

A musical for young people by PAUL HARRINGTON, SUSAN HARRINGTON AND JUDITH WATTS.

## THE RAINBOW MAN

by Paul Harrington, Susan Harrington and Judith Watts

John Clare Books, London



### CAPTAIN'S LOG

THE RAINBOW MAN is a new musical version of the timeless tale of Noah and his ark. Suitable for schools or youth groups, the show can be performed with very few resources and a small number of actors.

In the original production, for instance, there was a cast of about twenty with everyone but the main characters and the 1920's chorus doubling as the crew of the ark and as animals.

Conversely, if a big production is envisaged in a school for example, older children or possibly teachers could take the main parts such as Noah and Mrs Noah while the number of animals – played by younger children – is limited only by the space available on stage. Again in the original show, masks and glove puppets were used instead of full animal costumes, mainly to keep down the cost.

No scenery as such is needed but any nautical items such as lifebelts, rope and tackle, ships lanterns etc that can be borrowed will all add realism. In short, The Rainbow Man can be staged on the proverbial shoe string.



The original Rainbow Man – first performed in a church hall – was given a 1920's flavour. This struck a note of happy incongruity and provided a Bertie Wooster-like air of comedy to the narration. Four flappers and a young gent comprised the 1920's chorus and there was found to be ample scope here for costume and choreography.

As to the score which contains a variety of musical styles, a simple melody line and guitar chord symbols are provided in this book as well as a tape cassette of the show. This will enable the cast to learn the songs quickly as well as giving an indication of how the music was performed in the original show.

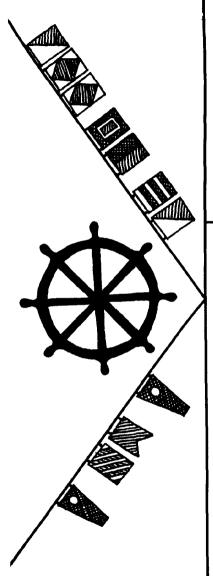
The Rainbow Man can be done with just a piano and percussion but clearly the more instruments available, the fuller the sound. The addition of brass or woodwind instruments would be an interesting project for older music scholars. For the first public performance of











the show we used a piano, electronic organ, guitar, bass guitar and drums – as on the enclosed cassette.

There are notes of guidance with each song for those who want them, but the essence of The Rainbow Man is improvisation and the fun to be had adapting the show to suit local circumstances. There are also blank spaces in the book for you to make your own notes as you go along.

We do hope you will enjoy your trip aboard the ark!

Paul Harrington Susan Harrington Judith Watts

### **List of Characters**

Noah
Mrs Noah
The Voice of God
Boatyard Foreman
4 Bees
2 Singers for the Duet
Falling Rain
Raven
20's Chorus (any number)
Animals (any number to suit players)
optional – Slinky Ladies for Painted Rainbow Song







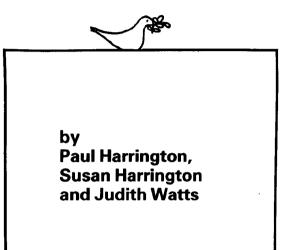
### **FIRST HALF:**

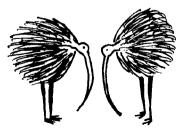
The Rainbow Man
Noah Noah that's my Name
Perhaps Maybe
Noah has the Knowhow
Two by Two
Bee Song
Falling Rain
Indian Rain Dance
My baby won't stop Crying
Baby don't Cry
Zebra Song
Noah had a Party



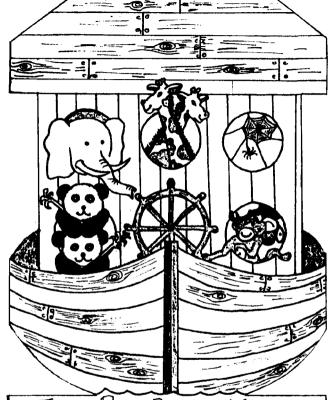
### **SECOND HALF:**

Selah
Hate Song
Dark Side of the Moon
Don't leave me Dreamer
The Raven Song
A Speck of Dust in my Eye
A Painted Rainbow
Drifting Light
Two by Two
The Rainbow Man



