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A simple modern Easter musical lasting about 35 mins. For ages 7-13. Succinctly and sensitively told through the eyes of a young boy and his sister. Ten lovely songs with vocal tracks and backing tracks. Price £35.00 includes Script, CD, piano score, Powerpoint show and all licences. Large flexible cast. The script is on the CD to customize as necessary.

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Cast List

David
 Esther
 Jesus
 Peter
 James
 Judas
 John
 Thomas
 Andrew
 Matthew
 Temple Seller 1
 Temple Seller 2

Money Changer
 Crowd (5-10 actors)
 Caiaphas
 Priest
 Soldier 1
 Soldier 2
 Soldier 3
 Centurion
 Pilate
 Girl in courtyard
 Woman in courtyard
 Man in courtyard

Mary Magdalene
Props shifters

Singers

CD TRACK LISTING
01 and 12 Welcome Jesus
02 and 13 Turning Over Tables
03 and 14 Cough up the Cash
04 and 15 Promises
05 and 16 Remember Me
06 and 17 Stay

(1-11 VOCAL TRACKS 12-22 BACKING TRACKS)
07 and 18 I Know Him
08 and 19 Crucify!
09 and 20 Amazing Love
10 and 21 Earthquake Sound
11 and 22 Alive!

Suggested props for this play:

Scroll for David & Esther
Chairs(for David & Esther)
Palm leaves
Swords and clubs
tables for sellers (optional)
Robes
Bird cages
Coins

Silver coins in a bag
Towel
Piece of rope
Chalice
Blindfold
Bread
Bowls
Chains

Stick or whip
Plates
Torch/lanterns
Basin
Crown of thorns
Purple robe
Grave clothes

Notes: The parts of David and Esther form the narration which holds the play together. These large parts can be read from a scroll instead of being memorised. Scenery can be minimal. A screen or white sheet is needed to display the Powerpoint presentation which is supplied on the CD to display the lyrics to the songs. The crucifixion scene itself is depicted in Powerpoint words and pictures instead of being acted.

AMAZING LOVE

(Spotlight on David, holding a scroll, and Esther who are sitting on chairs on side of stage)

David: Hello. I'm here with my sister Esther to tell you a story about an amazing man called Jesus. I first saw Jesus when we were all out on the hills near Jerusalem. There were thousands of people on that hillside. Everyone wanted to listen to Jesus. He seemed to know so much about everything.

Esther: Some people said he had even turned water into wine!

David: By the afternoon, we were all starting to get hungry but no one had brought any food with them. My mum had given us some lunch but it was only five small loaves and two fishes. When I heard Jesus ask if anyone had any food, I thought I should give him ours.

Esther: Well you wouldn't believe what happened next! He took the lunch and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke the loaves and fishes and asked his friends to give it to the people as they sat in groups on the grass. I thought it would run out straight away but it didn't! There was enough food for everyone and lots left over too!

David: I had never seen such an amazing thing and thought Jesus must be very special indeed if he could do this kind of magic. I wondered if he would like two small friends as well as the grown-up ones and we decided to stay as close to him as we could. He didn't seem to mind at all that we were small.

Esther: When his special friends, the disciples tried to push David, me and some of the other children away, he told them off! Jesus did other incredible miracles as we walked round with him. He even healed one of my friends who had been dying. One day, Jesus and his disciples were going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, people cheered and covered the path with their garments and palm leaves because they were so pleased to see him.

***** **CD Track 1: Welcome, Jesus (Backing Track 12)** *****

(Crowd enter cheering and excited during this song. Some people wave palm branches and lay down their coats, acting out the words of the song. Caiaphas and Priest enter towards end of song, acting displeased with what is taking place.)

Welcome Jesus, on your donkey J E S U S
Palms are waving, people cheer you J E S U S

Hosanna, Hosanna. You are very blessed!
Hosanna, Hosanna. You really are the best!

