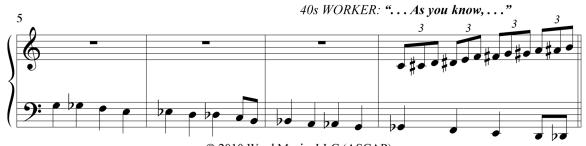
40s WORKER: (addressing the outreach workers) **Thank you all for coming**

to the First Annual Caroling Outreach. As you know, there are many in our community that could use a hand this Christmas. I hope and pray this can be an annual

tradition for many, many years to come.

Peace on Earth (I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day)





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E 13

HANK. (approaching Jackson) Want to play marbles with me? I

just traded for three Steelies and a Butterfly Agate!

JACKSON: Sure, kid. Are you looking forward to Christmas?

HANK: You bet! My mom's over there getting a basket.

JACKSON: (uncomfortable) Oh. That's great. You want to see something

cool?

HANK: (wide-eyed) How cold is it?

JACKSON: No, kid, not cold, cool . . . oh, never mind. Just follow me.

We're gonna try and fix our-

NORMAN: Car!

(The three boys approach the time machine.)

HANK: That's a mighty strange car. Can I help you, fellas? (Hank

comes in and starts pushing with them)

NORMAN: **Oh, that's not necessary.** (Before Norman can react, Hank eagerly brushes by him and pushes the time control lever enthusiastically. [Optionally, Jasmine or Gordon could drop a large wrench on the floor, out of sight, to simulate the sound of a lever popping loose.] Time Machine SFX 7 [53] begins)

HANK: I did it!

NORMAN: Oh, no, he sure did! He just pushed it all the way down!

JACKSON: You pushed it down? That'll take us even further back in time!

JASMINE: All the way? I thought we weren't supposed to push it all

the way!?

HANK: What's going on?

JACKSON: Just hold on, buddy. I'll take care of you!

(As the time machine winds down, lights blackout)

Scene 8

(Lights fade up on the manger scene in Bethlehem—the first Christmas. The manger is placed down center stage, kids can gather some distance away stage left, "out of earshot" of Mary and Joseph. The stable wall should separate the kids from the manger. All lines in this scene should be half-whispered.)

HANK: Wow!

ALL: (quickly whisper and motion for him to be quiet) **Shh!**

HANK: That's some car! (music begins to "Ring the Bells") What is

this place?

GLORIA: The birth of Jesus!

ALL: (Hushed words of amazement) **Wow.**

JACKSON: He's so . . . tiny!

JASMINE: Can you believe that God would send His Son to this earth

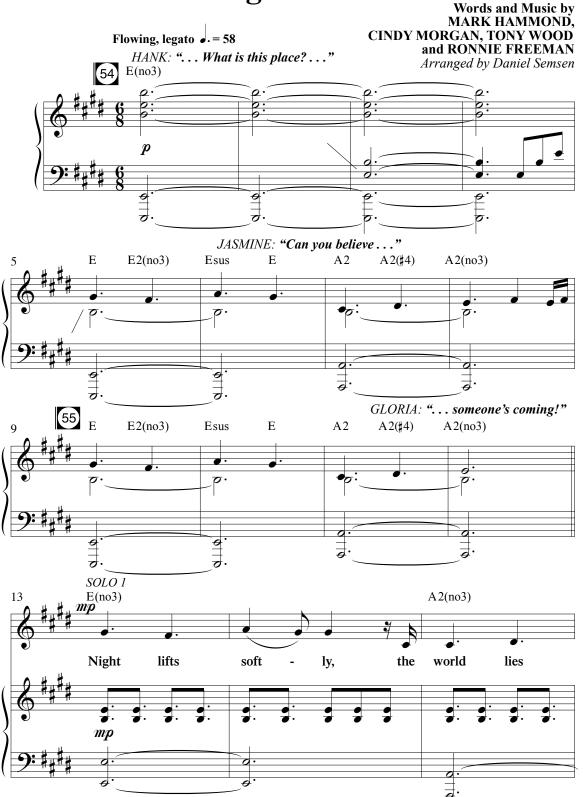
as such a helpless baby?

NORMAN: Shh! We can't disturb them.

GLORIA: Look, someone's coming! (Shepherds begin processing

slowly, walking toward the manger)

Ring the Bells



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HANK: (ms. 69) So God sent His Son as a baby—for us?

GLORIA: God gave His Son because He loves us so much. All of us!

God gave His best gift to us at Christmas!

HANK: I think I'd like to give Him a gift. (takes out his marbles and

walks to the manger, kneeling beside the Wise Men)

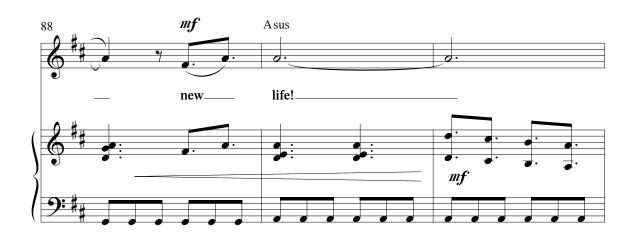
JACKSON: I never really stopped to think about what a sacrifice God

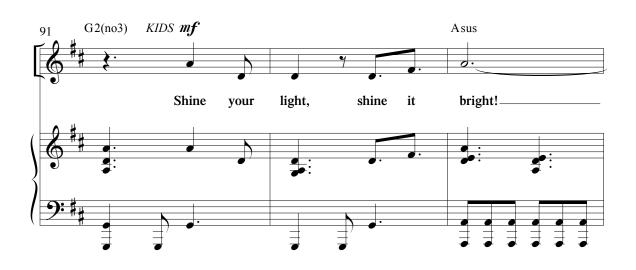
made. I've been really ungrateful, I think.

