



Book and Music by Diane Beckstead

To Benefit



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Unison/Two Part

Approximate Running Time: 30 minutes
Arranged by Joe Milton and Diane Beckstead
Produced by Joe Milton, JOMUSIK Studios
Score and Script prepared by
Francis Caravella, Opus Now! Publications
and Diane Beckstead
Graphic Design by Melissa McVaugh

Recordings performed by Joe & Loralai Milton

<u>CAST</u>

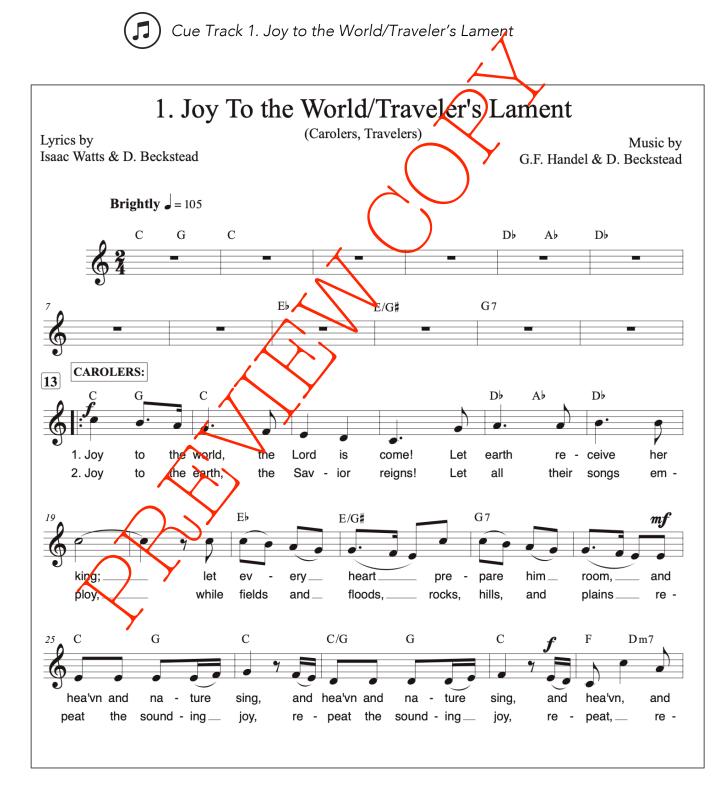
<u>Character</u>	<u>Description</u>	Commitment	<u>Solo</u>
Elijah	Young adolescent, unhappy with his Christmas birthday	Lead	Yes
Abby	Adolescent	Lead	No
Man	Traveler	Supporting	No
Kid	Traveler	Supporting	No
Elderly Lady	Traveler	Supporting	No
Announcer	Unseen role, monotone voice	Supporting	No
Young Elijah	Nonspeaking rote	Supporting	No
Bus Driver	Nonspeaking role	Supporting	No
Soloist	Caroler	One song	Yes
Soloist	Traveler	One song	Yes
Extras: Nativity characters, carolers, fellow travelers, Elijah's family	Nonspeaking	Supporting	Ensemble

SONGS AND TRACKS

<u>Title</u>	Performer(s)	Page #		<u>Audio Track</u>	
Y		Stu / Dir		<u>Reh / Perf</u>	
1. Joy to the World/Traveler's Lament	Carolers, Travelers	2	2	1	1
2. It's My Birthday	Elijah, Travelers, Carolers	8	11	2	2
3. See Amid the Winter's Snow	Ensemble	16	22	3	3
4. Humble Savior	Ensemble	20	31	4	4

SCENE ONE - BUS STATION

(Long bench center stage, ticket counter with cash register, café sign with arrow on wall, exterior door. TRAVELERS are checking watches, sitting on luggage, looking at phones, paying for newspapers and tickets at the counter. A bus driver sits on a chair down stage reading the paper. CAROLERS enter and sing.)







(DRIVER makes a hasty exit, travelers throw up their hands and go back to waiting)

(ELIJAH is playing a game on his phone. He is sprawled on the bench with a duffel bag underneath. ABBY, carrying a coat and garbage bag, sits down next to him, pushing her bag under the bench. He doesn't notice her sit down.)

