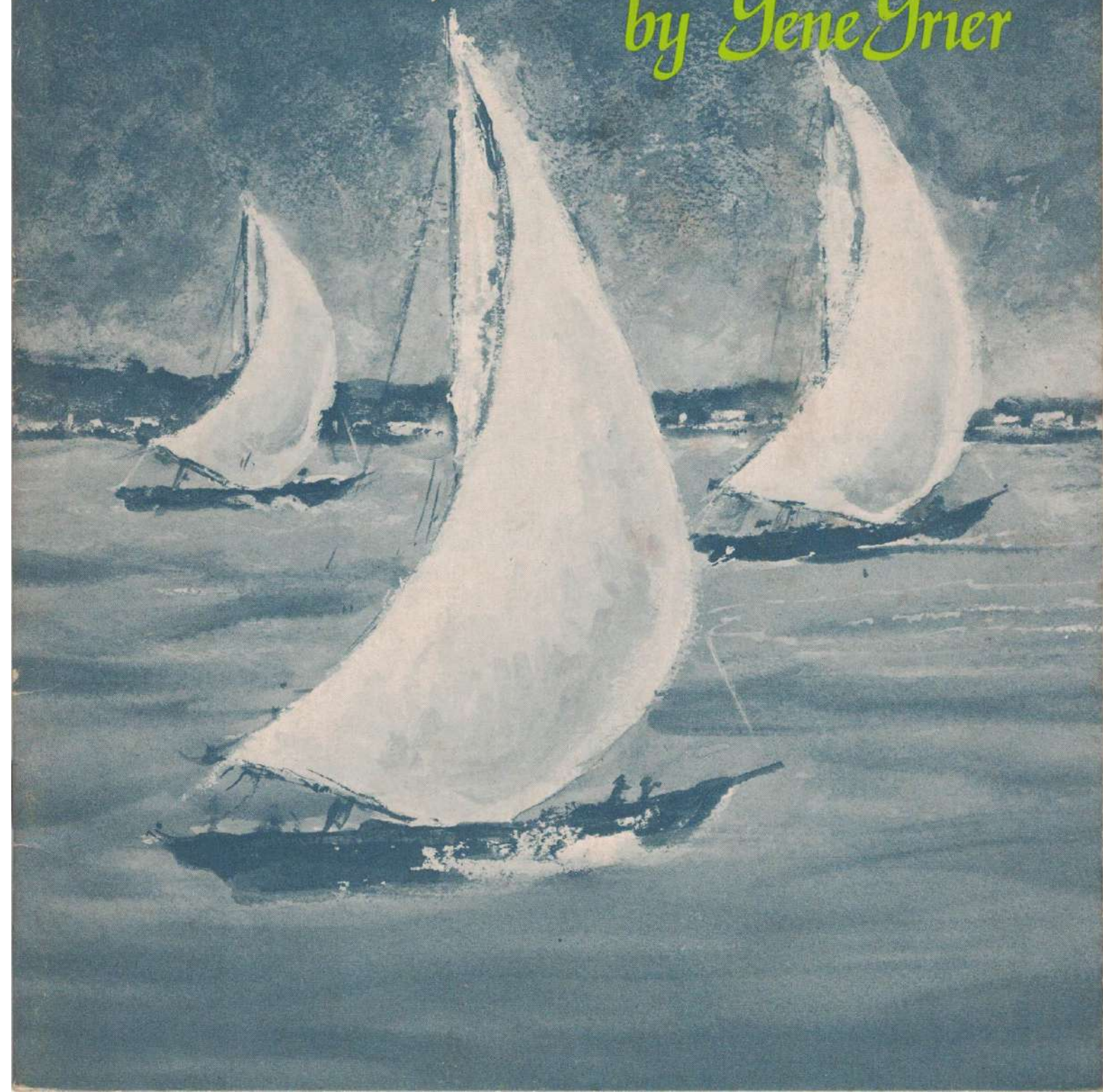


SINGER'S EDITION

the Legend of
the Christmas Ships

for unison or two-part chorus

by Gene Grier



The Legend of the Christmas Ships
Book, Music and Lyrics by GENE GRIER
Arranged by GENE GRIER and LOWELL EVERSON

OVERTURE

Act I

House lights are dimmed and stage lights are on low. A spotlight is on the NARRATOR, who stands at a lecturn placed stage right. The curtains are closed. As the overture begins, the NARRATOR begins. The second time through the overture, the NARRATOR sets the scene as the curtains open and the stage lights go up. As the cast moves silently about, they make their way to their opening positions for "It's Christmas Eve."

NARRATOR: (First time through the overture.) This is a story of Christmas spirit—that joyous, wonderful, magical spirit that fills the hearts and souls of all mankind, especially during the Christmas season. Now, most people keep this Christmas spirit tucked neatly away in a small safe corner of the heart, so that it's ready to be used at a moment's notice. These people realize, of course, that the more use this wonderful power receives, the better it becomes. There are those people, however, who have lost their Christmas spirit. They have tucked it away in a dark corner of the heart, and have forgotten how and where to find it.

This story, then, is about one such person, and how, through the miracle of the Christmas Ships, he recaptures the love and joy of the Christmas spirit.

NARRATOR: (Second time through the overture.) As our story begins, we find the people of Camdentown, a small seaport community on the coast of New England, preparing the Town Square for the evening's Christmas Eve festivities. It has always been the tradition in Camdentown for all the townspeople to join together on Christmas Eve to light the town's Christmas tree. This officially begins the Christmas season. The townspeople join together in singing Christmas carols and exchanging gifts. In the past, these activities have been supported by funds supplied by the town government. Although this has been a very difficult year for the economy, and most budgets have been cut, the townspeople hold high hopes that this tradition will continue.

the Legend of
the Christmas Ships
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by Gene Grier

\$2.50

Also available: 12-inch Stereo Record Album
Record Kit (one Record and one Singer's Edition)

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It's Christmas Eve

G. G.

Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

As the overture comes to an end the second time through, the townspeople make their way into their four assigned groups. Each group should give the impression that they are performing the activities described in the song, "It's Christmas Eve." As each group performs its solo passage, they should step forward to center stage.

