

The Lost Sheep

A Mini Musical for Unison Voices and Piano



By

Toni Sullivan

PREVIEW

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Foreword

The story of the Good Shepherd caring for their sheep holds a relatable message for all ages: God's love for us has no limits. The young shepherds in this mini-musical not only gain a greater understanding of God's love for us, but also learn about God's call to care for each other.

This short musical is designed for children in grades 1-6. It can be performed by a cast/choir of any size, and the run time is approximately 12-15 minutes. This production could take the place of the sermon for Good Shepherd Sunday, it could be used as the primary theme for a Music and Arts summer camp week, or it could be incorporated into a closing program for Vacation Bible School.

The Lost Sheep was first performed in a youth-led worship service at the Congregational Church of Brookfield in June 2023. This production is a wonderful way to highlight your children's choir program in a meaningful way during a congregational worship service.

-Toni Sullivan

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This reproducible resource allows the original purchaser to reproduce materials, including full scores, scripts, audio tracks, and singer's pages.

Run time: 10-15 minutes

Production Notes

The Cast of Characters

This musical was designed with a small choir in mind. Speaking parts can be divided or combined to accommodate the number and capabilities of children in the choir. Need more than seven speaking roles? Cast more than one narrator and divide that part accordingly. Need less than seven? Combine the Shepherd parts to fit your needs.

The optional Cherub Shepherd part can be utilized with a PreK-2nd grade choir. They appear briefly on stage to sing **A Shepherd Had a Hundred Sheep**, and then return to sing the closing song, **The Hands of Jesus**, with the older shepherds.

There are two spots in the musical that can involve two planted audience members - one to say "Ow!" when hit by an imaginary slingshot stone, and another to hold up Ewey when the sheep is found.

Staging, Props, and Costumes

This production can be easily done in the chancel of a sanctuary, on a stage, or on risers. Blocking can be as simple or elaborate as you wish to make it - but in general, there is not a lot of actor movement required. If your speaking roles are limited to stationary microphones, consider placing the mics in a V formation in the performance area with boxes of various heights on which shepherds can stand to reach the mics.

When incorporating the Cherub Shepherds, have them enter the performance area in an easy manner - from a side chancel door, up the center sanctuary aisle, or whatever makes sense in your space. If you don't have an easily-accessible entrance/exit, have the Cherub Shepherds sit in a line across the front of the stage and face the shepherds, watching the action until it's time to sing.

A few simple props are needed:

- Shepherd's staff/crook (at least one, or one for each shepherd if you desire)
- Slingshot
- Large basket with handle(s)
- Stuffed sheep of various sizes to fill the basket, plus one to be Ewey (perhaps a sheep that makes a noise)
- Campfire (optional)

Costuming can also be as simple or elaborate as you choose. Shepherds can wear tunics, robes, or solid-color shirts with a head covering and rope around their waist.

The Lost Sheep

As *The Lost Sheep Overture* begins, the Narrator and Shepherds enter and take their places.

The Lost Sheep Overture

Toni Sullivan

♩ = 120

Piano

f

5

♩ = 108

poco rit.

mf

9

13

17

poco rit.

21

♩ = 100

f

25

29

poco rit.

NARRATOR: In the Bible, there are many references to sheep. For example, from Psalm 100, verse 3:

Know that the Lord is God!

It is God who made us -

We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

And from Psalm 23, verse 1: *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

Now, if you look up the definition of a shepherd, you will find that—

SHEPHERD 1: (interrupting) WAIT! *I am* a shepherd. I can tell you what I do:

I watch over our sheep, both day and night
 making sure that all's just right.
 I look for places they can graze
 and ponds for drinking every day.

SHEPHERD 2: I am a shepherd, and here's what I do:

I count the sheep and then make sure
 that every sheep is here.
 If one gets lost, I take the time
 to find it ... do not fear.

