

# Mystery at Christmas Manor

The Solve-it-Yourself Children's Musical

By Michael and Jill Gallina

Orchestrations by Daniel Bondaczuk



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# MYSTERY AT CHRISTMAS MANOR

*The Solve-it-Yourself Children's Musical*

**by Michael and Jill Gallina**

*Performance Time: Approximately 25 Minutes*

## FOREWORD

*Mystery at Christmas Manor* is not just a musical that is a fun exploration through the stately home of Dr. Christmas to solve a mystery, but one that celebrates the wonderful biblical story of Christmas. Most importantly, this musical is a journey to the heart of Christmas and God's glorious gift of salvation through God's Greatest Gift of all...Jesus and His love. Seasoned writers Michael and Jill Gallina have once again crafted a creative and exquisite musical that is fun to prepare and present and comes straight from the heart. -*The Publisher*

## CAST

<b>Dr. Christmas</b>	Owner of manor, warm and friendly
<b>Carol Clueless</b>	Misses the point
<b>Professor Plum Pudding</b>	British; proper and prim
<b>Miss Holly Garland</b>	Hollywood type, sun glasses, scarf, highly dramatic
<b>Colonel Evergreen</b>	Exemplifies military precision
<b>Candy Cane</b>	Sweet and simple

Optional Additional Parts: If you would like to increase the number of cast members who have speaking parts, you may choose to reassign small portions of the dialog to additional characters: Examples: Betty Berry, Timothy Tinsel, Nancy Noel.

## STAGING SUGGESTIONS

This musical takes place in four Christmas Manor rooms [Foyer, Library, Living Room and Office]. These rooms are indicated by the changing of a sign on an easel in a location that is clearly visible to the audience.

## SET

Christmas Manor can be as elaborate or as simple as your resources allow. You can have a backdrop behind the choir with a grand staircase and bookcase, a door frame for the opening entrance of the guests, chairs, a Christmas tree, holly and garland, etc. Or, you can simply have a few chairs, artificial plants and a small table top Christmas tree.

Although Dr. Christmas and the Guests simulate moving from one room to another, only one playing space is needed since the room changes are indicated by changing signage.

Place an easel on one side of the performance area. It is used to display large print signs that indicate the room in which the action is taking place. The signs are in the following sequence: Foyer, Library, Living Room, and Office.

## PROPS

**Foyer:** Advent Wreath covered with a cloth  
**Library:** Figure of an Angel  
**Living Room:** Rubber Chicken and a Christmas tree topper star  
**Office:** Large Manila Envelope with the address clearly printed on it (316 Hope Avenue).

## SOUND EFFECTS

A door bell is used to announce the arrival of the guests. The doorbell sound effect is on the Listening Recording and Accompaniment Track.

When the rubber chicken is found and tossed aside, a clucking sound effect happens when the chicken is tossed. The clucking sound effect is on the Listening Recording and Accompaniment Track.

## COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

Use the cover of this publication for costume ideas for each character. Specific ideas are as follows:

**Dr. Christmas:** A festive sport coat, necktie or ascot, and an optional Santa hat.  
**Carol Clueless:** An outfit of mismatched colors, patterns, such as stripes/plaids together, etc.  
**Professor Plum Pudding:** A large bowtie, large horn-rimmed glasses, etc.  
**Miss Holly Garland:** Sunglasses\*, a boa style scarf or fur wrap, optional head kerchief.\*\*  
**Colonel Evergreen:** A “scoutmaster” type official-looking uniform in khaki and/or green with a pith helmet.  
**Candy Cane:** Red and white striped or green and white striped clothing. Red bow in hair.

\* *Removed after she enters the Mansion in the opening song.*

\*\* *Google search “head kerchief starlet” (a la Audrey Hepburn)*

# MYSTERY AT THE MANOR

Words and Music by  
MICHAEL and JILL GALLINA

**1/13** Bright and bouncy (♩ = ca. 100)

ACCOMP. *mf*

**5** *mf*

Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas. Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas. 1. Wel - come friends from far and  
2. There are lots of hid - den

8 near. clues. Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas. Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas.

