

THE INN CROWD

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FOR CHILDREN

BY LEE DENGLER AND SUSAN NAUS DENGLER

Performance Time: Approximately 20 minutes

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THE INN CROWD

CAST

Innkeeper:	Exhausted and overwhelmed
Innkeeper's Child:	Energetic and inquisitive
Wool Salesman (F.W. Woolworth):	Business type; very snooty
Celebrity (Rock Starling):	Very self-important
Tax Collector:	Know-it-all type
Mary:	Weary from the long journey
Joseph:	Concerned about Mary and the Baby
Other Guests at the Inn (Chorus):	Very engaged in the action
Shepherds:	Quite shabby; very excited

This musical can accommodate any size cast. The lines spoken by Guests can be done by as few as two children and as many as nine. If the cast is small, the children playing the parts of Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds can enter as Guests during the Overture, and then exit for a quick costume adjustment, as needed. Mary and Joseph would need to exit after the first song and be ready to enter during "Star of Wonder." The Shepherds should exit after "Star of Wonder" and make their entrance during "In or Out." With the exception of Mary and Joseph, all parts in this musical can be done by either boys or girls. Feel free to adjust pronouns in the dialogue as needed.

COSTUMES

Simple Biblical costumes would be appropriate. Another option would be for the Guests to dress in contemporary casual attire, with the Wool Salesman and Tax Collector looking "business-like," and the Celebrity looking quite "glitzy." The Shepherds could look somewhat shabby in jeans and old flannel shirts. Mary and Joseph might wear something a bit less "fashion forward." The Innkeeper's Child should be dressed in something to make him/her appear younger than the rest of the cast.

SET

No set is needed. However, you can also make your production as elaborate as you desire and as your resources allow. It would be possible to create the entrance to the Inn on one side of the performance space with a sign saying "Bethlehem's Inn," and/or by using two large potted plants with enough space in between them to suggest a doorway. Adding something to suggest the stable and manger on the other side, with the choir (or Guests) in the center, would provide a nice touch. A huge star, made of cardboard and glitter would be a lovely addition.

PROPS

The only props needed are a manger and a doll to represent Baby Jesus.

STAGING

Innkeeper, Child and all Guests (including the Wool Salesman, Celebrity, and Tax Collector) should enter during the Overture. If desired, they can greet each other first or immediately take their places with Guests assembled as the choir in center (possibly on risers). The Innkeeper and Child could be off to one side.

Mary and Joseph should enter, as if from a distance, during "Star of Wonder." They should arrive "at the Inn" by the end of the song.

The shepherds should enter, also, from a distance, during "In or Out" and should arrive "at the Inn" by measure 9 in "In or Out."

Sometime before the end of "Good News," Mary or Joseph should place a doll in the manger.

After "Good News," everyone should move to the manger.

[During the "Overture," the Innkeeper, Child, and Guests enter and take their places.]

THE INN CROWD

Overture

Music by
LEE DENGLER (ASCAP)

Incorporating tune:
ADESTE FIDELES

by **JOHN FRANCIS WADE** (1711–1786)

1 **25** **Lively** ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 90$)

ACCOMP.

f

5 *mp* *f*

10 *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* **13**

15 *f*

20 *rit.* *attaca*

The musical score is written for piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, featuring a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of five systems of music. The first system, labeled 'ACCOMP.', begins with a first ending bracket (1/25) and a tempo marking 'Lively (♩ = ca. 90)'. The music starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system begins at measure 5 with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and includes a '8va' marking above the treble clef. The third system starts at measure 10 with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic and a 'cresc. poco a poco' instruction. A first ending bracket (13) is present at the end of this system. The fourth system begins at measure 15 with a forte (f) dynamic. The fifth system starts at measure 20 with a ritardando (rit.) marking and concludes with an 'attaca' instruction. The score uses various musical notations including chords, stems, beams, and dynamic markings.

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