

CLARA'S DREAM

Book and Lyrics by Kitty Beletic

Music by Mike McClain & Kitty Beletic

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2015 Old Orchard Drive
Dallas, TX 75208
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

CLARA STAHLBAUM: Twelve years old. Fanciful & obedient. A dreamer. Personifies the child in all of us. Loves beauty and therefore sees beauty in all people and things.

JOHANN STAHLBAUM: Abundant and full of life. His family is his treasure. Light-hearted, loved by all. Grandiose, full of surprises. Playful. A storyteller. mid 30's.

EVA STAHLBAUM: Abundant, but with reserve. Intuitive and sensitive. Lets her husband be the life of the party. Stable and very giving. A good listener. Very grounded and down to earth. Gracious. Always a lady. 30ish.

FRITZ STAHLBAUM: Ten years old. Obviously the youngest child. Often gets his way to avoid conflict. A bit spoiled. Loves his sister but takes advantage of being younger. Tries to be "grown up" but lets the little boy come out when HE doesn't get his way. Wants to be just like his father. Fears Uncle Drosselmeier somewhat.

UNCLE DROSSELMEIER: Abundant, like his brother-in-law Johann. Dramatic and possesses great style. Likes to tease and is also a great storyteller. Very fanciful. Kind but only to those he loves. Hasn't much time for others. Fiercely loyal to family. Any age.

ADOLPH DROSSELMEIER: Eva's nephew. Charming and handsome. Winning personality. A favorite of the Stahlbaum family. Teases children, especially Clara, who adores him.

MOUSE KING:	The enemy in Clara's dream. Personifies. The fears of the adult world.
MRS. MOUSERINKS:	Represents Clara's mother in her dream.
MR. MOUSERINKS:	Represents Clara's father in her dream.
WOLFGANG MOUSERINKS:	Represents Clara's brother in her dream.
LUCY MOUSERINKS:	Represents Clara in her dream.
NUTCRACKER PRINCE:	Represents Adolph Drosselmeier in Clara's dream. Her champion and hero.
SUGAR PLUM FAIRY:	Represents Clara's guardian angel. Personifies the beauty Clara sees in life.
DANCERS:	Chinese, Russian, Spanish dancers. Entertain Clara in her dream. Represent good.
MOUSERATS:	Mouse King's troops and cronies. Represent the effect of evil.
SOLDIERS:	The army of the Nutcracker Prince. Represent the effect of good.
PIXIES/FAIRIES:	Messengers of the Sugar Plum Fairy. Represent the innocence of children.
PARTY GUESTS, SERVANTS, CAROLERS:	Chorus for opening and closing numbers.

SETTING

Takes place in Germany, 1800's. Old world Europe spared no expense at Christmas time. Rich or poor, there was always money for celebration of the Christmas spirit.

SYNOPSIS

The annual Christmas Eve party at the Stahlbaum residence is festive and abundant in all ways. Full of Christmas cheer, there is an ominous moment when Uncle Drosselmeier warns of being ungrateful. Most ignore his warning, but Clara, who is impressionable and sensitive takes heed and is introduced through her own imagination to a world both dark and light. She is reassured by both her mother and her cousin Adolph. She attaches herself to "The Nutcracker", an inanimate gift from her beloved Uncle Drosselmeier. In an argument with her brother, the Nutcracker is broken. Uncle Drosselmeier promises to fix him. Clara falls asleep beside the Christmas tree, the nutcracker in her arms. She dreams a fantastic dream (Act II) of good and evil. Her dream takes her to a beautiful place called "The Christmas Wood" which is her own living room transposed into this magical place. She is led through her dream by her adored Nutcracker Prince, who shows Clara the beautiful and dark sides of her imagination. In a grand battle Nutcracker Prince & Soldiers vs. Mouse King and Mice (love vs. fear), love conquers all and she awakens (Act III) to find her Nutcracker Prince repaired and as good as new.

NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT

Clara exclaims, "If wishing could make it so!" and is both encouraged and discouraged to look at life through such innocent eyes. A child blessed with the power to see beauty in all things, we learn through Clara's dream that our wishes can only become reality if we live them. Look for the beauty in life and choose wisely as you grow.

DEDICATION

This writing is dedicated to my nieces - Betsy and Callie, Sarah, Nikki, Jenna, Katie, Elise, Alexandra, and Joanna - and to my nephew, Sebastian. They are special people, as their parents have a special place in my life. I love them all and if wishing could make it so, I would see them more often than I do. . .

ACT I

SCENE I

SETTING:

The Stahlbaum living room

AT RISE:

In the blackout, EVA and
JOHANN STAHLBAUM speak.

EVA

I made almond cake cookies and tea cakes. There are chocolate cream puffs and
gingersnaps.

JOHANN

Yah.

EVA

The strudel was difficult this year because of the apple shortage, but I found some in
the market at the west end of town. So, we have strudel.

JOHANN

Yah.

EVA

And Johann, I have also made your favorite, the Christmas Stollen!

JOHANN

Yah. . . .

