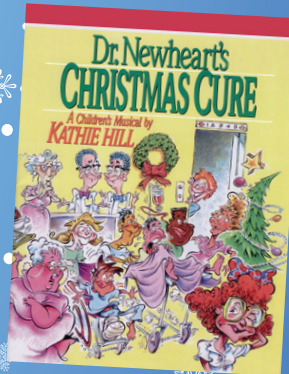
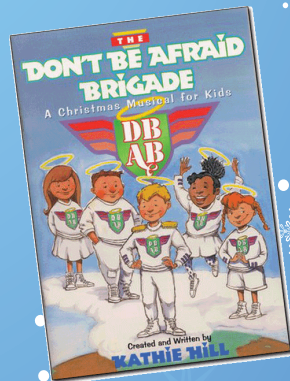
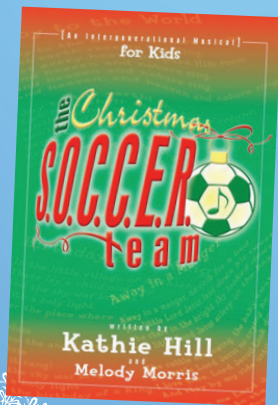


HELP ME CHOOSE A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Your guide to the best Kathie Hill musical for your kids best Christmas!



HELP ME CHOOSE A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL!!

Choosing the right musical for your kids can seem daunting – because it is! You want to provide your children and church with a worshipful, but entertaining experience that leads their thoughts to the Christ of Christmas. So start by stopping. Stop now to pray. Ask for wisdom.

After your “Amen,” look through this list of available Kathie Hill programs and musicals. Each is written to be within the abilities of most 1st – 5th graders, although some directors choose to include children as young as five and/or as old as middle and high school, especially for speaking parts. Each product suggests appropriate grade levels and are *listed in order of release*.

(Classics) - musicals previously out of print, but now available in digital and/or physical product
(Digital) - all product available immediately through licensed digital downloads @ kathiehillmusic.com
(POD) – musicals with “Print On Demand” books we keep in stock (call or email for time sensitive orders)
(Mixed) – product available in both physical and digital formats
(Preview Sampler) – free PDF & mp3 download of music & edited listening CD for preview purposes only.
Song samples are available for all musicals on their product page.

WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas (Digital)

Message: Christmas is a time for all kinds of worship
Ages: 1st – 8th
Set: Bare stage or w/Christmas props made by kids in optional worship arts groups
Costumes: Street clothes or *WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas* t-shirts (available upon demand)
Voicing: Unison/2 part
Music: Easy to challenging
Drama: Free Musical Script at kathiehillmusic.com -other drama options in Worship Arts Activities
Speakers: From 3 - 15 depending on Drama option/s chosen
Solos: Up to 20 depending on number of songs chosen
Video: Options that kids can produce in Media track activities
Instruments: Drums & tambourines kids can make in Instrument track activities
Length: 30 - 45 minutes depending on number of songs and drama options
Activities: Art, Dance, Drama, Instruments, Media & Vocal activities are available online.

Christmas in Reverse (POD)

Message: Christmas starts in the Old Testament and ends in the New Testament
Ages: 1st - 8th Grades
Set: Present day stage or sanctuary
Costumes: Optional nativity costumes and Christmas in Reverse t-shirts (available upon demand)
Voicing: Unison/2 part with one 3-part round
Music: Easy to challenging
Drama: Simple narrations, read or memorized, simple stage action
Speakers: 5 children plus 3-4 adults or children & non-speaking nativity characters
Solos: Minimum of 10
Video: Instructional/Movement DVD includes *Come and Worship Jesus ACC* video
Length: 35 minutes
Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities are included in the Director’s Aide & Video (DAV)

The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team (POD)

Message: Kids can learn and love carols as well as contemporary Christmas songs
Ages: 1st - 8th Grades with teen/adult/senior adult SOCCER Team members
Set: Present day hall or rehearsal room decorated for Christmas
Costumes: Adults - Christmas clothes; Kids - soccer jerseys (available upon demand)
Voicing: Unison/2 part
Music: Easy
Drama: Easy
Speakers: 5-10 Children / 3 Adult characters
Solos: minimum of 7
Length: 45 minutes
Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities are included in the Director’s Aide & Video (DAV).