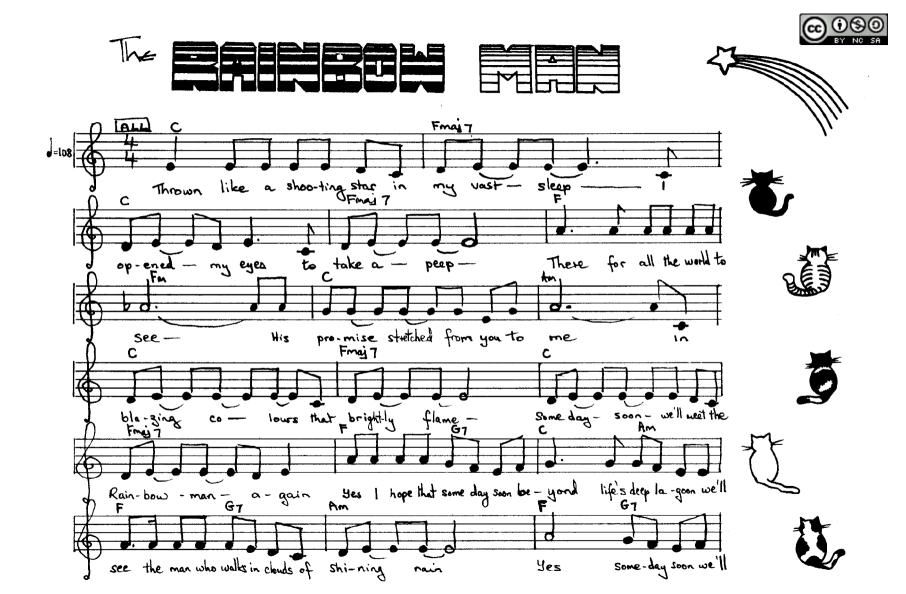






THE KHINDOW INTAN	
DORSET GARDENS CHURCH HTALL  MAY 6th 7th 8th 1982 at 8-00 pm  Admission by Programme. Adult 80 p  CHILD 50 p	T F
FAMILY PROGRAMME (2 ADULTS-2 CHILDRON) £2-00	S







Where the rippling river meets the rolling sea
He'll whisper all his words to you and me
Where the white wings of doves beat
We'll never touch the ground with our feet
There beyond where the sun meets the rain
Someday soon we'll meet the Rainbow Man again
Yes, I hope that someday soon
Beyond life's deep lagoon
We'll see the man who walks in clouds of shining
rain
Yes, someday soon we'll meed the Rainbow Man
again, again,

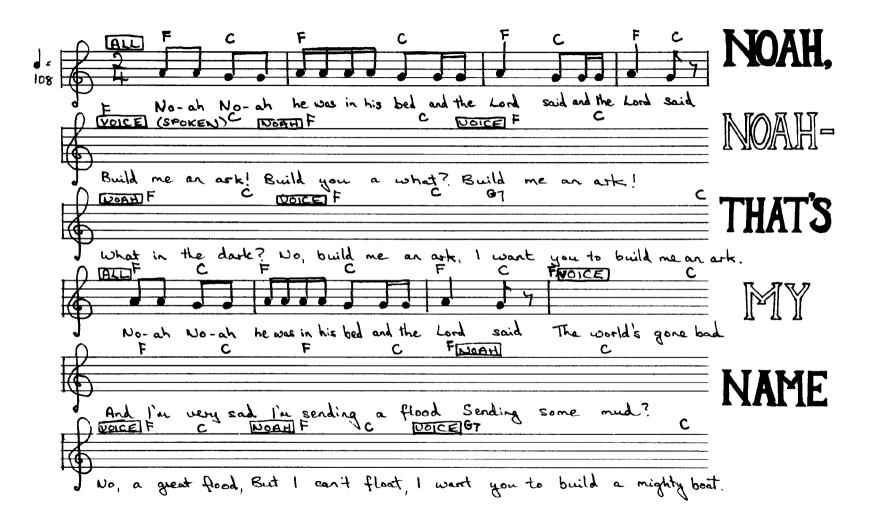
Again, and again and again, again . . .



