

STAGE MELODY AT YOUR SCHOOL

Offer a positive profile for your school after Covid!

Lesson plans for your music faculty!

A fun experience for students and families!

Make some money for your PTA!

Melody at Schools in Queens with Our Cast

The original *Melody* cast is available to perform the show at schools in Queens (or nearby counties). We have designed a package to make it rather simple for local partner schools to stage our show.

Your primary tasks are to prepare an Audience Choir (one or more classes of children aged 5-7), and to generate a large audience via your publicity efforts.

The Audience Choir sing simple repeating animal themes at various points during the show. Some preparation will be required, during regular lessons by your music faculty. Ben Arendsen has prepared plans for these lessons, which are fully compliant with all New York State educational stipulations. He is also happy to talk to your music faculty over the telephone.

Please contact Graham on MelodyMissingMusic@gmail.com if you are interested in arranging a performance of *Melody*. One of our production team will visit your school to meet with you and agree:

- A date and time for the performance
- How we will use your stage and other available facilities
- A marketing and publicity plan
- Financial arrangements to enable us to cover our costs and for you to generate income for your PTA from the project

Depending on staging choices, a performance of *Melody* lasts 40-50 minutes. You are welcome to add additional content of up to 30 minutes to round out the event.

Create your own Melody!

We would be thrilled to see *Melody* performed around the world! It is a delightful show that is not difficult to stage and can give great enjoyment to pupils and their families while showcasing your school in a positive light.

In addition, *Melody* offers chances to develop your local community by establishing partnerships with local choirs and theater groups, and putting much-needed money into the hands of local professional musicians. It might even serve to establish new groups!

For an agreed license fee, we will provide:

- An agreed number of full scores of *Melody*, including staging guidelines, for your exclusive use
- Fully compliant lesson plans for your music faculty to prepare your Audience Choir of 5-7 year-olds
- Practice audio and video tracks to help you prepare your Adult and Youth Choirs to perform *Melody*
- An agreed number of hours of telephone help from members of our production team

Melody has been created to provide flexibility in staging. We envisage professional musicians should usually fill the rather demanding roles of Musical Director, Piano Accompanist and Melody. Depending on the choice of staging, an experienced stage director may be advisable. Sound, scene changes, props and lighting are all designed to be simple so as not to require additional professionals and to be feasible in most school environments.

A standard scoring of *Melody* includes a community level four part adult choir of at least 16 singers, and a supplementary unison youth choir, envisaged for at least 10 children in the age range 9-13. Most of the adult choir will be stationary and can sing on-book, but *Melody*, a few adults and the youth choir will usually have active stage roles and should sing their parts off-book. A few small solo parts are included in the score.

We believe the most effective way to stage *Melody* will also involve an audience choir made up of 5-7 year-old children, probably a class from the elementary school staging the production. This group needs minimal preparation. Their role is to join the youth choir in singing recurring animal themes that will eventually help *Melody* to recreate an even better version of her symphony (spoiler alert!).

Different options exist for the roles of Maestro the dog and Krumholz the dog. Marionette puppets would be very effective, especially for Krumholz, but the simplest option would be to select talented children from the youth choir to play these roles, perhaps in simple costumes.

None of the Adult Choir, Youth Choir or Audience Choir are strictly necessary to perform *Melody*. At its minimum, the piece can be performed in concert format by as few as eight singers. We designed our preferred staging to create the maximum engagement, and also to facilitate generating an audience: members of the Youth and Audience Choirs will be anxious to have their families and friends see them perform!