The Best of Kathie Hill's Christmas

14 songs in 3 mini-musicals

Message: Various Christmas themes
 Ages: 1st- 5th Grade
 Set: 1) Street scene, 2) Bible times, 3) Heaven
 Costumes: Main character costumes appropriate to each setting
 Voicing: Unison/2-part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: 3 easy scripts included in choral book.
 Speakers: 3 – 7 depending on choice of mini-musical/s
 Solos: 2 – 9 depending on choice of mini-musical/s
 Length: 15 -20 minutes each

Operation Christmas Child (POD)

Based on the shoe box ministry of Samaritan's Purse

Message: Christmas is a time for sharing with those around the world you need Christ.
 Ages: 1st grade and up with several songs easy enough for preschoolers
 Set: Fort Faithful, home of Special Forces Unit 12-25
 Costumes: Camo or green t-shirts and pants
 Voicing: Unison/2-part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Easy to challenging w/some broad characters & stage action
 Speakers: 9 characters, plus several narrations
 Solos: Minimum of 10 solos
 Video: Wanda Fullweather's Forecast; Instructional/Movement DVD includes OCC video w/Franklin Graham
 Length: 45 minutes
 Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities are included in the Director's Aide & Video (DAV).

The MK Christmas Special (POD)

Message: Christmas is celebrated differently & meaningfully by missionary kids around the world
 Ages: 1st grade and up with several songs easy enough for preschoolers
 Set: Talk show set-up, decorated for Christmas
 Costumes: Christmas clothes and simple biblical costumes or props
 Voicing: Unison/2-part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Read or memorized, simple to no stage action
 Speakers: 15-30 with optional adult parts
 Solos: Minimum of 9
 Video: Instructional/Movement DVD includes 6 Missionary Kid videos featuring six different countries
 Length: 50 minutes (if all six countries are included)
 Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities included in downloadable Director's Aide & Video (DAV).

A Band of Shepherds (Classics/Preview Sampler)

Message: The Messiah's birth brings hope to the hopeless and joy to the world!
 Ages: 3rd – 8th grade & up with opportunities for younger kids in specific songs
 Set: Divided stage with outdoor census, shepherd's field & manger
 Costumes: Street clothes with "Bibli-cool" accessories
 Voicing: Unison/2part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Simple with minimal blocking
 Speakers: 3 or more band members; Joyce, Mary & Joe and 8 other characters / speakers
 Solos: 4 character solos, 2 additional solos
 Length: 35 minutes
 Activities: Lesson Plans are available as free download on product page.

The Christmas Family Tree (POD)

Message: Everyone can be adopted into Jesus' family tree, found in Matthew 1.
 Age: 1st and up, w/some songs or choruses easy enough for preschoolers
 Set: Outdoor or indoor setting with large Christmas tree as focal point
 Costumes: Winter or Christmas clothes
 Voicing: Unison/2-part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Easy
 Speakers: Minimum of 7 with optional adult parts
 Solos: Minimum of 14
 Length: 35 minutes
 Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities are included in the downloadable Dovetailor pages.

Christmas in Egypt (POD)

Message: Like the Egyptians, we are lost but can find Jesus when we receive Him like a child.
 Age: 1st -6th with places for younger kids to participate, exit & return
 Set: Egyptian setting – four scenes with moveable props
 Costumes: Egyptian clothing and biblical clothing
 Speakers: Minimum of 9 with one toddler part and optional adult parts
 Solos: Minimum of 14
 Voicing: Unison/2-part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Easy
 Solos: Minimum of 14
 Length: 45 minutes
 Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities are included in the downloadable Dovetailor pages.

The Don't Be Afraid Brigade (Mixed/Free Preview Sampler)

Message: The "fear not" message started with Jesus' birth and continues forever!
 Age: 1st grade and up with several songs easy enough for preschoolers
 Speakers: Minimum of 5
 Set: Heaven
 Costumes: White sweats or tee shirts with optional DBAB logo (available on demand)
 Solos: Minimum of 10
 Voicing: Unison/2-part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Easy, little to no blocking
 Solos: minimum of 14
 Length: 35 minutes
 Activities: Musical and Spiritual activities are included in the downloadable Dovetailor pages.

Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure (Classics/Free Preview Sampler)

Message: Everyone needs and can receive a new heart for Christmas.
 Ages: 1st – 6th grades
 Speakers: Maximum of 14 with non-speaking nativity characters
 Set: Dr. Newheart's clinic
 Costumes: Christmas clothes, medical garb for characters
 Voicing: Unison/2 part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Multiple comic characters for children, teens and/or adults
 Solos: 6-10, including character solos, spoken solos & raps
 Length: 45 minutes
 Activities: Worksheets, puzzles and games are included in the downloadable Singer's Edition.

Wise Guys & Starry Skies (Classics/Free Preview Sampler)

Ages: 1st – 6th grades
 Speakers: 7 characters
 Set: A desert in the Middle East, then Bethlehem
 Costumes: Biblical dress, optional cowboy garb, aprons &/or hats for chorus kids
 Voicing: Unison/2 part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: 3 kings, 2 kid characters, Mary & Joseph
 Solos: Minimum 6
 Length: 45 minutes
 Message: Like the wise men, everyone should find and worship Jesus.

