

THE LITTLE STAR: A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Based on the Play by Georgene C. Meadows

Music by Gerald V. Castle

Lyrics and Additional Dialogue by Michael C. Vigilant



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The Little Star:

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

*A dramatized musical
for child performers*

Music by
GERALD V. CASTLE

Lyrics and additional dialogue by
MICHAEL C. VIGILANT

Based on the play by
GEORGENE C. MEDDOWS

CAST

NARRATOR

STARLIGHTER

LITTLE STAR

SIRIUS, POLARIS and CANIS

(The Three Singing Stars)

MARY

JOSEPH

THE THREE WISE MEN

ANGEL

CHORUS

(May include Shepherds and various Celestial Bodies)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Children in churches of all denominations and sizes have performed and lived the delightful Christmas play about Little Star over the years. The enthusiastic response of Christian education and drama directors, plus the timelessness of the message, prompted us to develop this musical version of the same story.

The main character, Little Star, yearns to shine as the other stars do. He/she earnestly reminds God in song, "Remember I could serve you well with a set of rays/Now if you'd only forego any more delays/Please let me shine." But the Starlighter only says that it's not the right time. Little Star waits sadly until the triumphant moment when he/she finally shines — as the Star of Bethlehem!

Staging instructions follow. Props are few and costumes may be simply made. Although you may wish to stage a more elaborate production, take care that the set and costumes do not take the focus away from the children's voices.

The music was written especially for children's voices and is suited for their range and ability. The piano accompaniment is included, along with an optional snare drum part.

TIME: The evening of the first Christmas.

SETTING: A backdrop of a starry, moonlit night (can be painted on a sheet) is effective but not essential. Narrator reads from lighted lectern or music stand used as a podium. Risers may be used if desired, or the choir may stand on the chancel steps.

PROPS: You will need candles for all the stars. Be sure to have shields for the candles. Foil or frozen potpie aluminum pans work well. You may want to consider using penlights or flashlights for safety reasons. You can make them resemble candles by adding a "false front" drawing of a candle with flame.

Sirius needs a hand-held mirror.

You will need three gifts for the Wise Men that suggest gold, frankincense and myrrh. These can be a decorated box, a bottle covered with foil to resemble an urn, and gold, foil-covered chocolate coins.

A doll wrapped in a white cloth can represent the baby Jesus.

The manger may be improvised from a cardboard box or wooden crate.

Shepherds should carry canes.

LIGHTING: A spotlight can dramatize the role of Little Star.

COSTUMES: All stars should be costumed in white robes. White sheets will do. Make "star collars" for each of them by cutting large stars out of white cardboard with a hole in the middle for their heads. The Angel should also wear a white robe with the optional addition of a halo (can be made from tinsel) and wings (cardboard cutouts attached with string).

Mary, Joseph, and the Wise Men should wear biblical costumes (bathrobes or wrap-around sheets work fine) with headpieces. The Wise Men may wear crowns made of foil-covered cardboard.

SONGS

(In order of appearance)

- 1. I Want to Shine** — Little Star
- 2. What's Going On** — Sirius, Polaris and Canis
- 3. Three Wise Men** — Wise Men
- 4. We Shall Follow** — Little Star, Lead Wise Man,
Sirius and Company
- 5. We Shall Follow (Reprise)** — Company

- 1 **AT RISE:** The NARRATOR is at the lectern while the
 2 STARLIGHTER is busy lighting the stars. As the
 3 STARLIGHTER does his work, humming the melody to "I Want
 4 to Shine," he continually passes by the LITTLE STAR.
- 5 **NARRATOR:** At the end of each day, when darkness falls,
 6 God sends the Starlighter to light the stars in the sky.
 7 He knows we are not afraid of the dark as long as we
 8 have the stars to guide us through the night.
- 9 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Anxiously*) Yoo hoo, Starlighter, you missed
 10 me again.
- 11 **STARLIGHTER:** (*As he continues working*) No, Little Star, I
 12 didn't forget. God doesn't want you lighted just yet.
- 13 **LITTLE STAR:** Why not?
- 14 **STARLIGHTER:** I don't know. He hasn't told me.
- 15 **LITTLE STAR:** Aw, come on. How 'bout a little light — maybe
 16 just a few trillion watts?
- 17 **STARLIGHTER:** (*Consolingly*) Sorry, I can't. But don't worry,
 18 you'll get your chance to shine.
- 19 **LITTLE STAR:** God's forgotten me. He doesn't even
 20 remember I'm here.
- 21 **STARLIGHTER:** (*Stopping his work to make his point*) Oh, no,
 22 Little Star. God doesn't forget anything, or anyone.
- 23 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Sadly*) Sometimes I wonder.
- 24 **NARRATOR:** Who could blame the Little Star for being
 25 unhappy? While all of his skymates were shining like
 26 bright little lamps in the sky, he was dark. The other
 27 stars tried to comfort the Little Star.
- 28 **SIRIUS:** Look at me, Little Star. I'm an old star. I've been
 29 shining for billions of years. Maybe when it's time for my
 30 light to go out, God will let you shine in my place.
- 31 **POLARIS:** Maybe God isn't ready to have a new star. There
 32 are so many now that only he can count us.
- 33 **CANIS:** God doesn't make stars just for fun. We each do
 34 something special.
- 35 **SIRIUS:** Like me. I'm Sirius, and I'm the brightest star in the sky.