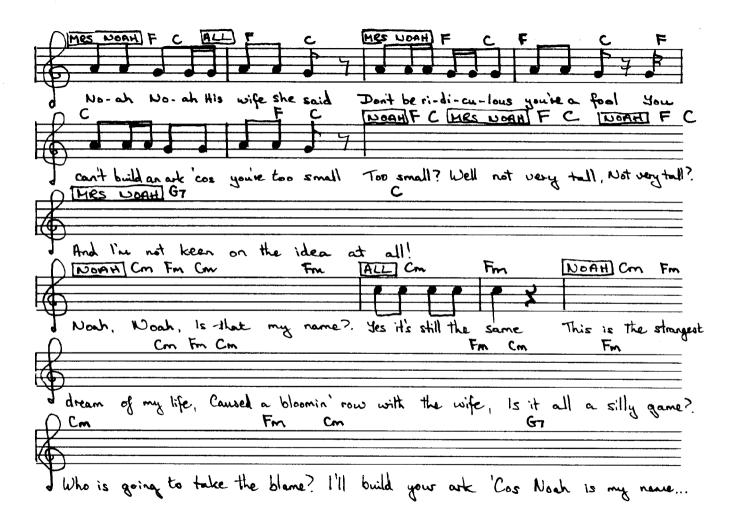
### Your Notes

IN the original version of The Rainbow Man this opening title song was sung by all the cast, quietly at first, gradually building volume. Everyone except Noah and Mrs Noah - offstage at this point was dressed in a basic, allpurpose costume of dark tops and black trousers or jeans. This allows for quick changes and does not detract from other more colourful or exotic costumes which hopefully you will be able to use. Also it is a cheap way out! At the end of the song the stage is in darkness so that Mr and Mrs Noah's bed can be brought on. They are in their nightclothes.



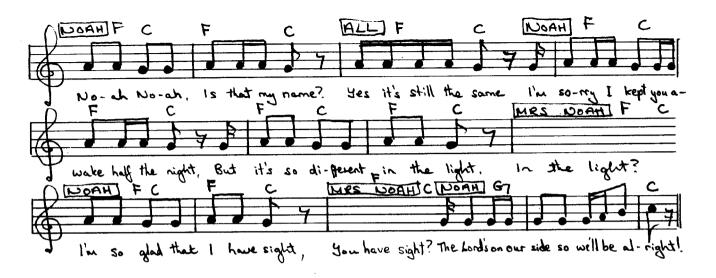


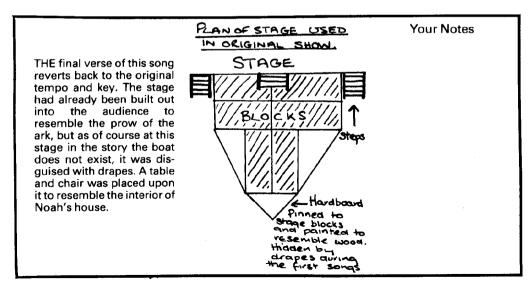


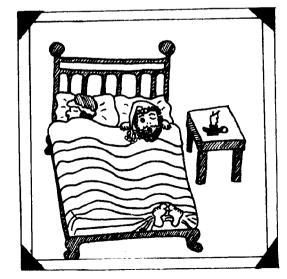




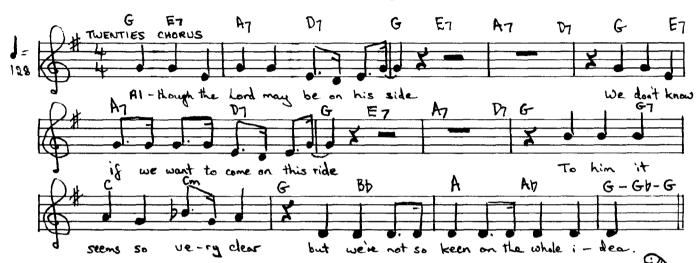








# 1920's CHORUS



THE 1920's chorus is chiefly used for the narration in the show. Therefore they need to be able to sing clearly to carry the story forward. A Bertie Wooster-like flavour to their appearances was attempted in the original show with four girls dressed in 1920's style drop

waistline, sailor-collared dresses to maintain a nautical air. The young gent also part of the chorus was in a sailor type costume as well, but if available, an old style, long bathing costume would be highly appropriate and would add to the fun! The

young man spoke the words of the 1920's chorus into a megaphone in a suitably affected voice over the girls' singing.

