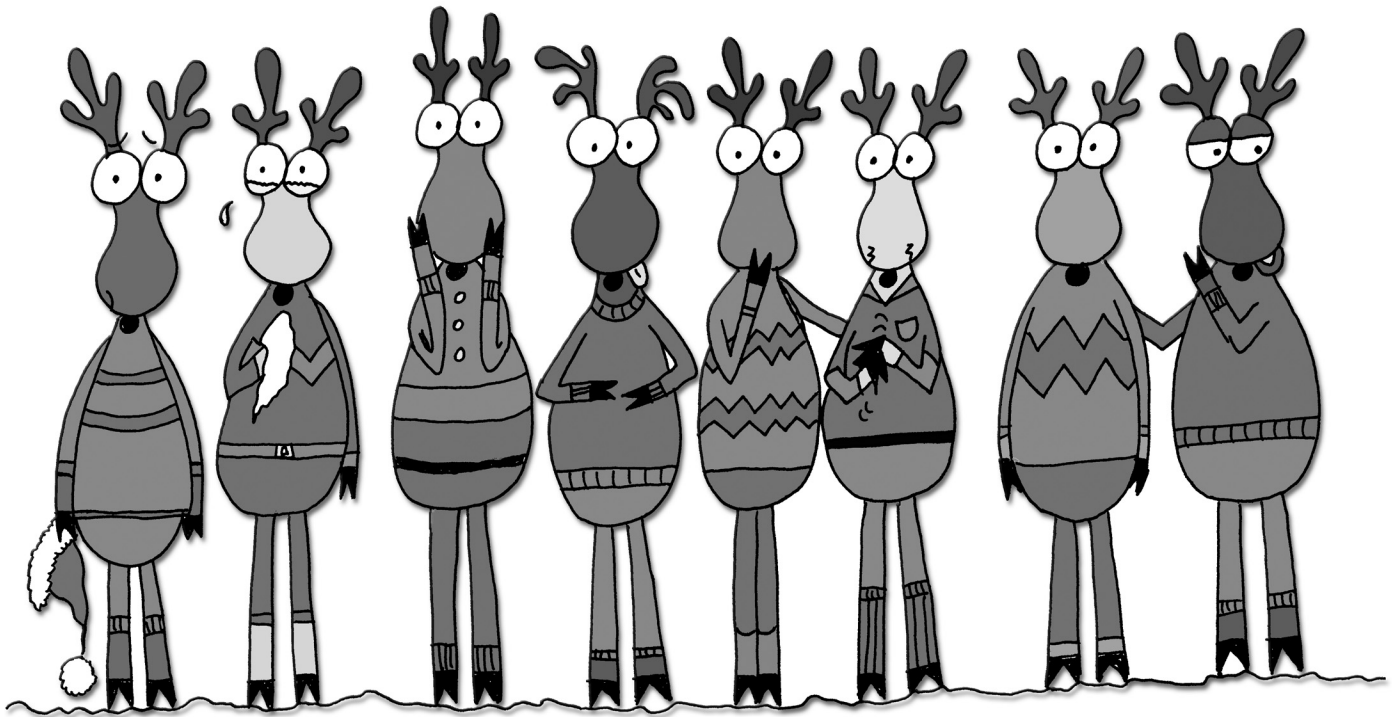


Student Edition

The Reindeer Whisperer



A Joyous Musical For Young Voices
by
Teresa Jennings & Karl Hitzemann



The Reindeer Whisperer

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CHARACTERS:

The Reindeer Whisperer (Cesar Salad)

Santa Claus

Mrs. Claus

Reindeer (non-speaking):

Dasher

Dancer

Prancer

Vixen

Comet

Cupid

Donner

Blitzen

Elves (6 speaking)

Herbie, an elf who wants to be a dentist

Any number of other elves or North Pole inhabitants, such as animals or fairy-tale characters (non-speaking)

SETTING: The North Pole

TIME: December 23 (Christmas Eve Eve)

OPENING SONG: Christmas Eve Eve

During the opening song, all characters except Herbie, the Reindeer Whisperer, and the reindeer are onstage. They can be doing something like wrapping presents or decorating, or just singing joyfully. Santa and Mrs. Claus are present, but not singing. They should be off to the side, but visible to the audience. Santa is "talking" (pantomiming) on his cell phone and Mrs. Claus is just standing beside him listening, maybe nodding occasionally. They're ignoring the singing.

