

# THE INNKEPER'S DAUGHTER

Description: This upbeat 30-minute, 7-song Christmas musical with 9 speaking roles tells the Bethlehem story through the eyes of a fictional innkeeper's daughter. The relatively easy arrangements by Dennis Allen, Jeff Lippencott, Russell Mauldin, Dave Williamson, and others feature original compositions as well as such favorites as "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and "The First Noel." Supplemental instrumental parts available on three songs.

#### Cast:

- 1. Ben: the innkeeper
- 2. Leah: the innkeeper's wife
- 3. Sara: the innkeeper's teenage daughter
- 4. David: young shepherd, who's in love with Sara
- 5. Joseph: Mary's betrothed
- 6. Mary: mother of Jesus
- 7. Shepherd 1
- 8. Shepherd 2
- 9. Angel
- 10. 4-5 other shepherds: non-speaking parts

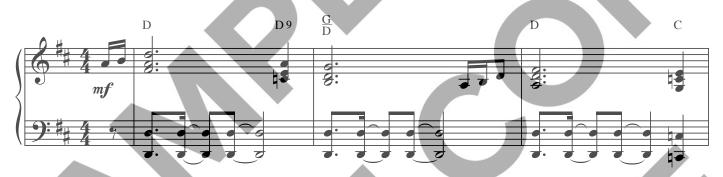
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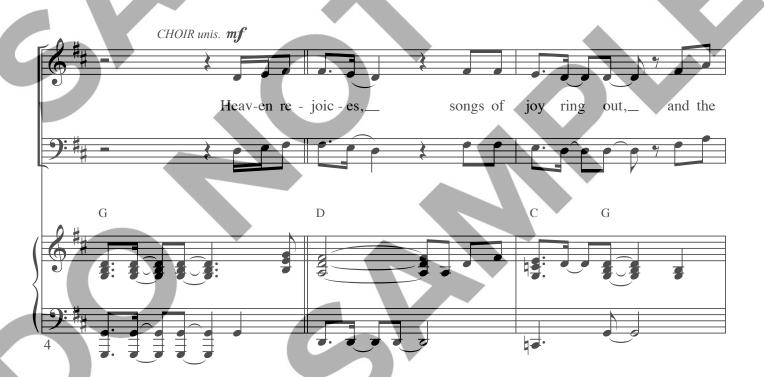
## Heaven Rejoices

From DiscoverWorship.com

Words and Music by DENNIS ALLEN and NAN ALLEN Arranged by DENNIS ALLEN

With a gospel feel (= 82)





The Inn Keepers Daughter - 1









The Inn Keepers Daughter - 3









#### **SCRIPT:**

CHOIR SINGS: "Heaven Rejoices" arranged by Dennis Allen

#### Scene 1

Location: Inside the Inn

[Lights up as Ben, the innkeeper, is frantically calling out...]

<u>Ben</u>: [a little panicky] Leah, Sara, where are you two? The village is crowded with out of town visitors, and our little inn has never seen so much business! Where are you?

<u>Leah</u>: [gently, yet firmly patting Ben's hand] Calm down, darling. Sara and I were in the kitchen making bread for our guests.

<u>Ben</u>: Ever since Caesar Augustus decreed that everyone had to return to their family's hometown and register for the census...

Leah: [interrupting] ...and pay that cursed tax!

<u>Ben</u>: [excited] Yes, yes...as I was saying—ever since Caesar issued this command, our little town of Bethlehem has been flooded with descendants of our beloved King David! I've never seen anything like this! [dreamily] I can just hear the shekels dropping into our money jar... Clink! Clink! Clink!

Leah: Ben, is money all you ever think about?

<u>Ben</u>: Of course not! Sometimes I think about you and Sara and how nice it would be for our family if we all had more money! [goodhearted laughs all around]

<u>Sara</u>: [offstage right from the kitchen] Mom! Mom! Where's the yeast? We need more yeast for the bread!

<u>Leah</u>: It's right where you left it...oh, never mind, I'll show you myself.

[Ben & Leah exit stage right toward Sara's voice] [lights down]

CHOIR SINGS: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" arranged by Dennis Allen

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

From the Worship Today® volume: Words by Noels of Christmas NAN ALLEŃ Music and Arrangement by **DENNIS ALLEN** With energy, in two d = 74Fno3 B♭/F Fno3 B♭/F 5 B♭/F 1st & 3rd times: Ladies unison % 2nd & 4th times: SAB Beth le - hem, Bb/F mf The Inn Keepers Daughter - 8



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#### Scene 2

ocation: In the stable outside the inn

<u>Sara</u>: [snuggling up to David] I'm sorry I'm so late. My parents are all wound up about how many guests we have in the inn this week. I had to bake the bread, bring water from the well, clean the rooms, and then I had to wait till my folks fell asleep before I could sneak out and meet you here in the stable.