**11** **13**

We're so ver - y glad you're here! This man - or has a his - to - ry, the  
Each one lead - ing to good news. So come on ev - 'ry - one to - day, it's

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14

guests must solve a mys-ter-y, and when they do, we hope you'll all find out. The  
time to join the fun to-day, 'cause if you do, we know you'll all find out.

17

mes-sage soon will show, we're gon-na let you know what Christ-mas is real-ly all a -

20

bout. bout. We'll solve the mys-ter-y, and

24

soon you're gon-na see what Christ-mas is all a - bout! Mer-ry Christ-mas!



*The Christmas Manor doorbell rings and DR. CHRISTMAS welcomes his guests.*

**Dr. Christmas:** Welcome everyone to my home, Christmas Manor!

*CAROL CLUELESS, PROFESSOR PLUM PUDDING, MISS HOLLY GARLAND, COLONEL EVERGREEN, and CANDY CANE enter enthusiastically. As they enter, they ad lib happy Christmas greetings and comments such as “Merry Christmas!” “Great to see you!” “Thank you for the invite!” “It’s wonderful being here!” etc.*

**Holly Garland:** Hello Dahlings! Thank you for inviting us, Dr. Christmas!

**Dr. Christmas:** I love this time of year! Christmas is not only my last name, but the joy of Christmas is in my heart.

**Colonel Evergreen:** Indeed, it is!

**Dr. Christmas:** You’re probably wondering why I’ve asked you here to Christmas Manor. Well, each year, I like to invite friends to my home to solve a mystery.

*All Guests chatter with excitement: “What?” “A mystery?” “How fun!”*

**Dr. Christmas:** Since you don’t know each other, please introduce yourselves.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Pip, pip and cheerio! I am Professor Plum Pudding. And I must admit I find mysteries a bit sticky.

**Holly Garland:** Hello dahlings, I’m sure you recognize me, I’m the unforgettable Holly Garland! Star of stage and screen!

**Carol Clueless:** Hi everyone! I must have taken a wrong turn at Albuquerque. I thought I was coming to a cartoon convention. My name is Carol Clueless.

**Candy Cane:** I’m Candy Cane and I think it’s sooooo sweet that we can spend this time together.

**Colonel Evergreen:** *(formally and somewhat abrupt)* Colonel Evergreen at your service! *(salutes)* If there’s a mystery to be solved or mountain to climb, I’m ready!

**Candy Cane:** Dr. Christmas, do tell us more about this mystery!

**Dr. Christmas:** By all means! I’m going to ask you all to solve The mystery of Christmas!

*General chatter breaks out with the Guests saying things such as “Ooh!” “Oh, wow!” “That sounds interesting” “Tell us more!”*

**Professor Plum Pudding:** *(officially)* Hold on a moment. *(the hubbub stops)* Christmas isn’t a mystery. We know precisely what it’s about.

**Carol Clueless:** It’s presents and great food!

**Holly Garland:** *(aloof and dramatic)* As for myself dahlings, it’s about fun songs and exquisite parties.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** All of that falderal may be well and good, but everyone knows that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus.

**Dr. Christmas:** Of course, that’s true, but why and how did Jesus leave Heaven and become human?

**Candy Cane:** Soooo, that’s the mystery you want us to solve!

**Dr. Christmas:** Exactly! I’ve hidden clues throughout the manor. These clues will remind you of the wonderful story of Christmas, and help you figure out the mystery.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Smashing! Let's begin our search and determine...through precise calculations, the mystery of Christmas!

**Holly Garland:** Well, my dahlings, let's start right here.

*General agreement from the guests: "Yes!" "There might be a clue right under our noses here" etc. They begin looking for clues. CAROL sees something downstage covered with a cloth.*

**Carol Clueless:** (pointing at the covered object) What's this all covered up?

**Colonel Evergreen:** Let's find out! (dramatically pulls the cloth off revealing an Advent Wreath)

**Candy Cane:** It's an Advent Wreath! It represents the days that foretold the coming of Jesus. It must be our very first clue.

