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Little Star's Story

by Nairne Page
(with Ruth Kenward)

OPENING MUSIC (incidental)

(☉ Track 1 / 16)

[All standing, STORYTELLERS move to centre stage.]

STORYTELLERS Hello everybody! We're the storytellers!

CHORUS Hello storytellers! Please tell us a story!

STORYTELLERS *(to EVERYBODY, open hands)* What story would you like?

CHORUS The one about Little Star!

[STORYTELLERS move back to sides.]

COME HEAR A STORY

(☉ Track 2 / 17)

Beckon	→	COME HEAR A STORY ABOUT A LITTLE STAR
Sign 'shine'	→	WHO SHINES SO BRIGHT.
Beckon	→	COME HEAR A STORY ABOUT A LITTLE STAR
	→	ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
Sign 'baby'	→	THERE IS A BABY ON HIS WAY,
Sign 'crown'	→	A NEW KING BORN TO US TODAY.

As above		COME HEAR A STORY ABOUT A LITTLE STAR
Point in a sweep from L to R	→	WHO SHINES SO BRIGHT.
	→	COME HEAR A STORY ABOUT A LITTLE STAR
	→	ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
Thumbs up	→	WE'LL GO TO BETHLEHEM TODAY.
	→	THE LITTLE STAR WILL LIGHT THE WAY!

Beckon	→	COME HEAR A STORY ABOUT A LITTLE STAR
Sign 'shine'	→	WHO SHINES SO BRIGHT.
Beckon	→	COME HEAR A STORY ABOUT A LITTLE STAR
	→	ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

[All sit, except SUN and STORYTELLERS. MOON lies down.]

STORYTELLER 1 One evening, long ago, (*points at SUN*) the sun was heading for bed.
 SUN (*waving*) Goodnight, world!
 CHORUS (*waving*) Goodnight, Sun!
[SUN moves to 2nd position, waving. MOON appears to be asleep.]

STORYTELLER 3 (*points at MOON*) It was time for the moon to shine!
[CHORUS shout, cupping hands around mouths.]

CHORUS Wake up, Mr. Moon!
[MOON jumps up.]

MOON Oops – sorry! (*makes grand 'shining' arm movement*)

STORYTELLER 2 It was a beautiful night.

STORYTELLER 4 The sky grew dark, and stars began to appear.
[STARS move to centre stage - apart from LITTLE STAR. STORYTELLERS sit.]

STAR DANCE (incidental)

(☉ Track 3 / 18)

[STARS remain 'twinkling' in a group. STORYTELLERS stand. LITTLE STAR enters, walking sadly to Downstage R.]

STORYTELLER 1 All the stars were twinkling happily.
 CHORUS Oh no they weren't!
 STORYTELLERS 1 & 2 Oh yes they were! (*pointing at STARS*) Look!
[STARS twinkle fingers, with cheesey grins!]

CHORUS (*pointing*) What about Little Star?
 STORYTELLERS 1 & 2 (*looking at LITTLE STAR*) Ah yes... Little Star.
 STORYTELLER 3 Let's try that again.
[STARS twinkle fingers, with cheesey grins!]
 All the stars were twinkling happily..
 (*pointing at LITTLE STAR*) ...except for Little Star!
[LITTLE STAR bows her head, covers her face with her hands.]

STORYTELLER 4 Little Star was very sad. She felt small and unimportant.
 CHORUS (*sympathetically*) Ahh...
 STORYTELLER 4 She needed cheering up, so she went to talk to the moon.

[LITTLE STAR goes to MOON. STARS go to 1st position.]

LITTLE STAR Hello Moon!

MOON Hello Little Star.

LITTLE STAR What are you doing?

MOON *(proudly)* I'm shining!

LITTLE STAR *(wistfully, looking at MOON)* You're so good at shining!

MOON *(proudly)* I know! That's because I'm *(makes grand arm movement)* the biggest light in the night sky!

LITTLE STAR *(sagging miserably)* And I'm the smallest.