5
Groups 1 and 2
mp Sing! _____ Sing! _____

mf Groups 3 and 4
Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing!

mf
Mer-ri - ly, mer-ri - ly now we sing on this joy - ous day;

Christ-mas is com-ing and it shall bring hap-pi-ness in ev-'ry way. For it's

17
Christ - mas Eve, Christ - mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; _____ For it's

24
Christ-mas Eve, _____ Christ-mas Eve, _____ Let's all re-joice and sing! _____

Sing, sing, sing, sing!

Sing! _____ Sing! _____ Sing! _____

Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing!

32 Group 1

We're pop-ping pop-corn to string and hang on our Christ-mas tree;

We're paint-ing pine-cones and mak - ing dolls, treas-ures for all — to see. For it's

40 Groups 1 and 2

Christ - mas Eve, Christ - mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

Christ - mas Eve, Christ - mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; _____ For it's

47

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joyce and sing! _____

Christ-mas Eve, — Christ-mas Eve, — Let's all re-joyce and sing, sing, sing, sing!

51

Sing! _____ Sing! _____ Sing! _____

Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing!

55 Group 2

We're plac-ing hol-ly and mis - tle - toe on our Christ - mas toys;

Groups 1 and 2

We're mak-ing can-dles that come a-glow when light-ed with Christ-mas joy. For it's

For it's

63

Christ - mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

Christ - mas Eve, Christ- mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

70

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joice_ and sing! _____

Christ-mas Eve, _____ Christ-mas Eve, _____ Let's all re-joice_ and sing, sing, sing, sing!

Sing! _____ Sing! _____ Sing! _____

Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing!

78 Group 3

We're mak-ing cook-ies and can-dies and sweets, good-ies to make you grin;

All groups

We're bak-ing ap-ples and pump-kin pie-treats, so good that you'll come back a - gain. For it's

86 Groups 1 and 2

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

93

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joyce and sing!

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joyce and sing, sing,

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joyce and sing, sing,

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joyce and sing, sing,

97

Sing! Sing!

Sing! Sing!

sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing!

sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing! Sing, sing, sing, sing!

101 Group 4

Sing! We're mak-ing toys and wrap-ping our gifts, giv-ing is part of the

Sing, sing, sing, sing!

fun; We're help-ing San-ta be-fore he ar-rives with pres-ents for ev-ry-

fun; We're help-ing San-ta be-fore he ar-rives with pres-ents for ev-ry-

Groups 1 and 2 **109**

one. For it's Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all

one. For it's Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all

Groups 3 and 4

For it's Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all

For it's Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all

ring; For it's Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joice—and sing! For it's

ring; — For it's Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joice—and sing! For it's

117

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; For it's

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Bells in the tow-er all ring; — For it's

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joice—and sing!

Christ-mas Eve, Christ-mas Eve, Let's all re-joice—and sing!

As the song ends, a dejected Mayor Fuzzywuzz enters stage left carrying a letter from the Governor. He motions the Town Council together (center stage), to discuss its grim contents.

CAPTAIN

HOLLYBUSH:

Well mate, what news have ye?

MRS.

GOODCHEER:

Yes Mayor, tell us what's in the letter.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

My friends, the news is worse than we thought.

MR.

KENSINGER:

What could be worse than having to cancel our town's annual Christmas celebration? (All three look at the Mayor and nod in agreement.)

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

As you well know, the economy is such that budgets are being cut drastically.

CAPTAIN

HOLLYBUSH:

Aye, and it has taken a bite out of this town's pocket.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Yes, well the Governor has taken another bite, and this time it's the biggest ever.

MRS.

GOODCHEER:

You mean he has turned down our request for money to buy food, shelter and presents for the needy?

MR.
 KENSINGER: How could he? He knows the hurricane all but wiped out the town treasury.
 CAPTAIN
 HOLLYBUSH: What will the orphans do? How will the people get through Christmas? How ...
 MAYOR
 FUZZYWUZZ: Wait! There's more. The Governor has cut all existing budgets, beginning New Year's Day. Not just for us, but all over the state. If we can't find some way to get our own funds, then I'm afraid that not only Christmas will be cancelled.

MRS.
 GOODCHEER: What do you mean?
 MAYOR
 FUZZYWUZZ: I mean that all schools will be closed, all teachers laid off, all government employees will lose their jobs, including police and firemen, and the entire town will have to file for bankruptcy.

MR.
 KENSINGER: What can we do?
 MRS.
 GOODCHEER: There must be some way to save Christmas and Camdentown.
 CAPTAIN
 HOLLYBUSH: Aye, there's a way ... but it will take a miracle.
 MAYOR
 FUZZYWUZZ: If there is a way, then we must find it, but let's not do it here. The townspeople are just about to rehearse the first carol for tonight's celebration.

MRS.
 GOODCHEER: Yes, let's not spoil it yet ...
 MAYOR
 FUZZYWUZZ: Let's go to the Town Hall and discuss our problem. Who knows, we might even come up with a miracle solution.

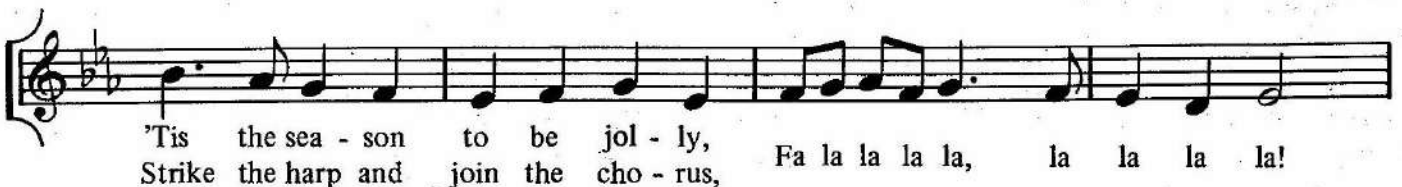
As the Mayor and Town Council exit stage left, the townspeople, still in groups, form a semi-circle facing the audience. Make sure that each group can see the director.