Christmas Eve Eve

Teresa Jennings

JOYOUSLY! (♩=124)

4 (5) 3 (8) 4

(12) *f* NO REPEAT ON D.S.

Christ-mas Eve eve! Christ-mas Eve eve! We're so ex-cit-ed, it's
 Christ-mas Eve eve! Christ-mas Eve eve! We're cel-e-brat-ing, it's

(16)

Christ-mas Eve eve! Christ-mas Eve eve! Christ-mas Eve eve!
 Christ-mas Eve eve! Christ-mas Eve eve!

(20)

We're so de-light-ed, it's Christ-mas Eve eve! All the bells are
 We're dec-o-rat-ing, it's Christ-mas Eve eve! Feel the joy it's

ring-ing. All the jin-gles jin-gling.
 bring-ing. Ev'-ry heart is sing-ing.

(24)

It's the jol-li-est, mer-ri-est, sec-ond best eve of
 It's the jol-li-est, mer-ri-est, sec-ond best eve of

TO CODA (AFTER D.S.) (1.)

all! Christ-mas Eve eve!
 all! Christ-mas Eve

Christmas Eve Eve

2. 2 SMOOTHLY 34

eve! It is our fav' - rite

38

time of year, so filled with hap - pi - ness and

42

cheer. So filled with hope and joy, and peace and

46 D.S. AL CODA

love, and all good things we're dream - ing of!

~~C~~ CODA

52 BUILDING

eve! On - ly one more day till Christ - mas Eve!

56 ff

Two more days till Christ - mas Day! It's the jol - li - est,

mer - ri - est, sec - ond best eve of all! Christ - mas Eve

60 2

eve! Christ - mas Eve eve!

After the opening song, Santa and Mrs. Claus can move more toward the center of the performance area (casually) while the first lines are delivered.

Santa: *(into phone – slow, rich voice)* Ho, ho, ho! That sounds wonderful. Uh-huh. Right. I'll bet California is beautiful this time of year. Ho, ho, ho!

Elf #1: Who is Santa talking to?

Elf #2: I don't know, but it seems pretty important.

Elf #3: I thought I heard him say something about California.

Elf #4: California?!

Elf #3: Yes, California.

Elf #2: You know, I just love California.

In walks Herbie, the elf.

Herbie: I want to be a dentist!

Elf #5: Yes, we know...

Elf #6: And we're all cool with that.

Herbie walks out with a big smile on his face.

Santa: *(still on the phone)* Great! I'll have the reindeer there on time!

The reindeer are seen walking in together. The elves do not see them yet. The reindeer overhear the elves talking. (They react by tilting their heads, cupping their ears, etc., to "listen well.")

Elf #1: Why is Santa taking the reindeer to California?

Elf #2: Well... I've heard they have reindeer ranches in California.

Elf #3: You mean the kind where reindeer go to... retire?

Elf #4: Oh no! If they retire, Santa will have to replace the reindeer!

All Elves: Replace the reindeer?! *(ad libs: Wow, really?, I didn't see that coming!, What a shock!, Bummer!, etc.)*

The reindeer stand up straight (rigid and frozen in place at first) with wide-eyes. They look at each other with worried expressions. Just then, Santa hangs up. He and Mrs. Claus, who have been oblivious to the action/dialog with the elves and reindeer, walk over to the reindeer.

Santa: Hello, team! It's time for our pre-Christmas Eve flight check. Let's go to the sleigh and go for a test-flight.

All the reindeer begin quickly shaking their heads back and forth as if to say "No way!" Santa and Mrs. Claus look very puzzled.

Elf #5: *(to reindeer)* Come on, you guys! You know the drill!

Reindeer shake heads again.

Elf #6: *(pulling reins of one of the reindeer who won't budge; ad lib struggling noises)* Come on!

Mrs. Claus: Santa, something is wrong! The reindeer won't fly!

Santa: The reindeer won't fly!?!?

All Elves: *(looking at the reindeer, hands on hips or out in air to side, shaking heads in disbelief, etc.)* Why won't you fly!?!?

SONG: Why Won't You Fly?

Why Won't you Fly?

ANGSTFUL HIP HOP (♩=84; ♩=168)

Teresa Jennings

DRUMS
SET-UP

9 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO
f

1. Dash - er, Danc - er, Pranc - er, Vix - en, Com - et, Cu - pid, Don - ner, Blit - zen.
2. You have our full at - ten - tion. We're all ears, and did we men - tion?
3. Dash - er, Danc - er, Pranc - er, Vix - en, Com - et, Cu - pid, Don - ner, Blit - zen.
4. We need some in - for - ma - tion, if you have the in - cli - na - tion.