Welcome Jesus, on your donkey, J E S U S
Palms are waving, people cheer you J E S U S
Palms are waving, people cheer you J E S U S

(Exit Crowd and David)

Esther: Most people were very happy to see Jesus but the High Priest and some of the other priests were jealous of him.

Caiaphas: *(shaking his head)* Jesus is far too popular with the people. They don't seem to understand that he keeps breaking the Jewish law.

Priest 1: You can't heal people on the Sabbath!

Caiaphas: We must find a way to arrest him.

Priest 2: *(shrugging his shoulders)* But how? We can't do it during the Passover or there will be a riot. *(Caiaphas and Priests move to side of stage.)*

Esther: One day, Jesus went into the temple courts and found people there who were selling birds, goats, and sheep for sacrifice at very high prices. *(Enter temple sellers and money changers to set up their tables and money. Enter Caiaphas, Priests and crowd)*

Temple Seller 1: Get your sacrifices here! Two birds for the price of one. *(Enter Jesus looking angry)*

Money-changer: Any money changed here. Coins for the temple available!

Temple Seller 2: Goats on special offer. Give God an extra big sacrifice this week!

Jesus: *(furiously)* This is supposed to be my Father's house. How dare you cheat the people like this! *(Jesus upturns the tables, sending all the money rolling and the money changers and temple sellers get down on their knees and try and pick up the money. They are furious! Caiaphas and Priests are also looking cross. Crowd are caught up in the chaos and try to pick up the money)*

Money-Changer: *(wailing)* My money! My lovely money!

Temple Seller 1: Just how am I supposed to get all my animals back in their cages?

Temple Seller 2: My goats! They've all been let loose!

***** **CD Track 2: Turning Tables (Backing Track 13)** *****

(During this song, Jesus is singing to Caiaphas and Priest who both look uncomfortable.)

Crowd: *He's turning over tables in the temple,
He doesn't like what's going on at all.
He's freeing all the creatures from their cages,
If he's not careful, there'll be such a brawl.*

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He doesn't like what's going on at all.
He's freeing all the creatures from their cages
If he's not careful, there'll be such a brawl.*

Jesus: *You hypocrites, you white-washed tombs!
You steal and lie and cheat.
This is a house of love and prayer,
Not a place for common thieves!*

(Exit all except Caiaphas, Priest 1 and Priest 2, taking all items off stage)

Caiaphas: *(to the Priest)* We can't have this kind of behaviour in God's house. Who does this Jesus think he is?

Priest 1: But how can we get rid of him? We can't arrest him in daylight. There would be an outcry.

Priest 2: *(Thinking deeply)* We need an insider to help us get to him, but who?

(Enter Judas, looking shifty and guilty)

Judas: I think I might be able to help you.

Caiaphas *(snootily)* Why on earth would we need your help?

***** **CD Track 3: Cough Up The Cash (Backing Track 14)** *****

(Judas and Priests act out the words of the song as it is sung. The priests and elders give Judas thirty pieces of silver.)

Judas: *What will you give me, cough up the cash,
He's worth a fair bit, so show me your stash!
I'll show you Jesus cos I'm his friend
He won't suspect me, you just tell me when.*

Caiaphas: *We won't be stopped if we go at night,
You give him a kiss and we'll get him all right.
30 pieces to sell your friend?
We know that "King Jesus" will soon meet his end.*

Judas: *Give me the silver, cough up the cash,
I won't hand him over till I get your stash.
I'll show you Jesus cos I'm his friend
He won't suspect me, just you tell me when.*

Caiaphas: *(looking very pleased with himself and counting the money into Judas' hand) 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 pieces of silver. Just make sure you show the soldiers clearly where Jesus is. We don't want to arrest the wrong man!*

Judas: *There won't be a problem. Trust me! (Judas puts the silver into the bag.)
(Exit Judas from one side with bag of money, looking pleased. Exit Caiaphas and Priests on other side.)
(Lights go down. Set up a small low table with bread, bowl and a chalice. Jesus is having a meal with Peter, Andrew, John, James, Matthew, Thomas and Judas. Enter David on other side of the stage and crouching in a corner. The disciples are reclining and leaning on elbows around in a circle. Spotlight on David)*