Deck The Hall

WELSH CAROL
 Arr. by Gene Grier and Lowell Everson

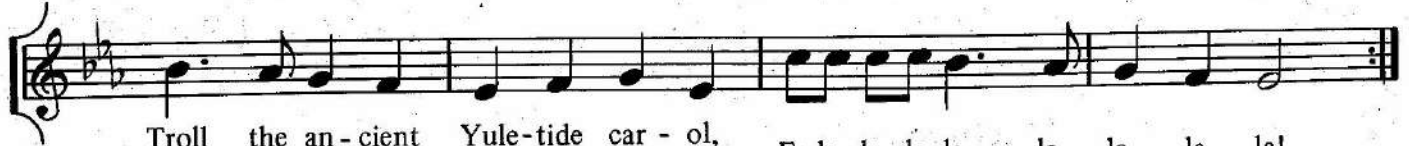


1. Deck the hall with boughs of hol-ly, Fa la la la la, la la la la!
2. See the blaz-ing yule be-fore us,





Don we now our gay ap - par - el, Fa la la la la la la la la!
 Fol - low me in mer - ry meas - ure,



Troll the an - cient Yule - tide car - ol, Fa la la la la, la la la la!
 While I tell of Yule - tide trea - sure,

As the carol ends, the townspeople go silently about their business. The Town Council enters again from stage left.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

MRS.

GOODCHEER:

MR.

KENSINGER:

CAPTAIN

HOLLYBUSH:

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

MRS.

GOODCHEER:

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

CAPTAIN

HOLLYBUSH:

Yes, we all agree that Mr. Pennypinch is one of the richest men in the world.

We also know that he has never participated in any Christmas celebration this town has ever had.

Well, he controls the bank and he has the money to save our town and our Christmas.

Aye, and he got that money by being the stingiest man in town.

What else can we do? We must go to him for help. It's our only chance.

We all agree, as Mayor, you should go, Mr. Fuzzywuzz.

Yes, I guess there's no other choice. I'll go, and the rest of you join the townspeople. Don't let them know, though, that we might have to cancel Christmas.

Don't give up the ship, mate. Miracles do happen, you know!

At this point, CAPTAIN HOLLYBUSH begins singing "I Saw Three Ships." He repeats the song using the syllable "la" as the song fades, ending the segue into the next scene. As the Mayor moves stage right, the Town Council moves to join the townspeople. The stage lights are dimmed and a spotlight is brought up to focus on MR. PENNYPINCH'S office.

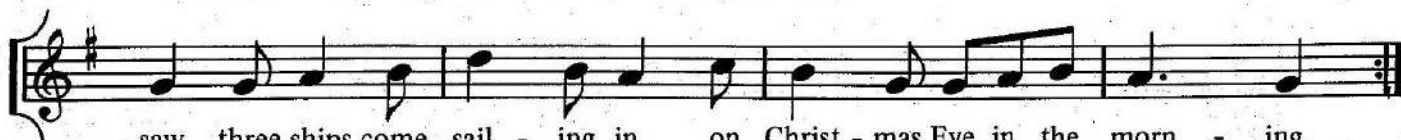
Segue: I Saw Three Ships

♩ = 82

Captain Hollybush:



1. I saw three ships come sail - ing in on Christ - mas Eve, on Christ - mas Eve, I
2. La la la la la (*simile to fade out*)



saw three ships come sail - ing in on Christ - mas Eve in the morn - ing.

The Mayor arrives at the office door and knocks just as the segue ends. MR. PENNYPINCH, sitting at his desk counting his money, looks up.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Yes, who is it?

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

It's Mayor Fuzzywuzz, sir.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

I'm a very busy man sir, so please come in and state your business.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Well, sir . . .

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Yes man, get on with it!

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

On behalf of the Town Council, I've come to . . . wish you a merry Christmas.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

How nice. Now, if you don't mind . . .

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

. . . and on behalf of the townspeople, a very happy New Year.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

My good man, time is money, and good wishes don't make money. I must insist . . .

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Please sir, one more moment of your time. Please sit down and listen.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

One minute, and not a second longer.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Sir, the town treasury is depleted of funds. Without financial help, we will have to file for bankruptcy. Jobs will be lost, lives will be ruined and Christmas—yes, Christmas—will be cancelled.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Indeed sir. I pay my taxes and plenty of them. If this town goes bankrupt, it is no concern of mine.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

But sir, what of Christmas?

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Christmas is even less a concern of mine. I don't observe Christmas, and don't ever intend to.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

You can't mean that. Christmas is a time of love . . . of peace on earth, goodwill to all. The people's hearts are filled with hope and joy. Come listen at the window; hear how the people proclaim their joy to the world.

(MR. PENNYPINCH and MAYOR FUZZYWUZZ freeze as the stage lights go up. The townspeople once again form a semi-circle facing the audience. Make sure they stay in their groups, and are able to see the director.)

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Joy to the World!

Isaac Watts and G. G.

