

North Pole Diaries

Collected Christmas Chronicles for Unison and 2-Part Voices

Words and Music by Sally K. Albrecht, Jay Althouse, Andy Beck, and Brian Fisher

Script by Andy Beck and Brian Fisher

Recording Orchestrated by Jay Althouse, Tim Hayden, and Steve Herold

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Staging
Suggestions
Included!
100%
Reproducible!

See back cover for CD Track Numbers.
Performance time: approximately 30 minutes.



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Cast of Characters and Costumes

- Santa Claus
- Elf 1
- Mrs. Claus
- North Pole Chief of Staff
- Dancer (the Reindeer)
- Elf 2
- Bob, Santa's Mechanic
- Chorus

Dress each of the featured characters in full traditional costumes, or keep it simple with just a hat or headpiece for each. Unify the chorus by choosing a tidy, festive look. Try colorful winter garb, red and green t-shirts or sweatshirts, or accessorize your normal concert attire with easy-to-make fleece scarves printed with holiday patterns and colors.

Featured characters may be a part of the chorus and simply step out of formation when it is their turn to speak. As another option, speakers do not need to participate in the chorus at all, and can be played by different performers or cameo “guest actors.”

Staging and Props

It's so easy! Any number of singers positioned on traditional choral risers or platforms is the main focus of the performance area. This chorus remains in place throughout the show, singing/dancing the songs from there. Please note that complete choreography notes are provided in the score, and most of the songs are featured on Alfred choral movement DVDs, as noted on the first page of each. Video demonstrations of songs #1, #2, and #4 can be viewed at alfred.com/northpolediaries.

Optional choreography props include shopping bags and play paper money (for song #3), Santa's new bag (for song #4), straw beachcomber hats (for song #5), and mistletoe (for song #7).

There are several creative ways to design your production. Here are three options:

1. Characters come forward to a microphone and “read” from a prop diary placed on a lectern or music stand.
2. Set a small “writing desk vignette” off to one side of the choir where characters can sit and pantomime “writing” in a prop diary with a large quill or candy cane pen. Perhaps include a glowing fireplace, bookshelves, a working desk lamp, and a large chair behind a formal desk.
3. For a more modern production, try a whimsical North Pole design with peppermint-striped accents and a flat-screen computer where characters can “type” their entries.

In addition, your entire performance space may be dressed with holiday and winter decorations or North Pole decor.



About the Writers



Sally K. Albrecht

Sally K. Albrecht is the Director of School Choral and Classroom Publications for Alfred Music Publishing. She is a popular choral conductor, composer, and clinician, especially known for her work with choral movement. Sally has over 400 popular choral publications, songbooks, musicals, and cantatas in print. She has produced several choral movement DVDs and is the author of two books on the subject, *Choral Music in Motion, Volumes 1 and 2*.



Jay Althouse

Jay Althouse received a B.S. degree in Music Education and an M.Ed. degree in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, from which he received the school's Distinguished Alumni award. As a composer of choral music, Jay has over 600 works in print for choirs of all levels. His best-selling Alfred books include, *The Complete Choral Warm-Up Book*, *Accent on Composers*, *Ready to Read Music*, *60 Music Quizzes*, and most recently, *One-Page Composer Bios*.



Andy Beck

Andy Beck (Alfred's Managing Editor of School Choral and Classroom Publications) received a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Ithaca College and a Master's degree in Music Education from Northwest Missouri State University. A successful composer and arranger, Andy has authored several top-selling chorals, songbooks, and children's musicals, as well as co-written the highly regarded method, *Sing at First Sight, Foundations in Choral Sight-Singing, Volumes 1 and 2*.



Brian Fisher

Brian Fisher is a native of Pennsylvania, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Quantitative Business Analysis from Penn State University. After several years as a bank auditor, he attended the State University of New York and became a teacher. Throughout his life, he has been active in music and theatre as an educator, director, and performer. Brian currently lives in North Carolina, where he teaches middle school and is a frequent performer with the Raleigh Little Theatre.

About the Recording

Vocals for *North Pole Diaries* were recorded by Tim Hayden at Ned's Place Recording Studio in Nashville, TN. Instrumental tracks and mixing were done by Kent Heckman at Red Rock Recording in Saylorsburg, PA.

Performers include: Jaclyn Brown, Marisa Davila, Sandy Kight, Zavior Phillips, Hanna Reddick, Anna Grace Stewart, Michael Tant, and Sarah Valley.

The Enhanced SoundTrax CD offers the following:

- Access to both Full-Performance and Accompaniment recordings (on your CD player).
- Downloadable PDF files of student song sheets, script, and the full-color program cover/poster (on your computer).