## WONDERFUL WONDER!

a partner song with "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Original Words and Music and  
Arrangement by JILL GALLINA

**ACCOMP.** *Gently, legato* (♩ = ca. 120)

**3** **15**

**4**

**4** **16** **5** **17**

*1st time: All sing Part 1*  
*2nd time: All sing Part 2*  
*3rd time: Divide and sing Parts 1 & 2*

**PART 1** *mp* **11**

The proph - ets told of a mir - a - cle so

**PART 2** *\*mp*

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,

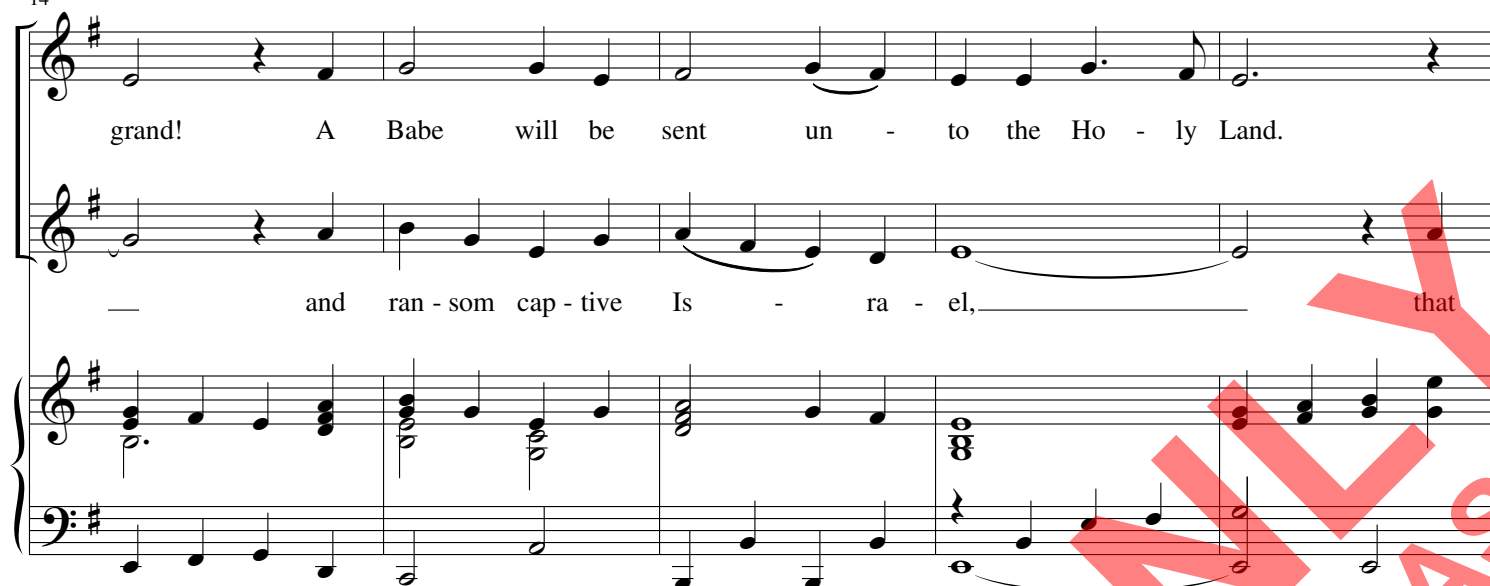
\* Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong, adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1877-1890  
Words: Latin humn; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

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grand! A Babe will be sent un - to the Ho - ly Land.

— and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, — that



An - gels will sing on high and — stars will light up the sky. Sent

mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, — un -



from a - bove. He will fill the earth with love. Won - der - ful

til the Son of God — ap - pear. — Re - joice! Re -

**27** *mf*





28

won - der, Oh, won - der and joy as we a - wait the ho - ly Ba - by

joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra -

33

Boy! Boy! Won - der - ful

el! el! Re - joice! Re -

*mp* *mp* *mf*

38

won - der. Oh, won - der and joy as we a - wait the

joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O

*rit.* *dim.* *rit.* *dim.* *rit.* *dim.*

42

ho - ly Ba - by Boy!