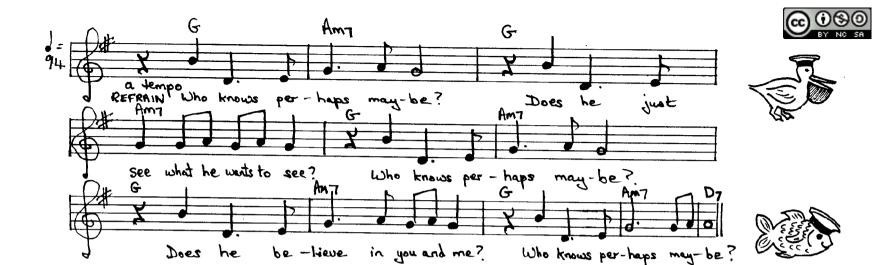












He talks of clouded colours in the sky
We can't seem to see them though we try
Noah what's going on in your head?
Perhaps you should take a rest, stay in bed
All those creatures in one big boat
These ideas seem to us so very remote
Will this whole dream just collapse?
He seems so sure who knows perhaps...



Noah you see is our trusted friend
We'll all stick by him to the end
What can he borrow what ropes can he mend
Is it a fashion, is it a trend?
We can't help smiling, we don't want to offend
We're sure he's off his rocker, gone round the bend!
Now he's given us sailor's caps
He seems so sure who knows perhaps...

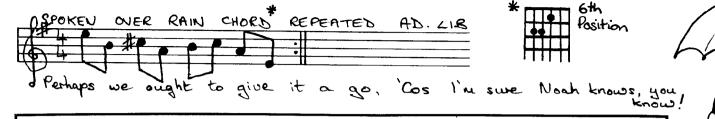


(REFRAIN)

THIS song begins with the cast in their basic dark costumes and gives an opportunity for a Fiftiesstyle rock and roll number.

Towards the end Noah and Mrs Noah enter – now in their main costumes – studying an elaborate blueprint of the ark.

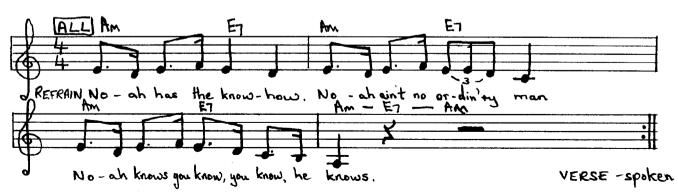




DURING the above spoken part – while the guitar or piano plays the 'rain chord', see music – members of the cast should be getting ready to build the ark. The next song, 'Noah has the know-how', is particularly long just for this purpose. In the original show the ark had been built in advance using stage blocks and hardboard. During the song the wraps were taken off to

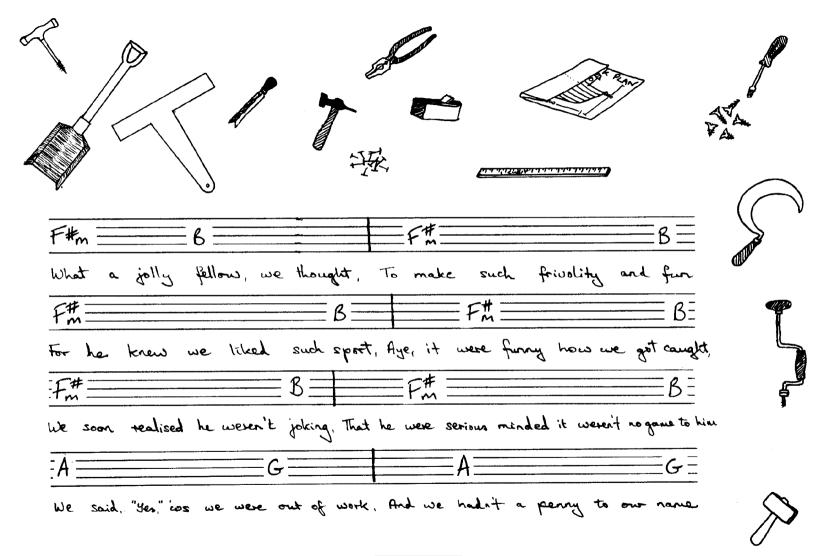
reveal the craft and the cast brought on genuine ship's tackle such as lifebelts, coils of thick rope etc. We even had a real miniature ship's wheel for Noah to steer the ark. The boatyard foreman who speaks this song was given a clipboard with the words attached to help his memory while he gave the impression of overseeing the work.

