

CHRISTMAS RAPPING

by Walter K. Davis



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CHRISTMAS RAPPING

A musical rap program
for teens and preteens

by
WALTER K. DAVIS

CAST

**PASTOR
TWO SPOKESPERSONS**

***RAPPERS*
TWO MALES
THREE FEMALES
THREE KINGS**

NONSPEAKING PARTS

**SHEPHERDS
ANGELS
MARY
JOSEPH
INNKEEPER**

PRODUCTION NOTES

Rapping used to be called a "talking blues" format. As such, it must keep strictly to the beat. After the first couple of read-throughs, insist on this! If "A Christmas Rapping" were given a musical annotation, it would be labeled, "with a driving 2/4 beat."

Here are a few suggestions to help you keep the beat:

METRONOME: You may wish (as we did) to use the metronome as a part of the accompaniment for the production.

DRUMMER: Another option is to recruit a drummer to play a steady beat using soft sticks or wire brushes.

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD: You may also use an electronic keyboard's rhythm section to keep the beat. Make sure it is amplified properly.

NOTE: If you use a metronome or electronic keyboard, be sure to put someone in charge to cut off the beat during the carol singing.

The words in parentheses at the start of each stanza are "pick-up notes," or introductory words before the start of the "measure."

Only a few rehearsals will be required to put both "rappers" and "players" together. However, accustom the rappers to the idea that they will have to "vamp until ready" (continue snapping their fingers to the beat) as the children act out their scenes.

Be creative with the rappers' clothes. Untied high tops, torn, rolled-up jeans, fluorescent T-shirts, and "cool" hats make for some radical rappers. And don't forget those shades!

Yo, homeboys and girls! "Bust a move" and have fun jammin'!

1 **SETTING:** Things are set up as if a standard Christmas pageant
 2 by the children is to take place. When it is time for the pageant
 3 to begin, the PASTOR comes forward and addresses the
 4 audience.

5
 6 **PASTOR:** And now it's time for the children to present a
 7 Christmas pageant. They've been working hard on this
 8 for some time, and . . . Wait a minute! What's going on
 9 here? (*The RAPPERS are moving through the auditorium and*
 10 *onto the platform, snapping their fingers as they come. When*
 11 *they get up front they stop their finger snapping and*
 12 *SPOKESPERSON ONE steps forward.*)

13 **SPOKESPERSON ONE:** Pastor _____, we thought we'd
 14 like to have a part in this Christmas pageant too. We
 15 thought maybe we could . . . well, do a little Christmas
 16 rapping.

17 **PASTOR:** (*Puzzled*) "Christmas wrapping?" You mean,
 18 wrapping presents to put under the tree?

19 **SPOKESPERSON ONE:** No, no, no . . .

20 **STANZA ONE**

21 **MALE ONE:** (*In rap beat*)

22 (Here's) Something to set your fingers snapping,
 23 How about a little Christmas rapping?

24 **FEMALE ONE:**

25 You're used to wrappings in colors bright
 26 To celebrate the child born that night.
 27 When the shepherds bowed and the angels sang
 28 And all the gates of God's heaven rang.

29 **MALE ONE:**

30 Well, paper's not what we had in mind.
 31 Here's rapping of a wholly different kind.

32 **ALL:**

33 Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*) Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*)
 34 Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*) Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*)

35 **PASTOR:** (*A little befuddled*) Well, that's all very well and

1 good, but these children have been rehearsing their
2 Christmas pageant . . .

3 **SPOKESPERSON TWO:** That's no problem! We'll put the two
4 of them together — theirs and ours!

5 **PASTOR:** (*Shakes head.*) I don't know how you're going to do
6 that!

7 **SPOKESPERSON TWO:** Hey! Trust me!

8 **STANZA TWO**

9 **FEMALE ONE:** (*In rap beat*)

10 (The) Children and youth will present to you
11 The Christmas story — so fine, so true!

12 **MALE ONE:**

13 They'll do it in actions — we'll do it in words
14 In a way that you may have never heard.

15 **FEMALE TWO:**

16 But it's the story of the Noel
17 That Matthew's Gospel, and Luke's, both tell.

18 **MALE TWO:**

19 The Christmas story is, oh, so sweet,

20 **FEMALE THREE:**

21 But we'll do it to a rapping beat.

22 **ALL:**

23 Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*) Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*)

24 Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*) Oh, yeah (*Clap, clap*)

25 (*Vamp until ready.*)

26 (*MARY comes out, center. End Vamp.*)

27 **STANZA THREE**

28 **FEMALE TWO:**

29 There once was a virgin undefiled
30 Who was told she was going to have a child . . .

31 (*Vamp until ready.*)

32 (*The ANGEL comes out and mimes talking. MARY looks*
33 *startled. End Vamp.*)

34 **FEMALE TWO:**

35 An angel said,

1 FEMALE THREE:

2 Hail, favored maid —
3 Don't you worry, nor be afraid,
4 For the Holy Spirit will come to you
5 And I'll tell you what he is going to do.
6 He's going to give you God's holy son —
7 So I've called you God's favored one.

8 ALL:

9 Oh, yeah (Clap, clap) Oh, yeah (Clap, clap)
10 Oh, yeah, Oh, yeah, Oh, yeah (Clap, clap)
11 (Vamp until ready.)
12 (MARY and the ANGEL exit. JOSEPH enters and lies down,
13 "sleeping." End Vamp.)