[As the STORYTELLERS continue, LITTLE STAR returns to Downstage Right and sits, head in hands.]

STORYTELLER 3 Little Star could only do a tiny bit of shining compared to the Moon.

STORYTELLER 4 She was feeling sad and small, but the other stars were very excited about something.

[STARS whisper to each other excitedly. STORYTELLERS sit.]

STAR 1 & 2 *(to others nearby, excited)* Have you heard the news?

CHORUS What news?

[LITTLE STAR sits up straight and listens.]

STAR 1 & 2 A baby's going to be born!

CHORUS So?

STAR 3 & 4 He's a special baby!

CHORUS Special? How special?

STAR 1 & 2 He's a baby king!

STAR 3 & 4 The King of Kings!

[LITTLE STAR stands up, smiling.]

CHORUS The King of Kings? That is special!

LITTLE STAR *(jumping up and down)* That's so exciting! I must do *(flinging arms out)* something really big to welcome him!

STARS *(laughing)* You?

STAR 1 & 2 *(laughing)* You're too little to do something big!

LITTLE STAR *(sadly, holding hands to heart)* But my heart wants to do something big!

CHORUS

(sympathetically) Ahh...

*[LITTLE STAR walks to Centre.
MOON & STARS stand around her.]*

I WISH I WAS SPECIAL

(☉ Track 4 / 19)

Little Star	I WISH I WAS SPECIAL.		Hands to chest
	I'M ONLY A LITTLE STAR.	←	
Star Group	THE MOON'S SO BIG AND SHINY	←	STARS point at MOON, who does big shining movement
	COMPARED TO A TINY STAR.		
Chorus	YOU WISH YOU WERE SPECIAL,		Open hands
	BUT YOU'RE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.	←	
Chorus	THE MOON IS BIG.	←	Make big circle in the air
Star Group	YOU'RE SO SMALL.	←	
Little Star	BUT I FEEL BIG INSIDE, IN MY HEART.	←	
	<i>(repeat from start)</i>		LITTLE STAR puts hand to heart
Chorus	SHE FEELS BIG INSIDE, IN HER HEART.	←	All put hands to heart

*[STARS move to 2nd position, behind other performers.
STORYTELLERS 1 & 2 stand. MOON sits by WISE MEN.]*

STORYTELLER 1 Maybe Little Star was too small to do something big and special, but she wasn't going to give up.

LITTLE STAR *(raises index finger)* I know. I'll find a special present for the baby.
[LITTLE STAR walks to Downstage Right.]

STORYTELLER 2 If she looked North, South, East and West she was bound to find something special for the King of Kings. She set off to the North.

LITTLE STAR *(points)* I'm going North!
[LITTLE STAR exits Stage R.]

STORYTELLER 1 She travelled for miles across the night sky, but she found nothing in the North, so she turned South.

STORYTELLER 2 At the same time, two people and a donkey were also heading South - and they had lost their way.

[STARS & STORYTELLERS 1 & 2 sit, as MARY, JOSEPH & DONKEY go slowly to Centre.]

CLIP CLOP MUSIC (incidental)

(☉ Track 5 / 20)

[STORYTELLERS 3 & 4 stand when the music ends.]

STORYTELLER 3 Mary and Joseph were on their way to Bethlehem. Mary was tired. She was going to have a baby soon and they'd been travelling for ages.

STORYTELLER 4 They needed somewhere to stay, but now it was dark and they couldn't see where to go.

JOSEPH Bethlehem can't be far... But which way is it?

MARY *(shrugging)* It's hard to tell in the dark!

[MARY & JOSEPH pretend to decide what to do. While STORYTELLER 4 continues, LITTLE STAR enters at the back of the stage, to wander ad lib as if searching for something.]

STORYTELLER 4 While Mary and Joseph decided what to do, Donkey got very bored.

DONKEY *(yawning-style)* Eeeee—orrrrrrrr!

[DONKEY turns, to face away from audience, so that he can see LITTLE STAR. As STORYTELLER 3 continues, DONKEY 'notices' LITTLE STAR! STORYTELLER 4 sits.]

