

THE LITTLE COMET

A Christmas Play for Children in One Act and Four Scenes

Christmastime, 1953 – c. 1957

By The Rev. Thomas Van Braam Barrett
Pastor, R. E. Lee Episcopal Church

MR. BARRETT'S FOREWORD: *This little play was first produced by several grades of public school children. One of the problems was to have a simple play with a very large cast . . . about 150 children. We had a large stage, and could therefore use many children in the choruses of Angels, Raindrops, Snowflakes, etc., as they do not all have to appear at once. In the finale we were able to crowd the stage with the entire company by having the Raindrops, Stars and Snowflakes come up from down stage left and right and kneel along the stage apron, without covering the manger scene at stage center. It is not necessary however to have such a crowd, nor is it essential to have them all on stage at the finale.*

About ten children, with some of them doubling if necessary, would be sufficient for the choruses of Angels, Raindrops, Snowflakes, and Children at the Inn scene. But the play is easier to produce, I think, if there are many children of all ages available, as in a Sunday School, or the early grades of Public School. Since the lines are not extensive for any one child, the play is probably most suitable for young children. For example:

*Snowflakes . . . 1st grade children
Raindrops . . . 1st or 2nd grade children
Angels . . . 3rd grade, or 4th grade
Stars . . . 3rd grade*

Speaking Parts . . . The oldest and brightest . . . 3rd or 4th grades

In many cases boys' and girls' parts are inter-changeable. Actually the stars can be either male or female, as could the angels and other chorus members. Small Comet should be a boy, I think, but we had no boy capable of a fine performance, so a girl played the part. Mars, Jupiter, Great Starmaker, Shepherds, Kings, and Innkeeper should be played by boys.

Mr. Barrett originally wrote "The Little Comet" in 1953 for the Ann Smith School Christmas pageant. Later, in 1957 or 1958, he slightly revised it for a performance at R. E. Lee Episcopal Church (for instance, adding an allusion to the Soviet Union Sputnik satellite, launched late in 1957). Not all of the earlier version is known to be extant, and it is this later version that we reprint here. He used the names "Little Comet" and "Small Comet" interchangeably.

SCENE 1:

THE COUNTRY OF THE STARS

GREAT STARMAKER: Good evening, star-children. It is time to go to work. But before you set out, I would like someone to volunteer for a long dangerous journey.

MARS [*taking a step toward STARMAKER*]: Where to?

GR. STARMAKER: To earth. It will take thousands of years to get there.

JUPITER [*coming down stage to STARMAKER*]: I cannot go. It is a dismal place I hear. All filled with mud and dinosaurs, and spiders.

SATURN [*as the GREAT STARMAKER looks around*]: Not me. I have all I can do to keep my rings flying around me.

SATELLITE: Me neither. I have to follow Neptune around.

ORION: I'd never got there with these seven parasites hanging on to my belt. [*He indicates PARASITES with some annoyance.*]

SMALL COMET: I'll go, Sir. What's the name of the place?

GREAT STARMAKER: To tell the truth, it has no name yet. Here's about where you go. By the time you get there it will have a name. Bethlehem. The journey will take a great deal of faith and courage. Be sure your lantern is bright.

SMALL COMET: Yes Sir.

GR. STARMAKER: When you get there, just sit on a cloud and watch; and make your lantern shine brightly. You will know when it is time to come home.

SATELLITE: You want to play some marbles before we go to work?

SMALL COMET: Not me. I've got responsibilities. I must polish my lantern.

ALL THE STARS [*come toward stage front and polish up lanterns as they sing*]:

IN THE COUNTRY OF THE STARS *

* An original song written by Mr. Barrett; words and lyrics apparently lost, except for this verse, recalled by the Little Comet, Lisa Tracy:

*We travel twenty million miles
From sunset until dawn
We always start out with a smile
And come back with a yawn . . .*

Thomas Van Braam Barrett was born in 1907 in Schenectady, N.Y., the son of an Episcopal priest. After graduation from Amherst College and from the General Theological Seminary in New York, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1937. He received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Washington and Lee University in 1954 and an honorary Doctorate of Sacred Theology from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific at Berkeley, Calif., in 1976.