Is - ra - el!

*mp*

Near the end of “Wonderful Wonder”, DR. CHRISTMAS walks to the easel that indicates the room and changes the sign to reveal the word “Library”. He points at the easel and gives a “thumbs up” and smiles at the audience.

**Carol Clueless:** Wow, what a beautiful library this is!

**Holly Garland:** (looking toward the audience) But I think we’ve just turned the page to a new chapter! Look out the window, dahlings!! It’s snowing!

The others look in the same direction.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Not only is it snowing, it’s a full-blown blizzard! We may be stranded if we don’t leave immediately.

The guests appear anxious about being stranded at the manor and simultaneously make comments such as “Oh no, I can’t believe it!” “Yes, we’d better leave soon” etc.

**Colonel Evergreen:** (firmly as if in command of a military platoon) Attention everyone! Solving this mystery is important. We can’t go now! (he pauses and looks up reverently) When duty calls, I never leave my post.

**Holly Garland:** Colonel Evergreen is right. Courage, my dahlings. As you well know, the snow must, (louder and with emphasis) I mean the show must go on!

**Professor Plum Pudding:** We should all remember that Mary and Joseph faced many challenges. This snowstorm is nothing compared to their difficult journey to Bethlehem. And what about the fact that there was no room at the inn?

While the others were talking, CAROL found an angel figure.

**Carol Clueless:** Look what I found! It’s an angel figure. Is this our next clue?

**Dr. Christmas:** Of course it is. It’s precisely what’s needed to remind us that the angels were the ones who announced the birth of Christ.

**Candy Cane:** And those angels announced His birth to a bunch of shepherds in the countryside outside of Bethlehem. Being from Texas...the first thought that comes to mind is a rootin’, tootin’, Heavenly hallelujah hoedown!

# HEAVENLY HALLELUJAH HOEDOWN

Words and Music by  
MICHAEL and JILL GALLINA

ACCOMP. **mf** Country style ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 84$ )

5

9 All or opt. Solo **mf**

1. Can't you hear the heav-ens ring?— Can't you hear the  
2. Good new com - in' from a - bove.— All the world is

12

an - gels sing?— Oh, what won - drous news they bring— this  
filled with love!— This is what they're sing - ing of.— Yes,

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15 7/19

1 2

grand and glo-rious day!\_\_\_\_ you can hear them say:\_\_\_\_ All It's a

19

Hal - le - lu-jah Hoe - down, ring-ing out from on high!\_\_\_\_

23

An - gels do - si-do - in' a-cross the sky!\_\_\_\_ You can

27

hear those coun-try fid - dles, fid-dl - in' high a - bove.\_\_\_\_ It's a

31

Hal-le-lu-jah Hoe-down, fill-in' the earth with love!\_\_\_ Let's

35

al-le-mande left and do-si-do\_\_\_ til we turn that blue-grass blue. Now

39

*cresc. poco a poco*

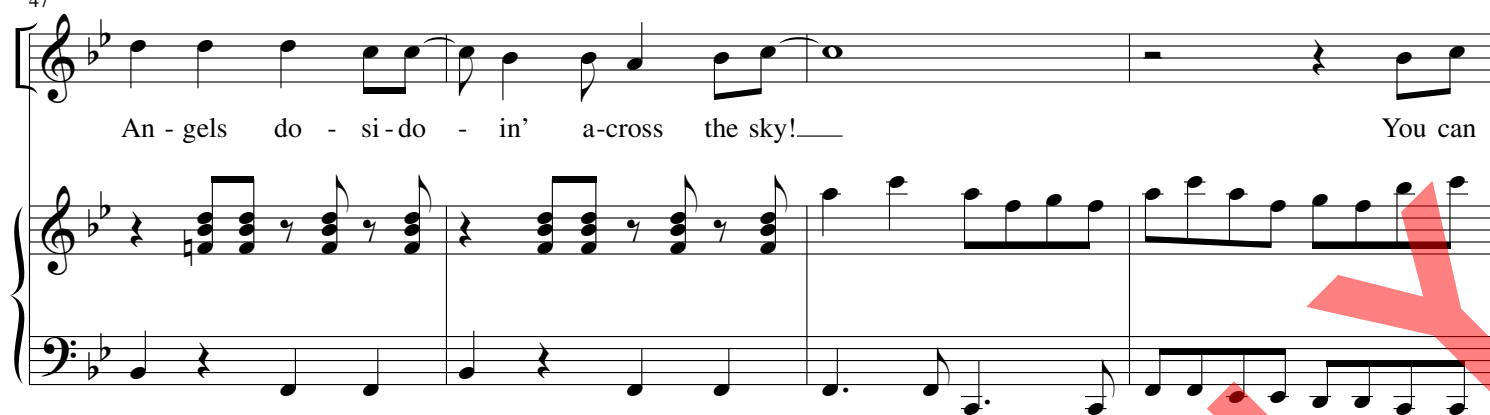
stomp your feet to the beat, and all sing "Hal-le-lu! Hal-le-lu!" It's a

