

LETTERS FROM SANTA

THE MUSICAL

*Based on the Play
by Gail Gaymer Martin*

*Music and Lyrics
by Lauren Mayer*



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

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Letters from Santa:

The Musical

A performance about the truth of Christmas

based on the play by Gail Gaymer Martin
music and lyrics by Lauren Mayer

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SANTA (Adult or teen male)

SANTA'S HELPER

CHILD 1 (Girl)

CHILD 2 (Boy)

CHILD 3

CHILD 4

CHILD 5

CHILD 6

CHILD 7

CHILD 8

CHILD 9

CHILD 10

CHOIR

PRODUCTION NOTES

Letters from Santa: The Musical stresses the importance of Jesus' birth, even through Santa's eyes. As Christians, we might prefer to ignore Santa's importance at Christmas and some families do, but Santa has become a symbol of Christmas giving, and he is part of the holiday for many children. This musical helps children understand that even Santa can worship Jesus.

As eager and materialistic children request the latest and trendiest Christmas gifts, sad Santa loses his "ho, ho, ho." Then he comes up with an idea to help the children understand what is even more important. He provides the children with unusual gifts that symbolize aspects of Jesus' birth. As the children begin to understand, Santa's happiness grows, and he gets his "ho, ho, ho" back.

This short play requires the suggestion of a setting. A small decorated slimline or tabletop Christmas tree stands on-stage with a few wrapped gifts beneath or beside it. Nearby is a chair where Santa sits beside a small table on his right where a stack of opened "Dear Santa" letters are piled. He holds one letter in his hand at the opening. The lines for Santa and Santa's Helper may be written on the children's letters so that memorization is not required. Each can wear a lavalier microphone, or they may use one microphone that can pick up both voices.

In the opening scene with Santa, the children's lines are brief and could be memorized, but when each child has a scene beside the Christmas tree, most of the child's lines are read from Santa's letter so little memorization is needed. One microphone on a stand can serve all of the children in their individual scenes.

The few props needed are supplied by Santa's Helper, who hands the appropriate prop to Santa. As Santa watches from behind the tree, Santa's Helper will provide Santa with the next gift needed in the script, and Santa will place it on the pile of wrapped gifts. The gifts with notes may be placed on a small table behind the tree so they are not seen by the audience.

If a smaller or larger cast is needed, some of the children in line to see Santa could be added or cut, making sure the two children with lines remain part of the cast. Many children may participate in singing the six songs. Additionally, more Santa's Helpers may be used and the dialogue shared.

The letters from Santa read by the children include a paraphrasing of the Christmas story with verses from Luke 2: 10-20, New International Version.

A short commentary about how commercialism has caused the true meaning of Christmas to be lost could be written and shared by an adult or teenager.

Props

"North Pole" sign, lighted tabletop or slimline Christmas tree, boxes wrapped as Christmas presents, one small table, Santa's chair, stack of open "Dear Santa" letters on table, children's Christmas storybook about Jesus, candy cane, key with a note attached, lamb with a note attached, angel with a note attached, star with a note attached, candle with a note attached, 8½ x 11 card stock posters (see Advent Activity).

Costumes

Costuming is minimal. Santa should be dressed in a typical Santa suit, and he may be played by an adult or an older teen male. His helper will need an elf's cap and any pants and shirt with Christmas colors. This part may be played by a male or female. In the Christmas tree scene, the children may dress in pajamas and slippers or in children's play clothes.

Music

This musical features six original songs with piano accompaniment. For most of the songs, solos may be assigned as desired or the numbers may be performed by the entire group, other than where specified. Additionally, smaller subgroups may be designated based on age, Sunday school classes, etc. for certain songs or for parts within some of the songs that call for "Group A" and "Group B." Handle this as you see fit for your group's size, age, and experience.

Advent Activity

During Advent, the children have an opportunity to prepare for Christmas by making the 8½ x 11 card stock posters they will display throughout the musical as they sing the songs. One is needed for each child. The front of the poster will display the “meaning of Christmas” message and the back will hold the lyrics to the songs for them to look at as they sing. The children may create the short message on the individual posters or be given a message, such as “Christmas Is Jesus,” “Jesus Is Born,” “The True Christmas,” “Jesus Is Love,” “Jesus Is Salvation,” “The Gift Is Jesus,” or “Jesus Is the Gift.” You may be creative and use other messages you have found in this musical. The poster provides not only a visual message for the performance and for the children to take home, but it also serves as a way to help them remember the lyrics when singing the song.

These posters will work best on card stock, since it is heavier than paper. The children can use colored markers as well as glitter. The drawings can be some of the Christmas symbols used in the play or other Christmas symbols that remind us of Jesus’ birth.