<u>David</u>: *[lovingly]* That's alright, Sara. Any time I can spend with you is worth it to me. Although I need to leave in just a bit to help tend my father's flock. I've got the night shift again.

Sara: Don't you just hate staying up all night looking after those dumb animals?

<u>David</u>: [with a sparkle in his eye] Actually, I kind of like it. I think about King David, you know, when he was my age and how he took care of his family's flock...how he guarded the sheep through the night, playing his harp and writing songs about the glory of God's creation. Being a shepherd makes me proud to have been named after David.

<u>Sara</u>: [a little downcast] But you're just a shepherd...and I don't know if my parents will, you know, let their daughter be married to [hesitantly] ... just a shepherd. [Exasperated] David, when are you going to ask them for my hand in marriage?

<u>David</u>: Soon, Sara, soon. But tonight, I've got to join the others in the hills outside of town, tending the sheep... special sheep. The spotless lambs from our flock are used in the Temple sacrifices in Jerusalem—just a few miles away. Their blood covers our sins and the sins of our people. Although I'm not a priest, my job is just as important as theirs. Maybe your parents will understand that.

Sara: [Optimistically] Hey, stranger things have happened. Your namesake, David the shepherd boy, grew up to slay a giant and become the greatest king of Israel. Things aren't always what they first appear to be. It's time for you to go. I don't want you to be late!

[Lights down]

CHOIR SINGS: "He Is the Light of the World" arranged by Russell Mauldin

# He Is the Light of the World

From the Worship Today  $^{\bowtie}$  volume: He Is the Light of the World

Words and Music by
LOWELL ALEXANDER
Arranged by





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The Inn Keepers Daughter - 20













#### Scene 3

Location: Outside the inn in Bethlehem

<u>Sara</u>: Now, if I can only get back into bed before my parents catch me... [turns the corner and runs smack into Joseph and Mary] Oh! [then she sees pregnant Mary] Ohhh!!!

<u>Joseph</u>: Kind girl, do you happen to know if there are any rooms left in Bethlehem? My wife... [changes his words to be more accurate] my...she's going to have a baby any moment and we just need somewhere to stay. Please!?!

Sara: My father and mother run this inn [gestures behind her]. But all of our rooms are full, and ... [looks at Mary and has compassion] I'm really not supposed to... [looks at Mary again] But I've got an idea: why don't you take shelter in the stable outside of our inn?

[Sara moves them into the stable area where Mary rests against the wall]

<u>Mary</u>: *[in obvious discomfort]* We can't thank you enough. But I'm curious: what's a young girl like you doing out this late at night?

Sara: It's a little embarrassing... but since you're about my age, I think you'll understand...

Mary: Ooh... [she holds her belly as a birth pang hits]. Ooh! I bet you're in love!

Sara: [romantically] You know what it's like! You and your husband—you're about to have a baby!

Mary: It's a little more complicated than that. [looking up at Joseph] He's actually not my husband, yet...

Sara: Ohh [a little embarrassed]

Mary: And [looking at her belly], this child's actually not his child. But it's not what you think. In fact, it would be unbelievable to us if Joseph and I hadn't each been visited by an angel who told us this baby was conceived by God's Spirit and is going to be Israel's Savior.

And here we are, in Bethlehem, not by our choice but by imperial command. Just as the Scriptures foretold, Messiah would be born in the City of David, my ancestor—and Joseph's ancestor! Oohh [birth pang hits again!].

Joseph: [comes over to hold Mary's hand, looking around gratefully] Well, it's not exactly a palace, but I'm sure our little prince will be grateful for this bed of straw.

[Lights down]

CHOIR SINGS: "Lord Of All (Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)" arranged by David Allen

## Lord of All







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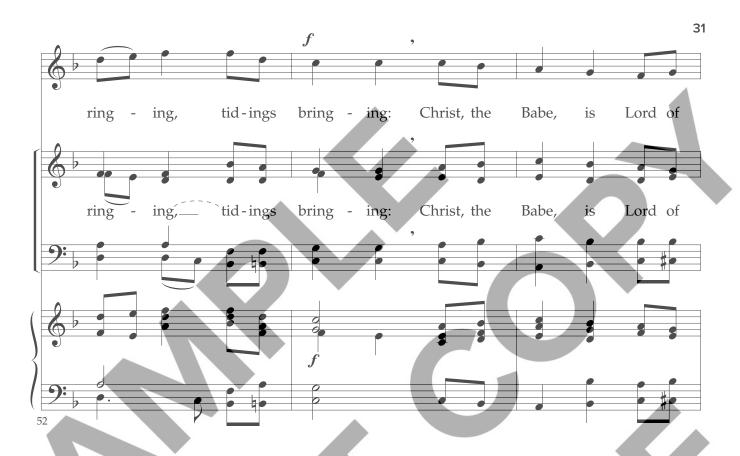
















#### Scene 4

Location: around a campfire in the hills of Judea

[David walks up to a group of shepherds who are sitting around the fire, warming their hands. He joins them around the fire.]