In 1951 he was called to Lexington, where for nine years he was rector of R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church. In 1959, he left Lexington to become rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Fla., and in 1963 he was appointed professor of pastoral theology at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, California. There he remained until his retirement in 1976. In 1977, Tom Barrett returned to Lexington, but it was not to be for long: On the day before New Year's Eve he suffered a fatal heart attack. He is buried in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery.

47 **What Star Is This?**
L. M.
PUER NOBIS
Unison, in flowing style
Adapted by MICHAEL PRAETORIUS, 1609,
har. by GEORGE R. WOODWARD, 1904

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, More beau - teous
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far Who told the
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; With - in them
*4 Their love can brook no dull de - lay, Though toil and

than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald forth the
rise of Ja - cob's star; And east - ern sa - ges with a -
shines a clear - er light, And leads them on with power be -
dan - ger block the way; Home, kin - dred, fa - ther - land, and

King, And Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.
maze Up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
nign To seek the Giv - er of the sign.
all, They leave at their Cre - a - tor's call. A - men.

CHORUS sings WHAT STAR IS THIS? HYMN 47.

CURTAIN

SCENE 2:

YEARS LATER. SOMEPLACE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

VENUS: Do you think everybody can see me from here?

MARS [not moving a muscle]: They ought to. You're dolled up like a ten-cent store window.

JUPITER: What time is it? [stifles yawn]

ORION: Early. You've got hours yet before you can go home.

SATURN: I wish I had a Pepsi-Cola.

Enter SMALL COMET

SMALL COMET: Whew! What a night. It isn't fit for man or beast. [pause] Where am I? [looks around] Oh! Only half way. Which road do I take to earth?

MARS: There's the bell. The Sun's gone down. Let's get going.

VENUS: Oh, I *do* look so beautiful.

JUPITER: Oh, Venus! This is no time for vanity.

SATURN: Come on, rings. Here we go. Hang on tight.

ORION: Get in position, get in position. Do you want to look like the Big Dipper? For *shame!*

SATELLITE: Get going, Neptune. I can't move until you do. Good luck, Small Comet.

OTHER STARS: Good luck, Small Comet.

LARGE STAR: Come on there, come on . . . get in formation. All aboard for the Milky Way.

Saturn: You mean orbit, don't you?

SMALL COMET: Orbit . . . road . . . route . . . I'm not fussy. Which way?

ORION: Orbit 307 A, I think. That way. [He points to upstage left]

MARS: No, no. That way. [He points down stage rt.] Orbit 220. I know. I've got brighter eyes than the rest of you. Besides I'm closer to the earth.

JUPITER: Avoid Orbit 222. You might hit a Russian satellite.

SNOWFLAKES enter and dance — sing

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM

SNOWFLAKES: *How far is it to Bethlehem?*

STARS: *Not very far.*

SNOWFLAKES: *Shall we find the stable-room, Lit by a star?*

Can we see the little Child? Is He within?

If we lift the wooden latch, May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,

STARS: *Ox, ass, or sheep?*

SNOWFLAKES: *May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?*

If we touch His tiny hand, Will He awake?

Will He know we've come so far, Just for His sake?

RAINDROPS enter and sing with rest:

RAINDROPS: *Great Kings have precious gifts.*

STARS: *And we have naught;*

RAINDROPS: *Little smiles and little tears, Are all we brought.*

RAINDROPS & STARS: *For all weary children, Mary must weep Here on His bed of straw — Sleep, children, sleep.*

RAINDROPS, SNOWFLAKES AND STARS: *God in His Mother's arms Babes in the byre,*

Sleep as they sleep who find

Their heart's desire.