David: *As Jesus had a special Passover meal with his friends, I hid in a corner of the room to hear what was going on. (Jesus wraps a towel around his middle and takes a basin. He starts to wash all the disciple's feet in turn and dries them with the towel. They seem surprised but don't object. Then he goes to wash Peter's feet)*

Peter: *(pulling his feet away) Hey, Jesus! You're not washing my feet. That's a job for a servant, not a master.*

Jesus: *Unless you let me wash your feet you will have no part with me*

Peter: *Very well. Then do wash my feet too.*

(Jesus does so and then unties the towel from his waist. He goes back to his place next to John.)

Jesus: *Do you understand what I have done for you? As I have washed your feet, so you must wash each other's feet. You must love and serve each other. (After saying this, Jesus looks very sad)*

Matthew: *What is the matter, Jesus? You look so sad.*

Jesus: *(sadly) One of you has taken money to betray me. (All the disciples look shocked except Judas)*

Peter: *(signals to John by nudging him) Ask him which one it is.*

John: *Lord, who is it?*

Jesus: *It's the one I give this bread crust to once I've dipped it in the bowl. (He dips the crust into the bowl and then, after a pause, hands it to Judas.)*

Jesus: *(to Judas) Go and do what you must do. (Judas stands up and walks out quickly.)*

James: *Where's Judas off to?*

Thomas: *How should I know? Maybe he's gone to give some money to the poor.
(Spotlight moves onto David)*

David: *(From the corner of the room) The disciples didn't know where Judas was going but Jesus and I did. I didn't understand how Judas could do such a horrible thing, especially to his friend.
(Spotlight moves back onto Last Supper Scene)*

Jesus: Now you know how much I have loved you all. I want you to love each other in the same way. Then everyone will know that you are my special friends. I have to go away very soon to be with my Father in heaven. *(Jesus' friends look sad and puzzled)*

Andrew: But can we come with you? Surely, we can come too?

Jesus: If only it were that simple, Andrew. *(He pauses for a while)*

Peter: Why can't I come with you now? I'd be willing to die for you!

Jesus: There are people in Jerusalem who hate me. I am going to be arrested and nailed to a cross. *(They all look at each other shocked)*

Peter: *(fervently)* I will not let anything like that happen to you Jesus.

Jesus: *(turns and looks sadly at Peter)* Peter, before the cock crows at dawn tomorrow, you will say three times that you never even knew me.

Peter: *(indignantly)* No way! *(while he sings the song the other disciples are nodding in agreement)*

***** **CD Track 4: Promises (Backing Track 15)** *****

Peter: *I'll never turn away, I promise You.
I'm faithful to the end and that's the truth.
I won't deny Your name, though the others turn away
Forever I will stay right next to You.*

*I'll never turn away, I promise You.
I'm faithful to the end and that's the truth.
Your other friends may go but there's one thing you must know
I'll follow You to death, I won't leave You.*

(Spotlight on David)

David: I really hoped Jesus was wrong but I had a funny feeling that he wasn't.

(Spotlight back on Jesus. He takes the loaf of bread, holds it up high and breaks it in two)

Jesus: This is my body. Take it and eat it. It will help you to remember me. *(He passes the bread round to the disciples. They look confused but take a piece of bread and continue to pass it round)*
(Jesus takes a cup of wine) Drink this wine to remember me. *(Jesus passes the wine around and all the disciples take a sip and pass it on. They are very serious)*

***** **CD Track 5: Remember Me (Backing Track 16)** *****

Jesus: *When you eat this bread, remember me
When the wine is poured, remember me.
Soon I won't be here, I'm eating my last meal
Remember, remember me.*

***** **CD Track 16: Remember Me (Instrumental)** *****

(CD plays whilst the scene is cleared and the disciples all exit except Peter, James and John.)