1 **POLARIS:** I'm Polaris. Sailors call me the North Star, and I
2 guide them over the sea.

3 **CANIS:** I'm Canis, the Dog Star. I'm the star of summer.

4 **LITTLE STAR:** Wow! Hey, Starlighter, maybe I could be the
5 "cat" star! (*STARLIGHTER shakes head no.*) The "hamster"
6 star? (*STARLIGHTER shakes head no.*) How about the
7 "goldfish" star?

8 **STARLIGHTER:** Don't be so impatient, Little Star. I'm sure
9 someday you'll have your special purpose. Remember,
10 we are all his children, and he loves his children dearly.

11 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Disbelievingly*) Yeah, sure.

12 (*Music begins for "I Want to Shine."*)

13 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Singing solo*)

14 God made the stars, the planets and
15 the moon

16 To brighten the evening sky

17 But when these wonders are unfurled

18 To an ever waiting world

19 I sigh, and ask why

20 In the great scheme of things

21 In God's great design

22 What good is a star that can't shine?

23 What good is a star that can't shine?

24 (*Looking to heaven*)

25 I want to shine

26 I want to shine for you

27 That's my dream

28 I pray that it comes true

29 I want to fly though the sky from dusk
30 until dawn

31 I want to be the kind of star gazers
32 gaze upon

33 I want to stay in their eyes after night
34 has gone

35 I want to shine.

1 I want to be
 2 All that you'll let me be
 3 Take your light
 4 And let it flow through me
 5 I want to twinkle on top of an evergreen
 6 I want to sparkle in the heart of each
 7 Nazarene
 8 I want to be the best star that the
 9 world has seen
 10 I want to shine.
 11
 12 Wish I could glitter, wish I could glow
 13 Strut my stuff, put on a show
 14 Light up the night, like a fireball!
 15 But if I could wish upon myself,
 16 I'd wish this most of all —
 17
 18 I want to shine
 19 I want to shine for you
 20 That's my dream
 21 I pray that it comes true
 22 So when you're ready to work your
 23 wonderful ways
 24 Remember I could serve you well with
 25 a set of rays
 26 Now if you'd only forego anymore
 27 delays
 28
 29 Please let me shine
 30 Oh, let me shine
 31 I want to shine!
 32 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Hands clasped in prayer*) Yoo hoo! Oh, God, I
 33 was just praying to you . . . Did you he--ar me?
 34 **NARRATOR:** God was busy overseeing the wonders of his
 35 universe and giving his loving care to his children on

1 earth, yet he is never too busy to listen to even the smallest
 2 prayer. *(In a normal voice, but firmly)* “Yes, Little Star,” he
 3 said. “I heard you.”

4 LITTLE STAR: Please tell me why I can’t shine like all the
 5 other stars?

6 NARRATOR: God said to the Little Star, “Because it’s not yet
 7 time for you to shine. I am waiting for just the right
 8 moment.”

9 LITTLE STAR: But I’ve waited so long. Please let me have a
 10 little light. I’m not greedy — how about a few billion
 11 watts? Come on, what do you say?

12 NARRATOR: Perhaps God was amused by the Little Star’s
 13 impatience. “Oh, Little Star,” he said, “don’t you believe
 14 I have a plan for you?”

15 LITTLE STAR: No. I’ll be dark forever. *(Exasperatedly)* Maybe
 16 you should turn me into a lightbulb — at least I’d have
 17 something to do.

18 NARRATOR: Well, God had no intention of turning the Little
 19 Star into a lightbulb. In fact, he answered by saying,
 20 “Someday, Little Star, you will be one of the wonders of
 21 the universe. Until then, you must do as I say and remain
 22 dark.”

23 LITTLE STAR: *(Frustratedly)* Oh, moon rocks! *(As LITTLE*
 24 *STAR steps aside; poutingly)* I’m never gonna shine.

25 NARRATOR: As sad as the Little Star felt, a lot of people
 26 down on earth were feeling worse — for this was a time
 27 when the Romans ruled the world. The Romans were
 28 cruel and arrogant, and they tried to make the people of
 29 conquered nations behave as Rome wanted them to. God
 30 had no control over the Romans because they worshiped
 31 frightful false gods. Though God could not change the
 32 Romans, he had promised the people of Israel that he
 33 would send someone who would show them the way to
 34 a better life. So the people watched and waited for the
 35 Savior. Even the stars in the sky joined in the vigil.