Good King Wenceslas (Classics)

Message: It is more blessed to give than receive.
 Ages: 1st - 5th Grades
 Set: Inside King Wenceslas' castle
 Costumes: Girls: long dresses, Boys: poster board breast plates
 Voicing: Unison/2part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Simple, minimal blocking – characters played by kids, teens or adults
 Speakers: King Wenceslas, Friar, Princess Wences, 4 ladies-in-waiting, 2 knights, peasant boy & jokers, opt. nativity characters
 Solos: 7 solos
 Solos: Wenceslas, Princess Wences, 3 non-character solos
 Instruments: Optional recorder/s on "It is More Blessed to Give Than Receive"
 Length: 30 minutes

Angels Aware!

Message: Like the angels, we learn Jesus came as a baby so everyone could love Him.
 Age: 1st – 6th grade w/several songs/choruses for preschoolers
 Set: Heaven
 Costumes: Simple angel costumes (pattern included in Director's Book)
 Voicing: Unison/2part
 Music: Easy
 Drama: Simple, minimal blocking – use kids, teens, and/or adults
 Speakers: Minimum of 4
 Solos: Minimum of 5
 Length: 50 minutes
 Activities: Worksheets, puzzles and games are included in the Singer's /Activity Book.

The One & Only Original Christmas Factory (Classics)

Message: Every Christmas ornament can be a symbol of God's love.
 Ages: K – 5th
 Set: The Christmas Factory (instructions included in Director's Book)
 Costumes: Street clothes with optional work aprons
 Voicing: Unison/2 part
 Music: Charmingly simple songs made big with great orchestrations
 Drama: Easy with some character blocking
 Speakers: 2 adult/child leads, 6 ornament kids or puppets, many "kid lines"
 Solos: 6 with optional solos in Carol Medley
 Length: 40 minutes

(Variations of these listings appear on each product page at KathieHillMusic.com along with song samples, preview videos, reviews and/or downloadable mp3 and pdf preview samplers.)

Still need more help? Read on!

Which musicals do you recommend for a choir with...

... Under 15 children and few or no adult/teen participants:

Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure – Good King Wenceslas - Christmas in Reverse - The Christmas Family Tree - Don't Be Afraid Brigade - Angels Aware! - The Best of Kathie Hill's Christmas - Holly Day's Songs of Praise –WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas

... Few boys:

Christmas in Reverse - The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team - The Christmas Family Tree - Christmas in Egypt - Don't Be Afraid Brigade – The One & Only Original Christmas Factory – Good King Wenceslas - WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas

... Mostly young children (1st – 3rd grade):

The Don't Be Afraid Brigade - The Best of Kathie Hill's Christmas - The Christmas Family Tree – Good King Wenceslas – The One & Only Original Christmas Factory

... Mostly older children (4th– 6th/8th):

A Band of Shepherds – Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure - The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team - Operation Christmas Child - The MK Christmas Special - Christmas in Reverse - Angels Aware! - WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas

... A lot of speakers/soloists:

Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure - The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team - Operation Christmas Child - The MK Christmas Special - Christmas in Egypt - WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas

... A short rehearsal period (4 – 6 weeks):

Band of Shepherds - Good King Wenceslas - The Best of Kathie Hill's Christmas (using mini-musical script/s) - The MK Christmas Special (selected countries) - Christmas in Reverse- Christmas Family Tree – WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas - Holly Day's Songs of Praise (includes selected Christmas songs with narrations)

... Kids that like lots of dance or movement:

WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas - The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team - Operation Christmas Child - The MK Christmas Special

... Minimal set and costumes available:

WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas - Christmas in Reverse - The Christmas S.O.C.C.E.R. Team - The Christmas Family Tree - The Don't Be Afraid Brigade

... Capacity for incorporating and/or creating video:

WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas - Christmas in Reverse - Operation Christmas Child - The MK Christmas Special

How long does it take to learn a musical?

Allow one hour of musical rehearsal per song spread out over your rehearsal period. For those musicals that offer a Director's Aide and Video (DAV) or a Dovetailor, read the section titled, "Using the Song Segments in your Rehearsals" to understand how to break each song into achievable segments. Using the Music Activities from the *WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas* activities file, you'll learn how to emphasize different aspects of the music and text by rehearsing songs or sections of song over multiple rehearsals.

If you incorporate the teaching or Music activities (as described above) you will need to add 10-15 minutes for each activity. So a good standard is to allow a minimum of 10 sixty-minute music rehearsals with separate drama rehearsals and/or dance rehearsals.

What if my choir is very small? How can I do a musical?

