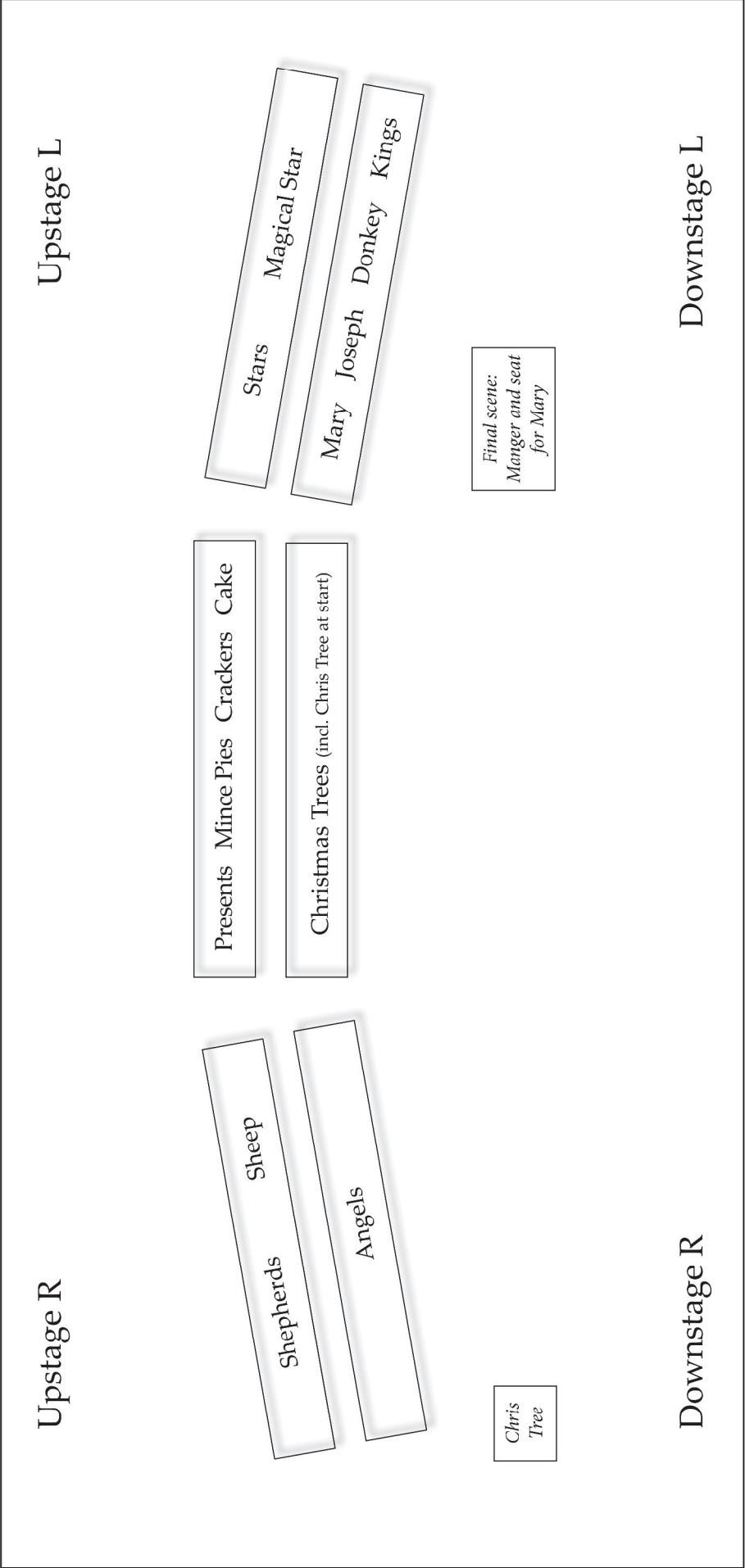


# Suggested Stage Layout



# Director's Notes

## Cast – in order of appearance

Child 1, 2, 3 & 4 (or more if required)	Central characters, who travel on a magical journey! Of these four main roles, Child 1 & 2 have the most to learn and remember, so should be played by your strongest actors. The parts could be shared out between more children but ideally Child 1 should be played by one individual throughout (with an understudy if possible).
Magical Star	Central character, leads the children & kings
Mince Pies, Christmas Cake Crackers & Presents Christmas Trees (4 or more) }	Non-speaking, feature in the opening scene
Chris Tree	Christmas tree, chosen by the children. Small speaking part.
Kings 1, 2 & 3	Small speaking parts, King 1 has most lines
Shepherds 1, 2, 3 & 4	Small speaking parts. Shepherd 1 has most lines.
Extra Shepherds (optional)	Small amount of group speaking
Sheep 1 & 2	Very small speaking part (must be able to 'bleat'!)
Extra Sheep (4 or more)	Small amount of group bleating!
Mary & Joseph	Very small speaking parts
Donkey	Non-speaking, for the nativity tableau
Angel 1 & 2	Small speaking parts
Extra Angels (optional)	Small amount of group speaking
Stars	Small amount of group speaking

## Props

A clipboard or notebook and pen for Child 1. A star - concealed within Magical Star's costume (e.g. attached to a pointed hat) to give to Child 1 (p.16). Presents for the Kings to bring, crooks and a toy lamb for shepherds. Doll to be Baby Jesus; manger, with a stool to go next to it for Mary. Jingle bells, shakers and drums for final song.

## Staging Suggestions

Apart from Child 1-4, all begin in Chorus position, sitting around the performing area as space allows. A suggested layout appears on the opposite page. All involved in dances etc. return to these 'base' positions after performing, unless otherwise specified.

## Costume Suggestions

The different groups of characters in this journey provide a wonderful opportunity for visual impact, using different colours: e.g. greens for the trees, browns and oranges for the shepherds, purple for the kings, white for the angels and sheep, silver and gold for the stars. For contrast the four children could be dressed in blues and reds.

## Simplified Version (on CD)

In addition to other printable resources on the CD, there is a simplified version of the play that may be printed out (*for purchasing organisation's use only*). This version (Teacher & Pupil scripts) has reduced lines for all the speaking parts, plus lines for 'Narrator' that may be shared between several children.