14 STANZA FOUR

15 MALE TWO:

16 (Now) Joseph was a good man, don't you know?
17 And he was this Mary's man — her beau.
18 (The ANGEL comes out.)
19 This angel came to him in a dream,
20 And he said:

21 FEMALE THREE:

22 Things are not what they seem.
23 Now, don't you worry, nor be disturbed:
24 You have it on God's own holy word,
25 If you will only listen and hear it:
26 This child is the child of the Holy Spirit.
27 (JOSEPH and the ANGEL depart.)

28 ALL:

29 Ummm hmmm (Clap, clap) You know (Clap, clap)
30 That this (Clap, clap) Is so (Clap, clap)
31 (Vamp until ready.)
32 (The manger is placed Up Center. End Vamp.)

33 STANZA FIVE

34 (During this rap, MARY and JOSEPH enter from the right from
35 the auditorium, if possible. They go on stage and "knock" at an

1 *imaginary door. The INNKEEPER appears, and listens to*
 2 *JOSEPH's mimed request. He shakes his head and spreads his*
 3 *arms.)*

4 **FEMALE ONE:**

5 (Then) Caesar Augustus — if I'm not mistaken
 6 Decided a census should be taken.

7 **FEMALE TWO:**

8 So Mary and Joseph went on down
 9 To Bethlehem — King David's town ...
 10 *(Vamp until ready.)*

11 **FEMALE ONE:**

12 There was no room in the inn, down there ...

13 **FEMALE TWO:**

14 Say! Mary needed some tender care!
 15 *(Leave four beats — two measures of 2/4 time.)*
 16 *(The INNKEEPER gets an idea, and leads MARY and JOSEPH*
 17 *Up Center to the manger. INNKEEPER exits.)*

18 **FEMALE ONE:**

19 Well, the innkeeper did what he was able,
 20 He sent the couple out to the stable,

21 **ALL:**

22 Before *(Clap, clap)* The morn *(Clap, clap)*
 23 Her child *(Clap, clap)* Was Born *(Clap, clap)*

24 **HYMN:** “Good Christian Men, Rejoice” *(Children sing first verse,*
 25 *congregation sings second verse.)*

26 *(Vamp until ready.)*

27 *(MARY and JOSEPH leave. Remove manger. SHEPHERDS*
 28 *come out and sit around imaginary campfire and doze. End*
 29 *Vamp.)*

30 **STANZA SIX**

31 **MALE ONE:**

32 (There were) Shepherds out in the fields by night,
 33 And they looked up and saw a wondrous sight ...

34 *(Vamp until ready.)*

35 *(ANGEL appears. End Vamp.)*

1 **MALE ONE:**

2 **They saw an angel standing there**
3 **And he said:**

4 *(ANGEL mimes speaking.)*

5 **FEMALE THREE:**

6 **Hey, shepherds! Don't despair!**
7 **You mustn't be scared or full of fright**
8 **Because God's Messiah is born tonight.**
9 **If you want to welcome this holy stranger,**
10 **You'll find him lying in a manger**
11 **In Da- *(Clap, clap)* Vid's town *(Clap, clap)***
12 **He will *(Clap, clap)* Be found *(Clap, clap)***

13 **STANZA SEVEN**

14 **FEMALE ONE:**

15 **And then, behind the angel (and higher)**
16 *(Other ANGELS appear.)*
17 **There was a wonderful heavenly choir**
18 **Having its part in this marv'lous story**
19 **And singing:**

20 **FEMALE THREE:**

21 **To God be highest glory!**
22 **And down among men, peace and good will —**
23 **God's blessed them, and will bless them still!**

24 **FEMALE ONE:**

25 **And just like that *(Clap)* — the Scriptures say**
26 **The angels all had gone away,**
27 *(ANGELS leave.)*

28 **ALL:**

29 **But the shep- *(Clap, clap)* Herds knew *(Clap, clap)***
30 **It all *(Clap, clap)* Was true *(Clap, clap)***

31 **HYMN:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" *(Children sing first*
32 *verse, congregation sings the second. During the hymn, the*
33 *manger is replaced and MARY and JOSEPH regroup around it.)*

34

35

1 STANZA EIGHT

2 FEMALE TWO:

3 (And) So the shepherds went on down

4 (SHEPHERDS form a tableau at the manger.)

5 To Bethlehem — and there they found

6 That things were just as the angel said:

7 They found, in the village cattle-shed

8 Mary and Joseph and the baby,

9 And were they happy?

10 MALE TWO:

11 I don't mean maybe!

12 FEMALE TWO:

13 Eventually they had to go,

14 (SHEPHERDS depart.)

15 But they lived in the Christmas baby's glow.

16 ALL:

17 God's grace (Clap, clap) Came down (Clap, clap)

18 And shone (Clap, clap) Around (Clap, clap)

19 STANZA NINE

20 MALE ONE:

21 (Now) Last, but don't think of them as least

22 We mention the kings out of the East.

23 MALE TWO:

24 They looked up and they saw a star

25 And because of it, they traveled far!

26 (RAPPEERS continue their rap beat in the Vamp. As they do so,

27 the THREE KINGS come down the center aisle of the auditorium,

28 doing their own little rap.)

29 KINGS: (In the same rap style)

30 We three kings of Orient are

31 Bearing gifts we traverse afar!

32 Field and fountain, moor and mountain,

33 Following yonder star!

34 (The organ comes in with the refrain as the KINGS come down

35 and bow before the manger. The audience sings the fifth verse of



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