Purchase of this CD carries with it the right to display these images on an electronic blackboard in the classroom and/or on a school website.

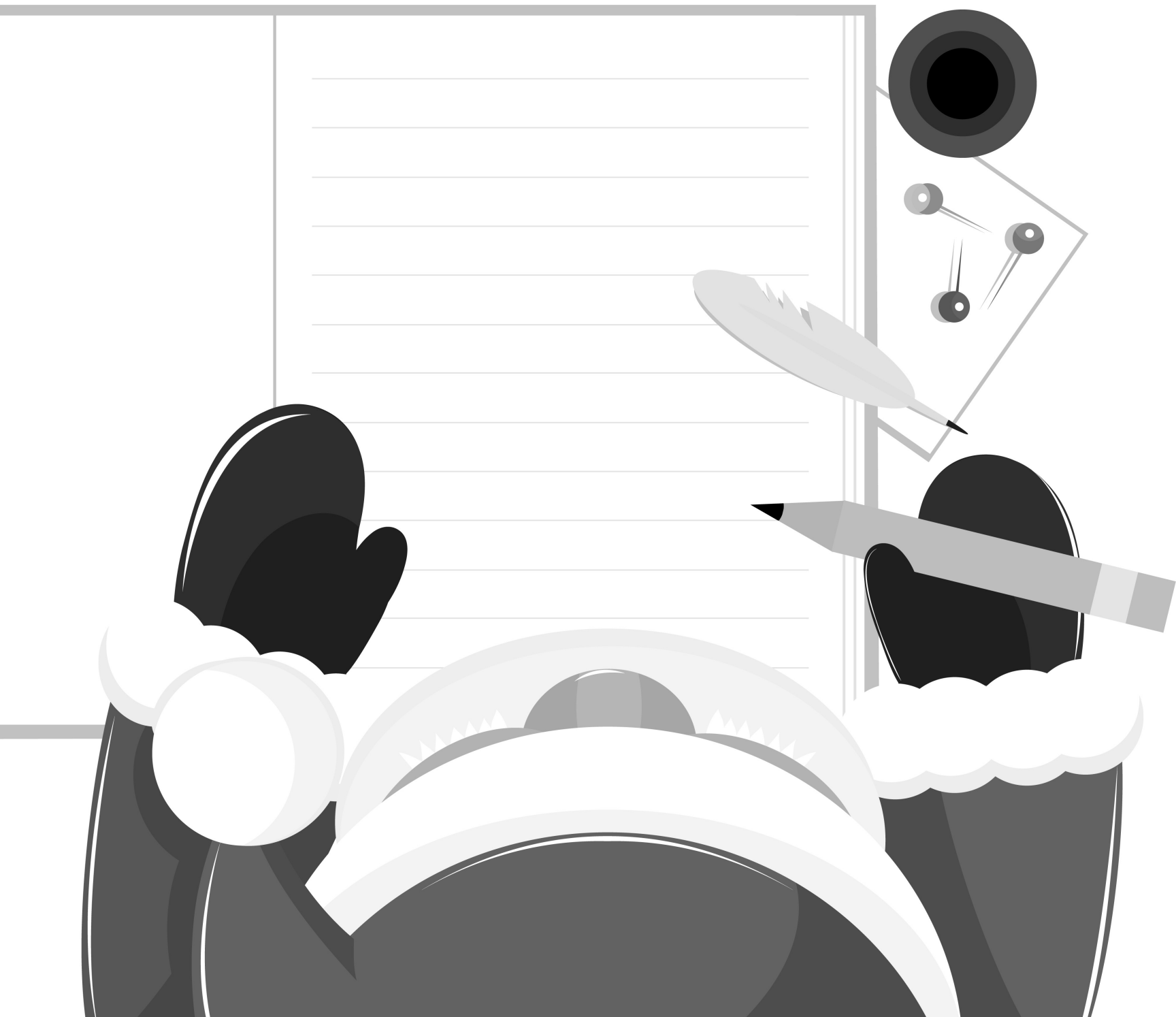
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North Pole Diaries

Reproducible Script

By Andy Beck and Brian Fisher



1. North Pole Diaries

Santa Claus:

December 1st

Dear Diary,

We've been working through the year,
But now the time is really here.
My datebook shows December one.
The Christmas rush has just begun.

Train the reindeer, tune the sleigh,
Make the toys for Christmas day.
Check the list, and tell the elves
To wrap the presents on the shelves.