An added activity is to cut and decorate small card stock messages that may be distributed by the children to those in the congregation as they arrive or as they leave the musical performance.

SONG LIST

1. What's up at the North Pole?
2. I Want!
3. Santa's Blues
4. A Letter from Santa
5. See the Light
6. True Christmas

(The opening number may be sung in front of the curtain, by entire CAST or SOLOISTS as desired. This song is a prologue to the actual story.)

SONG: "What's up at the North Pole?"

Chorus:

ALL: (Or soloists as desired, singing)

What's up at the North Pole,
And how did Santa achieve his goal?
What's up, up at the North Pole,
And what's in those letters from Santa?

Verse 1:

This is a tale about Santa,
And one certain December night.
We'll show you why he was feeling blue
And what he did to make things right.

Repeat chorus

Verse 2:

Santa is in his workshop,
Watching over good girls and boys,
But it's sad to say, Santa's holiday
Has become all about toys.

Repeat chorus

Verse 3:

Let's go to Santa's workshop
On a busy Christmas Eve,
And see whether or not Santa Claus has got
Something special up his sleeve!

Chorus: (With modifications)

What's up at the North Pole,

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1 **And how did Santa achieve his goal?**
 2 **What's up, up at the North Pole,**
 3 **And what's in those letters?**
 4 **(Can he make things better?)**
 5 **Oh, what's in those letters from Santa?**
 6 *(End song)*

7

8 *(The scene is Santa's workshop, with a sign reading "North*
 9 *Pole." Small tabletop or slimline Christmas tree stands nearby*
 10 *with wrapped gifts beneath [used for next scene]. SANTA sits in*
 11 *a chair, looking depressed. A stack of opened letters is on a*
 12 *small table beside him. SANTA'S HELPER stands beside the*
 13 *table.)*

14 **SANTA:** *(Shaking head as he looks at the floor)* **No, no, no.** *(He*
 15 *looks at the letter he's holding and sighs.)* **No, no, no.**

16 **SANTA'S HELPER:** *(Looks concerned.)* **What's wrong, Santa?**
 17 **Where's your ho, ho, ho?**

18 **SANTA:** *(Selects a letter from the stack on the table.)* **Look at this.**
 19 *(Gives letter to SANTA'S HELPER.)*

20 **SANTA'S HELPER:** *(Looks at letter.)* **Amy wants an iPhone.** *(He*
 21 *is confused.)* **Is that bad?**

22 **SANTA:** **Every year I put gifts under Christmas trees all**
 23 **around the world — iPods, Wiis, Xboxes.**

24 **SANTA'S HELPER:** **They're expensive.**

25 **SANTA:** *(Looks at his helper.)* **Yes, but it's not that. Did you see**
 26 **what happened yesterday when I was in the**
 27 **department store?** *(SANTA rises, moves the chair forward,*
 28 *and sits as five children line up to his left. He is*
 29 *unenthusiastic.)* **Ho, ho, ho. What would you like for**
 30 **Christmas?**

31 **CHILD 1:** **I want a Kindle.**

32 **SANTA:** **So you like storybooks?** *(SANTA'S HELPER hands him*
 33 *a children's Christmas book.)* **What about a book like this**
 34 **that tells the story of Jesus' birth?**

35 **CHILD 1:** *(Shakes her head no.)* **I just want a Kindle.**

36 **SANTA:** *(Discouraged)* **A Kindle. OK.** *(CHILD 1 is nudged out of*
 37 *the way by CHILD 2. CHILD 1 exits.)*

38 **SANTA:** *(Unenthusiastic)* **Ho, ho, ho.**

1 CHILD 2: I want a new dirt bike. A good one.

2 SANTA: I'll add it to my sleigh, but here's a candy cane for
3 now. See, it's shaped like a shepherd's crook, and when
4 you turn it upside down, it's a J, and it stands for —
5 (*Start music.*)

6 CHILD 2: I just want a dirt bike.

7

8

9 SONG: "I Want!"

10

11 CHILDREN: (*Or solos as desired, singing*)

12 I want, I want, I want, I want, I want! (*CHILD 3, 4, and 5*
13 *yell their lines out over the beginning of the song as the other*
14 *CHILDREN sing their "I wants."*)

15 CHILD 3: (*Yells.*) I want a Nintendo ____! (*Insert latest Nintendo*
16 *gadget.*)

17 CHILD 4: (*Yells.*) I want a laptop!

18 CHILD 5: (*Yells.*) I want a life-size robot!

19

20 CHILDREN: (*Singing*) All the gifts I wanna see

21 Waiting there beneath the tree,
22 That's what Christmas means to me,
23 I want, I want, I want! (I want it!)

24

25 Here's my list, now is that clear?
26 Piles of presents all right here.
27 I've been (sort of) good all year,
28 I want, I want, I want! (I want it!)

