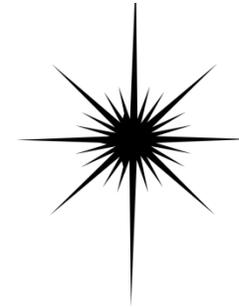


# A Caroled Christmas

**This play bill was inspired by  
Gretchen Olsen, who had the idea to  
share the meaning behind the  
Christmas Carols.**



## **A Caroled Christmas**

**Written by:** BRITTANY PARKER

**Musical Arrangements:** CHRISTOPHER PARKER

**Performed by:** the Kids of Hope

*Thank you to all the Early Release Leaders who worked alongside us to make this production possible!*

*Thank you to Geneses Classical Academy for loaning us spectacular Props!*

*Thank you to Peggy Rankin for finding out what inspired each of these Christmas Carols and condensing it for us all to enjoy!*

**“Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.”**

**Proverbs 16:3**

## **Just A Little Note**

**Few Stories** have stood the test of time, but Christ’s Birth has outshined them all! A Caroled Christmas was written using the unique language of *silent acting* and is filled with many beloved Christmas carols.

Is it not music which in the space of a moment can make our hearts sing with joy? And is it not music that so often brings understanding where a dozen words have failed?

Therefore, in a sweet, simple way, we have chosen to tell you the story through songs that will carry a lasting memory for you to treasure.

Our purpose is to bring a taste of that **Hope, Peace, Joy,** and **Love** felt by so many on that long ago night when the Angels sang. For though we are not angels, we too bring you “Good Tidings of Great Joy!” Jesus your Savior IS born and because He lives, we also live!

So Rejoice all you people everywhere and put into your hearts this timeless tale of A Caroled Christmas.

*-Brittany Parker*

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*A Most Sincere Thank You to the many Leaders  
who made A Caroled Christmas possible!*

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TERRI BURNS	BAILEE BURNS
BETHANEE BURNS	JEAN MILLMANN
CAROL GRAPEVINE	DONNA ROPER
SHERRY ABEL	CAROLYN KAISER
PASTOR LEE MILLER	JENNY LUNDQUIST
MEGAN GOSHORN	AYLA WARMKA
GRACE RETTKE	REECE
JODIE MURRAY	CHRISTOPHER PARKER

***We hope you enjoyed "A Caroled Christmas" as much as we  
enjoyed putting it all together!***

***May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You this Christmas!***

**Merry Christmas!**

## **Joy to the World**

Performed by Kids of Hope

### **Music:**

Christopher Parker on keyboard

*Born in 1674, 343 years ago, Isaac Watts was a rebellious sort. He found church music boring. Encouraged by his father to do something about it instead of complaining he set out to make church music more meaningful to the common man.*

*His contributions to Church music are seen everywhere... songs like "When I survey the Wondrous Cross"... "We're Marching to Zion"... and "At the Cross".*

*Studying Psalm 98 one day he was inspired to write the words to "joy to the World". It was never meant to be a Christmas carol, just a song of praise to the One who reigns as King and who one day will come judge the world. So it is interesting and a mystery how it became known as a Christmas song as there is no mention of Jesus' Birth.*

*Isaac Watts wanted church Music to come alive because he knew that Christians should be experiencing and showing joy EVERY day because certainly "The Lord is come!" and coming again!*

## **Mary Did You Know**

### **Performed by:**

Mary: Emalie Griffey

Joseph: Avery Asmus

Gabriel: Gracie Asmus

### **Music:**

Ayla Warmka, Aubrey Minor, Pastor Lee Miller

Christopher Parker on keyboard

Daniel Lundquist on Saxophone

The words to “Mary Did you know?” were written by humorist and songwriter, Mark Lowry. In 1984 Mark’s pastor asked him to write the program for the Living Christmas tree choir presentation. He had the brilliant idea to write it as if he were a reporter interviewing Mary on what it was like to be the mother of Jesus, the great “I AM”. Mark joined the Gather Vocal Band and a few years later a fellow member, Buddy Green, put Mark’s words to music. It was the time in decades that a new Christmas song was added to the list of traditional songs we enjoy at Christmas. And it was the first time Ever that Southern gospel music gave the world a Christmas Carol.

## **Props**

Will Jones

Tyson

Jason Schmidtke

Koby Ihle

Riley Kaiser

Rylee Olsen

## **Lights and Slides**

Eli Goshorn

## **Other Participants**

The children of Eva Steele

## Sheep

Kip Murphy  
Micah Goshorn  
Josiah Parker  
Clark Lundquist  
Ben Roper  
Preston Jones

## We Three Kings

### Performed by:

Jadon Parker, Peyton Sorbel, Aiden Decker, Natalie Griffey

**Music:** Lola Lundquist

**Poem:** Brittany Parker

*Many of the best-loved Christmas carols originated in America and this is one of them. Both words and music were written by the same man, John Henry Hopkins Jr. At the time of composing "We Three Kings" he held two positions. One was the music director at General Theological seminary in New York City and rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He combined the duties of two positions and "We Three Kings" was written for a pageant at the seminary in 1857. It is powerful and beautiful, especially when performed by strong male voices. It has become a popular Christmas carol and one often still used in Christmas pageants as it was originally intended. It still transports us today to that time in history when one star led a few men on a pilgrimage to seek this One who was and IS the King of kings. Do men still seek HIM?*