(Spotlight on David. The stage is quite dark He walks across the stage as he is speaking and sits on small chair in original place.)

David: I followed Jesus and his friends to the garden of Gethsemane. His three friends Peter, James and John walked on further with Jesus but the others stayed behind. He was very sad and seemed very stressed.

Jesus: *(speaking to Peter, James and John)* Please stay with me and keep me company.

***** **CD Track 6: Stay with Me (Backing Track 17)** *****

(During this song Jesus acts out this prayer in great torment. It is obvious that he doesn't want to die. Peter, James and John are sitting down. They try to stay awake but gradually fall asleep during this song)

Jesus: *Could you stay and pray with me? It's such a lonely place.
I need you here to comfort me, to see a friendly face
I don't want to go through with this, It's just too much to bear.
If there could be another way, Oh listen, listen to my prayer.*

Jesus: *(going down on this knees and praying desperately)* Father, I don't want to do this. Is there any other way? But I only want what You want. Your will be done. *(He gets up and looks sadly at Peter, James and John who are sleeping.)* Couldn't you even stay awake for one hour? But get up now. The time has come.

(Enter Judas with the Soldiers. They are carrying lanterns and torches to light the way and are armed with clubs and swords.)

Judas: Master! *(going up to Jesus and kissing him on the cheek.. Straight away two of the guards seize Jesus. Peter draws his sword and cuts off the ear of Soldier 1, who cries out in pain, clutching his ear.)*

Soldier 1: You have injured my ear.

Jesus: Peter, this is not the way. I must heal his wound. *(Jesus touches Soldier 1 on the ear and his ear is healed. Soldier 1 feels his ear in disbelief.)*

Soldier 2: There is nothing wrong with your ear!!! Your ear is healed!!

Jesus: *(to the soldiers)* Why do you come with clubs and swords. Every day I was teaching in the temple courts and you didn't arrest me then?

(The disciples are afraid and run away. Jesus allows himself to be taken away by two soldiers)

(Lights go down and come up on courtyard scene. Enter Jesus with tied hands, blindfolded. Peter is hiding in a corner. Soldiers 1, 2 and 3 are taking it in turns to hit Jesus with a stick or whip.)

Soldier 1: *(tauntingly)* Come on, Jesus! Who hit you then? Can you guess who it was?

Soldier 2: *(sarcastically)* Surely you can tell us if you're such a great prophet!

Soldier 3: *(sneering)* Maybe we're not doing it hard enough!

(They all laugh mockingly. Peter is frightened and looks very upset. Soldiers drag Jesus, still blindfolded and obviously in pain, to the side of the stage. Enter Girl, Woman and Man)

***** CD Track 7 : I Know Him (Backing Track 18) *****

Girl: *I've seen that man before, I know I have.
I recognise his face, he was with Jesus.
He comes from Galilee, surely everyone can see,
Don't you believe that he is one of them?*

Peter: *I just don't know who you're talking about!
I don't even know the name!
I just came here to warm my hands,
Don't mention it again!*

Man: *I'm sure I've seen that person before, you know,
He has the kind of face you don't forget.
He isn't from round here for that is very clear.
He's friends with Jesus, I'm prepared to bet!*

Peter: *I just don't know who you're talking about!
I don't even know the name!
I just came here to warm my hands,
Don't mention it again!*

Woman: *You also were with Jesus of Galilee
Your accent surely gives the game away.
I've seen your face before, of that I know I'm sure,
Don't deny you're one of Jesus' mates.*

Peter: *I just don't know who you're talking about!
I don't even know the name!
I just came here to warm my hands,
Don't mention it again!
(Cock crows)*

(When Peter hears the cock crow, he sees Jesus looking straight at him. He falls down and weeps, head in hand and then sadly walks off in despair. Exit Jesus, Woman, Man, Girl, Soldiers and David.. Enter Caiaphas, Priests and crowd. Enter Soldiers 1 and 2 with Jesus who is still tied up.)

END OF FREE SCRIPT PREVIEW