A PENGUIN CHRISTMAS PARTY



BY ALLAN CROSSLEY

VOCAL/SCRIPT

A Penguin Christmas Party (Long Version.)

by: Allan Crossley

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IMPORTANT NOTES: This musical has both a long and a short version to provide flexibility for different school situations; The long version (This script) has 12 songs - one possible arrangement is to have six groups of children doing two songs each. Duration 45 minutes (plus stage changes) The short version has 8 songs and a reduced script. Duration 30 minutes plus changes A .doc version is provided to allow minor edits such as substituting actor's names for generic names. You'll find more on the website www.penultimateplustwo.com: ideas for staging and a place to share your suggestions and give feedback. I'd love to hear from you!

(Two children gather around Grandpa ready for a Christmas story.)

Child 1: Do animals get Christmas, Grandpa?

Grandpa: Of course; last year you got catnip for your cat, a bone for the dog, and some seed for the budgie.

Child 2: What about other animals, like . . . penguins?

Grandpa: Penguins? What made you think of penguins?

Child 1: Maybe it was these ___* cute little penguins who just happen to be standing here, ready for the opening number. (*Insert the number of penguins you have.)

Grandpa: Penguins! They'll mess on the carpet! We have no herring to feed them. They have got to go.

Children: (Puppy dog eyes) But can't we keep them?

Child 2: Please-please-please-please-pleeeeeeeeeeee?

Child 1: They're sooooooo cute.

Grandpa: Okay. But just for the opening song and then they absolutely have to go!

(Suggested group for songs one and two: Kindergarten Children, dressed as penguins.)

Song: Penguins Are Fantastically Cute

Penguins Are Fantastically Cute





Child1: You didn't answer the question, Grandpa. Do penguins get Christmas?

Child 2: Do they? Do they? Tell us. (Children and penguins look at Grandpa.)

Grandpa: Let me tell you a story. A long time ago, a scientist landed in Antarctica to photograph the penguins. (Some penguins pose like models in a photo shoot, while the scientist takes pictures. Grandpa waits until they finish. If using younger children for penguin song, older students could be used for this part and delivering the lines.) By accident, the scientist left a Christmas catalogue behind, (Scientist leaves, dropping the catalogue, which the penguins pick up and start reading.) and the penguins started reading it.

Child 1: (hands on hips.) I don't think so. Penguins can't read. (Penguins stop and look at narrator.)

Grandpa: That's unfortunate, because if Penguins can't read, my story is over and you'll have to go to bed, and the penguins will have to find another musical.

Child 1: I just remembered, they suddenly learned how to read. Amazing! (Penguins go back to reading.)

Grandpa: You're catching on. So the penguins looked at this Christmas catalogue and started talking to each other.

Child 1: But penguins can't tal (All turn to stare at child who is about to interrupt, but catches him/herself.) Nothing.

Penguin 1: Look at all this fun stuff. Why doesn't Santa bring us presents?

Penguin 2: We're good!

Penguin 3: And we're kind!

Penguin 1: And we're cute!

Penguin 2: Maybe Santa doesn't know about us.

Penguin 3: Maybe animals don't get toys from Santa.

Penguin 1: I just think it's a real shame. We've got all this ice and snow.

Penguin 2: And snow and ice.

Penguin 3: And ice and snow.

All Penguins: BUT NO CHRISTMAS!