With deadlines, goals, and dates to keep,
There's barely any time to sleep.
Just twenty-three more days to go.
We'd better hurry. Ho Ho Ho!



2. Gettin' Ready for Christmas

Elf 1:

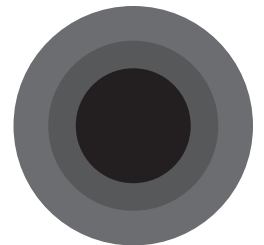
December 4th

Dear Diary,

I have something to confess:
This Christmas rush is too much stress.
Before the orders all get filled,
There are so many toys to build!

But at the North Pole shopping mall,
I could go and buy them all.
'Cuz making toys is really hard
(When I could use my credit card)!

Ten thousand forty gifts to make?
I'd rather shop, for goodness sake.
I'll keep this secret to myself:
I am a shopaholic elf.



3. Born to Shop!

Mrs. Claus:

December 7th

Dear Diary,

Giving gifts is quite a trick
When you're married to St. Nick.
I want my present to succeed.
But really, what does Santa need?

Last year I tried a cowboy hat,
He didn't really care for that.
The sweater from the year before
Is buried in his bottom drawer.

But this year's gift will be a hit.
Today I started making it.
Now I don't mean to boast or brag,
But how he'll love his brand new bag!

4. Santa Wants a Brand New Bag!

North Pole Chief of Staff:

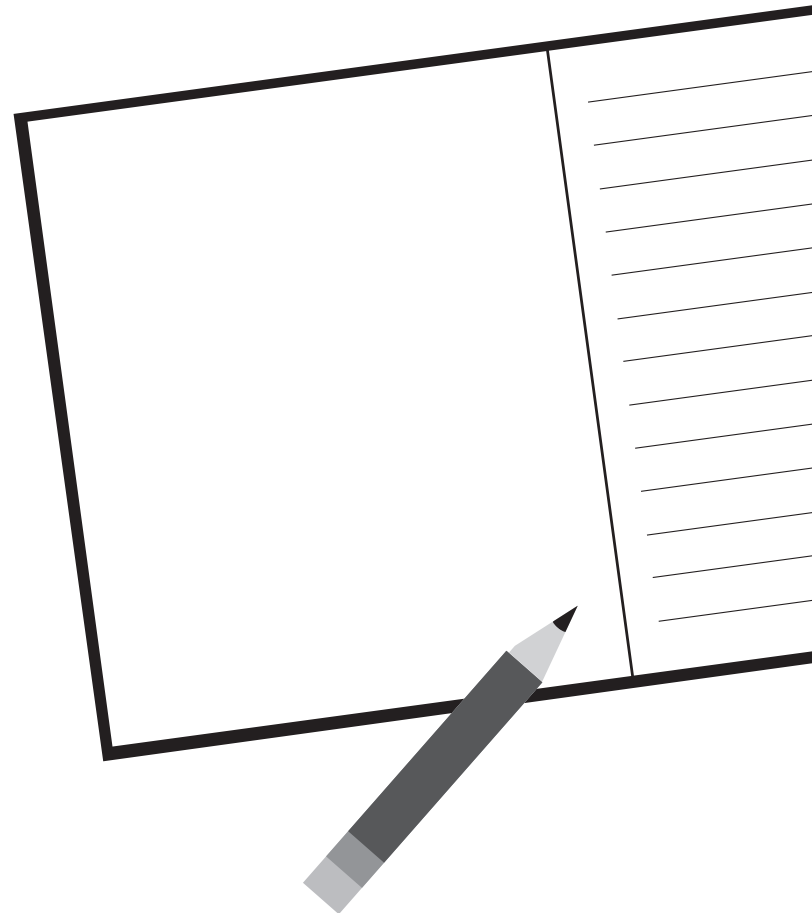
December 10th

Dear Diary,

Being North Pole Chief of Staff
Is a headache and a half.
Though my intentions are the best,
I feel my buttons being pressed.

"Have you double-checked my list?"
"Are there any kids we've missed?"
"Did the reindeer eat today?"
"Yes, sir." "No, sir." "Right away!"

Everyone is stressing out.
That's for sure, there is no doubt.
So when the work is finally done,
We all deserve to have some fun!



5. Santa Needs a Vacation

Dancer (the Reindeer):

December 15th

Dear Diary,

Reindeer training has begun.
It's pretty tough for everyone.
Though we try, we can't escape
The sweat and strain to get in shape.

But this year, as we prep to fly,
There's something new we're gonna try.
Much to all of our surprise,
We're dancing for our exercise.

