

Santa's Magic Timepiece

by

Ann Richie

Music and Lyrics
by

Arnold Richie

Musical Arrangements by
Alice Smith

©2005,2009 Mary Ann Richie and Arnold Richie

This play and the associated musical numbers may not be performed in whole or part without written permission from the authors.

Character Roster
(In Order of Appearance)

Merry Claus - wife of Santa Claus – cheerful, sweet, kind older woman, a lively and enthusiastic character, adores her granddaughter and husband, giddy with excitement about the approaching Christmas season (traditional sweet, white-haired woman with spectacles)

Miss Berry – Head of Toy Central in charge of toy production, gift preparation, and bookkeeping – professional and conscientious – but kind, honest, and loyal to Santa Claus (professional woman with spectacles who is older than Figgy), takes pride in her work and efficiency. Her character is genuinely concerned and frustrated that she cannot solve the problem about how Santa Claus will complete his journey. Another facet of her personality is that she deeply and dearly loves Christmas and wants it to be wonderful and perfect for everyone – especially all of the children.

Figgy: Assistant to Miss Berry, shadows Miss Berry and rushes around madly with a notebook and takes notes diligently for Miss Berry. An enthusiastic pleaser, very excited about Christmas and presents, wants to do her best job possible – just like Miss Berry. Her purpose is comedic relief but her character is embarked on a journey to be the best that she can. She sees that in Miss Berry and has chosen her for a role model. There are several opportunities for her to develop her character without dialogue.

Joy Claus – Granddaughter of Santa and Mrs. Claus – Intelligent, sweet and pretty, compassionate, unpretentious, and polite young woman (late teens) – staying with her grandparents while her parents are on vacation – officially meets Tink but has probably liked him in class for a long time. Her character is genuine and very real.

Santa Claus – Jolly, traditional older man with white beard,

moustache, and spectacles. He is dedicated to and anticipates his yearly journey to deliver gifts to all of the good boys and girls around the world on Christmas Eve in his sleigh that is pulled by his team of 8 reindeer (older than his teeth but younger than time). Although he is jolly, this problem weighs heavily on him. His character is very genuine and real.

Tink – (nickname for Tinker) – son of an elf inventor (who passed away several years ago) He is a shy, kind, intelligent, polite young gentleman who loves to “tinker” like his father did – but doesn’t discover that he has the ability to invent things until Santa is in great need. His shyness comes from being teased by the other elves about his name and the fact that he is an unusually tall elf – has never had a girlfriend or date – has probably liked Joy from a distance for a long time. His character is genuine and very real.

Holly and Jolly – Two of Santa’s elves. Fun-loving, cheerful, playful, energetic, love to tease (but without malice), mischievous and fail to take responsibility for the mess they make – but want to be good and finally make amends

ACT I

Setting - Late Nineteenth Century North Pole

SCENE 1: Living Room of the Santa Claus Family

Mrs. Claus steps forward to greet audience and introduce story:

(Mrs. Claus): Hello. (pauses, then says much louder)
Helloooooooooo?!!?!! Oh, there you are! Welcome! I am Mrs.
Merry Claus...and this is our living room. I live here with my
husband and Oh – our granddaughter Joy is staying with us
while her parents are away! Who is my husband you ask? Why,
I think that you know him very well. His name is Santa Claus –
and he visits all of the good boys and girls all around the world
every Christmas Eve. How does he do that you ask? Well...I'll
tell you the story. But first, I must ask all of the adults to turn off
their cell phones and pagers – because those noises might
frighten the reindeer. Also, everyone must keep both aisles
clear at all times- because we need that space to tell our story.
Oh, yes, our story! Well, you see, it all began many years ago
when there was a BIG problem. On second thought, let me tell it
to you this way. (turns and joins scene)

(The room is in the process of being decorated for Christmas. Mrs. Claus enters the scene by turning and walking into the living room of the Claus house. She picks up tinsel from a basket and begins to hum a Christmas Carol while her body language echoes the joy and excitement of the Christmas Season)

ENTER Miss Berry of Toy Central followed closely by Figgy who has a notebook in her hand. Mrs. Claus has her hands full of Christmas tinsel and is rushing around in excitement decorating the room - decorating the Christmas tree. Miss Berry follows her about the room trying to get her attention while trying to be polite - with Figgy following close behind)

Mrs. Claus: Oh, Miss Berry!! Figgy!! I'm SO excited! It's THAT time

of year, you know. Christmas is coming!!

(Mrs. Claus is so focused on decorating the Christmas tree that she does not pay attention to anything but the joy and excitement of the moment)

Miss Berry: (concerned) Mrs. Claus, I MUST speak with Mr. Claus.