## Angels we have heard on High

### Performed by:

Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, Gracie Asmus

### Music:

Bells: Sheep

Piano: Riley Kaiser

Guitar: Christopher Parker

The subject of the song, “Angels We Have Heard On High”, is the birth of Jesus Christ as told in the book of Luke, especially the scene in which the shepherds, outside Bethlehem, encountered a multitude of angels singing and praising the new born child and our King. It was first published in 1855 in a French songbook. But records show that the song had been used for many years before that time in church services. The origin of the song is uncertain but many believe it was written by either a monk or priest from the Catholic Church. The words of the Chorus “Gloria in excelsis Deo” mean Glory to the God in the highest” and were the words the angels said as they were praising God when they first appeared to the shepherds. This was a phrase that was an important part of worship dating back as early as 130 A.D. At that time it was decreed that on the day of the Lord’s birth the congregation should always sing the “Gloria in excelsis Deo”. If in fact that is accurate, though not proven, the exciting possibility exists that the one who decreed it actually lived at the same time as Jesus! Therefore the origin and the author of this Christmas carol is unknown but the author does a wonderful job at portraying the excitement and wonder of that night when angels brought to the shepherd the news of the birth of our King and Savior!

## Shepherds

Carter Preuss

Isaac Goshorn

Anthony Uecker

Joshua Parker

Caleb Goshorn

Alex Uecker

## Wise Men

Jadon Parker

Peyton Sorbel

Avery Decker

## Angels

Cammie Parker

Mikaelynn Decker

Della Garlick

Kaley Kaiser

Naomi Goshorn

Abby Uecker

Celia Lundquist

Mckenna Roper

## Oh Holy Night

### Performed by:

Emalie Griffey, Avery Asmus, Angels

**Music:** Cammie Parker, Pastor Lee Miller

Keyboard: Christopher Parker

Cello: Sandy Guth-Kitts

Once again, we have a Christmas carol that was born from a request for a poem written for a Christmas Eve service in France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Placid Cappeau, a wine merchant, wrote the words to this poem. He wrote it by imagining himself actually witnessing Jesus' birth. The poem was eventually put to music and became a moving and beautiful Christmas Carol. He asked his good friend, Adolphe Charles Adams, to write the music. It's quite amazing that Adams agreed to the task since he was of the Jewish faith and did not view this Jesus as the Savior. It was sung on Christmas Eve and the French people loved it! But when Cappeau left the church for socialism and the church leaders discovered that the composer, Adams, was not of the Christian faith, they banned the song throughout France. They could prevent it from being sung in the church but the French people love d the song so much they refused to let the song dies. They kept it alive by singing it in their homes outside the official approval of the church. Ten years later an American abolitionist, John Sullivan Dwight, heard the carol and the words... "Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease". He was so moved that he translated it into English and it became popular in the North during the Civil War. On Christmas Eve, in 1906, Reginald Fessenden, (a colleague of Thomas Edison), made the first radio broadcast of a man's voice. He began by reading a story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2. He then played "Oh Holy Night" on the violin. So the FIRST radio broadcast was written by a wine merchant, set to music by a man of the Jewish faith, banned by the church, kept alive by the French common man translated into English by an American abolitionist, and the first song ever to be heard over the radio. We see God's hand so clearly as he used the most unlikely situations to bring His message once again to mankind. This time through song!

## Do you Hear what I Hear

### Performed by:

Kids of Hope

**Music:** Christopher Parker on keyboard

**Vocals:** Kaley Kaiser, Clark Lundquist, Celia Lundquist, Joshua Parker, Cammie Parker, Jadon Parker, Peyton Sorbel, Aiden Decker

*Noel Regnev grew up in France, was forced into the Nazi army, escaped to his native France and spent the rest of the war fighting as a resistance fighter to bring peace back to France. Following the war he moved to America where he met and married Gloria Shayne whose dream it was to write rock and roll. Noel had lived through the 11 World War, Korean War, and Viet Nam War. Seeking to find peace and hope in a troubling time he wrote a poem about the very first Christmas. He considered the innocence of a newly born lamb and a young boy who might have cared for it. The result was a "poem that not only described peace on earth but which also spoke of the peace that came on earth on that first Christmas night." The words "Said the night wind to the little lamb" suggests the voice of God Himself speaking on the wind. As a result Do You Hear What I Hear?" touches millions each year as we remember that amazing night. His wife wrote the music for the poem. Kind of neat that a Christmas song was written by Noel and Gloria!*

## Silent Night

Please Join us for this song!!!

Bonnie Miller will lead verse 4 as follows:

**Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht**

**Alles schläft, einsam wacht**

**Nur das traute heilige Paar**

**Holder Knab im lockigten Haar**

**Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh**

**Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh**

Silent Night was written in 1816 as the result of Joseph Mohr wanting to create a new Christmas Carol. He wanted it to be simple and easy to sing. It was first performed at a midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in 1818 in Oberndorf, Austria, Mohr and the composer of the melody, Franz Xaver Gruber, joined their voices in singing it for the first time accompanied by the guitar. Though it was unusual at that time to use a guitar in Church, Joseph Mohr most likely chose the guitar because of the simple words of the song. On that Christmas Eve a beautiful song was born that would make its way into the list of favorite and meaningful 200 years later