## WORK CROW-COW

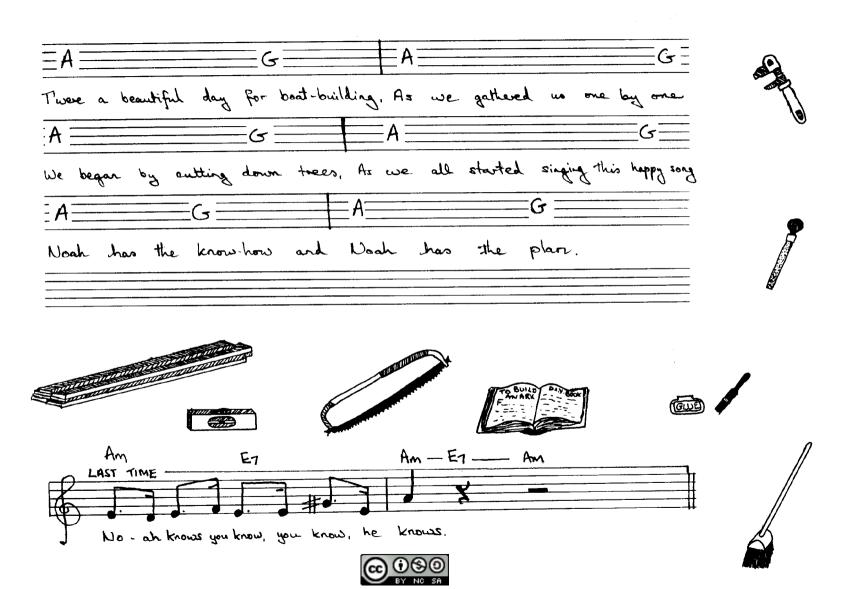




BOATYARD FOREMAN (SPOKEN)  GARAGE  GAR	999
Verse: I'll tell of the tale of North, As happened in days gone by,	~
A = G = A = G = G	
How he had visions and fancies, That's right of rainbows int'sky.	
A G A	
One day running to his fellows. He said, "Help me build an ask!"	
A = G = G = G = G = G = G = G = G = G =	
Well, imagine us lads and lasses booking at each other, by gum, it were a lark!	٥
	7







ALL:

(REFRAIN)

### **BOATYARD FOREMAN**

(SPOKEN): To make an ark of gopher wood

Was all he asked of us

All that noise, moans and groans
Ee you've never heard such a fuss
I was high up like ont' scaffold
And I saw this bird go by

Well I 'spect you can guess what happened

Aye it caught me right int' eye
So I shouts down to Noah

This will be biggest boat ever built

But I hate to say it old fellah

This bit at back got a tilt

Don't worry says Noah

It'll be alright when it's afloat It will not tilt and anyway you won't

Get wet with a waterproof coat

By gum I wish I's as clever as that

Even when he's up a tree
He seems to know his stuff

Then that song came back to me:

Noah has the knowhow and Noah has the plan.

ALL: (REFRAIN)









#### **BOATYARD FOREMAN**

(SPOKEN): We thought Noah was noble

So stately and grand
As he stood there smiling

With a plank of wood in his hand

The length must be three hundred cubits One, two, three, four give me that saw

Five, six, seven, add some more

Is this the ceiling or the floor?

Aye there's nothing like nails for knocking

But you can tell an amateur

There's nothing like a door for locking

When you don't want it secure We were told by Great Noah

To pitch it yes inside and out

Aye like good old Noah

It would be so strong and stout

I says to my mate Harry

l reckon we're nuts, you see

This 'ere boat will never float

But then this song came back to me:

Noah has the knowhow and Noah has the plan . . .

ALL: (REFRAIN)



### **BOATYARD FOREMAN (SPOKEN):**

This seagull set right on his knee

When the ark was finished we had a party Well as a sort of celebration Never have seen so many people Everyone found a new relation Noah stopped muttering of water and rations Let's all have a cup of tea Then he came and sat beside us











NOAH in the original show went out into the audience during this chorus and 'caught' imaginary animals, at the same time teasing younger children in the front seats by catching them in a large butterfly net.