GLORIA: It's never too late to thank Him. (Jackson slowly walks to

the manger, kneeling beside Hank and the Wise Men.)

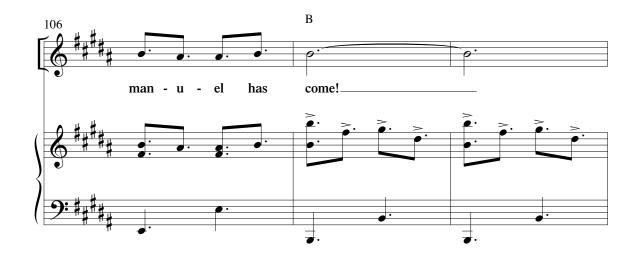


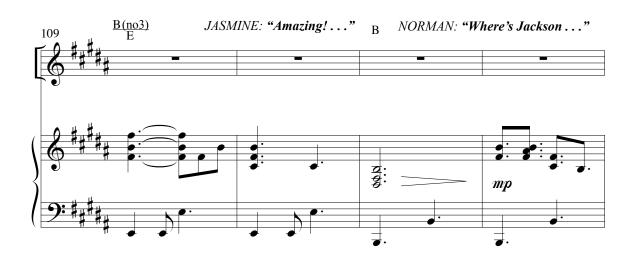


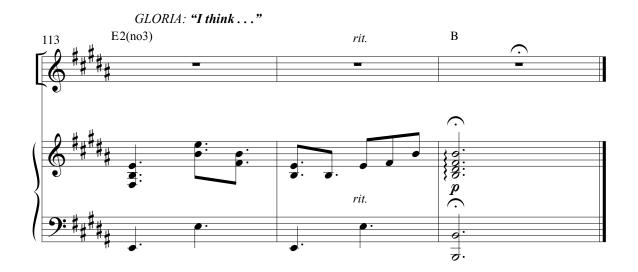












(Choir continues to kneel throughout the remainder of the scene.)

JASMINE: (ms. 110) Amazing!

NORMAN: Where's Jackson? And his little friend?

GLORIA: (pointing toward them as they continue to bow by the manger)

I think they just realized what Christmas is about. (music

ends)

NORMAN: (Jackson and Hank return to the Group) Let's get this little

guy home to 1944! (Time Machine SFX 8 61 begins) When the machine reset to 0, the lever must have unlocked. I can program the machine to go where we want now! (Machine works, taking them back to 1944. Spot dimly up on side of

stage, illuminating Hank's house.)

HANK: (sleepily) There's my house!

NORMAN: It finally worked! Here we are on Christmas Eve, 1944!

ALL: (excited cheers)

JACKSON: Hey, Hank. I think you and your family might need this

more than me. Consider this a Christmas present. (Waves his allowance envelope, and, with a flourish, hands it to

Hank.)

HANK: Wow, thanks! I won't forget this. Cross my heart, or my

name's not Hank Olson. (he exits)

ALL: Olson?

NORMAN: (realizes and gasps) Hank is a nickname for Henry! I think

little Hank was Mr. Olson as a kid! (kids react)

JACKSON: Wow! I didn't know Mr. Olson was from one of the

needy families the outreach helped. (Time Machine

SFX 9 62 begins)

GLORIA: I don't think any of us will ever be the same. (ad lib., "Me,

neither", "Yeah.") (As the time machine winds down, lights

blackout.)

Scene 9

(Lights fade up to reveal Midway Community Church. The banner reads, "66th Annual Caroling Outreach. December 24, 2010. Happy Retirement, Pastor!)

GRANDMA: There you are, Jackson! We're just about ready to go.

JACKSON: (running up and hugging her) Grandma, it's so great to see

you!

GRANDMA: Jackson, what has gotten into you?

JACKSON: Holy guacamole, Grandma! Let's just say . . . I feel like

I finally understand how special this outreach is. I mean, God gave us His own Son! How can we not share His love

at Christmas?

GRANDMA: (hugging him) Well, that's wonderful! Pastor Olson wants

to talk to everyone before we go out.

JASMINE: Wait! Pastor who?

GRANDMA: Pastor Olson, of course! This is his retirement

celebration—45 years as the Pastor of Midway Community Church. (music begins to "Back to the Manger Reprise")

NORMAN: Henry Olson?! Pastor for 45 years!?

JASMINE: Retirement celebration?!

JACKSON: You were right, Grandma—the past really does matter.