(Spotlight up on CLARA and FRITZ who are in next
room. FRITZ has his ear against the wall,
listening)

CLARA

What are they saying? Are they talking about the gifts yet?

FRITZ

Shhhhhh! I can't hear while you are talking!

CLARA

Oh.

1-1-2

(Still in blackout)

EVA

Are you listening, Johann? I am talking about the menu for the party and I really need your attention. Johann? What are you doing over there?

(Lights up on living room. JOHANN is hiding EVA's gift. EVA walks slowly toward JOHANN as he speaks)

JOHANN

I am doing nothing, liebschen. Much of nothing. Of course I am listening. You said something about almond cookies and tea cakes. Could we also have my favorite, the Christmas Stollen? You know I....aaaaayyyyyyyyyy.....

(EVA has sneaked up behind JOHANN to see what he is doing. As SHE leans around him, HE is surprised and nearly falls over trying to hide her present)

EVA

Johann. Are you trying to surprise me again this year?

JOHANN

No. Ahem. I am merely inspecting your wrapping. A very good job this time, my dear. You know, you are quite proficient.

EVA

(Smiling)

I am proficient, my darling, and YOU are not good at surprises.

JOHANN

Surprises? Surprises, liebschen? Whatever are you saying? I have no surprises. You see, nothing up my sleeve.

EVA

(Looks up his sleeve)

You are right, Johann. There is nothing there. But I see something over there. . .

(Tries to see her gift. HE cuts her off)

1-1-3

JOHANN

You know, I haven't received my Christmas kiss as yet, my love.

EVA

(Knows he is stalling. Still tries to see gift)

That's because it's not Christmas yet.

JOHANN

Did I say Christmas? I meant, Christmas Eve. . .

(Corners her)

EVA

Oh Johann. . .

(CLARA and FRITZ are still listening. FRITZ makes a face)

CLARA

What are they saying NOW, Fritz? Not fair! You get too long a turn!

FRITZ

They are being ooshy-mooshy. You can take your turn now!

(CLARA puts her ear against the wall)

EVA

(Giggling)

Oh Johann, the guests will be here any minute! And we have not yet spoken about the gifts for the children.

CLARA

Aahhhhh....

FRITZ

What? What do you hear, Clara?

1-1-4

JOHANN

(Relieved EVA has changed the subject)

Oh my dear, I think we have plenty for them. Look here, there is the . . .

(Speaks in muffled tones. CLARA tries desperately to hear.

CLARA

I can't hear what they are saying!

FRITZ

Have they left the room? Are they whispering? Let ME listen, Clara!

CLARA

You had a turn.

FRITZ

But you can't hear them. I have better ears than you. Let ME listen!

(Pushes his way to the wall)

EVA

I think they will BOTH be very happy!

JOHANN

Yah.

FRITZ

Awwwww.....

CLARA

What?!

FRITZ

We missed it. Just like last year. It's all your fault, Clara!

CLARA

1-1-5

MY fault! I did nothing wrong!

FRITZ

If you had only let me finish my turn, I would have heard it all.

CLARA

If you hadn't argued so with me, I would have been able to hear more clearly!

(JOHANN shows EVA two giant candy canes)

EVA

(Very Loud)

Oooohhhhhhhh, Johann. They will be SO surprised!

(CLARA and FRITZ both hurry to the wall)

BOTH

What did she say?

(Clock strikes 8:00)

JOHANN

Ooop! There goes the timepiece. The guests will be here any moment. How do I look, my dear?

EVA

As handsome as a prince. And I?

JOHANN

As beautiful as snow on Christmas Eve. . .

(THEY begin to snuggle again. Doorbell)

EVA, JOHANN, CLARA, FRITZ

They're here!

1-1-6

(MUSIC CUE/"Christmas Eve". Enter guests as butler shows them in during song. Servants and butler are part of chorus as guests arrive,

remove their coats, etc. and bring gifts to put under the giant Christmas tree. EVA sends someone to get children during song)

SONG - CHRISTMAS EVE/CHORUS PRODUCTION

ALL

FALLING SNOW ON CHRISTMAS EVE
THE SNOW IS FALLING FALLING FALLING
FA LA LA LA FA LA LA LA
FA LA LA LA FA LA LA LA

FALLING SNOW ON CHRISTMAS EVE
BRINGS HAPPY TIMES AND MEMORIES
OF DAYS GONE BY AND DAYS TO BE
WE VISIT WITH OUR FAMILY AND
GATHER ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
NO OTHER NIGHT BRINGS JOY LIKE CHRISTMAS EVE

FEELINGS OF GOOD CHEER
SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

FRIENDS WHO CALL ON CHRISTMAS EVE
BRING CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND CHRISTMAS TREATS
AND CAROLS SOUND FROM EVERY STREET
GOODWILL TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE
A TIME FOR LOVE A TIME TO SHARE
NO OTHER NIGHT BRINGS JOY LIKE CHRISTMAS EVE

JOHANN & EVA

(The STAHLBAUMS greet their guests aloud over music. EVA remembers the children. Sends one of the other children to get them. KEY CHANGE is cue for CLARA & FRITZ entrance)