(Mrs. Claus is excited and not paying attention – she interrupts Miss Berry)

Mrs. Claus: There is so much to do and so little time to do it. Oh dear, I do hope that I will have enough tinsel for the tree. Don't you think that every tree should have plenty of tinsel?

Miss Berry: Mrs. Claus, there is something that I have to tell Mr.Claus

(Mrs. Claus interrupts Miss Berry as if she never said anything and answers for her)

Mrs. Claus: Oh, but of course you do...how silly of me! This year I want to have a tree that announces the peace and joy of Christmas! What do you think?

Miss Berry: I think that I should speak to Mr. Claus right away!

Mrs. Claus: (interrupts - disappointed) Ohh...you don't like my idea for this year's Christmas tree! I had SO hoped that you would.

Miss Berry: Mrs. Claus, I think that your Christmas tree sounds wonderful - (quickly adds) and I am sure that everyone will like it - but I really must speak to Mr. Claus!

Mrs. Claus: (interrupts) I am so happy that you like it. I know that it has been done so many times before - but you can never have too much peace and joy, don't you agree? Oh, but of course, you do! Now where is that star for the top of the tree? It must be here somewhere. I will have to ask Claus where it is when he gets back.

(Mrs. Claus is digging in basket for star)

Miss Berry: Ah, ha!! That is EXACTLY what I want to know!!

Mrs. Claus: (surprised) You want to know where the star is for the top of our tree?

Miss Berry: Well...no.

Mrs. Claus: (Hurt) You mean you don't CARE where it is?

Miss Berry: Of course I care where the star is - it's just that (stammering)...I mean...I CARE...but ...that's NOT why I came here today!

Mrs. Claus: Oh, I know! You must want to help me decorate the tree! But, of course you can! You can never have too much help decorating a Christmas tree, don't you agree? Oh, but of course you do! I know....I will...

SONG – “Santa Comes A-Calling” (Mrs. Claus is going through boxes looking for the star and decorates the tree during the song)

Miss Berry: Mrs. Claus, PLEASE!!

Mrs. Claus: Oh, Miss Berry! Are you feeling well?

Miss Berry: Yes, Mrs. Claus, I am feeling quite well - but I MUST speak with Mr. Claus right away! There is something VERY IMPORTANT that I must tell him!

ENTER Joy

Joy: (through front door with school books - goes to her grandmother and kisses her on the cheek) Hello, Grandma. (seeing Miss Berry) Oh, Miss Berry!!...Figgy!!

Miss Berry (frustration building – repeats last part of her sentence) ...

must tell him!

(this sounds strange to Joy who looks puzzled)

Mrs. Claus: Here's our dear Joy, don't you think she is growing into such a lovely young lady?

Miss Berry: Yes, Mrs. Claus, Joy is a lovely young girl indeed,...

Joy: (somewhat embarrassed-and interjects) Thank you, Miss Berry.

Miss Berry: ...but that's NOT what I came to talk about.

Mrs. Claus: ...and such sweet girl too?

Joy: (smiles and sighs while she rolls her eyes)

Miss Berry: YES... and such a sweet girl too!! However, Mrs. Claus, I am trying to find out when Mr. Claus will be...

ENTER Santa (jolly and laughing)

Santa: Ho! Ho! Ho! How is everyone this fine day?

Mrs. Claus: (seeing Santa) Claus!

(Mrs Claus and Joy rush over to greet him – Joy gives her grandfather a kiss on the cheek)

Joy: Hello, Grandpa.

Santa: Ho! Ho! Hello, my dear.

(Miss Berry is trying to find the opportunity to speak)

Mrs. Claus: Oh Claus! I am having such trouble finding the star for the top of the tree! Do you know where it is?

Miss Berry: (finally, she gets desperate and comes face to face with Santa Claus and shouts)...THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO

SAY!!!

(everyone is startled into silence including Miss Berry – all looking at Miss Berry who is even surprised at herself)

Miss Berry: (stammers) I...uh....I....

Santa: Oh, Miss Berry!! (quickly acknowledges) Figgy! (quickly back to Miss Berry) Are you feeling well?

Miss Berry: YES!!!...I am feeling QUITE well!! (realizes that she has shouted and is embarrassed). I...I just...wanted to know when you would be returning??

Santa: (looking a little confused and glancing at Mrs. Claus and Joy) Well, Miss Berry...I would say that I am here now.