Song 2: Too Much Snow

Too Much Snow



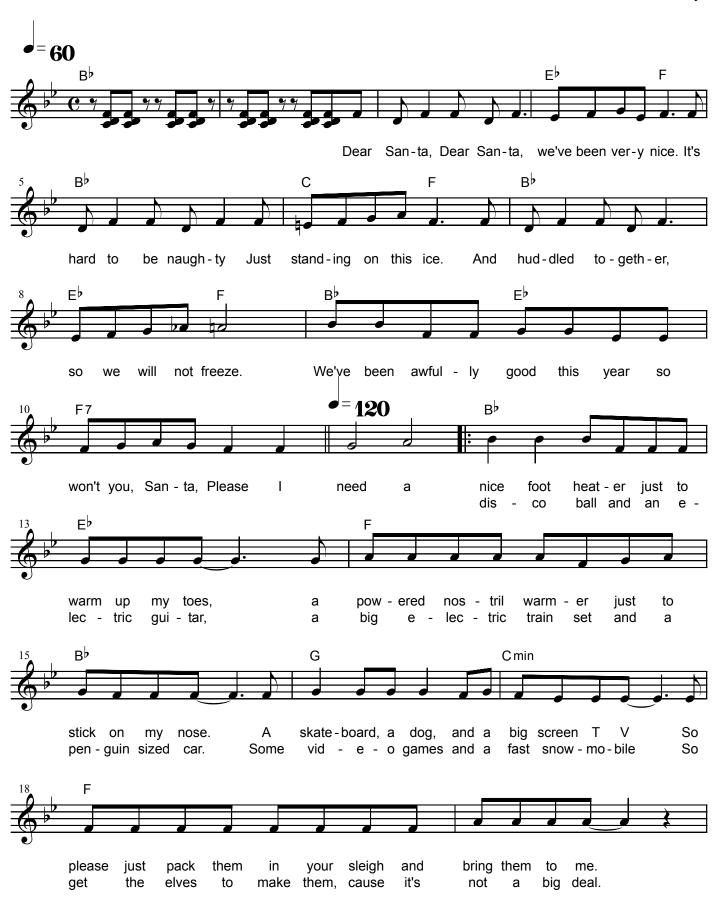


- Penguin 1: How come we've never had Christmas?
- Penguin 2: We're hundreds of years behind in gifts!
- Penguin 3: That's a lot of loot!
- Penguin 1: Let's send letters to this Santa Claus guy. He sounds nice. Maybe he'll swing by here this Christmas.
- Grandpa: So the Penguins wrote long, long letters to Santa, (*Penguins pull out envelopes, mime licking etc.*) but there was a problem.
- Penguin 1: Penguins, we have a problem. How are we going to get these letters to Santa?
- Penguin 2: There's no mail service, no fax machines, no internet.
- Penguin 3: And it's a twenty five thousand mile swim to the north pole. (All penguins burst into tears. They waddle off, leaving the letters behind.)
- Grandpa: So the penguins left their letters and went off to eat some cold raw fish. But it just so happened that a flock of gulls saw the letters and . . .
- Gull 1: What are these?
- Gull 2: (Sniffing one of the letters.) They smell like fish breath (Waves hand in front of nose. Then nibbles on a letter.) but they taste like spitballs.
- Gull 1: They are letters addressed to Santa. At the North Pole.
- Gull 2: OH OH OH! I've always wanted to go to the North Pole.
- Gull 1: Why?
- Gull 2: To see all that snow and ice and . . . ice and snow and . . .
- Gull 1: Take a look around you. What do you see?
- Gull 2: I get your point, but what else have we got to do?
- Gull 1: True, but let's read them first!
- Gull 1: It's not right to read other people's mail.
- Gull 2: But these are penguins, not people, so I'm sure it's fine. (Open a letter as song begins and as appropriate throughout the song.)
- (Suggested group for songs three and four: Grade fours dressed as seagulls)

