Little Women-
A Merry Christmas

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SYNOPSIS

Adapted from Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic novel. Four of literature's most famous sisters, nurturing Meg, rebellious Jo, sweet Beth and spoiled Amy, must endure the absence of their father while he is away ministering in the Civil War. Under their mother Marmee's wise and tender care, the girls learn many lessons – including the real meaning of Christmas – as they experience both the painful and the beautiful that life offers. Full of memorable and varied music with richly drawn characters, "Little Women – A Merry Christmas" is a family-friendly timeless story that stays true to its historical era while bringing joy and authenticity to the holiday season. Some songs include "If I Had No Worries" by the four sisters; the "Skaters' Waltz" by the chorus; "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night") by the Hummel children, as well as songs for the sisters' operetta. Full evening.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(13 speaking parts – 3m, 8w, 5 children, carolers, skaters.)

Jo March (15)

Meg March (18)

Amy March (9)

Beth March (13)

Mrs. March (Marmee) (30-40)

Hannah (30-40)

Carolers/Skaters

Mrs. Hummel (early 30s)

Hummel Children (5 + baby)

Theodore Laurence (Laurie) (17-19)

Aunt March (50s)

Mr. Laurence (60s)

Mr. March (Father) (late 40s)

SET

1863, Concord, Mass. In the words of Ms. Alcott, “T’was a comfortable old room, though the carpet was faded and the furniture very plain; for a good picture or two hung on the walls, books filled the recesses, chrysanthemums and Christmas roses bloomed in the windows, and a pleasant atmosphere of home peace pervaded it.” It is two nights before Christmas. Stage left is a table with chairs, as well as an exit to the kitchen. Stage right is the fireplace, and before it a settee and rocking chair. A bookcase and piano are upstage right. Upstage center there is an archway that exits to the front door.

MUSICAL SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

1. Beth's Piano Practice….. *Beth*
2. If I Had No Worries….. *Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy*
3. If I Had No Worries – Reprise….. *Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy*
4. My Dear Little Women….. *Marmee with the girls*
5. Skater's Waltz….. *Carolers*
6. Scene Change – Skater's Waltz
7. Beth's Fanfare
8. Stille Nacht….. *Hummel Children*
9. Here We Come A Singing….. *Carolers*
10. The Star….. *Carolers*
11. Mary's Angel….. *Carolers*

ACT TWO

12. Operetta - Part I….. *Meg, Jo, Beth,*
13. Operetta - Part II….. *Meg, Jo, Amy*
14. My Dear Little Women – Reprise….. *Marmee*
15. Scene Change – Beth's Theme
16. Beth's Theme….. *Jo*
17. My Darling Jo….. *Laurie*
18. Scene Change – My Darling Jo Reprise
19. Father's Carol….. *Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy, Marmee, Hannah, Aunt March, Laurie*
20. Finale….. *Ensemble*
21. Curtain Call – If I Had No Worries – Reprise….. *Company*

ACT I
SCENE 1

(AT RISE: It is two nights before Christmas. BETH is seated at the piano, playing. JO is on the floor, reading a book. AMY is seated at the table, drawing, and MEG is in the rocking chair, embroidering.)

SONG 1. BETH'S PIANO PRACTICE

(THEY applaud for Beth when she is finished. Short pause.)

JO: Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without any presents.
MEG: It's so dreadful to be poor.
AMY: I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things and other girls nothing at all.
BETH: We've got Father and Mother and each other.
JO: We haven't got Father and shall not have for a long time.

(ALL look at Jo.)

JO: *(Cont'd.)* Perhaps never.
MEG: You know, the reason Mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas is that it is going to be hard this winter for everyone, and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure when so many men of the Northern and Southern armies are suffering so. We can't do much...
JO: But we can make our little sacrifices.
BETH: And ought to do it gladly.
MEG: I'm afraid I can't.
JO: I don't think the little we could give would do any good. We've each got a dollar, and the army won't be helped much by giving that. *(Sits up, hugging her knees.)* I agree not to expect anything from Mother or any of you, but I do wish to buy two books I've wanted for so long.
BETH: I planned to spend my dollar on new music.

AMY: I wanted to buy a nice box of Faber's pencils...I really need them.

JO: Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything... *(Gets up, crosses to the settee and sits facing Meg.)* Let us each buy what we want and have a little fun. I'm sure we work hard enough to earn it.

MEG: I know I do. Teaching those tiresome King children all day when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home.

JO: You don't have half as hard a time as I do. *(Rises and crosses to the dining table.)* How would you like to be shut in for hours with a nervous, fussy old lady who keeps you trotting with her calling – *(Imitating of Aunt March.)* "Josephine…where is that girl…where is that girl?"

(ALL laugh at Jo.)

JO: *(Cont'd.)* And worries you until you're ready to fly out the window or cry. *(Plunks her book on the table.)*

BETH: It's naughty to fret, but I do think washing dishes and keeping things tidy is the worst work in the world. *(Crosses to the fireplace and starts to sweep.)* It makes me cross, and my hands get so stiff I can't practice my piano.

AMY: I don't believe any of you suffer as much as I do.

(JO flounces herself in the chair opposite Amy.)

AMY: *(Cont'd.)* For you don't have to go to school with impertinent girls who plague you if you don't know your lessons, and laugh at your dresses and label your father if he isn't rich, and insult you when your nose isn't right!

JO: *(Leaning in.)* If you mean libel, I'd say so, and not talk about labels as if Papa were a pickle-bottle.

AMY: I know what I mean, and you needn't be "sta-tir-i-cal" about it. It's proper to use good long words and improve your "vo-cab-i-lary."

(JO and AMY argue ad lib.)

End of Freeview

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