STORYTELLER 3 Suddenly Donkey was wide awake – and very excited about something!

DONKEY *(excited, pointing at LITTLE STAR)* Eeee-orrr!

MARY What's the matter, donkey?

DONKEY *(pointing again, more excited)* Eeee-orrr! Eeee-orrr!

[LITTLE STAR keeps moving.]

MARY *(to JOSEPH)* What's up with him?

JOSEPH *(shrugging)* I dunno!

DONKEY *(urgently, pointing three times!)* Ee-orr, ee-orr, ee-orrrrrr!

[MARY & JOSEPH peer in LITTLE STAR's direction, then suddenly 'notice' her.]

MARY & JOSEPH *(pointing, amazed)* Look! It's a moving star!

[DONKEY rolls his eyes and nods slowly – as if they took way too long to figure that out!]

JOSEPH D'you think it's showing us the way?

DONKEY *(exaggerated nodding, open hands)* Eeee-orrr!

STORYTELLER 3 Mary and Joseph had nothing to lose. They followed Little Star.

[STORYTELLER 3 sits. DONKEY beckons, then sets off to follow LITTLE STAR towards Stage R, but keeping a distance. MARY & JOSEPH pause, shrug, then follow.]

OPTION:

If you need more time to move children on and off, use the double length version

LITTLE DONKEY FOLLOW THE STAR (⊙ Track 6 / 21)

(double version ⊙ Track 31 / 34)

LITTLE DONKEY FOLLOW THE STAR,
LITTLE DONKEY FOLLOW THE STAR.
LITTLE DONKEY FOLLOW THE LITTLE STAR:
DONKEY FOLLOW THE STAR.

[As STORYTELLERS 1 & 2 stand, LITTLE STAR returns to the stage and goes to the stable. DONKEY, MARY & JOSEPH wait next to STORYTELLERS 3 & 4, Downstage R.]

STORYTELLER 1 Soon Little Star was tired and she stopped for a rest in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph stopped too, because that's where they were going!

STORYTELLER 2 Little Star wasn't happy. She had been North and South, but she still hadn't found anything special to give the baby King.

[LITTLE STAR sits, head in hands.]

LITTLE STAR *(with a big sigh)* I'm too small to do anything properly.

CHORUS Ahh!

[INNKEEPERS stand, holding signs. As dialogue continues, MARY, JOSEPH & DONKEY enter and go to INNKEEPER 1, who turns them away, pointing to sign with a shake of his head.]

STORYTELLER 2 She wasn't the only one who was miserable. Mary and Joseph couldn't find anywhere to stay! All the inns were full!

[MARY, JOSEPH & DONKEY move on to INNKEEPER 2 who does the same as INNKEEPER 1.]

STORYTELLER 1 Now that Little Star was sitting still, she noticed Mary and Joseph. She could see that Mary was expecting a baby.

LITTLE STAR *(pointing at MARY)* I wonder if her baby is the baby King?

[MARY, JOSEPH & DONKEY move on to INNKEEPER 3, who shows them into the stable. They sit down in position.]

STORYTELLER 2 Little Star watched as an innkeeper showed Mary and Joseph into his stable. A stable was a very strange place for a king to be born, but Little Star was sure this baby was the King of Kings.

[LITTLE STAR jumps up and runs to Centre, clapping excitedly.]

← 'GO WEST'
sign held up

LITTLE STAR I'd better hurry up and find him a present!
(makes as if to go, then stops) Which way should I go?

CHORUS *(pointing at the sign)* Go West, Little Star!

GO WEST! (incidental)

(⊙ Track 7 / 22)

LITTLE STAR *(thumbs up)* I'm going West!

*[Exit LITTLE STAR, Stage Right.
STORYTELLERS 1 & 2 sit, 3 stands.]*

STORYTELLER 3 Meanwhile, on a hillside West of Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching over their sheep.

