

RATS!

The Story of the Pied Piper

A Humorous Fairy Tale Musical for Unison and 2-Part Voices

Script, Music, and Lyrics by Dave and Jean Perry

Recording Orchestrated by Steve Herold

Scenes and Musical Numbers

Title	Director's Score	Singer's Edition
Scene 1: Hamelin Town Square		
1. Hamelin (Townspeople and Rats)	5	5
2. Rats! (Townspeople).	12	9
Scene 2: Hamelin Town Meeting		
3. We've Got a Rodent Problem (Mayor, Pennywinkle, and Quigley)	20	14
Scene 3: Town Council Meeting		
4. Piper Tune (Instrumental)	25	17
Scene 4: The Rats' Big Scene		
5. Ain't It Great To Be a Rat? (Rats)	26	18
Scene 5: The Next Morning		
6. Zombie Rats (Piper and Rats)	32	20
Scene 6: Town Council Celebration		
7. No More Rats! (Mayor, Pennywinkle, and Quigley)	36	23
Scene 7: The Piper's Revenge		
8. Playing Song (Children, Piper, and Parents)	42	26
Scene 8: The Big Ending		
9. Playing Song (Reprise) (Mayor and Children)	49	30
10. Hamelin: Finale (All)	54	33

Performance Time: Approximately 35 minutes. See back cover for CD Track Numbers.

NOTE

Hamelin, or Hamlen, is a real town in Germany. In the year 1284, 130 children disappeared from the town. No one knows what actually happened to them. Some historians think the children left town to join the famous Children's Crusade to reclaim Jerusalem. Others believe that because of overpopulation in Hamelin, a group of young people was sent away to colonize lands in eastern Europe. Although the origin of the Pied Piper legend is lost, Robert Browning popularized it with his poem "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" in 1842.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin, retold and illustrated by Michele Lemieux, Morrow Junior Books, New York, NY, 1993.



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Setting

The town of Hamelin ... fairy tale times.

SCENE 1: Hamelin Town Square

(Two narrators appear downstage right. One of them carries a large book with “Rats! The Story of the Pied Piper” written on the front. They sit on stools, open the book and read aloud.)

NARRATOR 1: A long time ago, a time before airplanes and cars and buses and trains ...

NARRATOR 2: ... a time before television, CD players, computers, and video games, there was a quaint little village in a green valley next to a gently flowing river.

NARRATOR 1: Artists came from miles around to paint pictures of the valley with its river and village because it was so beautiful.

NARRATOR 2: And the name of the village was Hamelin.

(Townspeople enter from behind the audience or from backstage and sing while moving about town, greeting each other.)

1. HAMELIN

(Townspeople and Rats)

Singer's Edition: page 5

Brightly ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 84-92$)

VOICES

TOWNSPEOPLE *mf*

We

PIANO

mf

5

like our town of Hame - lin. Would - n't you a - gree? The
like our town of Hame - lin. Is - n't it the best? Our

MAYOR: Yes, but all you did was blow a few notes on your pipe. You can't expect one thousand for that. Tell you what, we'll double our offer, and give you one hundred guilders.

PIPER: This is ridiculous! I won't argue with you. Pay me my fee, or you will regret it, Sir!

SCENE 7: The Piper's Revenge

(Piper exits downstage right. Town Council members exit mumbling downstage left. Children enter stage area from upstage right and left, singing and playing hide and seek. At measure 37, the Piper enters from upstage center, playing his pipe and weaving in and out of the children. As he passes by, each child continues singing, but stops playing and freezes in a "stop-action" position. As the last child reaches the suspended animation state, the Piper stops playing, claps his hands together with glee and runs across the stage, down through the audience, and out of the auditorium. Parents enter the stage area and see their "frozen" children. Dialog continues at measure 59.)

8. PLAYING SONG

(Children, Piper, and Parents)

Singer's edition: page 26

Playfully (♩. = 88-92)

VOICES

PIANO

CHILDREN
5 *mf*

Come a-way and join the fun; play hide and seek with me.

The musical score is set in 6/8 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment begins with a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both marked 'Playfully' and 'mf'. The children's vocal line enters at measure 5, marked 'CHILDREN' and 'mf', with the lyrics 'Come a-way and join the fun; play hide and seek with me.' The piano accompaniment continues to support the vocal line.