# Director's Overview

<b>Incid.</b>	<b>NEARLY CHRISTMAS!</b>	◉ <b>Track 1 / 15</b>
It's nearly Christmas. The children are busy preparing for Christmas Day.		
<b>Song</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS! THERE'S LOTS TO GET DONE</b>	◉ <b>Track 2 / 16</b>
Child 1 checks his/her list. They have Mince Pies, Christmas Cake, Crackers and Presents. Everything is nearly ready, but one thing is missing: a perfect Christmas tree. The children choose from the Christmas Trees during the song.		
<b>Song</b>	<b>THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE</b>	◉ <b>Track 3 / 17</b>
Chris Tree is chosen, and startles the children by speaking (a fact which Child 1 notes down). They decorate the tree.		
<b>Incid.</b>	<b>TREE DECORATING MUSIC</b>	◉ <b>Track 4 / 18</b>
The children realise they need a star for the top of their tree and - as if by magic - Stars appear and dance around them.		
<b>Incid.</b>	<b>STARS DANCE</b>	◉ <b>Track 5 / 19</b>
The children realise that these stars are too big for their tree. The stars get huffy and leave, apart from Magical Star, who beckons the children to follow her. They guess that she might take them to find a smaller star to fit on their tree, so they go with her.		
<b>Song</b>	<b>MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JOURNEY</b>	◉ <b>Track 6 / 20</b>
The children are amazed to find that Magical Star can talk! (Child 1 makes a note.) Their first stop is in a field full of abandoned sheep!		
<b>Song</b>	<b>THEY'VE BEEN ABAAAANDONED!</b>	◉ <b>Track 7 / 21</b>
Child 1 reassures the sheep that they'll send the shepherds back if they see them.		
<b>Incid.</b>	<b>SHEEP EXIT MUSIC</b>	◉ <b>Track 8 / 22</b>
Magical Star beckons for the children to follow her again.		
<b>Song</b>	<b>FOLLOWING THE STAR</b>	◉ <b>Track 9 / 23</b>
The children find themselves in a desert, where they meet Three Kings - following the same star in search of a baby king! This is all most unusual. (Child 1 makes a note.) Magical Star beckons again and the kings and children follow. As they travel, they imagine the palace where they will find the baby king.		
<b>Incid.</b>	<b>THE STABLE IS SET</b>	◉ <b>Track 10 / 24</b>
Meanwhile, the nativity tableau is set: Mary, Joseph & Donkey gather by the manger. Angels lead some weary Shepherds towards Bethlehem in search of the newborn king. The shepherds are surprised to find that a baby king could be born in a stable. Mary and Joseph welcome them in. Shepherd 1 presents a newborn lamb as a gift.		
<i>[Unaccompanied: FOLLOWING THE STAR]</i>		
Magical Star leads the Kings and the children to the stable - not what they were expecting! (Child 1 makes a note.) Mary and Joseph welcome them in. They're amazed by baby Jesus, but they have to be amazed quietly – he's fast asleep!		
<b>Song</b>	<b>SEE THE LITTLE BABY</b>	◉ <b>Track 11 / 25</b>
Everyone nods off, apart from Child 1 (who makes a note about shepherds and sheep!) Baby Jesus wakes up and everyone is happy to greet him.		
<b>Song</b>	<b>WELCOME THE BABY!</b>	◉ <b>Track 12 / 26</b>
After the kings have placed their gifts by the manger, the children realise they still need a star for their tree. Magical Star gives them just what they need: a star that will help them remember this magical Christmas journey.		
<b>Song</b>	<b>MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JOURNEY (reprise)</b>	◉ <b>Track 13 / 27</b>
Child 1 remembers that they need to send the shepherds back to their sheep. Shepherds and sheep are joyfully reunited!		
<b>Song</b>	<b>COME ON!</b>	◉ <b>Track 14 / 28</b>

# Magical Christmas Journey

by Sarah Baker

*If not using CD, play bars  
51-end of 'Come on!'*

## NEARLY CHRISTMAS - incid.

( ☉ Track 1 / 15 )

*[Enter CHILD 1,2,3,4, excitedly.]*

CHILD 1 & 2

There's so much to do!

CHILD 3 & 4

We've got to get ready for Christmas!

*[CHILD 1,2,3,4 busy themselves during the song - see boxes.]*

## CHRISTMAS! THERE'S LOTS TO GET DONE ( ☉ Track 2 / 16 )

Sway slightly

CHRISTMAS! THERE'S LOTS TO GET DONE.  
 NEARLY CHRISTMAS:  
 GET READY EVERYONE.  
 CHRISTMAS! NO TIME TO DELAY.  
 WE MUST GET READY  
 FOR CHRISTMAS DAY!

CHILD 1 & 2 take wrapped  
 PRESENTS to D/Stage R.,  
 (CHRIS TREE's position later).  
 CHILD 3 & 4 take PRESENTS  
 to sit with wrapped presents

Rub tummies  
 Pat tummies  
 Clap on each word  
 Walk on the spot  
 pumping arms

MINCE PIES, MINCE PIES,  
 YUM, YUM, YUM!  
 CHRISTMAS CAKE, CHRISTMAS CAKE  
 FILLS MY TUM!  
 WHAT ABOUT SOME CRACKERS?  
 BANG, BANG, POP!  
 CHRISTMAS DAY IS NEARLY HERE,  
 SO WE MUSTN'T STOP!

On cue, MINCE PIES,  
 CHRISTMAS CAKE  
 & CRACKERS walk  
 downstage in time to  
 the music, then back to  
 base positions

CHRISTMAS! THERE'S LOTS TO GET DONE... *(etc.)*  
 ...WE MUST GET READY  
 FOR CHRISTMAS DAY!

All hold position, step  
 in time, side to side

CHILD 2

Ok, \_\_[CHILD 1's name]\_\_, let's check the list.

CHILD 1

Mince pies? (MINCE PIES wave)

CHILD 2, 3 & 4

Check.