Song 3: Penguin Christmas Letters

Christmas Letters

Words and Music Allan Crossley

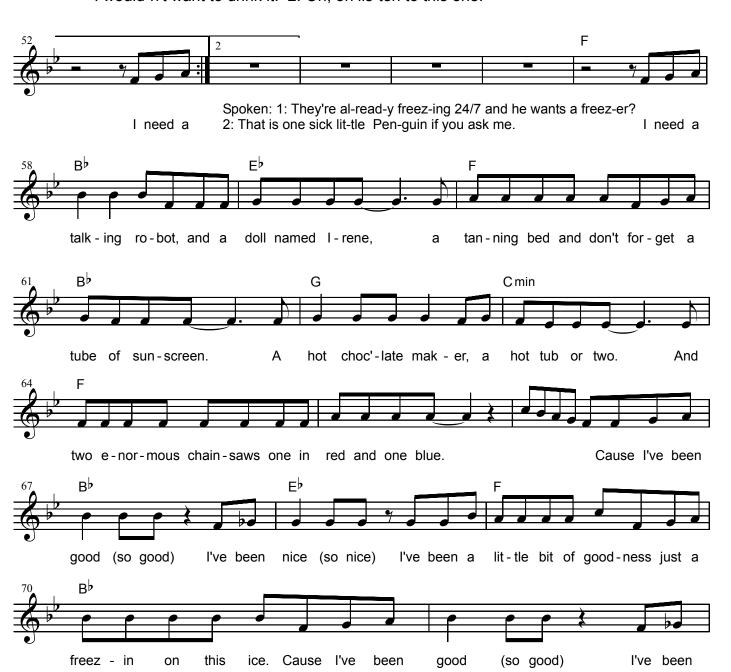


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Spoken: 1: Make that two cups of Christ-mas cheer. 2: How a-bout fill-ing up the hot tub. We'd be swim-ming in Christ-mas cheer. 1: If you were swim-ming in it I would-n't want to drink it. 2: Oh, oh lis-ten to this one:





- Gull 1: Silly Penguins.
- Gull 2: What a bunch of bird brains! What a silly bunch of bird . . . ah bird brains . . .
- Gull 1: You were saying?
- Gull 2: I was saying we'd better get going to deliver these letters to Santa. I've always wanted a vacation at the North Pole for a change of scenery. All that ice and snow. And snow and ice. And I've said this all before, right? (All nod.)
- Grandpa: And so the gulls flew off to deliver the letters to the North Pole. But unfortunately, the penguins weren't the only bird brains in this story.

Song 4: We'll Deliver

We'll Deliver!





Gull 1: That last line didn't rhyme.

Gull 2: What last line?

Gull 1: The last line of the song.

Gull 2: What song?

Gull 1: I can't remember.

Gull 2: Oh, look! Fish!

Both: Let's eat. (Drop letters and all gulls exit.)

Grandpa: So the gulls dropped the penguin's letters and they fluttered down, down, down toward the ocean. Suddenly a wind came and blew all the letters across the ocean to Africa.

Child 1: Grandpa, you can hardly expect us to believe this story. You've broken the laws of physics. You've broken the laws of natural science.

Grandpa: I'm also breaking the laws about bedtime. Would you like me to stick to all the rules? Or shall we agree to 'bend' them a little?

Child 2: Bend away, Grandpa.

Grandpa: Thank you. The letters landed in a jungle where a group of monkeys were searching for bananas. Of course they read the letters and felt sorry for the penguins and decided to get the letters to the north pole. But first, being monkeys, they added a few things of their own. . . .

(Suggested group for songs five and six: Grade ones dressed as monkeys)

Song 5: Bananas

Bananas





Grandpa: So, the monkeys made a few changes to the letters and sent them on their way using an ancient but reliable system: the animal post!

Song 6: Animal Post

Animal Post





Grandpa: Finally the letters arrived at the North Pole. Unfortunately they were late by one week. Actually one week PLUS a few years. Christmas was over and Santa was in the middle of his long, long, after Christmas nap. The reindeer were exhausted, Santa's workshop was down for repairs and the elves were taking a well-deserved rest. When they saw the letters they hit the roof.

Elf 1: (Opens a letter. It's full of holes, corners are missing, it's filthy. It's obviously had a rough trip.) This is terrible!

Elf 2: I'll say. I would touch that letter. It's disgusting.

Elf 3: No, it's not that. These penguins had NEVER had Christmas.

Elf 1: And they're sooooo cute.

Elf 2: This is an emergency.

Elf 3: Let's wake Santa.

Elf 1: Are you out of your little elf mind. You KNOW what he's like in January.

Elf 2: I'd rather eat Brussels sprouts!

Elf 3: I'd rather BE a Brussels sprout.

Elf 1: But these poor penguins.

Elf 2: I think we have to try.

(Suggested group for songs seven and eight: Grade twos dressed as Elves)

Song 7: - Wake Up Santa





Grandpa: It was no use! Nothing worked. Santa wouldn't wake up. He was out 'till February at least. But the elves had still another, bigger problem.

Elf 1: What are we going to do? Santa's out cold.

Elf 2: I just talked to Rudolph. The reindeer are exhausted. They're not going anywhere.

Elf 3: And we can't fill these orders! Santa's workshop won't be operational until March.

Elf 1: And our shelves are bare. There's nothing left.

Elf 2: Not quite, people. We have fifty seven Donald the Dancing Christmas Robots left.

Elf 3: Nobody asked for them again this year.