ABBY: (leaning over to look at his phone) What are you playing?

ELIJAH: (name of any popular game)

ABBY: (clearly bored) Oh.

ELIJAH: (suddenly) Ahhh.....out of battery!

(ELIJAH starts rummaging around in his duffel bag for a charger. Comes up

empty handed. Frustrated, he tosses his phone in his bag).

ELIJAH: (out loud, to no one in particular) This is the worst trip ever!

ABBY: Where are you going?

ELIJAH: Well, we're trying to get to my grandparents, but our connecting

flight was canceled and we have to take a bus the rest of the way.

ABBY: (looking around) Who's we?

ELIJAH: Me and my parents. I'm Elijah.

ABBY: (pointing to Herself) Abby.

ELIJAH: (gesturing to the café) My parents are in the coffee shop.

ABBY: You might not be going anywhere tonight. I heard it's snowing again.

ELIJAH: This weather is crazy. We have to get there by tomorrow!

ABBY: You and everybody else. We all have someplace else we'd rather

be on Christmas.

ELIJAH: I don't want to get there for Christmas. I want to get there for my

birthday.

ABBY: Your birthday is on Christmas?

ELIJAH: Yeah, Christmas day.

ABBY: That's exciting! I never met anyone with a Christmas birthday!

ELIJAH: Yeah, well it's not exciting. In fact, it's the worst! If your birthday is

on Christmas, it gets completely ignored. Jesus gets all the glory.

ABBY: Yea, but Jesus was...

ELIJAH: (cutting her off) My parents will wrap some presents in birthday

paper instead of Christmas paper, but everyone else gets presents,

too. No one even watches me open mine.

ABBY: Well, I guess that wouldn't be much fun...

ELIJAH: (getting more agitated) And they have a cake for me, but after I

blow out the candles, everyone just goes back to playing with their presents. My friends are all celebrating with their families, so I don't

get to invite them to a party. We don't go out to dinner at a restaurant because everyone wants to eat at home with the

relatives. Forget the trampoline park or the laser tag place. Even if my family wanted to take me, those places aren't open. A Christmas

birthday is the worst!

ABBY: Hm. Sounds rummy.

ELIJAH: Year, it is. (brightening) But this year will be different!

ABBY: Why?

ELIJAH: Last year when I blew out my birthday candles, I made a wish.

ABBY: What did you wish for?

ELIJAH: (looks around to make sure no one else is listening) I wished that

Christmas would be canceled.

ABBY: Canceled?! You can't cancel Christmas!

ELIJAH: Just wait and see. It'll be gone. (snaps his fingers) Just like that.

ABBY: What makes you so sure?

ELIJAH: Everyone knows that birthday wishes come true.

(ABBY looks skeptical)

ELIJAH: Last year, just like every other Christmas, my mom told my sister

and brothers to stop playing with their presents and sing "Happy

Birthday" to me. They hate that.

(On one side of the stage, MOM enters carrying a cake with candles lit. ELIJAH 's siblings, holding toys, slowly gather but pay no attention to the cake. A boy – ELIJAH 's younger self - faces the cake. His mother sings "Happy Birthday" while his father rushes in halfway through the song. The kids, except for ELIJAH, are completely disinterested and mumble along).

ELIJAH: (continues) So, I blew out the candles.

(Younger ELIJAH blows out the candles. The siblings quickly scatter).

ELIJAH: And I wished that next year, Christmas would disappear. All that

would be left is my birthday!

(Younger ELIJAH glins, Jubs palms together, exits)

ABBY: (skeptically) Sure. No Christmas. You really think that's going to

happen?

ELIJAH: Yeah! It was my birthday wish!

ABBY: (unconvinced) Hm. Ok. If you say so.

ELIJAH: (defensively) You'll see.

LOUDS EAKER ANNOUNCEMENT: (in an annoying, slow monotone) Attention passengers.

Due to worsening weather conditions, all bus departures will be

delayed for at least 3 more hours. We are sorry for the

inconvenience.

(All TRAVELERS groan.)

