



MIDAS THE KING

A short easy musical play for young actors

For ages 7-11 Duration 15-20 mins.

Price includes script, CD, lyrics sheet for OHP, basic melody-line score and free performance licence for schools/clubs. Use over and over again. No musical ability needed.

Theme: Some things are more precious than gold

Narrator 1 **Narrator**
2.....
Midas (a greedy selfish king).....
Wife (his wife).....
Daughter (his beautiful daughter) **Daughter's**
fiancé
4 children (2 boys, 2 girls).....
Dionysus (A powerful Greek God).....
Party Guests (non-speaking parts).....
Servant(s) (non-speaking part).....
Singers.....

Teacher's Notes: This play makes a very good 15-20 minute presentation for children aged 7-11 to act. It is supported by a CD containing sound effects and two attractive original songs (with and without vocals). No musical ability is needed- simply play the backing tracks and sing along. Basic melody-line sheet music is provided free. No complicated special effects are needed, and any scenery is completely optional. Suggested props needed for this play: small football, golden goblet, tray of food covered in a cloth (e.g. grapes, bread, a few golden grapes and a piece of golden bread.)

CD LISTING:

Track 1: This is a wonderful life – with vocals
Track 2: Midas the King-with vocals
Track 3: This is a wonderful life (no vocals)
Track 4: Sound effects- The God Dionysus appears
Track 5: Midas the King (no vocals)

Narrator 1: (*Enter King Midas, then wife, daughter and fiancé, strolling in the garden*) King Midas lived in ancient Greece. He was a greedy king. He had a rich palace and a lovely garden full of fragrant flowers and trees bearing delicious apples, oranges, lemons, figs, pomegranates and olives. The King was so selfish, he never ever allowed anyone into the garden. Even his beloved wife, his beautiful daughter and her fiancé needed his permission to enter it. One evening, they were walking in his garden, when he spotted somebody. (*Enter four children, playing with a ball.*)

Midas: Stop right there! What are you doing in my garden?

Child 1: Oh, nothing, sir. We were just admiring your lovely garden!

Child 2: You must be very clever and wise to make a garden as good as this. Are you the gardener?

Midas: Gardener? I'm no gardener! I'm the King! You must be thieves, stealing my apples! I ought to have your heads chopped off right now!

Daughter: Oh, father. They're not thieves! They're only children!

Child 3: No, your highness! We're not thieves!

Child 4: We just wanted our ball back! That's all! It's getting late. We must be going home!

Midas: This is my garden! And trespassers should be executed.

Wife: (sternly) : Midas! If you want to please me, let them go! They are doing no harm!

Midas: No! They are thugs and vandals! Throw them into jail! They are not allowed in my garden!

Daughter: Don't be selfish, father! We have so much to be grateful for!

Wife: Don't be cruel, Midas. Remember, it's my birthday party tonight! We have wonderful life, my dear husband!

(to children) : Dance, children, it may put King Midas in a better mood!

Song: The stars are shining tonight (TRACK 1: VOCALS or TRACK 3- NO VOCALS)

(The 4 adults and 4 children dance in pairs. NB - The song has a long instrumental introduction for dancing.)

The stars are shining tonight.

The moon is big and bright.

With so few worries and cares, this is a wonderful life!

La La La La La Lah La La La La La Lah

We're going to a party! This is a wonderful life!

Fiancé: Come, let's prepare for the party! **(Exit wife, daughter and fiancé.)**

Narrator 2: The selfish King thought long and hard. Eventually he decided to let the children go instead of executing them.

Midas: Are you still here? Go! Go! **(Exit children)**

Narrator 2: The Great God Dionysus had seen everything. **(Enter Dionysus. King kneels.)**

(CD TRACK 4: Sound Effects : The God Dionysus moves grandly around the stage)

Dionysus: Midas! At last! I have seen some kindness and compassion in you! As a reward, I shall grant you one wish, in the hope that you will become a wiser, gentler King. But as you said, a moment ago, "This is a wonderful life!" What can you possibly need?

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

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