George F. Handel
 Arr. by Gene Grier and
 Lowell Everson

5

Groups 1 and 2

f Joy to the world! it's Christ-mas Eve:

Groups 3 and 4

f Joy to the world! it's Christ-mas Eve: Let

Let bells _____ be - gin _____ to ring; _____ Let

bells be - gin to ring; _____ Let ev - 'ry _____

ev - 'ry heart _____ be free from gloom, _____ And heav'n, _____ and

heart _____ be free _____ from _____ gloom, _____ And heav'n and na - ture _____ sing, _____ And _____

heav'n and na - ture _____ sing, _____ And heav'n _____ and heav'n _____ and na - ture _____

heav'n and na - ture _____ sing, _____ And _____ heav'n _____ and heav'n _____ and na - ture _____

25

sing. Joy to the world! our song pro - claims: _____ Let men _____

sing. Joy to the world! our song pro - claims: _____ Let men their _____

— their songs — employ; — Our voi-ces high, —
 songs em - ploy; — We lift our voi - ces high, — as

— as morn draws nigh, — Re - peat, — re - peat the sound - ing
 Christ-mas morn draws nigh, — Re - peat the sound - ing_ joy, Re - peat the sound - ing —

joy, — Re - peat, — re - peat — the sound - ing — joy.
 joy, Re - peat, — re - peat — the sound - ing joy.

45 **49**
 Group 1:
 Joy to the world! it's Christ - mas
 Group 2:
 Joy to the world! it's
 Group 3:
 Joy to the world!
 Joy to the world!

56

Eve: Let bells

Christ - mas Eve: Let bells

world! it's Christ - mas Eve: Let bells

Group 4: Joy to the world! it's Christ - mas Eve: Let bells

Groups 1 and 2:

Groups 3 and 4:

be - gin to ring;

be - gin to ring;

64

Let ev - 'ry heart be free from gloom,

Let ev - 'ry heart be free from gloom, And

And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing, And

heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And

heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.

heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

rit.

As the stage lights are dimmed, the townspeople go silently back to their business. The spotlight is brought up on MR. PENNYPINCH and MAYOR FUZZYWUZZ. MR. PENNYPINCH seems to be in a trance as MAYOR FUZZYWUZZ leads him to the front of his desk.

MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ:

Did you hear that wonderful, joyous song? Can't you just feel that Christmas spirit inside of you? Can't you feel the love and joy of the season? Speak to me, sir. Tell me you have found your Christmas spirit!

MR. PENNYPINCH moves forward as the spotlight focuses only on him.

MR.
PENNYPINCH:

I don't know. I can't think . . . there was a time when . . .

Everyone freezes as MR. PENNYPINCH sings "There Was a Time."

There Was a Time

G. G.

$\text{♩} = 80$

Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

Mr. Pennypinch:

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score includes a triplet of eighth notes on the first staff, a dynamic marking of *mf*, and a first ending bracket labeled '5' spanning the first two staves. The lyrics are: "There was a time when I be-lieved in all the joys of Christ-mas Eve; There was a time when life was slow and time went by like fall-ing snow. As I grew up life seemed more real, the fast-er pace changed how I feel; now Christ-mas lasts three months a year, and when it comes I just don't care. 'Cause I don't be-lieve in Christ - mas an - y - more." A second ending bracket labeled '21' spans the final two staves.

29

There was a time when I could find the gifts of love in
all man-kind; There was a time when joy and mirth brought mes-sag-es of
peace on earth. But now the joy of love is gone, and car-lers sing a
sour—song, There is no Christ - mas San - ta - Claus, no Christ-mas lives, I
know be-cause I don't be-lieve in Christ - mas
an - y - more.

45

rit. e dim.

MR. PENNYPINCH abruptly breaks the mood, and the spotlight expands to cover the entire office.

MR.
PENNYPINCH:

No sir, I will not have anything to do with Christmas. Now leave my office at once!

MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ:

But sir, I implore you. We must have your help if we are to save the town and Christmas.

MR.
PENNYPINCH:

If you wish to save your town, you must do it yourself. As for Christmas, well, you can't save what you don't believe in. If the spirit of Christmas does exist, then let it perform some miracle to save itself and your town. Now get out and let me do my work!

As MAYOR FUZZYWUZZ leaves, MR. PENNYPINCH goes back to his desk. The spotlight is turned off and the stagelights are brought up. The townspeople are once again busily going about their business, while humming "Joy To The World" in unison. MAYOR FUZZYWUZZ walks solemnly to center stage, and interrupts the activity.

Segue 1: Joy to the World!

Ensemble in unison
 mp

Mm _____ mm, _____

mm, _____

mm, _____ *Dialogue begins

*MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ:

Ladies and gentlemen, may I please have your attention!
 (The townspeople gather around and listen intently. When the Mayor makes his statement, they gasp in horror.)

MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ:

As Mayor of Camdentown, it is my sad duty to inform you that this town is about to file for bankruptcy. Until further notice, all Christmas activities are suspended, and unless there is a miracle, Christmas will have to be cancelled. (As the stagelights are dimmed, the townspeople sadly exit stage left and stage right, humming "Joy To The World" in a minor key).

Segue 2: Joy to the World!

Mm _____

Houselights up, stagelights down, curtains closed.

End of Act I

Act II

Houselights are dimmed as the NARRATOR returns to the lectern (stage right). A spotlight is on the NARRATOR as the curtains open. CAPTAIN HOLLYBUSH is already on stage (center) in a freeze position indicating deep thought.

NARRATOR: While the people of Camdentown sadly ponder their future, CAPTAIN HOLLYBUSH clings to a thread of hope. You see—he believes in miracles. He believes because years ago, while at sea, he was visited by three mysterious sea captains who took him on a voyage that changed his life. If only he could arrange such a voyage for MR. PENNYPINCH . . .

The spotlight on the NARRATOR is dimmed as the stagelights go up. CAPTAIN HOLLYBUSH looks to the audience and slowly walks forward.