ELIJAH: AAAAAhhhh.....I can't believe this! Worst. Trip. Ever.

(ABBY sighs, balls her coat up and places it next to her for a pillow.)

ABBY:

I'm taking a nap. Let me know when the buses start moving.

(ABBY lays down and closes her eyes)

(ELIJAH pulls a blanket out of his duffel bag and covers himself. He looks around to be sure no one is watching, then pulls a teddy bear out of the bag and holds it to him).

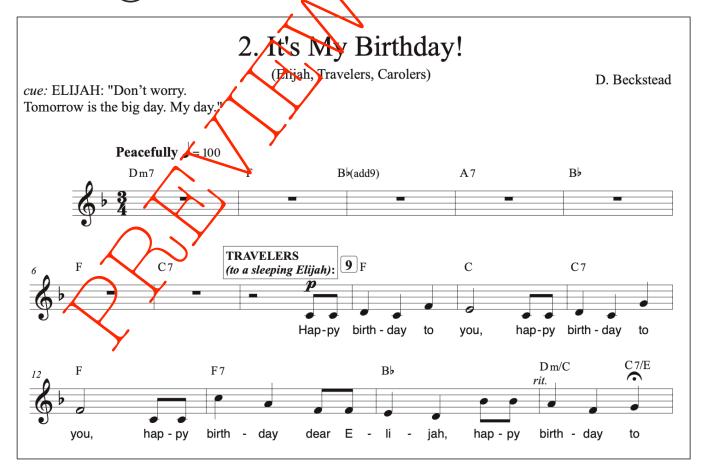
ELIJAH:

(to his bear) Don't worry. Tomorrow is the big day. My day.

(ELIJAH lays down, still holding his bear closes his eyes and drifts off to sleep.)

(<u>Dream scene</u>: TRAVELERS gather around the bench)

Cue Track 2. It's My Birthday!











SCENE TWO - BUS STATION LATER THAT EVENING

LOUDSPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT: (in a slow monotone) Attention all passengers. We are sorry to inform you that all bus departures have now been postponed. Provided the roads are cleared, buses will resume their normal schedule at noon tomorrow. We apologize for the

inconvenience.

(still monotone) Merry Christmas.

(ELIJAH, who has been jolted awake by the announcement, groans along with the other passengers)

(ABBY appears holding a drink from the vehding machine. Sits down on the bench)

ABBY: Well, looks ike you get your wish. No Christmas.

ABBY:

ELIJAH:

ELIJAH: (suddenly excited) Oh my gosh! You're right! No Christmas! I told

you my birthday wish would come true!

(continuing enthusiastically) No midnight Christmas Eve service. No stockings. (faltering) No presents under the tree. No relatives bringing more presents...No Christmas cookies...

(beginning to realize the sadness of the situation) I like the ones my grandma makes with the pink frosting and sprinkles...

(with a wry smile) Sounds great. So.....what are you doing for your birthday?

(looking glum) Nothing, I guess. Sitting in a bus station.

ABBY: (suddenly feeling sorry for him) I'm sorry it's such a lousy birthday.

ELIJAH: I guess I should be careful what I wish for. I can't even make a new

wish. No cake or candles. (shrugs)

ABBY: (smiling mischievously) Don't be so sure about that. While you were

sleeping, I talked to some of the other passengers. We have a

surprise for you!

(calling to the others waiting in the bus station) Hey everybody!

Come wish Elijah a happy birthday!

(Suddenly, passengers gather around, saying "Happy birthday!" "Sorry you're

stuck here" "We got you some things" etc.)

ABBY: (revealing a Danish with a match in it) to snot a cake, but the

strawberry Danish from the café looked alright. Couldn't be more

than two days old. Here you go!

(She holds it in front of him while they all sing "Happy Birthday." He pretends to

blow out a lit match. They cheer)

MAN 1: Hey kid. I hope you like pretzels. The Doritos got jammed in the

vending machine. (hands bag to ELIJAH)

ELIJAH: (taking the bag) Uh, thanks. (Gives ABBY a confused look)

ELDERLY LADY: I'm so sory, young man. What a terrible birthday. All I've got is a

Toll of Chapstick but it's all yours! (hands it to ELIJAH)

KID: Nerd Ropes were Buy One, Get One Free, so you can have the

√feebie! Happy Birthday!

