ref: Nativity.doc

Nativity - Roger Swann - July 2006

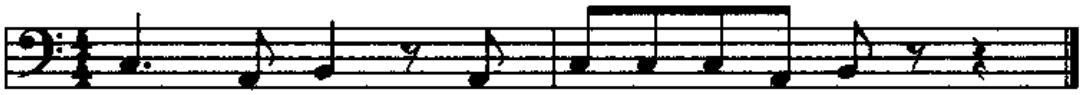
Prologue Single voice "There is no room at the inn"

(g)Nat (duration about 20 gnats at the directors discretion) Improvise as per gnats. Remember gnats make a quiet but ominous buzzing sound. The director can allow good improvisations to continue longer than weaker improvisations. All improvisations must end by being swotted down with some suitable percussive crushing. Ideally each swot should be different.

Interlude 1 Single voice "The Ivy" (quotation with thanks to Antony Clare)

Ivy (duration at the directors discretion) A small number of people improvise as Ivy. Remember Ivy slowly climbs up walls, clawing at stonework. Ivy invariably eventually destroys the buildings it climbs on. Whilst the Ivy improvisations must not duplicate gnats good musicians will find ways of relating the Ivy improvisation to those in the gnat section.

Interlude 2
A single low instrument (eg contra-bassoon)



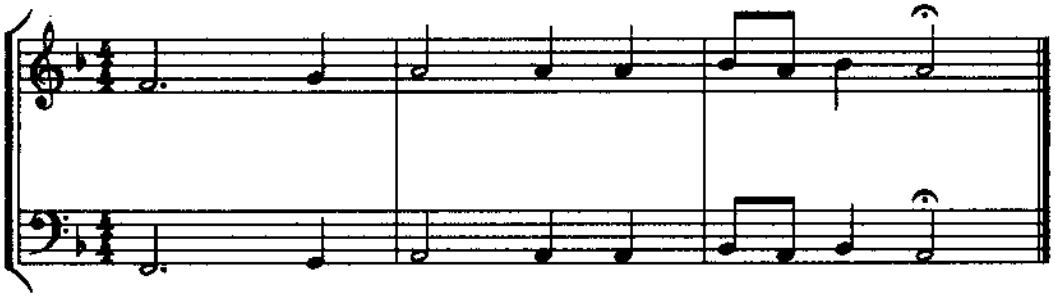
Tea (duration at the directors discretion) Improvisation based on the rattling of tea cups/saucers. Pouring of tea? Subdued (barely audible) conversation chit chat as if at a vicar's tea party, for example: "What a lovely stable you have here", "How nice to see three such wise men", "What a little donkey", "I'm sure that Angel over there was in my local massage parlour the other night" etc etc.

Towards the end of this section a single voice starts to whimper like a baby which develops into full blown baby crying. The tea party sounds continue. At the directors cue a single male voice (the inn keeper) bellows "Jesus, will someone shut that baby up"

Epilog.

Unison tutti Instruments.

(part shown in concert pitch)



Performance note: As a festive option, sleigh bells may sound at any appropriate or inappropriate point during the performance.