I Dreamed of a Miracle

G. G.

Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

♩ = 76

Captain Hollybush:

mf

1. 1

5

dreamed one night that there would be a mir-a-cle for all to see. A
first one told how giv-ing brings a peace-ful joy to ev-'ry-thing, The

glo-rious light shone down on me, so soft and still up-on the sea; And
sec-ond smiled and shone with love, a dec-o-ra-tion from a-bove;

13 *cresc.*

an-gels played their harps of gold, while heav'n-ly choirs, their sto-ries told. I

a tempo

saw three ships come sail-ing in with peace on earth, good will for men, good

1 | **2** **23**

will for men. 2. The will for men. The third looked grim and cried a-loud, "Please

change your ways or wear death's shroud! " And then all three sailed off a-gain with

31

Christ-mas love for all man-kind; They gave me gifts of love and joy, to

rit. e dim. *mf a tempo*

share with ev-'ry girl and boy. I hope they come a-gain to-day, A

rit.

mir-a-cle for Christ-mas Day, for Christ-mas Day in Cam-den-town.

As CAPTAIN HOLLYBUSH finishes his song, he moves slowly stage left. At the end of the song, he exits stage left. The stagelights are dimmed and a spotlight is brought up on MR. PENNYPINCH'S office, where he sits at his desk greedily counting his money.

G. G.

Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

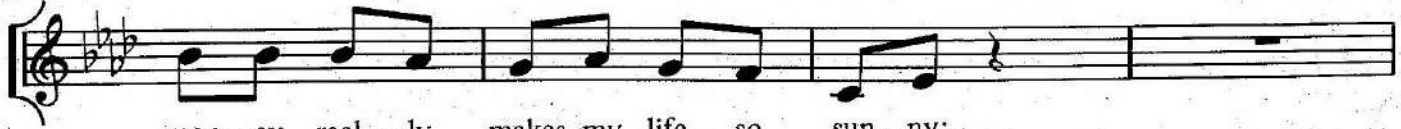
♩ = 126

Mr. Pennypinch:

5



1. Mon-ey, I love mon-ey,
2. Mon-ey, makes me tin-gle



mon-ey real-ly makes my life so sun-ny;
when I hear those coins go jin-gle, jin-gle;



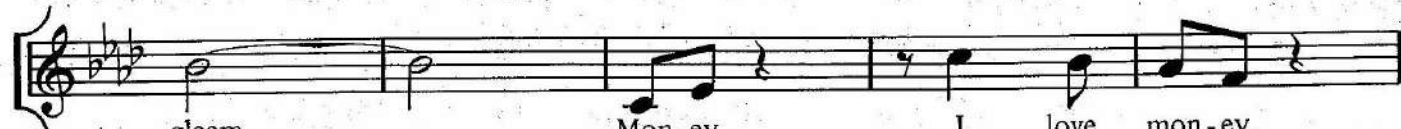
Peo-ple think me fun-ny for
Lis-ten and I'll sing ya a



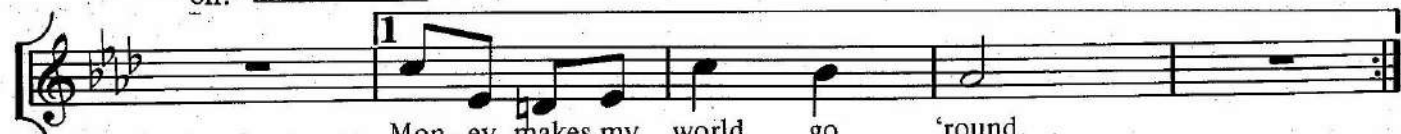
sit-ting here and al-ways count-ing mon-ey. I love the green,
song of mon-ey and the joys it brings ya. I like the glow,



so crisp and clean, I like to watch my sil-ver
of gold you know, See how it shines, it's mine, and



gleem. Mon-ey, I love mon-ey,
oh!



Mon-ey makes my world go 'round.



Mon-ey makes me feel so, Mon-ey makes my heart glow, Mon-ey makes my



world go 'round!

As the second verse of the song begins, MR. PENNYPINCH gets up from his desk and walks around to the front. As he finishes his song, CAPTAIN MELCHIOR enters and stands just behind him (stage left). As he completes his song, MR. PENNYPINCH turns and is startled by the appearance of CAPTAIN MELCHIOR.

MR. PENNYPINCH: Who are you and how did you get here?

CAPTAIN MELCHIOR: My name sir, is Captain Melchior, and how I got here is of little concern.

MR. PENNYPINCH: Well, state your business and be quick about it.

CAPTAIN MELCHIOR: You sir, and the welfare of all mankind are my business.

MR. PENNYPINCH: I care little of the welfare of mankind, unless it concerns the welfare of my money.

CAPTAIN MELCHIOR: But the two are related, sir. You see, by experiencing the true joy of giving, you can help in the welfare of all mankind.

MR. PENNYPINCH: By giving what and to whom?

CAPTAIN MELCHIOR: Why, your money sir—to the poor and needy people of Camdentown.

MR. PENNYPINCH: Have you lost your senses, man? I don't give money, I collect it.

CAPTAIN MELCHIOR: Have you never experienced the joy of giving? Think man, wasn't there ever a time when you felt the spirit of Christmas giving?

MR. PENNYPINCH reflects as the piano plays "There Was a Time."

Refrain 1: There Was a Time

♩ = 80
Mr. Pennypinch:

There was a time when I be-lieved in all the joys of
Christ-mas Eve; There was a time when life was slow and time went by like fall-ing snow.

MR.
 PENNYPINCH:
 CAPTAIN
 MELCHIOR: What is this sir, a bad joke? I don't even know you!

No Mr. Pennypinch, this is not a joke . . . and you do know me. You just don't remember me. But you will . . . and you'll also remember what it feels like to give and enjoy the spirit of Christmas. Come with me.

MR.
 PENNYPINCH:
 CAPTAIN
 MELCHIOR: I can not . . . I am very busy . . . It's not . . .

Come with me!

As if in a trance, MR. PENNYPINCH follows CAPTAIN MELCHIOR across the stage to where a group of children are preparing to break a piñata.