ELIJAH: Thanks, everybody!

(Passengers: "No problem," "Happy Birthday," "Good luck getting home", etc.)

ABBY: (to passengers as they disperse) Thanks for singing! Nice gifts!

(ABBY sits down on bench)

ELIJAH: Thanks, Abby. You didn't have to do that.

ABBY: It wasn't much. Kind of a Jesus birthday.

ELIJAH: A "Jesus birthday"?

ABBY: You know. The baby born in a manger? That barn couldn't have

been any better than a bus station. In fact, I'm sure it smelled

worse.

ELIJAH: I guess Mary and Joseph were travelers, too.

(Mary and Joseph appear to one side. Joseph holds the infant Jesus.)

ABBY: Yep. And the only visitors they had, the shepherds, were complete

strangers.

ELIJAH: (looking around) Like these people

(Shepherds enter and kneel in front of Mary and Joseph.)

ELIJAH: It was nice of them to throw me a party.

ABBY: They even brought you gifts. That was a surprise!

ELIJAH: And who doesn't need a roll of Chapstick? (He holds it up and

smiles)

ABBY: Jasus got gifts, too.

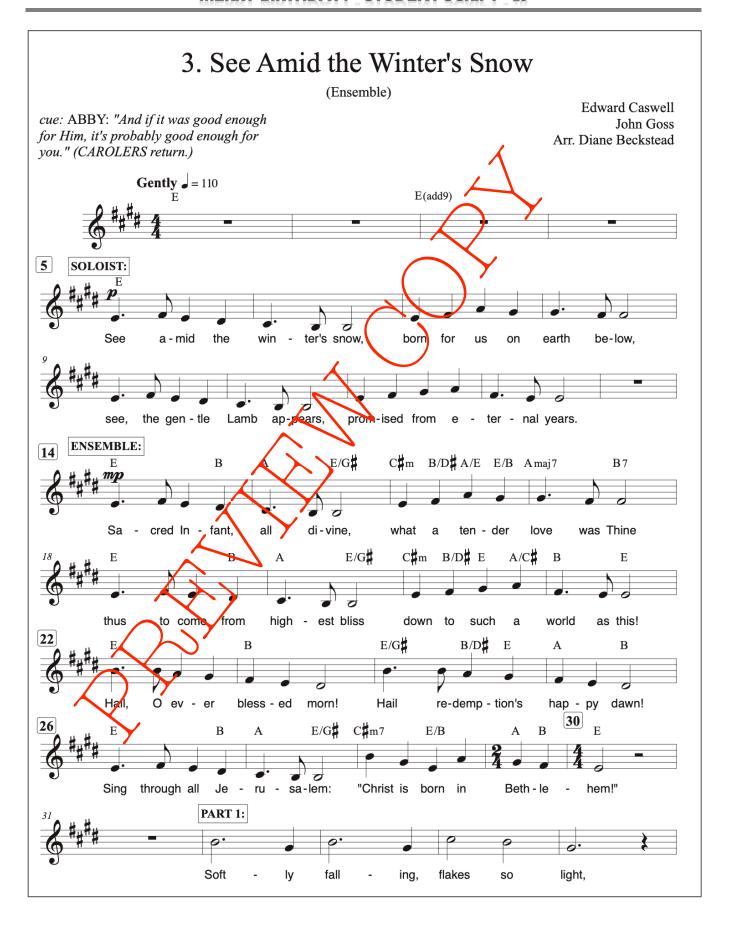
(The Wisemen enter and kneel alongside the Shepherds.)

ABBY: Soall in all, I'd say you had a Jesus birthday this year. And if it was

good enough for Him, it's probably good enough for you.

(CAROLERS return)

Track 3. See Amid the Winter's Snow





(After song, CAROLERS disperse and Nativity scene ends)

SCENE THREE - BUS STATION ON CHRISTMAS DAY

ELIJAH: Have you ever had a Jesus birthday?

ABBY: I don't remember having any birthday.