*cresc. poco a poco* **f**

43

Hal-le-lu-jah Hoe-down, ring-ing out from on high!\_\_\_

An - gels do - si - do - in' a-cross the sky! — You can



51

hear those coun-try fid - dles, Fid-dl - in' high a - bove. — It's a



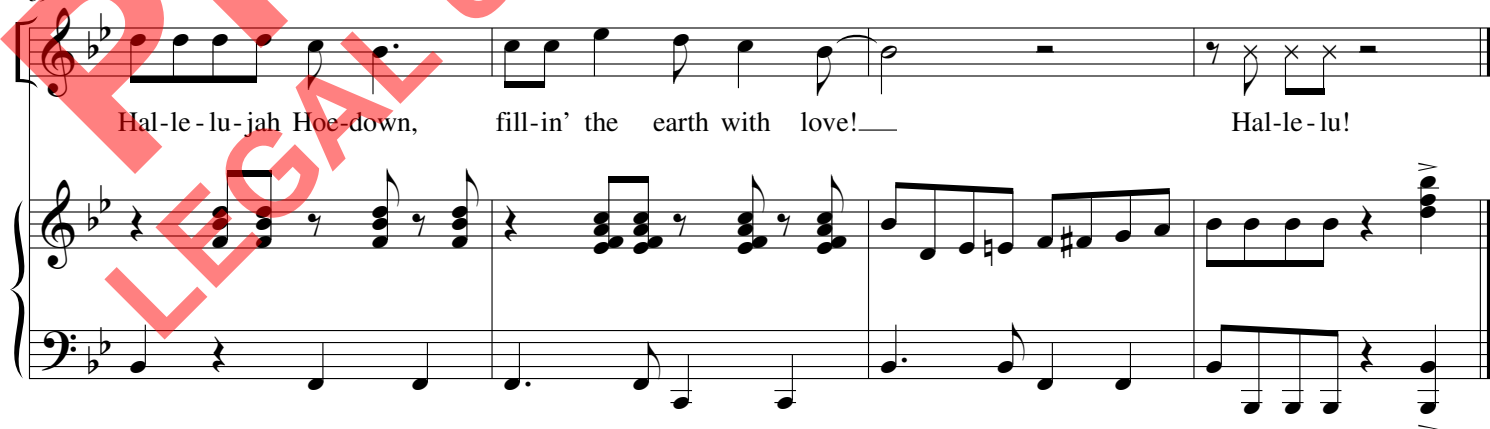
55

Hal-le-lu-jah Hoe-down, fill-in' the earth with love! — It's a



59

Hal-le-lu-jah Hoe-down, fill-in' the earth with love! — Hal-le-lu!



Near the end of “Heavenly Hallelujah Hoedown”, DR. CHRISTMAS walks to the easel that indicates the room and changes the sign to reveal the word “Living Room.” He points at the easel and gives a “thumbs up” and smiles at the audience.

**Dr. Christmas:** Welcome to the living room! The perfect place for a recap so far. Prophets foretold the coming of Jesus...so it was no accident. Heavenly angels announced His birth to simple shepherds.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Yes, yes, we know the glorious Christmas story.

