

## *The Cast*

'Gold to Bethlehem' has a large cast, with lots of cameo roles (such as Herod and Mrs Innkeeper), who have brief but very important parts. These cast members can be included in the chorus groups to keep them involved.

The groups of Villagers, Angels, Shepherds and Guards have largely separate scenes, which makes it possible to rehearse them separately if required.

**Kezia** ..... A lively and determined young Shepherdess. This is a lead role with lots of lines and **solo singing**.

**Sheep 1** ..... Friendly and easy-going

**Sheep 2** ..... Bad tempered and always complaining

**Sheep 3** ..... Constantly thinking about food

These have lots to say and do. They can

**sing solos/as a group** in 'This Must Be Gold (optional)

**King 1** } ..... These are very important parts with **solo singing**  
**King 2** } in 'Hang on a Moment'.

**King 3** ..... is a particularly important comic role, with a **big solo** in 'Hang On A Moment'

**Chief Villager** ..... Bossy leader of the clan

**Villagers 1 - 8** ..... All have a few lines; Villager 1 is the most important. Include as many extra villagers as you like; this is a fun group with two lively scenes.

**Captain of the Guards** Needs to be loud and confident

**Guards** ..... Herod's guards - as many as you like. Three speaking roles, of which Guard 1 is the most important.

**Messenger**

**Herod** ..... A brief but important role.

**Shepherds 1 - 9** ..... All have several lines. Include as many extras as you like

**Angels** ..... Brief speaking parts. Include as many Angels as you like, but this chorus group has the least to do and needs to work alongside the Shepherds.

**Mr Innkeeper** } ..... Appear late on, so could also be Villagers. Comic roles.  
**Mrs Innkeeper** } Lots of lines in Scene 8, especially Mrs.

**Mary and Joseph** ..... Appear in the last scene with a few lines each

**Guests 1 and 2**

**Servants 1 and 2**

# *Gold to Bethlehem*

## **Scene 1: A Village in the Desert**

*(Enter Villagers; they point and stare offstage - perhaps to the back of the audience - at the approaching Kings, who should reach the stage and enter during the song)*

### **Song 1: Three Kings (Villagers, All)**

CD track 1/10

I hear the sound of marching feet  
Drum on the desert sands  
Three weary kings come riding by  
Far from their native lands

I wonder where they come from  
I wonder who they are  
I wonder what they're looking for  
Under the rising star

Three kings, riding from the desert  
Right here, into our town  
Three kings, isn't it amazing?  
Now what do you think of that!

We've never seen a king before  
Now we can welcome three  
With golden crowns and flowing gowns  
Come everyone and see

I wonder where they come from  
I wonder who they are  
I wonder what they're looking for  
Under the rising star

Three kings, riding from the desert  
Right here, into our town  
Three kings, isn't it amazing?  
Now what do you think of that!

*(Shouted)* One! Two! Three kings!  
One! Two! Three kings!  
One! Two! Three kings!

*Solo:* How many kings?

*All:* Three!

*(Song 1 continued overleaf)*

**Three kings, riding from the desert  
Right here, into our town  
Three kings, isn't it amazing?  
Now what do you think of that?  
Yeah,  
What do you think of that!**

*(Villagers crowd round the three Kings. Chief Villager is pushed forward. As he steps forward and clears his throat, the Villagers fall silent and listen eagerly.)*

Chief:                   Ahem!...Welcome!

Villagers:               Hurray!

Chief:                   Your Majesties -

Villagers:               Hurray!

Chief:                   We are deeply honoured -

Villagers:               Hurray!

Chief:                   *(To Villagers)* That's enough!

Villagers:               *(To each other)* Yes, shh!

Chief:                   Oh Royal Visitors -

Villager 1:               Hurray!

Villagers:               *(turning on Villager 1)* Shhhhhh!

Villager 1:               *(Small voice)* Sorry!

Chief:                   What brings you to our humble village?

King 1:                   Friends, we are on a holy journey.

King 3:                   *(Sitting down, exhausted)* A long journey.

King 2:                   We come from distant lands -

King 3:                   Seriously distant. Miles away.

King 1:                   The stars have told us of a child who will soon be born,  
King of the Jews.

Villagers:               *(React with excitement)*

King 2:                   We are following a star towards the place where he will be  
born.

King 3: *(Studying map)* We seem to be heading towards a place called - Bet - Bettle - what does that say? I've not got my glasses on.

King 1: Bethlehem.

Kezia: *(Pushing to front)* Your majesties! Could I come with you?

Villagers: Shhhh!

Kezia: I've been to Bethlehem! I know the way!

Chief: Kezia, that will do!

King 1: On the way we will visit your King Herod.

Villagers: *(Reacting with alarm)* King Herod/Oh dear!/I wouldn't go there! *etc*

King 2: Herod may wish to send gifts to the new King too.

Villager 1: I doubt it!

Kezia: What are your gifts?

King 3: Frankincense, myrrh and gold. *(Proudly)* I've got the gold.

King 1: So, it is far to King Herod's?

Chief: Half a day's journey. Southeast from the village, second left after the oasis.

Kezia: I'll show you the way!

King 3: That won't be necessary. I've got a map, you see, and a compass, and a first aid kit, and -

King 2: We really ought to be on our way.

Chief: Won't you join us for a crust of bread and a dish of warm sheep's milk?

King 1: Er - it's a tempting offer, but we'd better not.

King 2: Perhaps another time

King 3: *(Looking at compass and pointing offstage)* This way to Herod's!

Villagers: *(All pointing the opposite way )* No, that way!

Kezia: If I came with you, I could guide you!

King 2: But we have the star to guide us.

King 1: Who are you, anyway?

Kezia: My name is Kezia. I'm a shepherdess.

King 2: And this is your flock? Just the three sheep, then?

Kezia: Well, you have to start somewhere.

*(Sheep 1 smiles sweetly, Sheep 2 scowls)*

Sheep 2: Charming!

King 1: Come on!

*(Exit all except Kezia and Sheep. King 3 leaves one of his bundles on the stage.)*