HOW FAR IS IT TO BETHLEHEM

*How far is it to Bethlehem?
Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room
Lit by a star?*

*Can we see the little Child?
Is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch
May we go in?*

*May we stroke the creatures there
Ox, ass, or sheep?
May we peep like them and see
Jesus asleep?*

*If we touch His tiny hand
Will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far
Just for His sake?*

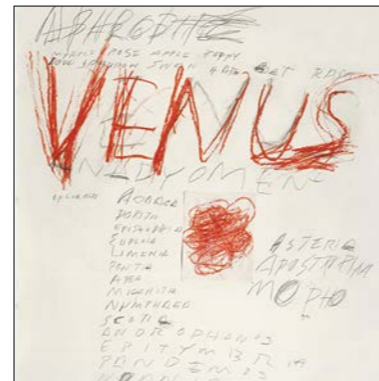
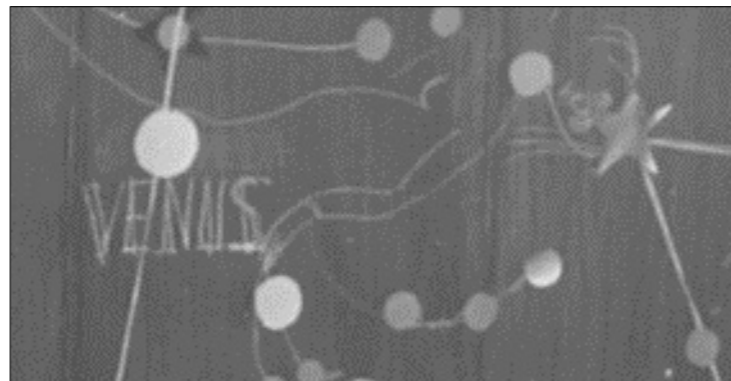
*Great kings have precious gifts
And we have naught
Little smiles and little tears
Are all we brought.*

*For all weary children
Mary must weep
Here, on His bed of straw
Sleep, children, sleep.*

*God in His mother's arms
Babes in the byre
Sleep, as they sleep who find
Their heart's desire.*



Children of Ann Smith School performed “The Little Comet” on the Lexington High School stage, 1953. The backdrop is by the noted artist Cy Twombly (1928–2011), 25 years old at the time, who grew up in Lexington and lived here for much of the last part of his life. The preeminent Miss Mary Monroe Penick memorably directed the music. Photo courtesy of David Coffey, via Special Collections, Washington and Lee University Library.



Twombly, Two Venuses, 1953 and 1975. Left: excerpt from curtain backdrop, “The Little Comet”; right, exhibited at Centre Pompidou, Paris

[After song they dance toward stage left. SMALL COMET gets scooter, peers under his hand, off right.]

SMALL COMET: Well, there's no use waiting for good weather this time of year. *[raises lantern like a sword]* On to Bethlehem. *[starts up rt.]* I'll make it somehow. *[Exits up rt, as SNOWFLAKES and RAINDROPS scurry after him, and ANGEL CHORUS enters from left.]*

ANGEL CHORUS and STARS sing
IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER, HYMN 44

Click [here](#) to play King's College, Cambridge, youth choir performance of
IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER (YouTube)

CURTAIN

SCENE 3:

AT THE INN. A LONG WHILE LATER

CHILDREN: *Deck the halls with boughs of holly — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.*

'Tis the season to be jolly — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Don we now our gay apparel — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Fast away the old year passes — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Sing we joyous all together — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Heedless of the wind and weather — Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

JOSEPH and MARY appear

JOSEPH: Mary, here is a little inn. We can get a room for the night. *[He raps on door.]*

JEANETTE *[a small girl dressed as a maid goes to the door at stage rt.]*

What do you want?

JOSEPH: I'd like a room for the night. For my wife and me.

JEANETTE: We're all filled up . . . I'm sorry.

JOSEPH: But we are very tired.

JEANETTE: I'm sorry, but there is no room. We haven't anything left.

INNKEEPER: Who is it, Jeanette?

JEANETTE: A man and woman. *[She turns to the Innkeeper]* Country people. They want a room.