1 *(Music begins for "What's Going On?")*

2 **SIRIUS:** *(Singing first verse)*

3 **I see Romans on the left**

4 **I see Romans on the right**

5 **Turning people into slaves**

6 **Oh, it's not a pretty sight!**

7

8 **What's going on?**

9 **POLARIS and CANIS:**

10 **What's going on down there?**

11 **SIRIUS:**

12 **What's going on?**

13 **POLARIS and CANIS:**

14 **What's going on down there?**

15 **SIRIUS:**

16 **What's going on?**

17 **POLARIS and CANIS:**

18 **Oh, yeah**

19 **SIRIUS:**

20 **What's going on down there?**

21 *(SIRIUS continues into second verse.)*

22 **I see Herod on the throne**

23 **But it's no enlightened reign**

24 **While Augustus pulls his strings**

25 **The whole world goes down the drain**

26 *(Repeat chorus: Then move into Bridge 1)*

27 **POLARIS and CANIS:**

28 **We think this situation is deplorable**

29 **SIRIUS:**

30 **It's totally Sodom and Gomorrah-ble**

31 **POLARIS and CANIS:**

32 **The lying, the cheating, the hatred,**

33 **the sins**

34 **SIRIUS:**

35 **They're knocking down commandments**

1 like bowling pins!
2 (*SIRIUS continues into third verse.*)
3 I see people who are sad
4 I see people who are poor
5 I see people who don't care
6 Oh, I can't look anymore
7 (*Repeat chorus: Then move into bridge 2.*)
8 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
9 We think this situation is deplorable
10 **SIRIUS:**
11 It's totally Sodom and Gomorrah-ble
12 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
13 The world's gone chaotic, life's in
14 disarray
15 **SIRIUS:**
16 They sure could use a hero to save the
17 day!
18 (*SIRIUS continues into fourth verse.*)
19 We saw Moses part a sea
20 We saw David shoot his sling
21 We saw Samson use his hair
22 Now we need a super king!
23 (*Repeat chorus: After one repetition move into tag.*)
24 **SIRIUS:**
25 What's going on?
26 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
27 We've never seen such disgraceful
28 behavior
29 **SIRIUS:**
30 What's going on?
31 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
32 It seems to us these folks could use a
33 Savior
34 **SIRIUS:**
35 What's going on?

1 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
2 We've never heard so much crying
3 and grieving
4 **SIRIUS:**
5 What's going on?
6 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
7 We're having such a hard time believing
8 **SIRIUS:**
9 What's going on? —
10 **POLARIS and CANIS:**
11 Oh, yeah
12 **ALL:**
13 What's going on down there?
14 **SIRIUS:** *(As song ends, peering into the audience)* Where is that
15 Messiah?
16 **POLARIS and CANIS:** Yeah!
17 **NARRATOR:** The Little Star did not join in watching for the
18 Savior. He was too concerned with his own problems.
19 The Little Star was not selfish; he was just worried that
20 he would never have a useful purpose.
21 **LITTLE STAR:** *(Singing off to the side)*
22 I want to shine,
23 I want to shine for you
24 That's my dream
25 I pray that it comes true
26 I'm trying hard to hang on to glimmers
27 of hope
28 But when I look at my friends, I can't
29 help but mope
30 Cause I can't even be seen with a
31 telescope!
32 I want to shine.
33 **NARRATOR:** The Little Star decided it was time that he and
34 God had another talk. So he went to God a second time.
35 **LITTLE STAR:** *(Clasping hands together as if to pray)* Yooo hooo.

- 1 Oh, God — are you still out there?
- 2 NARRATOR: And God answered, “Yes, Little Star. I’m here.”
- 3 LITTLE STAR: *(Tentatively)* I — er, just wanted to let you
- 4 know that I’m ready to shine now.
- 5 NARRATOR: God replied to the Little Star, “That’s good,
- 6 because it’s almost your time.”
- 7 LITTLE STAR: You mean it?! When? Tell me, please tell me
- 8 ... please!
- 9 NARRATOR: “First,” God said, “I want you to look down on
- 10 the earth and tell me what you see.”
- 11 LITTLE STAR: I see many unhappy people.
- 12 NARRATOR: God said, “Yes, Little Star, The people are
- 13 unhappy because they have done many bad things. They
- 14 have suffered for many years and now they are sorry for
- 15 the things they’ve done. They’re asking for forgiveness.”
- 16 God was silent for a long time. Then he said, “Little Star,
- 17 look down again. Look on the road. What do you see?”
- 18 *(MARY and JOSEPH start from the back of the church or theater,*
- 19 *walking slowly down the aisle. They will take a place in front*
- 20 *of the STARS, facing the audience.)*
- 21 LITTLE STAR: *(While MARY and JOSEPH are coming forward)*
- 22 I see a man and a woman. They are going to a little town.
- 23 NARRATOR: God asked the Little Star, “Do you know who
- 24 those people are?”
- 25 LITTLE STAR: No. They are very plain people. They are
- 26 going to a very plain little town.
- 27 NARRATOR: God said to the Little Star, “They are very
- 28 special people. They shall be the mother and father of
- 29 the Savior and the town is Bethlehem. It is in Bethlehem
- 30 where the baby will be born.”
- 31 LITTLE STAR: *(Excitedly)* I get it. You’re going to turn me
- 32 into a giant headlight and I’m going to guide them into
- 33 town. Right?
- 34 NARRATOR: “Not quite,” God said, “Not quite.” Then God
- 35 turned his attention to the Starlighter and said,