29

30 I want an Xbox,
31 An iPad, Nintendo,
32 An iPhone for my phone that's nicer than my friend, oh
33 I want a Kindle, a Wii U for me too!
34 And to make sure you don't get it wrong,
35 My list is sev'ral pages long.
36 I want, I want, I want, I want.

37

38 I want, I want, I want, I want, I want!

1 I want, I want, I want, I want, I want!

2

3 All the gifts I wanna see
4 Waiting there beneath the tree,
5 That's what Christmas means to me,
6 I want, I want, I want! (I want it!)

7

8 Here's my list, now is that clear?
9 Piles of presents all right here.
10 I've been (sort of) good all year,
11 I want, I want, I want! (I want it!)

12

13 Gimme toys or I'll make noise.
14 I want, I want, I want!
15 (*End song*)

16

17 SANTA'S HELPER: I see what you mean, Santa.

18 SANTA: (*Picks up the stack of letters.*) They're missing the true
19 meaning of Christmas, and I haven't helped them
20 understand. And some parents haven't told them the
21 true meaning, either.

22 SANTA'S HELPER: What is the true meaning?

23 SANTA: I want parents to teach their children about Jesus'
24 birth, and I need to help them learn who I really am.
25 (*Rubs his forehead as he looks through the stack of letters. He*
26 *looks up sadly from pile.*)

27

28

29 SONG: "Santa's Blues"

30

31 SANTA: (*Singing*) My heart is heavy, I'm feeling oh so low.
32 Oh, the elves can't cheer me up, I'm even sick of snow.
33 I've lost my merry smile, I've even lost my "Ho, ho, ho."

34

35 My smile doesn't twinkle,
36 My eyes don't crinkle,
37 I feel as tired as Rip Van Winkle.
38 Oh, whoah, whoah, I need some happy news,

- 1 'Cause those sleighbells won't ring
 2 When I'm singing Santa's blues.
 3
 4 Kids just want presents, expensive as can be.
 5 Gee, don't they remember the story of the Nativity?
 6 Even Rudolph knows better, that Christmas isn't just
 7 about me,
 8
 9 SANTA'S HELPER: (*Singing*) Or presents under the tree.
 10
 11 SANTA: (*Singing*) I feel so rotten,
 12 'Cause kids have forgotten
 13 That not all gifts have to be store-boughten.
 14 Oh, whoah, whoah, my efforts they refuse
 15 To teach kids a single thing.
 16 That's why I'm singing Santa's blues.
 17
 18 (*Add in dialogue during song.*)
 19 SANTA'S HELPER: (*Speaking*) Gosh, Santa, doesn't anyone
 20 remember what Christmas is really about?
 21 SANTA: No, and I've tried every way I can think of to teach
 22 them.
 23 SANTA'S HELPER: Too bad you can't gift wrap the true
 24 meaning of Christmas like it was a present.
 25 SANTA: That's it!
 26 SANTA'S HELPER: That's what?
 27 (*End spoken dialogue*)
 28
 29 SANTA: (*Singing*) My, my, my, I've got an idea I can use!
 30 For a message I can bring,
 31 Then I can stop singing Santa's blues.
 32 It's time to spread the news
 33 So I can lose those Santa's blues!
 34
 35 SANTA and SANTA'S HELPER: (*Singing*) Oh yeah!
 36 (*End song*)
 37
 38 SANTA'S HELPER: What's your idea, Santa?

SANTA: Just wait and see. (*SANTA and SANTA'S HELPER remove the chair, table, and stack of letters, then go behind the Christmas tree to watch the CHILDREN on Christmas morning. As each CHILD approaches, SANTA places an unwrapped gift with a note attached with the others, then hides. The first gift is a key. CHILD 6 tiptoes forward, looking at the tree and the gifts, then picking up the key and letter.*)

CHILD 6: (Calls out) Mommy, Santa came!

(*Start music*)

SONG: "A Letter from Santa"

Verse 1:

CHILD 6: (Singing) I got a letter from Santa!

Mommy, come see.

I got a letter from Santa with a gift just for me.

He tells the story of Jesus for me Christmas morn,

To give us all eternal life is why He was born. (*Holds up key.*)

(*Spoken*) **And look, (Singing) Santa gave me a key!**

(*Reads letter.*)

"The Bible says a young man named Joseph went to Bethlehem with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. The time came for the baby to be born, but they couldn't find a room. A kind innkeeper let them stay in his stable, where Mary gave birth to Jesus. When you look at this key, remember Jesus didn't need a key, because most of his life he traveled, telling people about God's love." Jesus was born in a stable, and he was born for me! (*CHILD 6 steps aside. CHILD 7 picks up the lamb and letter, stepping forward.*)

Verse 2:

CHILD 7: (Singing) I got a letter from Santa!

