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in subsequent printings will be gladly received.*

## OVERVIEW

*The Magic Of Christmas* is a theme-based, complete Christmas concert of a 90 minute duration. It has been designed to include every student in the school, while dividing the work load equally among the staff through the component system.

Each staff member should become familiar with the story and the component that they wish their class to perform. Each component is a unit in itself and can be rehearsed as a separate classroom unit, thus greatly reducing the time needed to prepare this production. Each component includes a description of characters, props, costumes, and stage directions. Those staff members who do not have a regular class of students, such as the Librarian or the Teacher Assistants, might wish to be the Director and/or be responsible for rehearsing the main characters or the choir.

The component feature allows teachers to add or delete items to suit their particular school size. To include more classrooms, creative teachers may wish to make up or adapt other acts to fit the theme. Other possibilities that make “magic in the air” at Christmas might be carolling, Christmas shopping, Christmas cards, the smells of Christmas (the traditional Christmas meal), the sounds of Christmas (a performance of bells), or decorations. Almost any concert item can be inserted by writing a few introductory lines for the magician and his son. An appropriate “magical” skit and a related song for the choir could be added. You may wish to have the magician “goof up” on his magic and thereby insert a component that is unrelated or only slightly related to the theme. For example, in Component 9 based on “The Night Before Christmas”, a second skit called “The Great Sleigh Robbery”, in which Santa’s sleigh is hijacked on Christmas Eve, can also be used. (“The Great Sleigh Robbery” by Virginia Ferguson and Peter Durkin) If your school is not large enough to use all the components, keep in mind that Components 1, 10 and 11 are crucial to the theme and must be used. Any other components may be deleted. If your school does not wish to follow the theme, each individual component may be used in a variety Christmas concert by excluding the magician and choir parts.

## THE STORY

The theme, *The Magic Of Christmas*, has a double meaning in that people often say there is “magic in the air” at Christmas, and the main characters in the program are a magician and his helper son. The magician and his son appear at the end of the introductory number, “The Magic Of Christmas”, as part of that act and then decide to leave to practice their magic act for the upcoming Christmas season. However, they decide that they could practice right here if the audience will assist them by thinking of things that help to make “the magic of Christmas”, and by using their powers of concentration to produce magical spells to see each of these. At least three students (audience participants) are planted in the audience to ensure that the correct aspects of Christmas are suggested. The power of concentration of the audience is enhanced by having the choir sing appropriate songs, prior to the casting of each spell by the magician. The program proceeds through the various aspects of Christmas - The Christmas tree; the gifts and treats; the preparations; the parties; the Christmas concert; Santa Claus. However, the magician and his son feel that they still have not captured the “real” magic of Christmas. The mystery is revealed in a play by detective Sam Sleeze and the program terminates with the Nativity Scene.

### COMPONENTS

### SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL

#1	Christmas Is Magic.....	K - 2
#2	The Christmas Tree.....	K - 2
#3	Gifts And Treats.....	1 - 3
#4	Christmas Preparations.....	2 - 4
#5	Partytime.....	2 - 4
#6	The Twelve Concert Days Of Christmas.....	5 - 8
#7	A Mother Goose Concert.....	4 - 6
#8	Silver Collection.....	6 - 8
#9	The Plight Before Christmas.....	4 - 6
#10	The Mystery Of Christmas.....	6 - 8
#11	The Nativity.....	3 - 6

*(Knock at door)*

**Sam:** “Come in!”

*(Enter innkeeper and wife)*

**Sam:** “Hello! Who might you be?”

**Innkeeper:** “Our friend, George, says you’re giving away \$10 bills. I brought my wife along. She should be good for another ten bucks, eh? What would you like to know about this here Christmas?”

**Sam:** “Well, I’m trying to solve the mystery of Christmas. I know it’s not just presents and spending money. What can you offer to help solve the mystery?”

**Innkeeper:** “Well, it’s parties and just having a good time. I know that by the people who come to our inn.”

**Innkeeper’s Wife:** “It’s feeling good and enjoying your friends.”

**Sam:** “That’s all well and good, but it’s not enough. Thanks anyway. Here’s your money. *(Gives each \$10)* Have a good Christmas.”

**Both:** “Thanks Mr. - er - *(They look at name sign)* Sleeze?”

**Sam:** “Thank you, too.”

**Innkeeper:** *(As he stops at door)* “Maybe there is somebody who can help you with this mystery. There’s a sheep ranchers’ convention in town and these guys know how to have a good time. I overheard some of them saying something about Christmas. I’ll send them over right away.” *(They exit)*