Good evening, friends. Welcome. Merry Christmas. Oh, my how you have grown! . . .ad lib

EVA

Johann! The children! (EVA asks a child to get CLARA & FRITZ. KEY CHANGE)

1-1-7

ALL

FALLING SNOW ON CHRISTMAS EVE
BRINGS HAPPY TIMES AND MEMORIES
OF DAYS GONE BY AND DAYS TO BE
WE VISIT WITH OUR FAMILY
AND GATHER ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
NO OTHER NIGHT BRINGS JOY LIKE CHRISTMAS EVE
FEELING JOY AND LOVE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

(After song, PARTY GUESTS and SERVANTS continue
to mingle)

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ACT 2 – SCENE 1

The Mouserinks family is getting ready on Christmas Eve. It is a tradition to dance “Ring Around the Rosey”

WOLFGANG

But we didn’t dance the Rosey!

MR. & MRS. MOUSERINKS

(As if it is a real problem)

OH!

MR. MOUSERINKS

Well, I suppose if we must.

MRS. MOUSERINKS

It IS a Mouserinks Christmas Eve tradition. . .

WOLFGANG & LUCY

Please? Pleeeeease???

MR. & MRS. MOUSERINKS

All right.

CLARA

What is the Rosey?

LUCY

It is a dance we mice do every Christmas Eve.

WOLFGANG

Before we put out our mittens for treats.

MR. MOUSERINKS

Hurry now. We mustn't dawdle. It isn't safe frolicking about the Christmas Wood at this hour.

CLARA

May I dance the Rosey, too?

MRS. MOUSERINKS

Of course you can!

(MUSIC CUE)

MR. MOUSERINKS

Watch the first round and then if you can, join in!

SONG - RING AROUND THE ROSEY ROUND/
MOUSERINKS, CLARA, MOUSERATS

MOUSERINKS

RING AROUND THE ROSEY
CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS
RING AROUND THE ROSEY
CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS

POCKETFUL OF CHEER
WE DANCE AROUND
CHRISTMAS ALMOST HERE
WE ALL FALL DOWN!

MRS. MOUSERINKS

Come join us, Clara!

LUCY, WOLFGANG, MR.

Yes, come on, Clara!

ALL

RING AROUND THE ROSEY
CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS
RING AROUND THE ROSEY
CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS

POCKETFUL OF CHEER
WE DANCE AROUND
CHRISTMAS ALMOST HERE
WE ALL FALL DOWN!

(Enter MOUSERATS, singing)

WHAT IS ALL THE RACKET WHO'S MAKING ALL THE RACKET
WE ARE VERY TIRED AND WE WANT TO HIT THE SACK WHO'S
MAKING ALL THE RACKET DISTURBING ALL THE RATS WHO'S
MAKING ALL THE NOISE AND PLAYING GAMES.

MOUSERINKS

(Ad lib. . ."Get in the circle! Come on or you'll
miss your turn, Clara!")

RING AROUND THE ROSEY	RING AROUND THE ROSEY
TREATS AND SWEETS	ON CHRISTMAS EVE
RING AROUND THE ROSEY	RING AROUND THE ROSEY
MOUSERINKS DANCE	ON CHRISTMAS EVE

MOUSERATS

WHO IS OUT HERE LAUGHING WHO IS OUT HERE DANCING
WHO IS HAVING FUN INSTEAD OF CATCHING FORTY WINKS WHO'S
MAKING ALL THE RACKET DISTURBING ALL THE RATS WHO'S
MAKING ALL THE NOISE AND PLAYING GAMES.

MOUSERINKS

(Become aware of someone else)

RING AROUND THE ROSEY	SOMEONE ELSE IS HERE
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MOUSERATS

WHO IS HAVING FUN INSTEAD OF CATCHING FORTY WINKS

RING-AROUND-A-ROSY (Cont'd)

MOUSERINKS

RING AROUND THE ROSEY	POCKETFUL OF FEAR
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MOUSERATS

WHO'S MAKING ALL THE NOISE AND PLAYING GAMES

2-1-9

(THEY see each other. Squaring off before
MOUSERATS chase MOUSERINKS away. Sing at
the same time)

MOUSERINKS

RING AROUND THE ROSEY	POCKETFUL OF FEAR
NO MORE TREATS ON	CHRISTMAS EVE
RING AROUND THE ROSEY	LOOK WHO'S HERE
MOUSERINKS STOP	ON CHRISTMAS EVE
MOUSERINKS RUN!	

MOUSERATS

WHO IS OUT HERE LAUGHING WHO IS OUT HERE DANCING
WHO IS HAVING FUN INSTEAD OF CATCHING FORTY WINKS WHO'S
MAKING ALL THE RACKET DISTURBING ALL THE RATS WHO'S
MAKING ALL THE NOISE AND PLAYING GAMES
WHOEVER'S MAKING NOISE HAD BETTER RUN!

(MOUSERINKS run on cue and MOUSERATS run after them
trying to frighten them. End song laughing and making
fun of MOUSERINKS. CLARA hides behind Christmas Tree.
Enter MOUSE KING on end of song)