**Your Notes** 

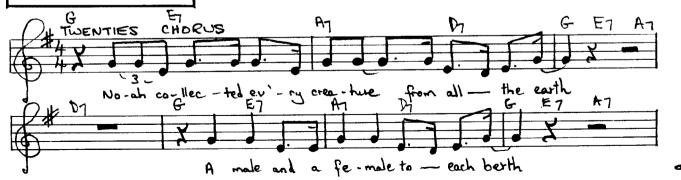
Thanks to you all he said For believing in my dream It were tough going I know 'Cos i know you weren't all that keen We'll never forget how we all laughed Ave and that wonderful look on Noah's face





It were like we had found new friends Who we knew we could never replace It were a Sunday morning Suddenly this fellow breaks into a ditty In honour of our friend Noah I think you'll agree it's quite pretty: Noah has the knowhow and Noah has the plan . . .

ALL: (REFRAIN)







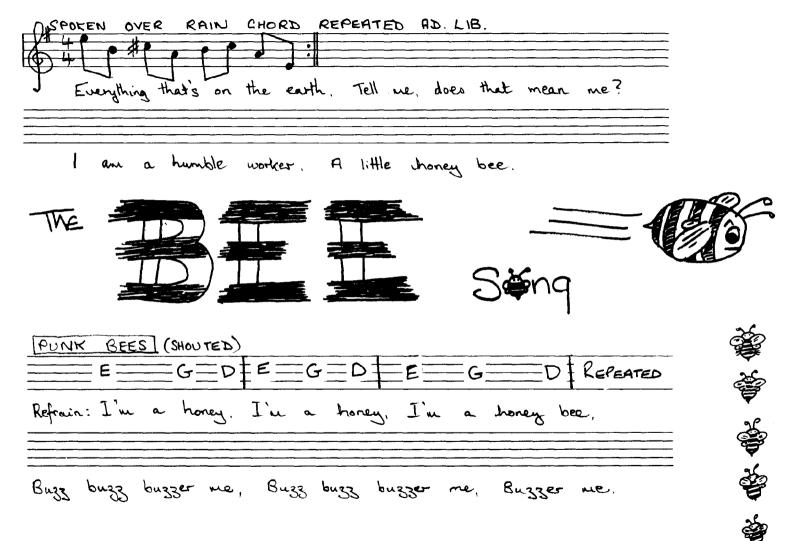




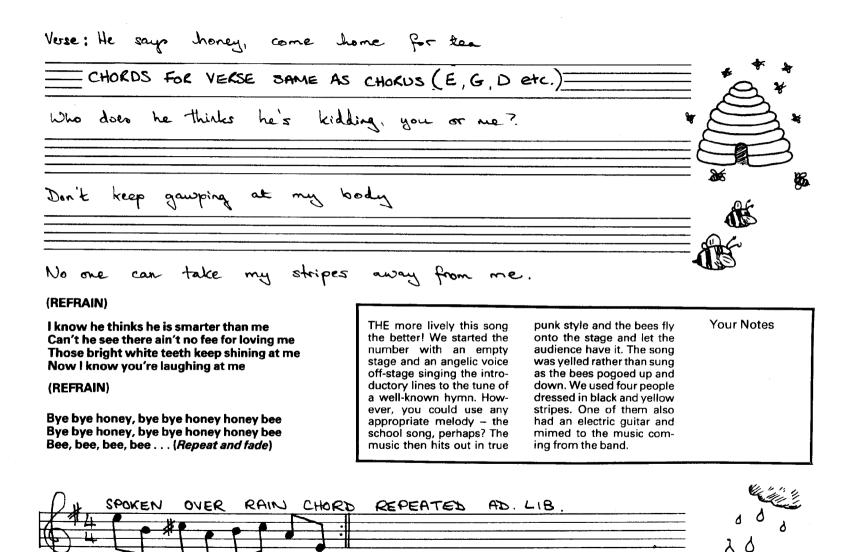


















Wish upon a raindrop Its magic will come true God blessed the rain As He first blessed you The rain is singing The spring wash of love Drips like gems Drops gentle as a dove