1 **“Starlighter, do you know what night this is?”**

2 **STARLIGHTER:** *(As he speaks, a player dressed as an ANGEL*
3 *will place a bundle containing the infant Jesus into the arms of*
4 **MARY.) I think this must be a very special night. This**
5 **must be a very special time.**

6 **NARRATOR:** God answered, “Yes, Starlighter. The baby
7 born tonight and called Jesus must be an ordinary baby,
8 but he will change the hearts of the people forever. I will
9 give the earth a sign it will never forget — a star. The
10 brightest star in the sky.”

11 **SIRIUS:** He must mean me! After all, I’ve got seniority
12 around here.

13 **POLARIS:** Hey! I’m a bright light. I can handle it.

14 **CANIS:** Who could be hotter than the star of summer? I’ll
15 do it!

16 **NARRATOR:** God silenced the excited stars. He said, “No,
17 none of you are quite right. I have saved a special star
18 since the beginning of time for this night. The star that
19 burns for the birth of Jesus must be as new as the hopes
20 of the world on this night. There is a special star.”

21 **LITTLE STAR:** *(Tentatively)* Uhhh, you couldn’t mean little
22 ol’ me, could you?

23 **NARRATOR:** God answered, “Yes, Little Star. I’ve saved your
24 light to be the Star of Bethlehem, the star which
25 announces the birth of Christ. You shall shine as a beacon
26 in the hearts of people for all time. Starlighter, now is
27 the time to light the Star of Bethlehem.”

28 **STARLIGHTER:** Yes, sir! *(To the LITTLE STAR)* You see? I
29 told you if you waited patiently, God would have a special
30 purpose for you. No star will be as special as you will
31 be. *(As spotlight shines on the LITTLE STAR)* Ta da! *(As*
32 *spotlight intensifies)* **A star is born.**

33 **CANIS:** Goodness!

34 **POLARIS:** Gracious!

35 **SIRIUS:** Great balls of fire!

1 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Anxiously*) **Hey, anybody got a mirror?**
 2 (*SIRIUS hands the LITTLE STAR a mirror.*)

3 **NARRATOR:** (*As LITTLE STAR admires himself in the mirror*)
 4 **God said to the radiant new star, "You are the brightest**
 5 **star that has ever shone. Tonight all of the world will be**
 6 **looking at you, though few people will understand your**
 7 **significance. Many years from now, people will still**
 8 **remember the night they saw the wonderful, bright star**
 9 **shining over Bethlehem, and they will know it was my**
 10 **sign that the Savior was born."**

11 **LITTLE STAR:** (*Singing and still checking himself over*)
 12 **I'm gonna fly through the sky from**
 13 **dusk until dawn**
 14 **I'm gonna be the kind of star gazers**
 15 **gaze upon**
 16 **I'm gonna stay in their eyes after**
 17 **night has gone**
 18 **I'm gonna shine!**

19 **SIRIUS:** (*Looking down the aisle*) **Look! There are three kings,**
 20 **and they're heading for Bethlehem!** (*Company turns*
 21 *attention to the WISE MEN.*)

22 **POLARIS:** **And they're bearing the richest gifts — gold,**
 23 **frankincense and myrrh.**

24 **CANIS:** **And they are following the Star of Bethlehem!**
 25 (*LITTLE STAR registers surprise, then pride.*)

26 **SONG:** "Three Wise Men" (*During song, which will be sung a*
 27 *cappella to the melody of "We Shall Follow," the WISE MEN*
 28 *will walk down the aisle, single file, carrying their gifts. They*
 29 *will place their gifts before the manger, bow, and take places*
 30 *around MARY and JOSEPH.*)

31 (*Pianist may play first chord.*)

32 **WISE MEN:** (*Singing a cappella*)
 33 **Oh, star of wonder,**
 34 **Burn brightly on this night**
 35 **We seek the Savior**



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