13

- (1.) If you could talk to us, you know that we would lis - ten, lis - ten.
- (2.) If we could hear you speak, we'd un - der - stand your ap - pre - hen - sion.
- (3.) We're not com - plete - ly clear, but we know some - thing's miss - in', miss - in'.
- (4.) We real - ly need you for our air - borne Christ - mas trans - por - ta - tion.

17 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO

Why don't you, why won't you

21

TO CODA
(AFTER REPEAT ON D.S.)

fly?

Like a bird - ie in the sky.

Why Won't You Fly?

(25)

Mag - ic rein - deer meant to fly,
Christ - mas Eve is al - most here.

(29)

won't you soar up to the sky?
It can't hap - pen

(1.)

(2.)

with - out rein - deer

(37)

fly - ing.

3

(D.S. AL CODA)

~~♩~~ CODA

sky. Why?

After the song, Santa is looking very concerned.

Santa: Well, I've never see this before. The reindeer won't fly!

Elf #1: What are we going to do?

Elf #2: Tomorrow is Christmas Eve!

Mrs. Claus: Oh, Santa... We have to do something!

Everyone seems to be pondering (except the reindeer, of course). They rub their chins, scratch their heads, put their hands on their hips and furrow their brows while shaking their heads, etc. Action continues until Elf #3 speaks up in an "Aha!" fashion.

Elf #3: I know! Let's call the Reindeer Whisperer!

All Elves: The Reindeer Whisperer?

Elf #3: Yes, the Reindeer Whisperer.

Elf #4: Haven't you seen his TV show?

Elf #5: Oh yeah, the Reindeer Whisperer.

Herbie walks in again.

Santa: Herbie, do you know how to get in touch with the Reindeer Whisperer?

Herbie: I want to be a dentist!

Santa: Yes, well, I ah... *(to Mrs. Claus)* I thought we already had this cleared up.

Mrs. Claus: Yes, dear...

Herbie walks out again, with a big smile on his face.

Elf #6: *(snapping shut his cell phone with a large gesture so the audience can see)* Santa! I called the Reindeer Whisperer and he's on his way!

Santa: Great! I sure hope this fella can help us.

Mrs. Claus: By the way, does this whisperer-person have a name?

Elf #2: Well... I think it's... Cesar Salad.

Elf #4: Cesar Salad??

Elf #2: *(with a little giggle)* Yeah, Cesar Salad.

Enter the Reindeer Whisperer. He walks to center stage. A stately, distinctive guitar strum is heard as he walks in. (He could be playing the guitar himself, or someone onstage could play it, or it could just be a musical sound effect. Use a prop guitar unless you have a real live performer.)

MUSIC: Guitar Strum 1

Reindeer Whisperer: *(very slowly and deliberately, with great enunciation and a bit of a Spanish accent)* That's Sa-laad! Cesar Sa-laad is my name. Whispering to reindeer is my game. ¡Olé!

MUSIC: Guitar Strum 2

All the elves, Santa, and Mrs. Claus react with lots of "ooohs" and "ahhhs" and murmuring, ad lib.

Elf #1: *(or a young, tiny elf)* Can you please save Christmas, Mr. Salad??

All Elves: *(optional, use an "Elf Group" you select instead of all elves if it's easier)* Please help us, Mr. Salad! *(a mix of "Salads" and "Sa-laads")*

Reindeer Whisperer: *(firmly, in an exasperated tone)* Sa-laad!

MUSIC: Guitar Strum 3

All Elves: Pleecease?

SONG: Can You Please Save Christmas?

During the song, the elves, Santa, and Mrs. Claus are directing their pleas to the Reindeer Whisperer. The Reindeer Whisperer reacts stoically, taking it all in until he decides what to do. He appears "quietly sage."

Can You Please Save Christmas?

WALTZ DI TURMOIL ($\text{♩} = 168; \text{♩} = 56$)
ON D.C., AD LIB WHIMPERING, CRYING, ETC.

Teresa Jennings

9 REPEAT ON D.C. ALSO *f*

1. Year af - ter year af - ter year,
2. But now it's per - fect - ly clear,
3. Year af - ter year af - ter year,
4. Bliz - zards, am - ne - sia, or fear,

13

- (1.) seems like there's trou - ble with Christ - mas.
- (2.) this time it real - ly might miss us.
- (3.) Christ - mas has some kind of dan - ger.
- (4.) com - ets, or a - li - en stran - gers.