INNKEEPER *[goes to door]:* We don't have a single room left. We don't have any kind of a room. Sorry. You'll have to go some place else.

JOSEPH: But my wife is not feeling well. I can pay you.

INNKEEPER: I tell you, there's not a place to be had. *[He pauses a moment]* You could go into the stable if you want to. *[He closes the door, as Joseph and Mary turn away and exit up rt.]*

[The children get on with their play and sing NO ROOM IN THE INN]:

CHILDREN: *They sought entertainment, but none could they find;*

Great numbers of strangers had filled up the Inn.

They knocked and called, all this at the door,

But found not a friend where in kind they had store.

Their kindred accounted, they come were too soon,

"Too late," said the innkeeper, "Here is no room."

Amongst strangers and kinsfolk cold welcome they find,

From the rich to the poor they are mostly unkind.

[During the song the lights come up a little]

1ST CHILD: Look, it's getting brighter outside.

2ND CHILD *[running up stage to look out window]:* It's a light. In the sky.

3RD CHILD: Maybe it's the end of the world. *[Other CHILDREN stop playing and all stand still, half-frightened, as a knock is heard (or imagined) on the door at the right. THREE SHEPHERDS have entered from down right and are standing at the door. If desired the knock can be achieved by the rapping of a SHEPHERD's staff on the floor.]*

JEANETTE *[goes to the door and speaks in a frightened tone of voice]:* Who's there?

1ST SHEPHERD *[loudly]:* Shepherds from the hills.

2ND SHEPHERD: We have news.

3RD SHEPHERD: Open the door!

[JEANETTE opens the door, as ISABELLA, another maid, comes to stand behind her for moral support, and the INNKEEPER rises from his bench and stands waiting beside it]

1ST SHEPHERD *[crossing to Innkeeper]:* We were sitting in the hills keeping watch over our flocks.

2ND SHEPHERD: A bright star came down the sky.

3RD SHEPHERD *[close behind the 2ND]:* It looked to us as if it stopped right over the stable out there. *[He motions over his shoulder with his thumb]*

1ST SHEPHERD: And a voice from heaven told us to come to Bethlehem.

2ND SHEPHERD: This is Bethlehem, isn't it?

ISABELLA *[crosses to shepherd]:* Yes. What there is of it. It's just a whistle-stop.

JEANETTE: Why, Isabella!

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella 319
BRING A TORCH Irregular

Traditional French carol (?) Harm. by E. Cuthbert Nunn (1868-1914)
Trans. by E. Cuthbert Nunn (1868-1914); alt., 1972 Alt. in *Pilgrim Hymnal*, 1958

1. Bring a torch, Jean-nette, Is - a - bel - la! Bring a torch, to the
2. It is wrong when the child is sleep - ing, It is wrong to
3. Soft - ly to the lit - tle sta - ble, Soft - ly for a

cra - dle run! It is Je - sus, good folk of the vil - lage;
talk so loud; Si - lence, all, as you gath - er a - round,
mo - ment come; Look and see how charm - ing is Je - sus,

Christ is born and Mar - y's call - ing. Ah! ah! beau - ti - ful
Lest your noise should wak - en Je - sus. Hush! hush! see how
How he is warm, his cheeks are ros - y. Hush! hush! see how the

is the moth - er! Ah! ah! beau - ti - ful is her Son!
fast he slum - bers; Hush! hush! see how fast he sleeps!
child is sleep - ing; Hush! hush! see how he smiles in dreams.

[When the children begin to sing, the line “Christ is born and Mary’s calling,” they start out up rt., not running, but without losing very much time.]

