

CANDLES! the MUSICAL

A Multi-Holiday Celebration of Light

By **Andy Beck** and **Brian Fisher**

Additional Music by Lois Brownsey and Marti Lunn Lantz,
Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse,
Alan Billingsley, and Jerry Estes

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See back cover for audio track numbers.

Performance time: approximately 30 minutes

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Illustrations by Heather Fortin

Cast of Characters and Costumes

48 candles are named by number or color, but feel free to use fewer (by combining lines) or even more (with a large “candle choir”). You may divide lines to feature as many students as possible or mount a smaller production with just one or two narrators. Everyone dresses as a taper candle, wearing a single-color tracksuit (or t-shirt), plus a candle flame hat or headband. Colors are important, as they symbolize the different holidays. Scatter your colors across the stage in a collage, group them together for an ombre or rainbow effect, or (even better) change positions a few times to create variety.

Props and Staging

Complete choreography is included throughout the score. The show both begins and ends with candle-lighting ceremonies. Please use battery-operated candles or inexpensive flashlights to achieve this beautiful effect. When not in use, turn the lights off and tuck them into a pocket until called for again. If you choose to invite the audience to participate with light during Song #9, cell phone flashlights or candle apps are effective and fun. Song #6 mentions a prop window frame and table—both are optional. Colorful silk scarves add joy to the Diwali celebration in song #7.

Set and Tech

It’s so flexible! Here are just a few simple ideas. Use standard choral risers in your normal performance space. Optionally, decorate the stage with items that represent the holidays (menorahs, boughs of holly, kinaras, colorful rangolis, etc.). Place a few microphones at the front of the stage for spoken lines, which are delivered directly to the audience. Consider projecting holiday images or photographs on a large screen throughout the show. And plan on dimming the lights for both candle-lighting songs.



A Final Note

Embrace your creativity to make *Candles! The Musical* your own. If there are other holidays you’re tempted to include, please do. Additional songs and new rhymes are encouraged. Just be sure to do plenty of research and check in with true culture bearers (experts on their own traditions) to ensure accuracy. The best production will be respectful and informative, entertaining and enlightening, and fully represent your community. Happy Holidays!

1. Candlelight Canon

Words and Music by
ANDY BECK

Gently flowing (♩ = ca. 104-108)

PIANO

mp

The piano introduction consists of six measures in 3/4 time, marked *mp*. The right hand features a flowing melody with eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with quarter notes and rests.

The cast slowly processes from the wings or through the audience with their lights shining—as more candles enter, we see more and more light.

7 ALL (*unison*)
mp

In the glow of can - dle - light, all of the

This section begins at measure 7. The vocal line is in unison, marked *mp*. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand.

12

world comes to - geth - er to - night. And in the glow of the

This section begins at measure 12. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment maintains the same rhythmic pattern as the previous section.

3. Deedle Deedle Dai

Words and Music by
LOIS BROWNSEY and MARTI LUNN LANTZ

Lively (♩ = ca. 92)

Scoop arms to linked "goal posts"
R hold L hold

PART I

PART II

PIANO

Pulse linked "goal posts"
up-down w/piano

Proudly step touch 4x in one direction—slightly lifting and lowering
elbows with the beat (still linked), head facing where you are going
(opt. alternate directions by row)

5

6

mf

Lai lai lai lai lai, dee - dle dee - dle dai dai

mf

Dee-dle dee - dle dai, dee - dle dee - dle dai, lai, dai dai

NOTE: "Lai" and "dai" rhyme with the English word "eye."