18

Can you i - mag - ine how sad it would
This time we're cer - tain ca - tas - tro - phe's

22

be with noth - ing from San - ta Claus un - der the tree?
here, and it could keep Christ - mas from com - ing this year!

Can you Please Save Christmas?

(26) spoken solos: 1. Noooo! That's impossible!
2. It really could! Ahhhh!

(30) WITH GUSTO!
ff

(OPTIONAL, AD LIB OTHER COMMENTS, WAILING, ETC.)

Can you

Please?

(34)

please save Christ - mas? Can you, pret - ty

Pretty please?

(38)

please? Think of Saint Nich - 'las hav - ing no

(42)

TO CODA (AFTER D.C.)

D.C. AL CODA

Christ - mas! Can you help us please?

CODA

(47)

Pleeease??

This much is cer - tain,

(51)

Christ - mas is cur - tains! Can you help

(55)

us please?

(59)

ALL, SHOUT

Can you please save Christ - mas? Please!?

Reindeer Whisperer: (to Santa) Well, this sounds very, very serious. I will do my best to help you save Christmas. So, what seems to be the problem?

Santa: Well, it's the reindeer...

Reindeer Whisperer: Yes, I kinda figured that. What exactly is the problem with the reindeer?

Herbie walks in again.

Herbie: I want to be a...

All Elves, Santa, Mrs. Claus: Not now!

Herbie, with big smile on face, walks back out.

Santa: Anyway, you see...

Mrs. Claus: The reindeer won't fly!

Reindeer Whisperer: They won't fly, you say? Interesting, interesting...

The Reindeer Whisperer walks around a bit studying the situation. He's pondering, thinking. (Says "hmmm" and "mmm hmmm" a few times, freely.)

Then he goes over to the reindeer (who are standing in a row, facing the audience). He whispers into the ear of the one at the end of the row. The reindeer then whisper to each other one at a time, down the line. The end reindeer nods his head, thinks for a moment, then whispers to the reindeer next to him and on down the line – and back to the Reindeer Whisperer.

Reindeer Whisperer: I see, I see... Well, I can certainly understand why you feel that way. Yes, indeed.

Elf #3: What's going on?

Elf #5: What are they saying?

The Reindeer Whisperer walks over to Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Reindeer Whisperer: The reindeer are upset that you are sending them away to California, and that you are going to replace them.

Santa and Mrs. Claus: WHAT!?!

Santa: Whatever gave them that idea??

Mrs. Claus: Who would say such a thing??

The elves look at each other, up to the sky, down to the ground. Some are shuffling their feet. They can be humming, clearing their throats, or ad libbing things like: “Busted,” “Awkward,” “Oops,” or “Who, me?” One or two could also whistle in fake innocence.

Santa: *(hands on hips, to the group of elves)* Do you have something you’d like to say?

Elf #6: We’re sorry, Santa.

Elf #1: *(regretfully)* Oh... We overheard you talking on the phone.

Elf #2: We heard you say something about California.

Elf #3: And the reindeer.

Elf #4: We guessed that maybe you were going to replace the reindeer.

Elf #5: And send them to California to retire.

Santa: I see. Well, let me say that nothing could be further from the truth.

The reindeer look very relieved. They could sigh or even let out a quiet, “Whew!” (No vocal cords.)

Elf #6: *(hugging one of the reindeer)* Oh, that’s a relief!

Add other signs of affection, relief, etc., between the elves and reindeer – high fives, wiping of brows, hugs, etc.

Mrs. Claus: *(to the elves, scolding pose)* You have to be careful about the things you say.

Elf #1: *(sheepishly)* We know.

Elf #2: We didn’t mean it. It was a mistake.

Reindeer Whisperer: *(slowly, professorially with deliberate enunciation)* Ah, but you must realize that words can have great power.

Mrs. Claus: And sometimes, even if you don’t mean it, words can hurt.

SONG: Words Can Hurt

Words Can Hurt

Teresa Jennings

GENTLY (♩=112)

(5) SOLO, OPTIONAL
mf

4

Words can hurt. Be

9

care - ful what — you say. — Try to think — be - fore —

3

— you speak. — There is a bet - ter way. —

(16) (ALL) mf

We all — have feel - ings. That's a thing — we share.
We all — are hu - man. We can all — feel pain.

(20)

Some-times — we just for - get we should try — to care.
Some-times — we say some things we just can't — ex - plain.