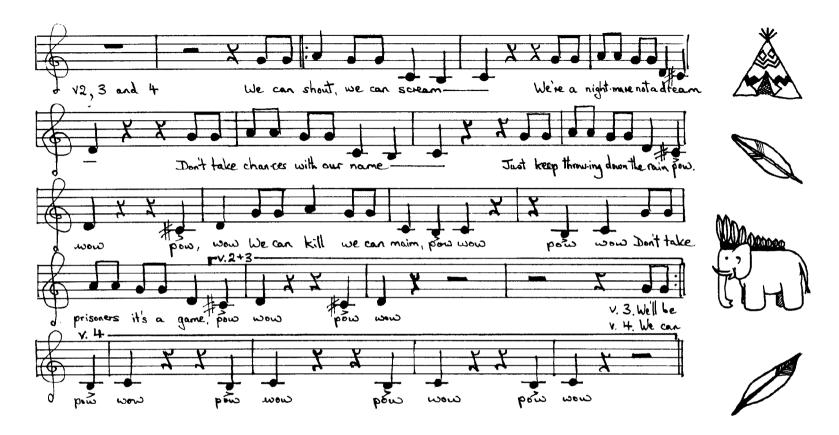
> © 080 BY NC SA

All our pain
Distilled into falling rain
Trickling again and again
The falling seeds of rain
Here comes the rain
Singing in my ears again
The sky is falling
Can't you hear it calling?
The sky is falling
Can't you hear it calling?

THIS duet is intended as a contrast to the previous item and is therefore sung sweetly. To add movement

the four girls in the 1920's chorus did a simple dance with umbrellas.





We can shout we can scream
We're a nightmare not a dream
Don't take chances with our name
We just keep throwing down the rain pow-pow
pow-pow

We can kill we can maim pow-wow pow-wow
Don't take prisoners it's a game pow-wow
pow-wow

We'll be your friend not your foe
We've got clouds full of snow
We are evil and cruel
Especially if you're very small pow-wow pow-wow
We'll destroy by smashing about pow-wow
pow-wow
We can even cause a drought pow-wow pow-wow





We can cry we can yell
We'll make you feel like hell
We don't have a thought for you
We like to get you real wet pow-wow pow-wow
No use putting plugs in your ear pow-wow
We'll make your baby cry lots of tears pow-wow
pow-wow pow-wow

(Repeat and fade)

AGAIN in this song the whole hall can be used. While a tribe of Indians sang on stage a lone redskin danced through the audience throwing down firecrackers to emphasise the thunder and lightning theme of the song.









THIS is a duet for Noah and his wife, and is best given a country music feel to it.

Your Notes



Your Notes

THIS lullaby is intended to be soothing and reassuring, and is sung by all the members of the cast. We had two large pink bunny rabbits to create a dreamy, childlike quality.







Hush gentle baby, don't you cry
And we'll sing you a lullaby
Legs all bare and crumpled-up toes
Soft pink cheeks and a small freckled nose
Your smile so sweet like a soft petalled rose
Rocked in a cradle of ribbons and bows
We'll rock and swing you till you're asleep
No dropping of tears in your slumber so deep
Oh so deep, oh so deep

Hush gentle baby don't you cry
And we'll sing you a lullaby
Hope you see bright stars and yellow moons
Hope you walk in leafy lanes and sing many tunes
In slumber deep you turn and sigh
Your fingers curl up to say good-bye
We'll rock and swing you till you're asleep
No dropping of tears in your slumber so deep
Oh so deep, oh so deep
Hush, hush, go to sleep . . . (Repeat and fade)



\*\*\*

The

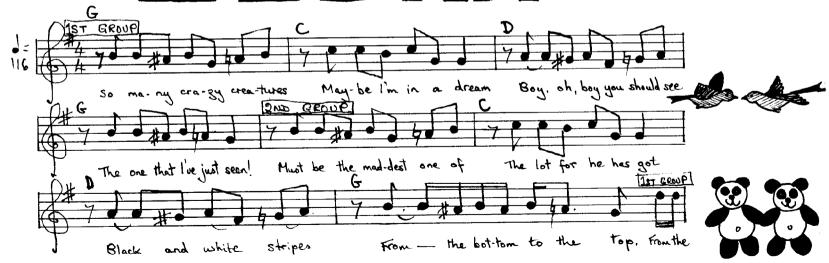








Sona









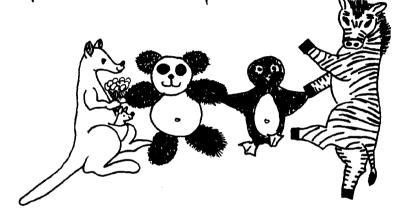
bot-tom to the top. From the bot-tom to the top. From the bot-tom to the top.