Dasher likes to tango dance.
Prancer takes a ballet stance.
Doing disco, Donner grooves.
Me? I like the hip-hop moves.

6. Hip-Hop Reindeer

Elf 2:

December 18th

Dear Diary,

So many things, this time of year,
Can make me smile from ear to ear.
Like pine trees decked with popcorn strings,
And ornaments, and shiny things.

But there is one thing that I dread
Hanging overtop my head.
It seems that everywhere I go,
I can't escape the mistletoe!

First it's here, and then it's there,
It can find me anywhere!
I just hope I won't get stuck
Kissing anybody ... Yuck!



7. Away from the Mistletoe

Bob, Santa's Mechanic:

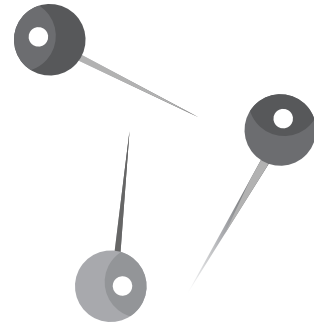
December 21st

Dear Diary,

Today I finished up the job.
I tightened every screw and knob
And did some work beneath the hood,
Where things are really looking good.

The landing gear is set to go
Through winter storms, and ice, and snow.
The runner blades are sharp and tight.
The reins are tied, one left, one right.

So when the big guy gets inside,
He's gonna take an awesome ride.
'Cuz with the reindeer in the lead,
They'll satisfy his need for speed!



8. Up, Up, Up in the Sleigh!

Santa Claus:

December 24th

Dear Diary,

It came so fast, I can't believe.
But it's already Christmas Eve!
And all the North Pole jobs got done
Because of help from everyone.

The reindeer, elves, and Mrs., too,
I'm grateful for the things they do.
My Chief of Staff does quite a job.
And so does my mechanic, Bob.

So, when I'm in the sleigh tonight,
I know my spirits will be bright.
For thanks to all the folks up here,
The whole world will have Christmas cheer.

9. North Pole Diaries Finale

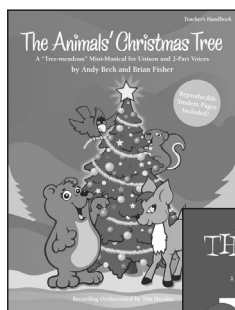
(Segue immediately to Bows)

10. Bows

Notes:

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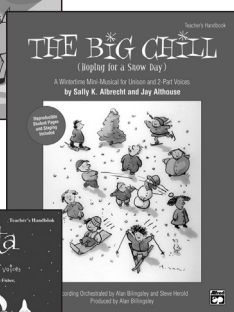
Please visit **alfred.com** for more information, component listings, prices, sample pages, and excerpt recordings of these musicals.



The Animals' Christmas Tree

A "Tree-mendous" Mini-Musical

By Andy Beck & Brian Fisher

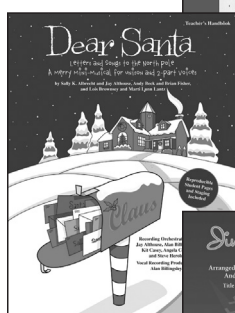


The Big Chill

(Hoping for a Snow Day)

A Wintertime Mini-Musical

By Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse



Dear Santa

Letters and Songs to the North Pole—A Merry Mini-Musical

By Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse, Andy Beck & Brian Fisher, Lois Brownsey & Marti Lunn Lantz



Jingle Bell Jukebox

A Presentation of Holiday Hits

Arranged by Sally K. Albrecht, Jay Althouse, Andy Beck, Jeff Funk, Jill Gallina, & Greg Gilpin

Script by Andy Beck & Brian Fisher



The Nutcracker Suite

A Mini-Musical based on Tchaikovsky's Famous Ballet

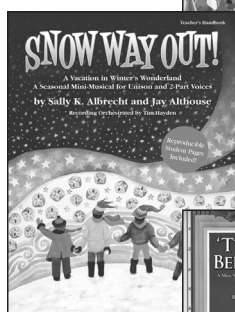
Arranged by Sally K. Albrecht



The Reindeer Games

A Merry Mini-Musical

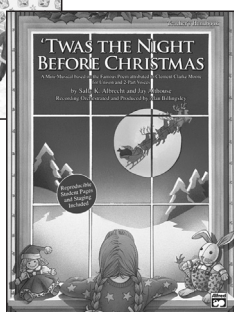
By Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse



Snow Way Out!

A Vacation in Winter's Wonderland

By Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

A Mini-Musical based on the Famous Poem

By Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse




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