(24)

Our words have pow - er, may - be good or bad.
If we're not thought - ful when we speak our minds,

Words Can Hurt

28

Some-times our words can make some - bod - y sad. Oh,
 Some-times we say things may - be too un - kind. Oh,

32

words can hurt. Be care - ful what_ you say.____

36

Try to think_ be-fore____ you speak._ There is a bet - ter way.-

42

Oh, words can

hurt. Be care - ful what_ you say.____

46

Try to think_ be-fore____ you speak._ There is a bet - ter way.-

51

A bet - ter way.

RIT. SOLO, OPT. MOLTO RIT.

A bet - ter way.

Elf #3: We're really sorry, Santa.

Santa: Don't tell me, tell them. (*points to the reindeer*)

All of the elves apologize to the reindeer, ad lib. They can use lines such as: "We're sorry," "We didn't mean it," "We'll be more careful," "We won't gossip anymore," "We should have been more sensitive," "We should have gotten our facts straight," etc.

After ad libs, the reindeer at the end of the row whispers to his neighbor, and so on down the line. Then the last reindeer whispers to the Reindeer Whisperer.

Reindeer Whisperer: The reindeer say that they understand, and that all is forgiven.

Elf #4: Hey Santa, so what was that phone call to California about?

Elf #5: Yeah! What was that?

Santa: After Christmas, I'm taking the reindeer on vacation to California to see their favorite show, "Hoofin' With The Stars!"

(Since this previous line is so important to the resolution of the plot, be sure Santa says it slowly and very clearly so that your audience understands what he is saying.)

All the elves ad lib with lots of "wows" and "cools" and "yeahs," etc. Reindeer can jump up and down (mildly), clapping, pumping air, acting excited without making vocal sounds. Maybe a couple of them could be "dancing" with each other for a moment or two to punctuate the message.

Elf #6: That's a great Christmas present for the reindeer!

Elf #1: Santa always does it right!

Elf #2: He sure does!

Elf #3: And the reindeer really deserve it!

All the elves ad lib with comments like: "Yeah," "They sure do," "You said it," and so on. Add (gentle) back slapping, high fiving, nodding, etc., all around.

Mrs. Claus: Ummm, Santa... aren't we forgetting something? (*points to her watch*)

Santa: (*laughing a little*) Oh yes, we have to get ready for Christmas Eve first! Now, how about that test-flight?!

The reindeer all happily and enthusiastically shake their heads "yes." The elves cheer.

Santa waits for cheering to die down before saying his next line.

Santa: *(shaking the Reindeer Whisperer's hand)* Thank you so much, Mr. Salad.

Reindeer Whisperer: That's Sa-laad!

MUSIC: Guitar Strum 4

Santa: *(a bit flustered)* Oh, ahhh... Thank you, Reindeer Whisperer. *(switching focus to his team)* Now, we've got to get to work! Come on team...

All (except reindeer): It's time to fly!!

Since the reindeer can't say the last line, they can either just stand quietly, or they can make a big gesture on the word "fly." For example, have them thrust both hands upward, either straight above their heads or more out front in a "Superman" kind of pose. Or they could nod enthusiastically and even do a little "happy dance" to demonstrate their joy.

Be sure to sneak Herbie back onto the stage somewhere during the last scene so that he can join in the singing of the last song, too!

FINALE: It's Time To Fly!

BOW MUSIC: Reprise: It's Time To Fly!

THE END!

It's Time To Fly!

Teresa Jennings

SOARING! ($\frac{1}{2}$ ROCK/POP/FUSION FEEL) ($\text{♩} = 132$) ($\text{♩} + \text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$)

DRUMS SET-UP

11 *f*

2ND TIME SHOUT - \lrcorner

> >

We have no wings. So what? It's time to fly!

15

2ND TIME SHOUT - \lrcorner

> >

We're lift - ing off right now! It's time to fly!

19

Send your wor - ries far a - way. We don't need them here to - day.

23

2ND TIME SHOUT - \lrcorner

> >

Grab the reins and shout, "Hur - ray! Up up and a - way!"

27 *ff*

Fly - ing, fly - ing, fly - ing high!

It's Time To Fly!

31

Come with us up to the sky!

35 *f* 39

Wings don't mat - ter, if you try. Just be -

lieve and you can fly! It's time to

1. 3 2.

fly! fly!

2 52

It's time to fly!

56

Fly - ing, fly - ing! We are

SHOUT

fly - ing! It's time to fly! Fly!