ELIJAH: What?! No birthday?

ABBY: Well, I guess I have birthdays, but I don't have birthday parties.

ELIJAH: Why not? When is your birthday?

ABBY: June 14th.

ELIJAH: Don't your parents throw parties for you?

ABBY: I guess there might have been parties when I was little, but I don't

remember them It's long story.

ELIJAH: We're showed in. I've got time. (sits back, gets comfortable)

ABBY: (pausing) Well, I move around a lot. Right now, I'm in foster care

and I'm headed to a new home.

ELIJAH: Oh, www. I'm sorry.

ABBY: (shrugs) It's ok.

ELIJAH: But that must be hard. You'd never know where you're going to

spend the next birthday.

ABBY: No, I don't. But I've decided that as long as I'm with people who

care about me, it's ok. I might be with them for a day, a few weeks, or a year, but on my birthday, I'm just grateful to have someone

who will show they care. (smiles) Even if it's strangers in a bus

station!

ELIJAH: Yeah, that meant a lot. I guess my Christmas birthday isn't so bad.

ABBY: I bet you see your relatives on Christmas.

ELIJAH: Yeah, and they always bring me birthday presents. Actually, I guess

the nice part about my birthday is that my whole family is there. Even if they aren't there just to see me, they come and celebrate.

ABBY: See? Isn't that the best? Having people who care about you? That's

all I really want.

ELIJAH: That is a Jesus birthday.

LOUDSPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT: Attention all passengers. The snowplows have been

clearing roads and Bus 131 to Akron is ready to board. Departure is

at 12:30. Again, Bus 131 to Akron is now ready to board.

ABBY: (standing and picking up her garbage bag from under the bench)

Well, that's my bus. I'm sorry you're still stuck here.

ELIJAH: It won't be forever. Thanks again for the party. (gesturing) So what's

in the garbage bag?

ABBY: (embarrassed) My stuff. Nice suitcase, right?

ELIJAH: Let me give you a birthday gift!

(ELIJAH starts to unzip his bag and take clothes out.)

ABBY: What are you doing?

ELIJAH: Giving you my duffel bag.

ABBY: You don't have to do that!

ELIJAH: I want to. I won't be around for your birthday in June, so I'm going

to give you a present now. Here, put your stuff in.

ABBY: (opening the garbage bag) Well, if you insist. It would be nice to

have a real duffel bag.

(ABBY moves her things into the duffel bag and hands the garbage bag to ELIJAH. He puts his things in the garbage bag then zips up the duffel bag and hands it to her, standing.)

ELIJAH: Here. Happy Birthday a little early!

ABBY: Thanks so much!

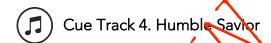
(ABBY pauses. They take a moment to look at each other.)

ABBY: I don't know where I'll be next June, but I'll remember you!

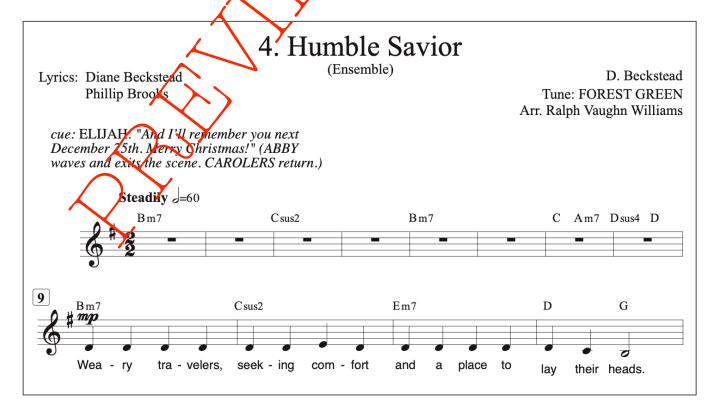
ELIJAH: And I'll remember you next December 25th. Merry Christmas!

(ABBY waves and exits the scene. She moves to an area down stage where she waits to board her bus.)

(CAROLERS return)



(All TRAVELERS and CAROLERS sing. During the song, ABBY admires her new duffel bag. She untips it and discovers the teddy bear. She hugs him, then joins the song.)









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