SHEPHERD 3: But wait! There's more:

I protect the sheep with my mighty staff (*bangs it on the floor*)
 We're handy with a sling (*points to SHEPHERD 6, who holds up a slingshot*)
 When lions, tigers, and bears... (*looks fearfully to stage left*) oh my!
 (*more SHEPHERDS join in chanting*) Lions, tigers, and bears... oh my!
 (*all SHEPHERDS join in chanting*) Lions, tigers, and bears... oh my!

As Shepherds keep chanting, they track an invisible predator far out to the back corner of the audience...

Lions, tigers, and bears... oh my!
 Lions, tigers, and bears... oh my!

SHEPHERD 6: Don't worry! I'll get it with my sling!

All SHEPHERDS freeze as SHEPHERD 6 takes an invisible shot at the predator they all fear. The SHEPHERDS watch the shot fly, flinching together as it lands - an audience member could be planted in the rear section to shout, "Ow!"

*The SHEPHERDS find their places to sing **The Life of a Shepherd.***

The Life of a Shepherd

Toni Sullivan

Toni Sullivan

$\bullet = 116$ *poco rit.* *mf*

Piano *mf* *poco rit.*

5 *a tempo*

8

12

The
life of a shep-herd is a hard one. We work through the day and the
night. The life of a shep-herd is a hard one, mak-ing sure that all is
right. We trav-el near and far to find the things we need: grass to eat and wa - ter we can
We're al-ways on our guard for li - ons, ti - gers, bears. Pred-a-tors can be 'most an - y -

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Life of a Shepherd'. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a single treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system starts with a tempo marking of 116 bpm and dynamics of *poco rit.* and *mf*. The second system begins at measure 5 with a tempo marking of *a tempo*. The third system begins at measure 8. The fourth system begins at measure 12. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'PREVIEW' is oriented diagonally across the center of the page.

16

drink. We make sure all is well in the place we found, then
where. And when a sheep does stray, can - not find its way, we

19 *poco rit.*

check to see the sheep are safe and sound. The The
look for it through - out the night and day. The

poco rit.

22 *a tempo*

life of a shep-herd is a hard one. We work through the day and the night. The

a tempo

26

life of a shep-herd is a hard one, mak-ing sure that all is right.

NARRATOR: Yes, shepherds do all those things. Did you know that Jesus once told a story about a shepherd who cared so much about their sheep that when one of them went missing, they left the other sheep behind to go look for the lost one and bring it back? It goes like this:

Once there was a shepherd who took very good care of their sheep.
There were one hundred - yes, one hundred! - sheep in the flock.
Each day the shepherd counted the sheep to make sure everyone was there.

SHEPHERD 4: *(jumping up)* Let's make sure we have all our sheep! *(Grabbing basket)* Line up, shepherds, and put your sheep in this basket. Count them as you go.

SHEPHERDS gather stuffed toy sheep of various sizes from different locations on stage (where they have been placed beforehand). Each SHEPHERD counts their sheep with a loud voice as they put them in the basket. The last one in line is SHEPHERD 5, who brings the last two sheep to the basket.

SHEPHERD 5: *(placing sheep in the basket)* 98, 99... WAIT! Where's Ewey?!

SHEPHERD 6: She's got to be here somewhere.

The SHEPHERDS look around the stage, calling Ewey's name. After searching, they meet back at center stage.

SHEPHERD 1: *(looking in the basket, rummaging under the stuffed sheep)* She's not here!

SHEPHERD 2: She's lost!

ALL SHEPHERDS: *(facing the audience, in a loud stage whisper)* Ewey's GONE!

*If incorporating a group of young Cherub Shepherds, they enter (or stand, if they have been sitting on stage) as they sing **Where Is the Sheep?** If not using Cherub Shepherds, all SHEPHERDS and NARRATOR sing **Where Is the Sheep?***

Where Is the Sheep?

adapt. Toni Sullivan

Traditional melody

A musical score for the song "Where Is the Sheep?". It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "A shep - herd had a hun - dred sheep and one sheep went a - stray. ——— They". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "left the nine - ty - nine be - hind and looked for it all day. ———". The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. There are three long horizontal lines (breath marks) at the end of each line of lyrics.