*[CHILD 1 ticks list.]*

CHILD 1

Christmas cake? (CHRISTMAS CAKE waves)

CHILD 2, 3 & 4

Check.

*[CHILD 1 ticks list.]*

CHILD 1

Crackers? (CRACKERS wave)



CHILD 2, 3 & 4 Check.  
*[CHILD 1 ticks list.]*

CHILD 1 And presents to give... (*PRESENTS wave*)

CHILD 2, 3 & 4 Check.  
*[CHILD 1 ticks list.]*

CHILD 1 I think that's everything.  
*[CHILD 2 scratches head, as if trying to remember something.]*

CHILD 2 I'm sure something's missing...

CHILD 1, 3 & 4 What?

CHILD 2 (*with a shrug*) I don't know.

CHILD 1, 3 & 4 (*to CHORUS, with open hands*) What are we missing?

CHORUS A Christmas tree!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 (*hands to foreheads*) Of course!

CHILD 1 I'll add it to the list. (*makes a note*)

CHILD 2 We need one that's... (*stretching up high*) just tall enough.

CHILD 3 (*spreading arms*) And just wide enough!

CHILD 4 Let's go and find the perfect Christmas tree!

*[CHRISTMAS TREES & CHRIS TREE enter and find a space.  
CHILD 1,2,3,4 move among the CHRISTMAS TREES  
ad lib, as if trying to choose, doing song actions on the move.]*

## **THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE** ( ● Track 3 / 17 )

CHRISTMAS TREES  
sway slowly in time

A CHRISTMAS TREE  
THAT'S RIGHT FOR ME  
IS VERY HARD TO FIND.  
I WANT IT THICK SO I CAN STICK  
LOTS OF DECORATIONS ON  
OF EVERY KIND.

CHORUS - on 'thick'  
spread arms, then mime  
hanging decorations in  
time with the music

*[CHILD 1,2,3,4 face audience to sing.]*

CHRISTMAS TREES  
turn on spot clockwise  
then anti-clockwise,  
arms held diagonally  
pointing downwards

WHERE WILL I FIND IT?  
WHERE WILL IT BE?  
WHERE WILL I FIND IT?  
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE.

CHORUS - open hands  
Draw a Christmas tree shape  
in the air with both hands

*[CHILD 1,2,3,4 move ad lib.]*

CHRISTMAS TREES  
sway as before

A CHRISTMAS TREE  
THAT'S RIGHT FOR ME  
IS VERY HARD TO FIND.  
I WANT IT TALL ABOVE US ALL,  
SHINING BRIGHT WITH FLASHING LIGHTS  
OF EVERY KIND.

CHORUS - stretch up high  
'Flashing' hands on every beat

TREES as before

[CHILD 1,2,3,4 face audience to sing.]

WHERE WILL I FIND IT?  
WHERE WILL IT BE?  
WHERE WILL I FIND IT?  
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE

CHORUS as before

[CHILD 1,2,3,4 point at CHRIS TREE.]

Child 1,2,3,4

I THINK I'VE FOUND IT  
HERE IN FRONT OF ME!  
I THINK I'VE FOUND IT,  
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE.  
THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE!

All

← ← Draw a Christmas tree shape  
in the air with both hands

[After the song, CHRISTMAS TREES stand still.  
CHILD 1,2,3,4 take CHRIS TREE to Downstage Right.]

CHILD 1 & 2 This tree is tall enough...

CHILD 3 & 4 ...And it's wide enough!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 This is the perfect tree for us.

CHRIS TREE Thank you for choosing me!

[CHILD 1,2,3,4 jump back, startled.]

CHORUS/CHILDREN A talking tree? That's magical!

CHILD 1 I'll make a note of that. *(makes a note)*

CHRIS TREE *(sadly, shrugging)* I talk all the time, but most people don't listen.

CHILD 4 We're listening.

CHRIS TREE That's good! Give me five!

[CHRIS TREE does high (or low) fives with CHILD 4, who  
may mime picking pine needles out of hand afterwards!]