For comic effect,
SHEEP bleat really
loudly as they enter

*[Enter SHEPHERDS & SHEEP and begin to spread out across
Centre / Right. SHEEP bleat ad lib as they 'graze'.]*

SHEPHERDS *(bored)* Watching sheep is soooo boring.

*[SHEEP put hands on hips and 'baa' as if offended,
then continue 'grazing'. STORYTELLER 3 sits.]*

SHEPHERD 1 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'S'.

SHEPS / CHORUS *(bored)* Sheep.

[SHEEP wave and 'Baa', then continue 'grazing'.]

SHEPHERD 2 I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'M'.

SHEPS / CHORUS *(bored)* More sheep!

[SHEEP wave and 'Baa', then continue 'grazing'.]

SHEPHERD 3 *(raising hand)* I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'S', and it's not sheep!

SHEPS / CHORUS *(yawning, then pointing upwards)* Sky.

SHEPHERD 4 There's never anything new to spy...

*[ANGELS stand quietly. SHEPHERD 1 turns as if looking for
something to spy, and spots ANGELS.]*

SHEPHERD 1 *(suddenly terrified)* Wait! I spy something new!
(pointing) And it begins with 'A'!

SHEPHERDS *(pointing, scared)* Angels!

*[During the music, ANGELS move to Centre/Left.
SHEPHERDS react as if afraid, pointing and speaking over
the music. It doesn't matter if they can't be heard, they just
need to be reacting strongly and vocally.]*

ANGEL MUSIC (incidental)

(☉ Track 8 / 23)

Shepherd 1 *(pointing, scared)* What are they going to do to us?

Shepherd 2 *(terrified)* I'm scared!

Shepherd 3 Me too! *(crouches, hiding eyes)*

[SHEPHERDS react with fear, knock knees, hide their faces, bite nails, etc. SHEEP run to hide behind the SHEPHERDS, bleating. STORYTELLER 4 stands.]

STORYTELLER 4 Although the shepherds and sheep were scared, they didn't run away.

[STORYTELLER 4 sits.]

ANGELS Don't be afraid! We have great news!

SHEPHERDS *(still a bit scared)* What news?

ANGEL 1 & 2 A baby is born in Bethlehem. He's the promised king.

SHEPHERDS *(interested)* The promised king? Tell us more!

[SHEPHERDS & SHEEP sit on the floor while ANGELS sing. LITTLE STAR re-enters to do a circuit behind everyone, to finish sitting miserably Downstage Left.]

GOOD NEWS

(☉ Track 9 / 24)

Angels GOOD NEWS! YOU HAVE A SAVIOUR BORN TONIGHT!
JESUS, BORN UNDER HEAVEN'S LIGHT.

Angels & Chorus GOOD NEWS! YOU HAVE A SAVIOUR BORN TONIGHT
JESUS, BORN UNDER HEAVEN'S LIGHT.

Angels & Chorus

On 'Go', point at
SHEPHERDS

SUCH GOOD NEWS! BORN FOR YOU!
GO NOW, FIND HIM IN BETHLEHEM.

SHEPHERDS shrug

HE IS GOD'S ONLY SON, THE PROMISED ONE.
PRAISE HIM! JESUS THE KING HAS COME.

SHEPHERDS stand,
arms folded as they
don't know the way

Make 'hurrying' arms
Point at SHEPHERDS

SUCH GOOD NEWS! BORN FOR YOU!
GO NOW, FIND HIM IN BETHLEHEM.
HURRY TO BETHLEHEM.
FIND HIM IN BETHLEHEM.

Angels Hurry, hurry!
Angels Hurry, hurry!

SHEPHERDS shrug

[During applause, SHEPHERDS group together facing ANGELS.]

SHEPHERD 1 & 2 How can we find the baby king?

ANGELS *(pointing at LITTLE STAR)* See that star?

SHEPHERDS *(peering at LITTLE STAR)* Yes...?

ANGELS Follow it!

SHEPHERDS *(puzzled)* But it's not going anywhere!

ANGELS It will be in a minute!

SHEPHERDS 1 & 2 Ok. We'll say goodbye to our sheep first.