CURTAIN

SCENE 4:
AT THE MANGER

[As curtain opens, JOSEPH and MARY are down center, or a little left of center. MARY is seated on a stool looking down into a cradle in which there is a light. A step ladder down left. JOSEPH stands behind her looking down at the cradle over her right shoulder. They remain very still as ANGEL CHORUS comes up from left. ANGELS grouped on stage left sing:

OF THE FATHER’S LOVE BEGOTTEN:

*Of the Father’s love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,*

3RD SHEPHERD: Well, you’d better all come out to the stable. Something wonderful is going to happen. Maybe it’s happened already. [He turns to go and hesitates as INNKEEPER speaks]

INNKEEPER: There’s nobody there but some country people, and the animals. But we might as well take a look if you say there’s a star out there. [rises] Come, Jeannette, Isabella. Bring a torch. [JEANNETTE and ISABELLA run off left and return immediately with torches. (safe ones). The INNKEEPER has started to follow the shepherds out up right. The children sing:]

BRING A TORCH, JEANNETTE,
ISABELLA

*He is Alpha and Omega
He the source, the ending He.
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore!
O that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race;
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!*

[As the ANGELS finish singing, SMALL COMET comes wheeling in from down left. He is obviously very tired. He looks at map, then at step-ladder.]

SMALL COMET: Whew! I’m tired. And sleepy, too. [looks at map again] I guess this is the right place. [He parks his scooter and climbs ladder, sitting on top.] It sure was farther than I thought. [He becomes drowsy, and during the rest of the scene he has stage business of polishing lantern and trying to keep awake.]

JOSEPH: Are you all right, my dear?

MARY: Yes, my husband. Isn’t our son beautiful? [She sings:]

JOSEPH DEAREST, JOSEPH MINE

*Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine
Help me cradle the Child divine;
God reward thee and all that’s thine, in Paradise,
As prays the mother Mary.*

JOSEPH: Gladly, dear one, lady mine,
Help I cradle this Child of thine;
God’s own light on us both shall shine in Paradise,
As prays the mother Mary.

ANGEL CHORUS: *He came among us at Christmas tide
At Christmas tide in Bethlehem;
Men shall bring Him from far and wide
Love’s diadem;
Jesus, Jesus,
Lo, He comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us.*

[If so desired other verse may be sung as solos by different ANGELS, with chorus sung by all the ANGELS. After the song the SHEPHERDS enter quietly from up rt. They are followed by the INNKEEPER. All take positions as in diagram appendix [not

JOSEPH DEAREST, JOSEPH MINE

TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL

Moderately

Chords: F, Bb, F, F, Gm, C7, Gm/D, C

Lyrics:
 Jo - seph, dear - est Jo - seph mine, help me cra - dle the
 Glad - ly, Moth - er Mar - y mine, will I rock the
 Babe di - vine. Sing to Him a lull - a - bye: "Now
 Babe di - vine. While I sing a lull - a - bye: "O

found]. JEANETTE and ISABELLA come in a moment later, followed by the CHILDREN, who are singing 4th verse of BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE, ISABELLA.]

CHILDREN: Softly the little stable

Softly for a moment came;

Look and see how charming is Jesus,

How He is white, His cheeks are rosy!

Hush! Hush! See how the Child is sleeping;

Hush! Hush! See how He smiles in dreams.

[The CHILDREN take positions as in diagram, during the song.]

INNKEEPER: I see nothing so unusual.

JEANETTE: O, a little baby.

INNKEEPER: That's not unusual.

SMALL COMET [he is awake and watching scene]: There must be something unusual about Him. I've come a million miles just to be here. [Polishes lantern and peers down]

1ST SHEPHERD: Do you suppose it's the Saviour?

INNKEEPER: Uh, the Baby?

2ND SHEPHERD: It might be.

INNKEEPER [dubiously]: Born in a stable?

SHEPHERDS, CHILDREN and ANGELS sing

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

What Child is this, who laid to rest

On Mary's lap is sleeping.

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet

While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds

guard, and angels sing.

Haste, Haste to

bring Him laud,

The Babe, the son of

Mary,

[Here THREE KINGS,

finely robed, enter

up left, or from au-

ditorium and pro-

ceed through the

crowd to the cradle,

and after offering

their gifts, take po-

sitions in diagram

as the others on

stage sing another

verse of:

WHAT CHILD IS

THIS?