CHILD 3 Hold still, Mr. Tree! We need to decorate you!

[CHILD 1,2,3,4 decorate CHRIS TREE. Meanwhile other  
CHRISTMAS TREES return to positions in Chorus.]

If not using CD, play  
music from song above

## TREE DECORATING MUSIC - incid. ( ☉ Track 4 / 18 )

[CHILD 1,2,3,4 stand back and admire CHRIS TREE.]

CHILD 1 There! Our tree looks lovely!

CHILD 2, 3 & 4 Now we're ready for Christmas!

CHORUS Oh no you're not!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 Why?

CHORUS You need a star!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 A star? What for?

CHORUS (*pointing*) To go on top of the tree!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 Oh yes!

CHILD 2 (*with open-handed shrug*) Where are we going to get a star?

CHORUS (*pointing*) Look!

*[Music starts. STARS enter and draw CHILD 1,2,3,4 to the centre, where they sit while STARS dance around them.]*

*If not using the CD, omit this dance, or improvise twinkly music to suit.*

### **STARS DANCE - incid.**

**( ☉ Track 5 / 19 )**

*[STARS stand still, making 'twinkling' hands. CHILD 1,2,3,4 stand.]*

CHILD 2 Do you think one of those stars would fit on the tree?

CHILD 1, 3 & 4 Don't be silly! They're way too big.

STARS (*fold arms*) No we're not!

*[CHILD 1,2,3,4 jump back, startled.]*

CHORUS/CHILDREN Talking stars? That's magical!

CHILD 1 I'll make a note of that. (*makes a note*)

MAGICAL STAR (*sadly, shrugging*) We talk all the time, but most people don't listen.

CHILD 4 We're listening.

MAGICAL STAR That's good. Give me five!

*[MAGICAL STAR does high fives with CHILD 4, who may mime reaction as if it was hot!]*

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 But you're still too big to go on our tree.

STARS (*hands on hips*) Oh no we're not!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 Oh yes you are!

STARS (*shaking heads*) Oh no we're not!

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 (*wagging finger*) Oh... yes... you... are!

STARS (folding arms) Huh! Suit yourselves.

[STARS return to seats, apart from MAGICAL STAR.]

MAGICAL STAR Perhaps I can help you find a star for your tree.

CHILD 1, 2, 3, 4 Can you do that?

MAGICAL STAR (beckoning) Follow me, and you'll find out!

[CHILD 1,2,3,4 follow MAGICAL STAR around hall.  
CHRIS TREE rejoins CHORUS.]

## **MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JOURNEY** ( ☉ Track 6 / 20 )

<p>Point from L-R on first three beats</p> <p>Open hands</p> <p>Open hands again and lean forwards</p> <p>Nod head to right on woodblock sound</p>	<p>→ FOLLOW THE STAR!</p> <p>→ SEE WHERE IT LEADS US.</p> <p>→ WHERE WILL IT TAKE US?</p> <p>→ WHO'S GONNA JOIN US?</p> <p>→ FOLLOW THE STAR</p> <p>→ ON AN EXCITING</p> <p>→ MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JOURNEY!</p>	<p>Percussion: hit WOODBLOCK between 'Christmas' and 'journey'</p>
	<p>(repeat)</p>	
<p>'Twinkle' fingers</p> <p>'Twinkle' fingers</p> <p>Mime packing bag</p> <p>Mime putting on coat</p> <p>Walk on spot</p>	<p>→ WONDERFULLY SPARKLING</p> <p>→ WAY UP HIGH.</p> <p>→ IF WE FOLLOW SURELY</p> <p>→ WE'LL SEE WHY!</p> <p>→ LOOK AT HOW IT'S TWINKLING,</p> <p>→ SHINING BRIGHT!</p> <p>→ PACK YOUR BAGS!</p> <p>→ GRAB YOUR COAT!</p> <p>→ SET OFF THROUGH THE NIGHT! (shout) LET'S GO!</p>	
<p>As before</p>	<p>FOLLOW THE STAR!</p> <p>SEE WHERE IT LEADS US.</p>	