Miss Berry: (She regains her composure and talks as she walks Santa downstage to discuss serious matters) Mr. Claus, I MUST tell you some DREADFUL news. I have been going over and over your list of all the good boys and girls that you plan to visit this year on Christmas Eve!

Santa: Go on, Miss Berry.

Miss Berry: By my calculations...based on the last hundred years of deliveries...(hesitates) I have determined that there is NO WAY that you will have time to make all of your stops around the world before the children wake up!

Santa: Ho, ho, ho, Miss Berry - surely that cannot be true! I have never had a problem making all of my stops to the homes of good boys and girls.

Miss Berry: As you know, Mr. Claus, last year, as in all of the years past, I calculated that you would have PLENTY of time to finish delivering all of your toys - but, THIS year is a different matter! There are so many MORE good boys and girls this year - that you just won't have time to complete your job before many of the children will awaken!

Santa: Oh Miss Berry - that won't DO! - that won't do at ALL!

Miss Berry: Precisely!

Santa: I am very happy to hear that there are so many more good boys and girls this year – but it would be TERRIBLE if I couldn't visit ALL of them - and I can't MAKE more time.

Miss Berry: Well, I can't either!....and that is why I wanted to talk to you right away!

Mrs. Claus: (distressed and interjects) Oh Claus!

Joy: Grandpa, is there any way that I can help you?

Santa: No - thank you, my dear, it is much too dangerous, and my sleigh will be full of toys.... there would be no room for you. (turns back to Miss Berry) Thank you for telling me, Miss Berry. I must give this a great deal of thought...(looking distressed) ...a great deal of thought, indeed!

(Joy and Mrs. Claus echo Santa's disappointment as they go back to decorating the Christmas tree)

Miss Berry: I am SO sorry, Mr. Claus - but I HAD to tell you the truth as soon as I knew about it.

Santa: I appreciate it, Miss Berry. Thank you.

(Miss Berry is very distressed that she had to tell Santa this bad news. She turns to leave, but Santa stops her)

Santa: Oh, by the way, Miss Berry – how are things going at Toy Central? Is everything on schedule?

(Miss Berry momentarily forgets that there is a problem and comes animated with excitement. Joy and Mrs. Claus echo this emotion by smiling and becoming more animated in their decorating)

Miss Berry: Oh, YES, Mr. Claus! All of the toys will be finished in PLENTY of time. Then the gifts will be wrapped with beautiful PAPER and BOWS and TRIM – just waiting to be put into your MAGIC BAG!

Santa: Excellent, Miss Berry, excellent!

Miss Berry: ...BUT... I DO have to constantly remind the ELVES to keep working hard – ESPECIALLY HOLLY and JOLLY. They get SO excited when Christmas Eve is near!

Santa: (somber again) Yes... it is very soon, isn't it? (shaking his head) Very little time left.

Miss Berry: (her mood changes back to despair – and she mutters to herself shaking her head as she exits the front door) Oh dear!.....Oh, dear! Oh dear! O dear!

EXIT Miss Berry (Figgy is focused on Santa and lingers not noticing that Miss Berry is leaving – then she suddenly realizes that Miss Berry is gone and she rushes offstage as Joy and Mrs. Claus go to Santa's side)

Mrs. Claus: Oh, Claus, you can't leave out any of the GOOD CHILDREN!!

Santa: Oh course not, my dear! I would never do that. I will think of...something.

Joy: Grandpa, maybe you could get different reindeer for your sleigh...or give the reindeer special food that will make them fly faster.

Santa: Joy, my dear, these reindeer are my old friends - I would never THINK of leaving one of them behind! They get nutritious food and a vitamin every day – and are the healthiest and happiest reindeer in the North Pole! Besides, you cannot hurry Christmas. No, my dear, I just need some time to think - that's all. I just need...time!

EXIT SANTA shaking his head deep in thought

EXIT Joy and Mrs. Claus exchange a worried glance as they leave.

ENTER Miss Berry – rushing in and looking for Santa - as though she forgot to tell Santa one more thing.

Miss Berry: Mr. Claus!!!!... (stops and looks around)...Mr. Claus?...(frustrated, sighs, talking to his hat) I have one more thing to tell you. (deflated) OOOO!! I have SO much to do – and all I hear is everyone calling my name!!!

(all characters peak out from behind set with only their heads showing)

Cast: Oh, Miss Berry!!!!

(Miss Berry startles, freezes, and looks wide-eyed at the audience - panicked that she might be hearing things)

SONG – Oh, Miss Berry!

EXIT Miss Berry saying Oh Dear!! Oh Dear!, Oh Dear!, Oh Dear!!!

End of Scene