He's not like a penguin or a bouncy kangaroo I bet he's not so different, from me and you I guess he has a mind, a heart, and even a tail too Inside that skin he's just the same as me and you same as me and you same as me and you same as me and you

Sometimes I realise how different I am
But aren't we all part, of the world's great plan?
Those stripes may bother me, and you but I feel sure
That he needs lots of love just like we all do
just like we all do
just like we all do
iust like we all do

Now it don't matter from where he came Brown black or white, we are all the same And don't you worry 'bout the colour of his skin For we'll grow to love him, as one of our kin love him as our kin love him as our kin

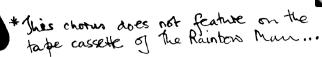




ANOTHER entry from the back of the hall! Here Noah leads in the zebra and as the music is playing introduces him to younger members of the audience. We found that it was effective to split the remaining

cast into two groups thus emphasising the black and white theme of the song. We also were able to use a five-string banjo – as on the cassette tape – to give a hoe-down feel to the number.

1920's CHORUS

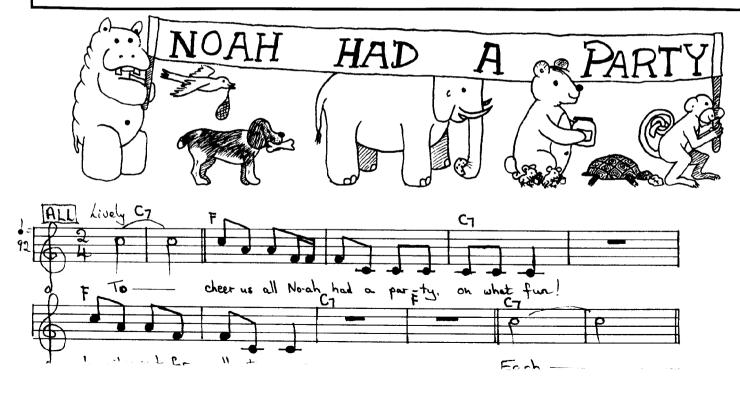


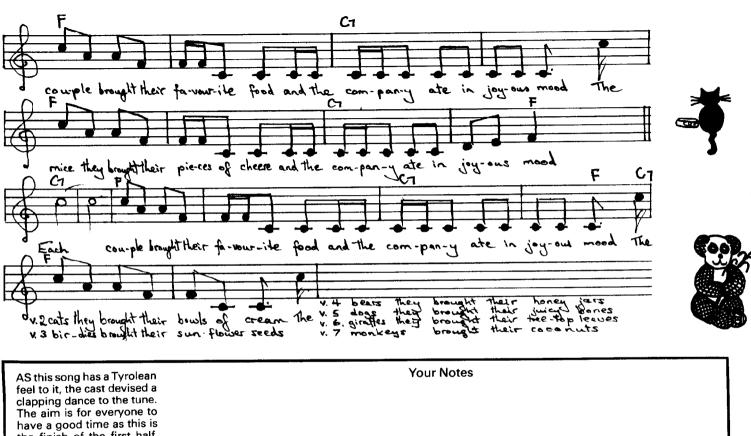






THE 1920's chorus invite the audience at this point to join in the next song. We provided large boards with the words written out to steer everyone through this rather complicated number which builds as it goes along. A member of the cast pointed out the words and Noah was unofficial conductor.





AS this song has a Tyrolean feel to it, the cast devised a clapping dance to the tune. The aim is for everyone to have a good time as this is the finish of the first half. During the interval children from the audience can be invited aboard the ark to be served with orange juice, although this does mean that some members of the cast will not get a half-time break. If the show is on for several nights, perhaps a rota could be devised.







