

*dedicated to our children,
Kristen, Matt, Amy, Emilie and Evan*

CARRIERS OF THE LIGHT

A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

FOREWORD

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Will you carry the light of God's salvation throughout the world?
Will you be a Carrier of the Light?*

Carriers of the Light is a children's Christmas musical inspired by scriptural passages from Isaiah, Matthew and Luke focusing on Jesus as the Light of Salvation. It celebrates the passing of God's Light, from Mary to Joseph to the animals in the manger, from the shepherds in the countryside to the wise men in the east. This inspiring program concludes with the cast "passing the light of God's salvation" to the audience or congregation in a beautiful candlelighting ceremony, with everyone pledging to become a carrier of God's light.

This Christmas musical is intended for performance by children in grades K-8 and features seven easy unison songs, including two with optional descant, two for solo and choir, and one unison trio with choir. For ease of teaching, most of the songs are adaptations of familiar carols with new lyrics. Simple speaking parts, a fully supportive keyboard accompaniment, costuming, prop and staging suggestions, and a reprintable program are also included. An optional accompaniment/performance recording on cassette or compact disc (CD) is available separately.

Carriers of the Light is designed for flexibility of teaching and staging. Presented as written, it may be performed by children's choirs with as few as 13 voices. However, the authors encourage teachers to adapt freely the characters and song assignments to meet their individual needs. For example, it may be performed by entire Sunday Schools with the assignment of different songs to specific grade levels. Characters may be more fully developed through the creation of additional dialog and the insertion of additional solos.

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OVERTURE

(At beginning stage lights are up full, house lights out. A Christ candle burns center stage in front of the podium. Narrator and Choir enter at the appropriate time to be in place by m. 31.)

Slow swing (♩ = ca. 96) (♩♩ = $\overset{\frown}{\text{♩}} \overset{\frown}{\text{♩}}$)

ACCOMP.

4

Straight time

⑧ (♩ = ca. 96) (♩♩ = ♩♩)

mf

11

THE WISE MEN – Matthew 2: 1-12

- NARRATOR: *(Angel carries star, leading Wise Men to King Herod.)* That same night, a great star appeared in the heavens, carrying to distant lands the joyous news of the savior's birth. Far to the east, wise men who studied the scriptures and the stars began a long journey. Led by the light of that great star, they travelled to Jerusalem where they told King Herod the star's joyous message.
- WISE MAN #1: We have followed the light of a great star.
- WISE MAN #2: The great star appeared to us in our land, proclaiming the birth of a child who will be a great king.
- WISE MAN #3: The great star led us to Jerusalem. Do you know where this child is?
- KING HEROD: I do not know where this child is. Find the child and return to me. Tell me where he is so that I can go and worship him.
- NARRATOR: But King Herod knew that all of this was as the ancient prophet wrote: "A great King will be born in Bethlehem, and He will rule the world." Herod was afraid that he would lose his kingdom, so he planned to kill Jesus. *(As music starts, Angel carries star, leading Wise Men to crib, where they offer gifts to Mary and Joseph.)*

WE THREE KINGS

(Wise Men and/or Unison Voices)

NARRATOR: *(as music starts)* As the wise men left Jerusalem, the star reappeared and led them to Bethlehem.

Moderately (♩ = ca. 112)

ACCOMP.

There they found Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. They worshipped Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. That night as they slept, an angel appeared to them in their dreams,

warning them about King Herod's plan. So the wise men did not return to Jerusalem.