**Dr. Christmas:** But you must keep looking for the clues and read between the lines!

**Carol Clueless:** Let’s spread out and see what we can find.

**Colonel Evergreen:** There’s something stuck under this chair. Can someone give me a hand?

**Holly Garland:** I might break a fingernail but here goes. *(she reaches behind the chair)* I think I’ve got something!

**Colonel Evergreen:** Stand clear! I’ve got it.

**Holly Garland:** No! I have it!

*HOLLY and the COLONEL both grab each end of a rubber chicken and hold it high in the air.*

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Upon my initial analysis, it appears you have found a rubber chicken!

**Carol Clueless:** I know my last name is Clueless but *(looking at DR. CHRISTMAS)* what does a rubber chicken have to do with Christmas?

**Dr. Christmas:** Oh, I’m sorry! *(grabbing the chicken)* That’s Rupert, my pet chicken! How did he get in here? Rupert...time for beddy bye.



*He tosses RUPERT offstage – clucking sound effect.*

**Dr. Christmas:** Everyone, keep looking!

*CANDY CANE suddenly finds a Christmas tree topper star.*

**Candy Cane:** What about this star? Could this be a clue?

**Colonel Evergreen:** It certainly would make sense. A bright star led the wise men to Jesus.

**Dr. Christmas:** Candy, you have found a very important clue. The kings who followed a bright star found Jesus and worshipped Him.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Yes, yes! Those kings were the bees knees! They were three wise guys!

# THE WISE GUYS

*Incorporating*  
*"We Three Kings of Orient Are"*  
*Original Words and Music and*  
*Arrangement by JILL GALLINA*

**Driving rock** (♩ = ca. 126)

**1. Wise Guys! Wise Guys! It**  
**2. Wise Guys! Wise Guys! 7**

**ACCOMP.** *mf*

5  
 hap-pened on a night, as told in the sto - ry! It was a night of  
 7 And through the night the dark-ness would hov - er, but soon these men were

8  
 splen-dor and glo - ry. The men trav - eled from a - far, — and they were  
 bound to dis - cov - er, their jour - ney soon would bring — Mes - si - ah,

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11 10/22

fol - low - ing a star!\_\_\_\_  
grand and glo - rious King!\_\_\_\_

14

1. We three Kings of O - ri - ent are.\_\_\_\_  
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain.\_\_\_\_

Bear - ing gifts we  
Gold we bring to

17

trav - el a - far.\_\_\_\_  
crown Him a - gain.\_\_\_\_

Field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,  
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er,

20 22

fol - low - ing yon - der to star!\_\_\_\_  
o - ver us all to reign!\_\_\_\_

Oh, they were all Wise Guys, the

23

wis-est of men, trav-'lin' off to Beth - le - hem! Yes, they were

26

all Wise Guys, that dark win-ter night, a-bout to find a glo-ri-ous sight!

30

a-bout to find a glo-ri-ous sight! a-bout to find a glo - ri - ous

*molto rit.*

34

*f a tempo*

sight! The Wise Guys!

*f a tempo*

Near the end of "These Wise Guys," DR. CHRISTMAS again walks to the easel that indicates the room and changes the sign to reveal the word "Office." He points at the easel and gives a "thumbs up" and smiles at the audience.

**Carol Clueless:** Take a look out the window. It stopped snowing. Maybe we should go home before we all go slip-sliding away.

**Dr. Christmas:** Why leave now? You're all welcome to stay overnight, and besides, you still haven't solved the mystery of Christmas.

**Professor Plum Pudding:** Tally ho! Let's stick to the task and solve the mystery.

**Candy Cane:** I agree!

Everyone agrees and responds with comments such as: "I'm in", "Why not?" "Ok with me!" etc.

**Holly Garland:** Alright then, there's no turning back now. We can't give up. I believe God will bless our efforts to solve this mystery!

**Colonel Evergreen:** (a very officious manner) Indeed! However, before we continue...I think we need to refine our plan.

**Candy Cane:** How's this for a plan? Stop right where you are. Don't take one step. Look down and carefully examine your immediate area.