- * Choose a musical with a minimum of speaking parts and/or parts that can be read by concealing the script within props. Remember that you can often combine two or more speaking parts in to one character or speaker.
- * Simplify a musical by cutting out scenes or songs. Many of our works have places where, by eliminating a scene and/or character, the musical can be shortened and the audience will never know.
- * Use the split track voices to fill out a small choir's vocal sound.
- * Incorporate teens and/or adults (singing in their upper register) for vocal support and speaking parts.
- * Incorporate puppets in the lead parts.
- * Prepare and perform the musical as a community-wide outreach. Invite children who might not ordinarily be involved in your church or music program to participate over a schedule of weekly or possibly longer bi-weekly or monthly rehearsals.
- * Team up with another church to perform the musical. Rehearse separately up to your dress rehearsal, then perform your musical twice, once at your church and once at theirs. If necessary, double cast the musical with your children in the cast at your church and their cast and/or soloists from your partner church for their program.
- * Choose a musical that has plenty of "pull-out" songs (those which make sense outside the musical.) Then, if you realize you can't pull off a quality production, you will still have a good selection of songs to create a quality Christmas concert.

Can I incorporate preschoolers into my production?

It's chancy to involve children younger than 2nd grade in a musical that lasts over 20-30 minutes. Why? Their attention span is very short and especially if there is a run-through before the performance, the younger children will tire out.

Some preschoolers may be intimidated singing in front of an audience and that fear will inhibit their participation in choir. Others might have a negative experience such as experiencing stage-fright or having to go to the bathroom during the performance which can negatively affect their involvement in your productions even after they have matured. Some precocious preschoolers will "mug" or "squirm" on stage taking attention away from the group as a whole and distracting from the message of the musical.

The older children are never as enthusiastic about participating with younger children and, when combined with the preschoolers, will perceive that your choir program is mostly for the little kids. If the younger children participate in every musical, by the time they are older, the novelty of being in a production wears off making it harder to keep them involved in your music program.

What if I have to involve preschoolers in my production?

The best way to incorporate preschoolers is to have them sing several songs before the presentation of the musical or involve them in a portion of the musical. Look for places (often noted) where it would be appropriate to bring out the younger children for a scene or two. For example, in *Christmas in Reverse*, the preschoolers could be the nativity characters who enter

during the opening song, then exit to return in small groups later in the musical. In *Christmas in Egypt* younger children can enter as the biblical guests in the Scene 3 party, then come back during the dialogue before the Finale.

When not on stage, chaperones can sit with preschoolers on the floor allowing them to observe the performance until it is time for their entrance. This is preferable to keeping them corralled off-stage and watching the older children will give them an example of how they should behave when they are on stage.

If you do involve younger children, always rehearse the groups separately (ie, K-2nd in one group and 3rd & up in another.) This will allow you to tailor your rehearsal and activities to each age group. Combine the two groups for the last few rehearsals, making sure that the more strident vocal sound of the younger children blends with the mature voices of the older kids.

How do you audition children for solos and speaking parts?

There is section in every Director's Aide and Video (DAV), Dovetailor and Drama Activities for *WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas* that guides you through the audition process. Some include reproducible letters, forms and evaluation sheets that are personalized to each musical.

What if I have more children than there are parts or solos in the musical?

- Double cast your musical and have more than one performance.
- Turn one part into two or three. If there is a girl's speaking part, divide the lines and distinguish the additional girls as a "twin," "sister" or friend."
- Create additional parts and dialogue. If you need to augment a script or add songs to a published musical, please contact the publisher for information. If permission is granted you must state in your program that the work has been modified from its original form by permission from the publisher and give credit to the creators/writers of the original material.
- Create additional solos from choral segments of a song/s. If using the split track accompaniment, simply drop the track voices for that section.

How can I involve more boys in my choir program?

Choose works that have "boy appeal." Look for characters or music they would relate to...soldiers, shepherds, band members, etc. Boys tend to lose interest in slow songs long before the girls do so look for a work that is not "ballad-heavy" or most Kathie Hill musicals have only two slow songs. The group choreography on the Instructional Video in the DAV demonstrates movements that most boys should like, but if doing motions diminishes their enthusiasm for choir, either allow them to create their own choreography or designate the movements to one group. Lastly, vary the content and pace of your choir time, by incorporating the Teaching Activities in the DAV or Dovetailor pages, the Worship Arts Activities for *WAM! 4 Kids 4 Christmas* or worksheet in the Singer's Book into each rehearsal. A variety of activities will always hold the boy's attention better than continual singing.

We hope this information has been helpful and will be glad to provide answers to questions that are not apparent on the product page for a musical or the many free resources linked to that page of our website.

But don't stop now. Pray again!

Kathie Hill