So bring Him in-

cense, gold, and

myrrh —

Chords: Em, G, D, Bm, Em, C, B7, Em, G, D, Bm, Em, G, D, Bm, Em, C, B7, G, D, Bm, Em, C, B7, Em, Bm, Em, B7, Em

Lyrics:
 What Child is this who, laid to rest On Ma - ry's
 Why lies He in such mean es - tate, Where ox and
 So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh, Come pea - sant,
 lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ass - are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for
 king to own Him; The King of kings sal -
 an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing?
 va - tion brings, Let lo - ving hearts en - throne Him.
 This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be
 Raise, raise a song on high, The vir - gin
 guard and an - gels sing; Haste, haste, to bring Him
 borne for me, for you. Hail, hail the Word made
 sings her lul - la - by. Joy, joy for Christ is
 laud, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry.
 flesh, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry.
 born, The Babe, the Son of Ma - ry.

Come, peasant, King, to own Him
 The King of Kings salvation brings,
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
 Haste, Haste, to bring Him laud,
 The Babe, the Son of Mary.

SMALL COMET [after song is finished]: Well, I guess I was sent to light the way. [starts to climb down from the ladder] I think my work is done, now. I'd better go home and get some sleep.

GREAT STARMAKER [enters down left and goes to SMALL COMET]: Well done, good and faithful little servant. From now on you shall be called The Star of Bethlehem.

SMALL COMET: It was very nice to be here. Thank you for allowing me to come. [He picks up scooter]

GREAT STARMAKER: The way home will be easier. You may pass through Jupiter's orbit. And the streets will be cleared through the city of the Milky Way. If you hear music, it will be in your honor, my little one. And especially in His.

SMALL COMET: Oh thank you sir. [He starts out left as the whole company begins to sing:

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

[SMALL COMET stops just before exit, turns toward cradle and lifts lantern high in a salute, and then exits. The audience (or congregation) may join in second verse.]

Click [here](#) here to play the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performance of
 O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (YouTube)

[If there is room upstage or downstage at sides of apron, SNOWFLAKES, STARS, RAIN-DROPS may enter for finale:]

O Come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
 Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
 O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
 O come let us adore Him, Christ the lord.
 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
 Glory to God, in the highest;
 O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
 O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

[The CURTAIN closes at the end of the Hymn.]

THE ANN SMITH SCHOOL
 presents
THE LITTLE COMET

a Christmas play by Thomas V. Barrett
 Lexington High School Auditorium - December 19, 1953

OVERTURE ----- March of the Little Lead Soldiers -----Pierne
 ----- Badinage -----Herbert
 ----- Legend of the Bells -----Planquette
 ----- Away in a Manger -----Martin Luther

Majorettes - Susan Tyree and Susan Swink

THE PLAY

Scene 1 -- THE COUNTRY OF THE STARS

The Great Star Maker - Billy McCann
 The Little Comet - Lisa Tracy
 Mars - Bobby Adams; Jupiter - Freddie Clark; Saturn - Richard Griffith;
 Satellite - Stewart Barns; Neptune - Tony Arehart; Orion - Ralph Hitchens;
 Venus - Suzanne Barksdale
 Parasites - Bonnie Gordon, Thelma Broughman, Percy Light, Doris Moore,
 Eddie Swink, Cabell Tutwiler 3rd
 Big Dipper - David Coffey, Fonzia Southers, Harvey Cupp, Butch Straub,
 David Smith
 Little Dipper - Anne Higgins, Sammy Donald, Stanley Mays, Billy Flint
 Rings - Norman Claytor, Martha Houston Harlow, Stephen Coleman, Alice Harper
 Milky Way - Nanette Lord, Sue Dollman, Shirley Bryson, Doris Clark

MUSIC - In the Country of the Stars - Words and Music by Thomas V. Barrett

ANGEL CHORUS: Ellen Barrett, Phyllis Bennington, Laura Berry,
 Betty Bryson, Ann Cook, Jane Dunlap, Andrea Hamilton,
 Betty Irons, Pat Hartis, Mary Lou Simons, Patricia Smith,
 David Driscoll, Fran Bloxton, Larry Brown, Jackie Connon,
 Bobby Claytor, Jerry Fix, Aldwin Hight, Wilfred Horne,
 Paul Reed, Paul Baker, Roy Smith, Jr.