**Carol Clueless:** I don't see anything except this big envelope. (holding it up - passes the envelope to CANDY).

**Candy Cane:** Hang on Carol, I think you have found another clue!

**Holly Garland:** Good heavens dahlings, what on earth are you talking about?

**Candy Cane:** It's the address. The address on the envelope is 316 Hope Avenue.

**Colonel Evergreen:** The address of Christmas Manor!

**Dr. Christmas:** Congratulations Candy, you've found the sweet spot, but who knows what this clue might mean?

**Carol Clueless:** The numbers three and sixteen are in the Bible. John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."

**Carol/Candy:** ...that whosoever believeth in Him...

**Carol/Candy/Professor:** ...should not perish...

**All Guests + Dr. Christmas:** ...but have everlasting life!"

**Dr. Christmas:** The key to the mystery of Christmas are the first six words of this verse: "For God so loved the world." The message is and has always been...

**All:** God's love!

# LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

a partner song with "Silent Night"

Original Words and Music and  
Arrangement by JILL GALLINA

11/23 Reverently (♩ = ca. 92)

ACCOMP. *mp*

1st time: All sing Part 1

2nd time: All sing Part 2

3rd time: Divide and sing Parts 1 & 2

5 PART 1 *mp* \*

Love came down at Christ - mas, love e - ter - nal,

PART 2 *mp* \*\*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,

11

love di - vine. Love was born \_\_\_\_\_ at Christ - mas,

all is bright. Round yon Vir - gin moth - er and child.

\* Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

\*\* Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787-1863

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

tr. John Freeman Young, 1820-1885

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17

star and an - gel gave the sign. Wor - ship we our

Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild. Sleep in heav - en - ly

23

Je - sus. Wor-ship our Lord di - vine.

peace. Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.

29

vine.

peace.

- Dr. Christmas:** Love came down at Christmas on that silent night long ago.
- Candy Cane:** So that answers the first part of the mystery...why Jesus came to earth. Because of God's love to save us from sin.
- Dr. Christmas:** Exactly! But how is it that Jesus – the Son of God – left His Heavenly home and became human, yet still God?
- Carol Clueless:** Or how Jesus grew up and then raised a man from the dead.
- Colonel Evergreen:** Or turned water into wine.
- Professor Plum Pudding:** I'm gobsmacked, Dr. C! We might have to move in for several months to figure out these other mysteries!
- Dr. Christmas:** No need for that. We'll never figure out those mysteries and we don't need to...that's what faith is all about. What matters is Emmanuel...God with us. Jesus came to us and the world has never been the same.
- Holly Garland:** Christmas songs and parties are fun dahlings, but what I've learned here is what it's really all about!
- Carol Clueless:** Presents and food are nice at Christmas, but God's love sent from above is the greatest gift.
- Dr. Christmas:** Well, maybe you're not so "clueless" after all, Carol!
- Carol Clueless:** Thanks to your expert guidance, I think I'll change my name.
- All:** To what?
- Carol Clueless:** Alberta Einstein!
- All (except Carol):** Uhhhh....no!

*CAROL shrugs and smiles while everyone smiles back at her as the closing song begins.*

## MYSTERY AT THE MANOR

### Reprise

Words and Music by  
MICHAEL and JILL GALLINA

**Bright and bouncy** (♩ = ca. 100)

ACCOMP. *mf*

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**[5]** *mf*

Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas. Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas. 1. The mys - ter - y is solved and  
2. Yes, they found all the hid - den

8

so, Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas. Mer - ry, mer - ry Christ-mas.  
clues.

**[13]**

11 Now we're sure you all must know. This man - or has a his - to - ry, the  
Each one lead - ing to good news. We hope that ev - 'ry - one to - day, had

14

guests have solved the mys - ter - y, and since they did we know that you found out. The  
lots and lots of fun to - day, 'cause if you did, we know you all found out,

mess-age from a - bove, yes, it's the gift of love, and love is real - ly what Christ-mas is a -

bout. bout. The

mes-sage from a - bove, yes, it's the gift of love, and love is real - ly what

Christ - mas is a - bout! Mer - ry Christ-mas!