Shepherd 1: David, you're late...that's not like you...

Shepherd 2: [teasingly] I bet I know where you've been: snuggling up with the innkeeper's daughter! David, you know she's way above your class!

<u>David</u>: [laughing it off] ...A guy can always dream, can't he?

Shepherd 1: Hey, we've got all night. Dream on, David, dream on.

[The shepherds sit in silence, stirring the fire a little until...and they all fall down as a bright light shines from stage left.]

Shepherd 2: [covering his eyes] What's that? It's so bright, I can hardly see!

<u>David</u>: *[incredulously]* It's like, like a hole has been torn in the heavens and an army of angels is pouring through. We're doomed!

<u>Angel</u>: Don't be afraid, lowly shepherds. I bring amazing news that will bless the whole world. This very day, in the nearby city of David, your Messiah—your Savior—is born!

The armies of heaven have assembled above these hills to bear witness to God's faithfulness. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth to those he has favored!

You will know what I've said is true when you find the infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a feed trough. Go now! Find this baby and worship him for yourself!

CHOIR SINGS: "Come Let Us Worship Him" arranged by Hal Wright

## Come, Let Us Worship Him



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# The Innkeeper's Daughter

#### Scene 5

Location: In the inn.

[Leah is anxiously rousing Ben from his bed.]

Leah: Ben, wake up! I think I hear something out in the stable.

<u>Ben</u>: Of course, you hear something in the stable! There are horses and camels out there. We have an inn full of guests. How do you think they got here? Maybe on a magic carpet?

Leah: No, Ben...listen! [they hear a baby crying]

[Ben & Leah hurriedly get up, wrap their cloaks around themselves and head out to the stable area on the other side of the stage to find Sara and Mary and Joseph]

<u>Ben</u>: Sara!?! What are you doing out here? [angrily] And who are these people? [instantly softens up when he sees the baby] And what...it's a baby, a beautiful, newborn baby...lying in the feed trough [realizes how odd that is] Lying in the feed trough!?!

[Just then David and the shepherds enter from stage left]

<u>David</u>: [looking back to his companions] ...and the angel said we'd recognize the baby because he'd be lying in a feed trough. [turns around to see Jesus in the manger] Hey...a baby in a feed trough!!!

Sara: [lovingly] David!

David: [lovingly] Sara!

Ben & Leah: [questioningly] David?

Sara: Father and Mother, this is David!

<u>David</u>: It's an honor to meet you. And there's something really important I want to talk to you about. But right now, there's something even more amazing we need to tell you...

We were in the fields, watching our flocks, when the heavens opened, and an army of angels told us that the Savior of the world was born tonight in Bethlehem and that we needed to go and see this baby with our own eyes...so we could praise God for all he has done for us!

<u>Leah</u>: [to Ben] I think I like this young man. Sara, what did you say his name was?

<u>David</u>: Never mind my name...what's the baby's name?

<u>Joseph</u>: His name is Jesus—for he will save his people from their sins. He's our Emmanuel...God with us.

CHOIR SINGS: "Hallelujah Love Has Come" arranged by Jeff Lippencott

### Hallelujah! Love Has Come

Words, Music and Arrangement by **JEFF LIPPENCOTT** 



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The Inn Keepers Daughter - 46



The Inn Keepers Daughter - 47



The Inn Keepers Daughter - 48







The Inn Keepers Daughter - 50

# The Innkeeper's Daughter

[All the characters come onstage to join choir in the Finale/congregational singing of

"Christmas Medley" arranged by Dave Williamson



## Christmas Medley

From the Worship Today<sup>®</sup> volume: **Once Upon a Holy Night** 

Brass instrumentation is printable from the accompaniment CD

Arranged by DAVE WILLIAMSON

Joyful! = 104



The Inn Keepers Daughter - 52





\* Text: Latin Hymn; ascribed to John Francis Wade

Music: John Francis Wade
The Inn Keepers Daughter - 53











\* Text: Traditional English Carol

Music: W. Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1833









The Inn Keepers Daughter - 60