Captain Melchior's Song

G. G.

Tune: "We Three Kings of Orient Are,"
 by John H. Hopkins
 Arr. by Gene Grier and
 Lowell Everson

Captain Melchior:

mf

Sail with me on wings of a dove, An - gels guide our
 voy-age of love; Feel the spir - it, we draw near— it, Watch-ing us from a -
 bove. Look now, See the chil - dren, feel their joy,
 Gifts for ev - 'ry girl and boy; Giv - ing serves to help the poor, —
 Christ - mas love for ev - er more.

MR.
 PENNYPINCH: Captain, where are we and how in heaven's name did you get your ship to sail through the sky?

CAPTAIN
 MELCHIOR: My ship sails on wings provided by thousands of angels' choirs. As for where we are: well sir, that is easy to answer.

MR.
 PENNYPINCH: Don't keep me in suspense, where are we?

CAPTAIN
MELCHIOR:

We have sailed to a little port in Spain. I visited these people last Christmas Eve and stayed just long enough to plant a seed. Listen and hear how the flower blooms.

1ST BOY:

What a change from last year.

2ND BOY:

Yes, I can't believe how happy we have been since Señor Rodriguez has changed his greedy ways.

1ST GIRL:

My mother told me that his change had something to do with those three mysterious ships we saw last Christmas Eve.

2ND GIRL:

Whatever it was caused him to change into the nicest man in town.

1ST BOY:

My little brother can now walk, thanks to the money Mr. Rodriguez gave to the hospital.

1ST GIRL:

My brothers and sisters can go to school because of the new school building he donated.

2ND BOY:

My father now has a job with Mr. Rodriguez, and he says he has never been so happy.

2ND GIRL:

Just look at all he has given us.

1ST BOY:

Who would have thought that he would ever give anything to anybody, especially gifts at Christmas. Now he gives to us all year 'round.

2ND BOY:

Who knows . . . maybe those ships brought him a gift.

1ST BOY:

Could be. Since they came, he's been the happiest man in town. Look! Here he comes now.

As SEÑOR RODRIGUEZ approaches, CAPTAIN MELCHIOR and MR. PENNYPINCH silently move back to MR. PENNYPINCH'S office. They should move so as not to distract the audience's attention from the children and SEÑOR RODRIGUEZ.

The spotlight should be on SEÑOR RODRIGUEZ and the children, as they stand around the Piñata. Upon his arrival, SEÑOR RODRIGUEZ begins passing out fruits, candies and gifts. They now join hands and begin singing "Fum, Fum, Fum."

As the carol is being sung, CAPTAIN MELCHIOR exits stage right and MR. PENNYPINCH sits at his desk and falls asleep.

Fum, Fum, Fum

G. G.

Spanish Carol
Arr. by Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

On De-cem-ber five and twen-ty, *f* Fum, fum, fum!

On De-cem-ber five and twen-ty, Fum, fum, fum! For the love and joy of life was giv'n to

us this ho-ly night, As we cel - e-brate this sea-son, Peace on earth our on-ly rea-son,

1 Fum, fum, fum! 2 Fum, fum, fum! Fum, fum, fum! *p* Fum!

As the carol ends, the stagelights are dimmed as the spotlight is brought up on MR. PENNYPINCH'S office. Much to his surprise, he is startled awake by a new visitor.

CAPTAIN
CASPAR:

Awake sir, and be merry!

MR.
PENNYPINCH:
CAPTAIN
CASPAR:

What, who, where . . . what's going on? Who are you? Where was I . . .

Don't be confused, my good man. I'm here to decorate your life with good cheer.

MR.
PENNYPINCH:

Good cheer, is it? You're as bad as the last sea captain who was here. By the way, where is he? Maybe it was a dream.

CAPTAIN
CASPAR:

A dream? Yes, you might call it a dream, but what I have here is real (he points to his heart).

22

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

What do you have in your coat?

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

It's not in my coat. It's in my heart.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Are you ill? Do you have a disease?

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

No, no, sir, but what I have is contagious.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Then stay away from me!

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

Don't be frightened, sir. You would do well to catch a little of what I have. Here, let me decorate your heart (he sprinkles an imaginary dust on MR. PENNYPINCH'S heart).

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

No! Stay away! Stop! It . . . it . . . it feels good! Why, I've never felt so good. My office—it's decorated with bright lights and hollyberries. The Christmas tree is beautiful and gifts cover the floor. Why, it reminds me of my childhood . . . (as if in a trance, MR. PENNYPINCH reflects . . .).

Refrain 2: There Was a Time

$\text{♩} = 80$

Mr. Pennypinch:



There was a time that I re - call when Christ-mas trees filled



ev-'ry hall, When dec-o-ra - tions filled each room, and hap-pi-ness de - feat-ed gloom.

As the song ends, MR. PENNYPINCH sits back at his desk. The potion wears off and he shouts:

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Enough of this nonsense! You've wasted too much of my time already. There are no decorations here, and I haven't had a Christmas tree in years.

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

Ah, but the joy it brought you. Do you remember that? Just think how you can bring the same joy to the good people of Camdentown.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

What kind of trickery is this? Do you think I'd be foolish enough to spend money on a Christmas tree and decorations? Be off with you!

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

Here my friend, have some more good cheer and come with me (sprinkles again).

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

No, I won't! No! Yes, yes!

Captain Caspar's Song

23

G. G.

Tune: "We Three Kings of Orient Are,"

by John H. Hopkins

Arr. by Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of B-flat major, and 4/8 time. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 52. The dynamics are marked as *mf*. The score consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Sail with me to Christ-mas a-far, guid-ed by a bright Christ-mas star; See it glow-ing, all men know-ing joy lives in ev-'ry heart. Oh, See the can-dles, light the lights, See the dec-o-ra-tions bright; Christ-mas trees in glow-ing splen-dor, Christ-mas joys re-mem-bered." The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

As CAPTAIN CASPAR sings his song, he and MR. PENNYPINCH move stage left as the spotlight follows them. At the completion of the song, the stagelights go up. We see a group of people decorating a Christmas tree.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

That voyage was much more pleasant than my first one. Why, I've never seen a ship like yours. The decorations were beautiful.