PASTOR OLSON: Thank you all for this display of love at this outreach that

has always been so dear to my heart. As you know, I was one of the recipients of the blessings of this outreach when I was just a little boy, and it changed my life. You know, some people think that money can buy happiness. But true joy comes from serving others, and remembering God's gift to us in a little Baby Boy. Once you go back to the manger and recognize God's greatest gift, you are never the same!

Back to the Manger Reprise

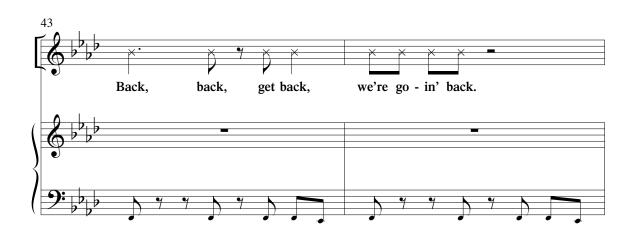


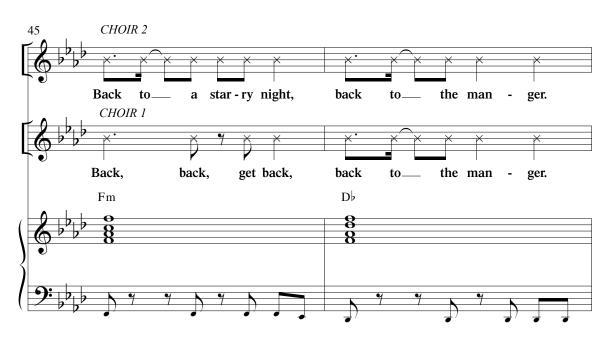
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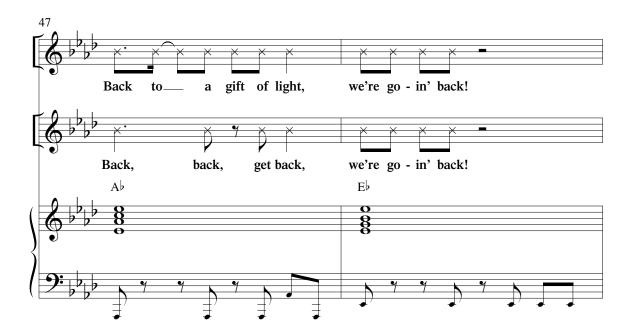






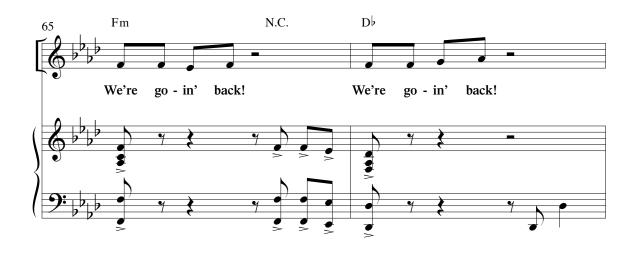


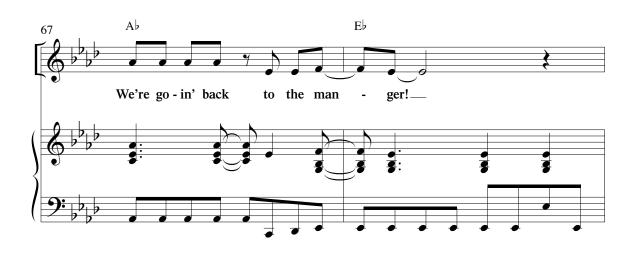


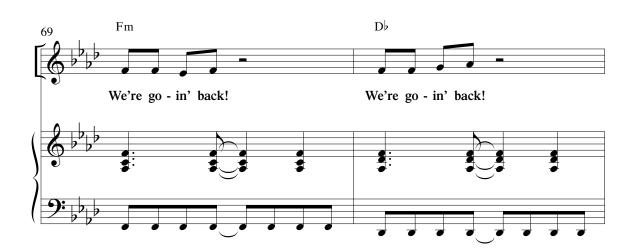


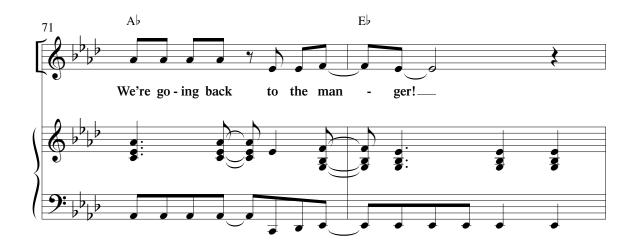




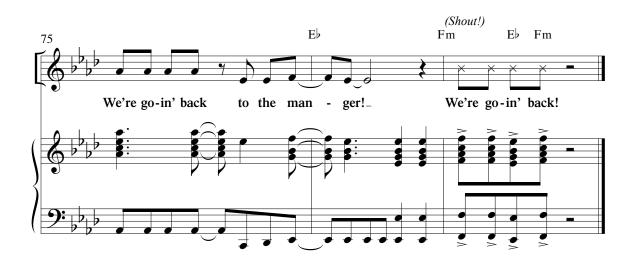












Back to the Manger (Curtain Calls)



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