Hey, Dad, come see.

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1 I got a letter from Santa with a gift just for me.
 2 He tells the story of Jesus for me Christmas morn,
 3 To give us all eternal life is why He was born. (*Holds up*
 4 *lamb.*)

5 (*Spoken*) And look, (*Singing*) Santa gave me a lamb!

6

7 (*Reads letter.*)

8 “And there were shepherds keeping watch over their
 9 flocks at night, and an angel of the Lord appeared to
 10 them, and said, ‘Do not be afraid.’ So when you see the
 11 lamb, remember that lowly shepherds were the first to
 12 hear the news that Jesus was born. Jesus is the Good
 13 Shepherd, because when you are confused and lost, he
 14 will guide you and take care of you.” Jesus is my Good
 15 Shepherd. He loves me and watches over me. (*CHILD 7*
 16 *steps aside. CHILD 8, CHILD 9, and CHILD 10 have retrieved*
 17 *their letters and angel, star, and candle respectively. They step*
 18 *forward.*)

19

20 Verse 3:

21 CHILD 8, CHILD 9, and CHILD 10: (*Singing together*) We each
 22 got letters from Santa!

23 Ev’ryone, come see.

24 We each got letters from Santa with a gift

25 CHILD 8: For me,

26 CHILD 9: For me,

27 CHILD 10: For me!

28 CHILD 8, CHILD 9, CHILD 10: (*Singing together*) He tells the
 29 story of Jesus for me Christmas morn,

30 To give us all eternal life is why He was born.

31 (*Spoken*) And look,

32

33 (*These lines overlap*)

34 CHILD 8: (*Singing*) Santa gave me an angel,

35 CHILD 10: (*Singing*) Santa gave me a candle,

36 CHILD 9: (*Singing*) Santa gave me a star.

37 CHILD 8: (*Reads letter.*) “When you look at this angel,
 38 remember that the angel told the shepherds that Jesus

was their Savior. He came to earth to save all people from sin and death, and to give them eternal life if they believed in him.” (*Holds up the angel.*) Jesus gave me eternal life!

CHILD 9: (*Reads letter.*) “When you look at this star, remember that just as a star guided the wise men to Jesus, the stars and angels filled the sky that night, and you are reminded that Jesus is your Savior and your path to heaven.” (*Holds up the star.*) Jesus gives me the gift of heaven.

CHILD 10: (*Reads letter.*) “When you look at this candle, remember that Jesus is the light of the world, and the Bible tells us not to hide our light. Instead, put it on a stand, so that those who would come in can see your light. Let Jesus shine in you for all the world to see.” (*Holds up the candle.*) Jesus is shining in me!

Verse 4:

ALL CHILDREN: We all got letters from Santa
Under the tree.

Thanks to our letters from Santa,

Now we all see

The real meaning of Christmas, and now we gratefully
say,

“Thank you, Santa, thank you, Santa,

On this Christmas day!”

(*End song*)

SANTA: I have always loved your letters, and I hope you love
the special gifts I’ve given you. (*Introduction to “See the
Light” starts.*)

CHILDREN: (*Shout out various comments, ad-lib.*) Thank you,
Santa! I love my present! It’s great!

SONG: "See the Light"

CHILDREN: (*Solos as desired, or all together, singing*)

Oh, at last we see the light.

We can see the real meaning of Christmas.

Santa Claus has put things right,

And we'll show we know the story of Christmas.

SANTA'S HELPER: (*Singing*) Santa Claus was sad because
the letters he'd receive

All asked for a lot as if they forgot what happened on
Christmas Eve.

But Santa, you reminded us why we have this holiday,

And thanks to Santa's letters,

Now we can proudly say ...

CHILDREN: (*Singing*) Oh, we know Christmas is celebrating
our Savior's birth,

And we can finally see the light.

Jesus was sent here to bring us God's love and peace on
earth.

Thanks to Santa, now we can see the light.

ALL: (*Singing*) Santa Claus was sad because the letters he'd
receive

All asked for a lot as if they forgot what happened on
Christmas Eve.

But Santa, you reminded us why we have this holiday,

And thanks to Santa's letters,

Now we can proudly say ...

(*These sections sung together in counterpoint*)

GROUP A: (*Singing*) Oh, at last we see the light.

We can see the real meaning of Christmas.

Santa Claus has put things right,

And we'll show we know the story of Christmas,

And we'll show we know the story of Christmas.



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