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

But, I thought you didn't like Christmas decorations.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

I never said that. I said I wouldn't spend money on them. Did I say that?

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

Yes, and much more I'm afraid.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Where are we . . . this town . . . these people . . . who are they?

CAPTAIN

CASPAR:

We're in a little town in Germany, and these people are about to finish decorating their Christmas tree.

1ST WOMAN:

What a beautiful tree we have this year.

2ND WOMAN:

Yes, and the entire town is decorated.

1ST MAN:

My grandfather told me it has been a tradition in Germany for hundreds of years.

2ND MAN:

Yes, and he said that the evergreen was a symbol of life, because it's ever green.

- 1ST MAN: One thing is certain—this town would not be the same without these symbols of Christmas.
- 1ST WOMAN: Yes, they are constant reminders of the true meaning of Christmas: the spirit of love and joy that keeps this town alive.
- 2ND WOMAN: Did your grandfather ever tell you how this tradition began?
- 1ST MAN: No, but he did mention something about three mysterious ships . . .
- CAPTAIN CASPAR: Well, MR. PENNYPINCH, have you seen enough?
- MR. PENNYPINCH: Enough to know sir, that I may have been too hasty in my judgement not to help the people of (shakes his head as if to clear it) . . . Camden . . . ah yes, my head is clear. Yes, I've seen enough. Now take me home and be off with you!
- CAPTAIN CASPAR: Another dash should get you home. (Christmas tree carolers begin singing.)

As he sprinkles MR. PENNYPINCH, the stagelights go down and a spotlight shines on the people around the Christmas tree. CAPTAIN CASPAR and MR. PENNYPINCH move stage right, and CAPTAIN CASPAR exits while MR. PENNYPINCH silently assumes a sleeping position at his desk.

O Christmas Tree

Translation by Mabel West

German Carol
Arr. by Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

The musical score is written for two voices on a grand staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score consists of three lines of music. The first line is labeled 'Chorus 1:' and 'Chorus 2:'. The lyrics are: 'O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un - chang-ing! O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un - chang-ing! Green'. The score includes dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The first line ends with a fermata over the final note. The second line begins with a fermata over the first note. The third line begins with a fermata over the first note.

Chorus 1: *mf*

Chorus 2: *mf*

O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un -

O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un -

chang-ing! O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un - chang-ing!

chang-ing! O Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un - chang-ing! Green

Through sum-mer's glow, Of win-ter blow.
not a-lone through sum-mer's glow, But, too, when gales of win-ter blow. *mf* O

mf O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un - chang - ing! O
Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, How green thy leaves un - chang - ing!

Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, What glad-ness thou art bring - ing! O
O Christ-mas tree, What glad-ness thou art bring - ing!

Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, What glad-ness thou art bring - ing! A -
O Christ-mas tree, What glad-ness thou art bring - ing! A -

dorned and trimmed with can-dles bright, Thou art our joy and our de-light. O

dorned and trimmed with can-dles bright, Thou art our joy and our de-light.

Christ-mas tree, O Christ-mas tree, What glad-ness thou art bring-ing!

O Christ-mas tree, What glad-ness thou art bring-ing!

As the carol is finished, the lights go down and a spotlight is brought up on MR. PENNYPINCH'S office. He is quite startled to see yet a third visitor standing with CAPTAIN MELCHIOR and CAPTAIN CASPAR.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Can this be? A third mysterious visitor come to ruin my day, and with a patch over his eye, no less. Well, it's useless sir. I will not sail on another ghost ride.

CAPTAIN

BALTHAZAR:

Say what you will, Mr. Pennypinch, but you will sail with me now or forever.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

But you don't look as kindly as your two friends. Speak to me of happiness, of joy. (He stands and moves in front of the desk, with CAPTAIN MELCHIOR and CAPTAIN CASPAR to his right, and CAPTAIN BALTHAZAR to his left.)

CAPTAIN

BALTHAZAR:

You ask me to speak kindly to you. My only words of comfort will spell your doom. You sail on a sea of pain and misery. You have left your fellow man to drown in despair. Where were you when they needed a kind word to save them?

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Oh please sir, say no more . . .

CAPTAIN

BALTHAZAR:

Say no more? When your doom is so near? You have been visited by three of us. If you don't change your ways, you will sail with me forever. It is a voyage of no return . . .

Captain Balthazar's Song

G. G.

Tune: "We Three Kings of Orient Are,"
by John H. Hopkins
Arr. by Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

mf Sail with me to meet—your doom, Greed has caused your

life— of gloom; Sor-r'wing, sigh-ing, weep-ing, dy-ing, Sealed in a stone cold tomb.

MR. PENNYPINCH:

Wait! Oh please, wait! I'd rather sail with these two gentlemen. I know I can change my ways. Just give me a chance. I want to change my ways. Don't take me! Let me stay!

As the captains sing "Change Your Ways," they gently and slowly pull MR. PENNYPINCH with them. Just as CAPTAIN BALTHAZAR thinks he has him, the other two gently ease him into his chair behind the desk. As the song ends, the captains exit stage right, and a spotlight is placed on MR. PENNYPINCH.

Change Your Ways

G. G.

Tune: "We Three Kings of Orient Are,"
by John H. Hopkins
Arr. by Gene Grier and
Lowell Everson

Captains Melchior and Caspar: *mf* Change your ways and share Christ-mas joy, Give your gifts to
Captain Balthazar: *mf* Sail with me to meet—your doom,

each girl and boy; Feel the spir - it and join in— it, Choirs—their songs em -
Greed has caused your life— of gloom; Sor-r'wing, sigh - ing, weep - ing, dy - ing,

[16] poco rit. mp a tempo
ploy. *p* Oh, ——— Christ-mas spir - it. Christ-mas love,
mp
Sealed in a stone cold tomb. Come with me, you

Sent to all from heav'n a - bove; Make your choice and hear the voice of
 greed - y man, You cause sor - row when you can; Make your choice and
 An - gels sing - ing Christ-mas love.
 hear the voice of Ig - no-rance through-out the land.