MUSIC - What Star is this? music arranged by Praetorius

Scene 2 -- BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

SNOWFLAKES - Leslie Barger, Elaine Batchelder, Jean Brown, Linda Brown,
 Susan Brush, Mattie Camden, Cary Condon, Cheryl Lackey,
 Debbie Leslie, Jeannie Hamilton, Pam Lombardi, Betty McCann,
 Betty McHenry, Johanna Ravenhorst, Mandy Ryan, Kathy Smart,
 Maxine Steele, Charlotte Wilson, Ruth Higgins.

Playbill from the 1953 Ann Smith production. See next page for continuation.
 Courtesy of David Coffey, via Special Collections, Washington and Lee University Library.

RAIN DROPS - Gary Arehart, Frazier Bishop, Carson Edwards, Ned Foster,
Jimmy Gayhart, Eddie Hardbarger, Bobby Irons, Peter Letcher,
Brocky Nicely, Bruce Smedley, Charles Steele, Robert Simmons,
Jim Yeager.

MUSIC - Waltz ----- Dvorak
Petit Rond de Jambe ----- Fliege
How far is't to Bethlehem? ----- Words by Frances Chesterton
Music by R. Vaughan Williams
In the bleak midwinter ----- Words by Christina Rossetti
Music by Gustav Holst

Scene 3 IN THE INN

Innkeeper - Roy Painter: Jeanette - Betty Berger: Isabella - Noell Coleman

Shepherds - Tommy Barrett, Larry Brashears, Freddie Moore
The Three Kings - Jimmy Agnor, Jeffrey Fishwick, John Spencer
Mary - Patricia Cohen
Joseph - George Brooke 3rd

CHILDREN OF THE INN - John Ax, Sam Bennett, Chris Bosworth, Gordon Foster,
Chester Goolrick, Jr., Bill Glover, Lynwood Gordon,
Dick Jones, Herman Knick, Charles McCoy, Jackie Reed,
Eric Wolfe, Missy Althowe, Mary Deaver, Betty Dobyms,
Cheryl Driscoll, Sheila Fix, Shirley Fix, Mary Ann
Floyd, Patsy Hickman, Linda Irvine, Martha Johnson,
Dreama Joyce, Betsy Letcher, Susan O'Neal, Linda
Slough, Carolyn Spencer, Carter Stubbs, Jane Williams

MUSIC - Deck the halls ----- Welch Carol
No room in the inn ----- Traditional English Carol
Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella ----- French Carol

Scene 4 AT THE MANGER

MUSIC - Of the Father's love begotten ----- 13th century Plainsong
Joseph, dearest Joseph mine ----- 15th century German Carol
What Child is this? ----- Traditional English Carol

The audience is asked to join in the singing of O Come, All Ye Faithful at the end of the play.

Play directed by Thomas V. Barrett Music directed by Mary Monroe Penick
with the assistance of Wyllis Loyall, Lucy Ackerly, Beatrice Copper,
Helen Nuckols, Helen Crowgey and June Deakins.

Scenery designed and executed by Cy Twombly, Jr., assisted by Dudley Murphy,
David Foster, Bobby Brown, David Eisler and students of the manuel
training class of L. H. S.

Costumes designed by Mrs. Elam Bosworth, Mrs. Marshall Fishwick,
Mrs. William Jenks, Mrs. John S. Letcher, Mrs. William Stubbs,
Mrs. Maxwell Tracy and Mrs. C. C. Tutwiler, Jr.



Principals in *The Little Comet*: Robert Adams (Mars), Lisa Tracy (in the title role), Suzanne Barksdale (Venus) and Billy McCann (the Great Starmaker). Photo © courtesy of the Roanoke Times (December 23, 1953).