

# Cinderella

... IF THE SHOE FITS!

Reproducible  
Student Pages  
Included!

A Fantastic Fairy Tale Musical  
For Unison and 2-Part Voices

By **Sally K. Albrecht**

Recording Orchestrated by Tim Hayden

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See back cover for CD track numbers.

Performance time: approximately 30 minutes.

NOTE: Reproducible student pages and full-color cover art are included as PDF files on the Enhanced SoundTrax CD.



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## History of the Story

It is believed that the original story of Cinderella emerged sometime in the first century, in ancient Greco-Egyptian times. You and your students may want to research *Yeh-Shen*, a Cinderella-like Chinese tale which emerged around 850 A.D. Yeh-Shen, whose only friend was a magical fish with golden eyes, was raised by an evil stepmother in a cave. She longed to attend the village spring festival, hoping to meet a husband.

The more well-known story of Cinderella has its roots in Europe. It was first published in 1634 as the tale *Cenerentola*, written by Italy's Giambattista Basile. This version featured a wicked stepmother, two stepsisters, a missing slipper, and the search for its owner by the prince. Frenchman Charles Perrault published his version of Cinderella (*Cendrillon*) in 1697. Perrault added the magical pumpkin, the popular fairy godmother, and made the slipper a glass one. In 1812, the German Brothers Grimm included their version, *Aschenputtel*, in their folk tale anthology *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. Instead of using a fairy godmother, magic occurs under a wishing tree that has taken root on Cinderella's mother's grave, growing as Cinderella waters it with her tears.

Literally hundreds of writers and composers have created their own versions of this popular story in storybooks, musicals, operas, ballets, TV productions, and films, from Rossini, Holst, and Prokofiev to Rodgers and Hammerstein and Sondheim (*Into the Woods*).

## Cast of Characters and Costumes

- NARRATORS:** Male or female, at least two. Nicely dressed, perhaps in black and white. Note that you may spread these lines out among multiple performers or cast permanent actors who stay the same throughout the performance.
- GODMOTHER:** Female. Always at ease; a determined and optimistic character with a big heart. At the beginning of the musical, she is dressed as a "beggar woman" in a tattered, dirty, and dark cloak with a hood. She should have a raspy voice and may carry a walking stick. As the "fairy godmother" later in the musical, she appears in a sparkling, pastel-colored long dress carrying a magic wand. She should have a clear angelic voice and may wear a tiara.
- CINDERELLA:** Female. Lead character with a lovely, generous aura and clear speaking and singing voice. Wears a tattered grey or brown dress with an apron (with a pocket for a shoe). Later, she appears in a lovely shimmering white, gold, or blue gown with a tiara and sparkling slippers.
- STEPMOTHER:** Female. Stuffy, aloof, and cruel to Cinderella. Elegantly dressed in a long dress, preferably in deep purple. May add a fancy cape, hat, or additional skirt for the ball. May sing with the Villagers when on stage.
- PEARL:** Female Stepsister. Self-absorbed and rude. Elegantly dressed in a long dress, preferably in deep blue. Always draped in pearls around her neck and wrists. May add a fancy cape, hat, or additional skirt for the ball. May sing with the Villagers when on stage.

- GERTRUDE:** Female Stepsister. Disagreeable and harsh. Elegantly dressed in a long dress, preferable in deep green. May add a fancy cape, hat, or additional skirt for the ball. May sing with the Villagers when on stage.
- KING:** Male ruler. In charge and “no nonsense.” Wears a red or black jacket with gold epaulettes over black trousers, with a jeweled or golden crown. May be further decorated with gold ornaments, medals, and buttons. May sing with the Villagers when on stage.
- QUEEN:** Female ruler. In charge with a “twinkle in her eye.” Wears an elegant red gown or robe with a tasteful jeweled or golden crown. May sing with the Villagers when on stage.
- PRINCE:** Male. Approachable, pleasant, and upbeat, with a can-do attitude. Wears a white belted jacket with gold epaulettes over black or red trousers, with an optional gold sash.
- ANIMALS:** Male or Female, any number. Furry friends of Cinderella. Students may dress as animals or use puppets to portray these characters. Animals should include several mice, at least one cat, two birds, plus others as desired, including horses to lead the coach.
- MESSENGERS:** Male or Female, any number. Three have speaking lines. Wear black cloaks or tunics over black trousers or breeches, with small gold or black caps. May sing with the Villagers when on stage.
- VILLAGERS:** Male and Female, any number. Three have speaking lines. Dressed in comfortable everyday clothing: bright-colored long dresses or skirts with aprons for the ladies, brown or black trousers with solid bright-colored shirts for the gentlemen. The same group of performers may be used for the ball, changing into appropriate formal attire (long pastel-colored gowns and suits/jackets). Or you may wish to have a completely different group of singers attend the ball.

## Set

The Narrators should be out of the way of the main action, downstage left or on a platform in the pit area. They may stand behind a small podium or sit on stools/chairs. Make sure they are easily seen and well lit when delivering their lines.

Most of the action occurs outside Cinderella’s house, which is located downstage right. Prepare a simple flat showing a front door and window(s). This flat may be turned around to show an indoor family room with dressing tables, mirror frames, and chairs (for the song “Catch His Eye!”). You may add landscaping outside the house as desired, such as a wooden stump or two or wooden benches for seating. A wishing well is optional. Additional village houses, landscaping, and seating may be added around the stage as desired.

# 1. ONCE UPON A TIME

(All)

(The entire cast enters like a troupe of players, singing the opening number. As they reach the center of the stage area, they meet and greet each other as they sing, setting up props, moving stage pieces and scenery, putting on costumes, etc. as needed. At the end of the song, the Narrators are downstage left, Cinderella and the Animals are downstage right, and Godmother is center stage.)

**Briskly** (♩ = ca. 100-108)  
*repeat as needed*

PART I  
*mf*  
 3  
 Once up - on a time,

PART II  
*mf*  
 Once up - on a time,

**Briskly** (♩ = ca. 100-108)  
*mf*  
*repeat as needed\**

PIANO

4

ver - y long a - go, all the girls in town were bus - y look - ing for a beau.

ver - y long a - go, all the girls in town were bus - y look - ing for a beau.

\* On the Enhanced SoundTrax CD, the first two measures are played twice.