As the three captains exit, MR. PENNYPINCH begins to awaken from his dreamlike trance.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

No, I won't go . . . I will change my ways . . . please let me . . . (he jumps up). I'm here! I'm in my office and I'm alive! Oh glorious day! Oh beautiful day! My, my—what day is it? (He throws open his office door and enters the Town Square. The stagelights go up and the Square is filled with people with somber faces. He approaches the Town Council who are standing center stage.)

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Excuse me, my good people. Could you be so kind as to tell me what day it is?

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Why Mr. Pennypinch, it's Christmas Eve.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Lovely! Lovely! I haven't missed it!

MR.

KENSINGER:

No, but you're just in time to help us cancel it.

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Cancel? Oh no sir, we shall not cancel it.

MRS.

GOODCHEER:

What is it Mr. Pennypinch? Have you gone silly?

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

Yes, I've gone silly Mrs. Goodcheer, and you know something? It feels wonderful!

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Well sir, you're silly to think that there is any hope . . .

MR.

PENNYPINCH:

But, that's just what there is—hope, and I want to give this town a gift of hope for Christmas.

MAYOR

FUZZYWUZZ:

Am I hearing correctly? You want to give us something?

- MR.
PENNYPINCH: Yes, yes my good friends of Camdentown. Gather 'round (laughing). I have an announcement to make (laughing harder). Dear me, it seems that sea captain's dust has stayed with me. . . .
- CAPTAIN
HOLLYBUSH: Sea captain's dust? What sea captain?
- MR.
PENNYPINCH: Never mind. Good people, I must apologize for my past behavior, but what has been done can be changed. There will be gifts, food and decorations for all this night—compliments of myself. (All the people shout for joy.) Christmas will not be cancelled, and never will be for as long as I live.
- MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ: What has come over you, Mr. Pennypinch?
- MR.
PENNYPINCH: Why, I've found my Christmas spirit. I had it locked away for so long I couldn't find the key. But I have it now, and I intend to keep it forever. Come closer, friends!
- MR.
KENSINGER: There's more ? . .
- MR.
PENNYPINCH: More? Why, I intend to make a small contribution to the town treasury: just enough to provide jobs for everyone, a new school and a new hospital. (All the people again shout for joy.)
- MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ: Your generosity is overwhelming, sir. Are you sure you feel alright?
- CAPTAIN
HOLLYBUSH: To be sure, he feels alright. Can't you see there's been a miracle? By finding his own Christmas spirit, he has helped us find ours.
- MR.
PENNYPINCH: Yes, and I will continue to help you keep the spirit of Christmas all year 'round, as you must help me.
- MRS.
GOODCHEER: We will indeed!
- MR.
KENSINGER: Yes!
- MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ: Here! Here!
- MR.
PENNYPINCH: I will teach you to be good men of business, and you will teach me how to keep Christmas. We will work together to share the hopes and joys of all mankind.
- MAYOR
FUZZYWUZZ: I do believe you are right, Captain Hollybush. It is a miracle!
- MR.
PENNYPINCH: May the Spirit of Christmas be always in your hearts—no further away than a voyage on the Christmas Ships!

The Legend of the Christmas Ships

Based on the English Carol

Arr. by Gene Grier and

Lowell Everson

♩. = 100

Mr. Pennypinch:

Musical staff for Mr. Pennypinch, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

I saw three ships come sail - ing in' _____

5

Musical staff for the chorus, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

Chorus:

I saw three ships come sail - ing in _____

Musical staff for the chorus, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve,

Mayor
Fuzzywuzz:

Musical staff for Mayor Fuzzywuzz, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing. And

Musical staff for Mayor Fuzzywuzz, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

On Christ-mas Eve, on Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing.

15

Musical staff for Mr. Pennypinch, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

what was in those ships, all three, on Christ-mas Eve, on Christ-mas Eve; And what was in those

Musical staff for Mr. Pennypinch, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

ships, all three, on Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing?

23

Mr. Pennypinch:

Great

Musical staff for Mr. Pennypinch, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

spir - its sailed those ships, all three, _____

28

Great

Musical staff for the chorus, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

Chorus:

On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve,

Musical staff for the chorus, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

spir - its sailed those ships, all three, _____

On

Musical staff for the chorus, starting with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats, and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F4.

On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve, On

37

Mrs. Goodcheer:

Christ - mas Eve in the morn - ing. And all the an-gels in heav'n did sing when
Christ - mas Eve in the morn - ing.

they sailed in on Christ-mas Eve, And all the an-gels in heav'n did sing when they sailed in, in the

45

Mr. Pennypinch:

morn - ing. And all the bells on earth did ring, —

50

And all the bells on earth did ring —

Chorus:

On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve,

On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing.

On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing.

59

Mr. Kensinger:

Each ship brought gifts from heav'n on high, On Christ - mas Eve, On Christ-mas Eve, Each

67

ship brought gifts from heav'n on high, On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing.

Mr. Pennypinch:

72

The gift of love to all man-kind, —

Chorus:

And peace on earth, good

The gift of love to all man-kind,
will to men. And

Captain Hollybush:
On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing. I've
peace on earth, good will to men, On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing.

81
met these Spir - its once be-fore, On Christ-mas Eve, On Christ - mas Eve; They

89
o - pened life's most pre-cious door, On Christ-mas Eve in the morn - ing.

Chorus 1: **94**
We saw three ships come sail - ing in,

Chorus 2:
We saw three ships come

We hope that they'll re - turn a - gain
sail - ing in; A mir - a - cle on

cresc. e rit. *ff*
On Christ - mas Eve in the morn - ing.
Christ-mas Eve, On Christ - mas Eve in the morn - ing.

The Legend of the Christmas Ships

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