**A STARRY NIGHT!**

**Script: Rachel Gotobed Music: Daniel Elson**

**[Opening sequence] [I1]**

## INTRO

Hello! My name is …… and I am here today to tell you an incredibly special story. This story is not one that I’ve just made up, but has been told for over 2,000 years. It’s the story of the very first Christmas.

At Christmas, Salvation Army bands play Christmas carols all around the world. In fact, you may have heard one playing where you live or seen one on television.  **[I2]** I have some friends with me here today from the Salvation Army band.

**[Players to introduce themselves and instruments they play]**

My friends are going to help me tell this incredibly special story and we’re going to use the song ‘A Starry Night’ – why don’t you sing with us. **[I3]**

***Chorus – 2 bar intro***

*And all the angels sang for him*

*The bells of Heaven rang for him*

*For a boy was born*

*King of all the world!*

## SCENE 1 The Journey

**[S1-1]**

It was a chilly winter’s night when *Lumi* appeared in the night sky. ***(Triangle)*** **[S1-2]** Every night, Lumi, the little star, joined the other stars in the galaxy to light up the night sky.

‘I love being a star,’ Lumi said as he sparkled brightly. ‘It’s the best job in the whole universe!’

**[S1-3]** Lumi could see all his friends in their usual constellations shining brightly. But something was different. Was that a new star he could see? Lumi wondered where this new star had come from and why it had appeared.

‘That new star is shining very brightly,’ Lumi thought. ‘I don’t think I’ve ever seen a star shine as much!’

Lumi was fascinated by the brilliance of the new star, and eagerly followed its path to try and discover where it was shining.

There were lots of people travelling on the road that night. ‘Oh, look!’ Lumi exclaimed. ‘Those two are way behind all the other travellers, and they’re struggling on their donkey**.’ [pause for ‘ee-aww’ on trombone] ‘**Surely they shouldn’t be out travelling on this cold, dark night?’

But as Lumi followed the light of the new star, he could see it was leading them to the nearby town of Bethlehem where he hoped they would find shelter.

‘I wonder who these people are?’ thought Lumi. ‘And why would there be a brand-new star to help them find their way?’

*(FOR SPLIT VERSION: We’ll find out more about this incredibly special story later on.)*

## SCENE 2 In the stable

**[S2-1]**

**[2 bar intro]** Lumi, the little star, had a feeling that something special was happening under the light of the new star, so he kept following it until the couple who were travelling eventually found a place to stay.

‘They can’t stay there!’ Lumi shouted into the night sky. **[S2-2]** ‘That’s just a stable for animals – it will be damp, **[hit]** cold **[hit]** and smelly!’ **[hit - hit]** **[ S2-3]** But the new star had stopped right above the damp, cold and smelly stable, and the couple went in.

Lumi was convinced something special was happening right there in that stable, so he shone his little light as brightly as he could so he that could peer in through the window.

**[S2-3]** Lumi could not believe what he saw! There, lying in the animals’ food box, was a baby boy – and his parents, Mary and Joseph, were smiling in wonder at him.

Mary had been told by an angel that she would have a baby boy, and that he was to be named Jesus, which means ‘God saves’. And there he was! The Son of God - lying in the hay - and the light of the new star seemed to be shining just for him.

‘This is amazing!’ declared Lumi. ‘No wonder that new star is shining so brightly. The King of all the world has been born!’

**[No music]**

And as Lumi shed his little light into the stable as brightly as he could, he heard Mary quietly singing to her precious baby boy.

***[Chorus – one note intro – sung quietly and slowly] [S2-4]***

*And all the angels sang for him*

*The bells of Heaven rang for him*

*For a boy was born*

*King of all the world!*

*(FOR SPLIT VERSION: Our incredibly special baby will have some unusual visitors, when we come back to our story.)*

## SCENE 3 The Shepherds

**[S3-1]**

**[3-beat intro]** Lumi, the little star, couldn’t stop shining. He was so excited that he had seen baby Jesus.

**[S3-2]**

Suddenly, Lumi noticed more bright light on the hillside just outside of town.

‘Whatever’s happening over there?’ he wondered. The light over the hills was even more bright than the new star – and so Lumi went to discover where it was coming from.

To his total amazement, Lumi found himself looking at an angel! Lumi felt afraid by the brightness, and he could see the shepherds below were covering their eyes in fear too.

But the angel said not to be afraid because he had good news for everyone. He told the shepherds that they should go and see the incredibly special baby.

As if the sky wasn’t lit up enough, more angels appeared – so many that poor Lumi couldn’t count them all! It was the most glorious sight ever! And then all the angels sang praise to God, for a boy was born, King of all the world!

**[S3-3]**

And we can sing too!

***[Chorus – 2 bar intro – sung loudly and brightly]***

*And all the angels sang for him*

*The bells of Heaven rang for him*

*For a boy was born*

*King of all the world!*

**[S3-4]**

**[Musical cue begins - simultaneous]** When the angels disappeared, Lumi wanted to do something to help the shepherds find the special baby. ‘Follow me!’ he called, as he shone his light brightly towards the road to Bethlehem. The shepherds hurried off towards the town, and there they found the baby Jesus, with Mary and Joseph, just as the angel had told them.

*(FOR SPLIT VERSION: I wonder who’ll visit this new baby next when we come back to our incredibly special story.)*

## SCENE 4 The Wise Men

**[S4-1]**

**[4 bar intro]** Lumi, the little star, now realised that the new star’s light was from a place where there was no darkness at all. It was shining for the incredibly special baby boy, King of all the world.

Lumi thought the excitement was all over. But when he looked again some more travellers were on the road faraway to the East following the light of the new star.

‘Are they coming to visit baby Jesus too?’ Lumi wondered. ‘Wow!’ he thought,. ‘These travellers look very important – they are dressed in such fine clothes and are riding camels.’

They carefully followed the light of the new star all the way to Bethlehem.

Lumi shone his light into the stable again to see what was happening. Each of the kings bowed as they gave their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to baby Jesus. Mary smiled and thanked them for these gifts fit for a King.

**[S4-2]** Lumi, the little star, sparkled with joy as he reflected on everything he had seen. ‘The angels sang that this incredibly special baby is born King of all the world, **[pause]** and something in my heart tells me that people everywhere will celebrate his birthday for ever,’ exclaimed Lumi excitedly.

## Conclusion

**[S4-3]** And Lumi is right. Billions of people all around the world believe this incredibly special story, and this year, like every other, they will celebrate the birthday of Jesus once again. People everywhere still look to this incredibly special baby, and the amazing things he did when he grew up.

And that’s why we give gifts, sing songs, decorate with lights – and why you hear Salvation Army bands playing Christmas carols – to share the good news of this incredibly special baby boy, King of all the world.

**Chorus [S4-4] (closing credits roll over last chorus)**

*And all the angels sang for him*

*The bells of Heaven rang for him*

*For a boy was born*

*King of all the world!*

Happy Christmas!