Elf 1: Or last year

Elf 2: Actually since 1982

Elf 3: This is the perfect time to unload them . . . I mean gift them to someone!

Elf 1: They'll have to do. Pack up the robots. But how are we going to get them there?

Elf 2: I . . . have an idea! (Elves huddle and whisper.)

All: Yes!

Song 8: Elves Can Pull the Sleigh

Elves Can Pull the Sleigh





Grandpa: So the elves loaded the sleigh with Donald the Dancing Christmas Robot dolls and sprinkled themselves with magic dust, but there was still one more problem.

Child 1: I'll say there's a problem, Grandpa, The problem is your story has broken the bounds of believability.

Child 2: You've lost the sense of continuity. The story is wandering.

Child 1: You're losing your audience. You've failed to draw them into a willing suspension of disbelief. In a literary sense. . .

Grandpa: But I was thinking in a bedtime sense.

Child 1: I see. On that level it succeeds tremendously.

Child 2: The critics say, "Two thumbs up."

Grandpa: Thank you. So as I was saying, the Penguins had been so excited that the gulls had sent their letters, they'd carved a Christmas tree out of ice and decorated it with herring heads, with fish scales for tinsel and their favorite squid eyeballs for ornaments. They'd waited and waited and waited. Several Christmases passed, but no Santa. No presents, no reindeer, not even a Christmas card. Finally they gave up and went fishing. It was right about then that the elves arrived in Santa's sleigh and dropped off the Robot dolls.

(Suggested group for songs nine and ten: Grade threes dressed as disco-robots.)

Song 9: Donald the Dancing Christmas Robot

Donald the Dancing Christmas Robot





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Robot 1: Wait. There's nobody here!
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Robot 2: So what do we do now?

Robot 3: How about another dance?

Robot 1: I don't know. I don't feel so perky. I think I need a recharge.

Robot 2: That might be a problem. See any electric plugs? Battery chargers?

Robot 3: I . . . Think . . . I'm . . . Running . . . Out . . . Of . . . Po . . .wer . . .

Robot 1: Me . . . tooooooo . . .

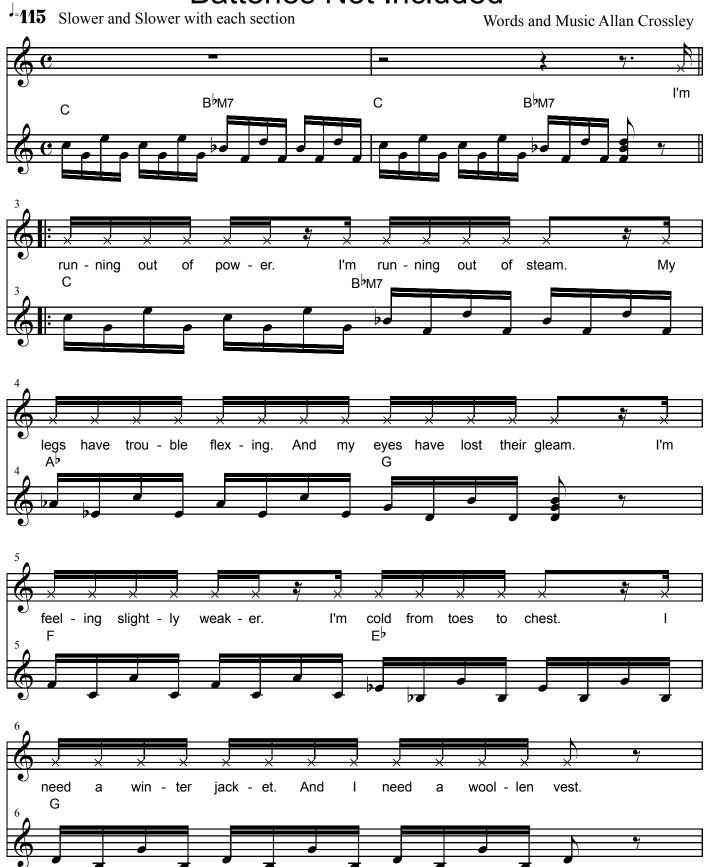
Robot 2: Think . . . pos . . . i . . . tive

Robot 3: O . . . K. . . I'm pos-i-tive I'm run-ning out . . . of . . . po. wer

Song 10: Batteries Not Included

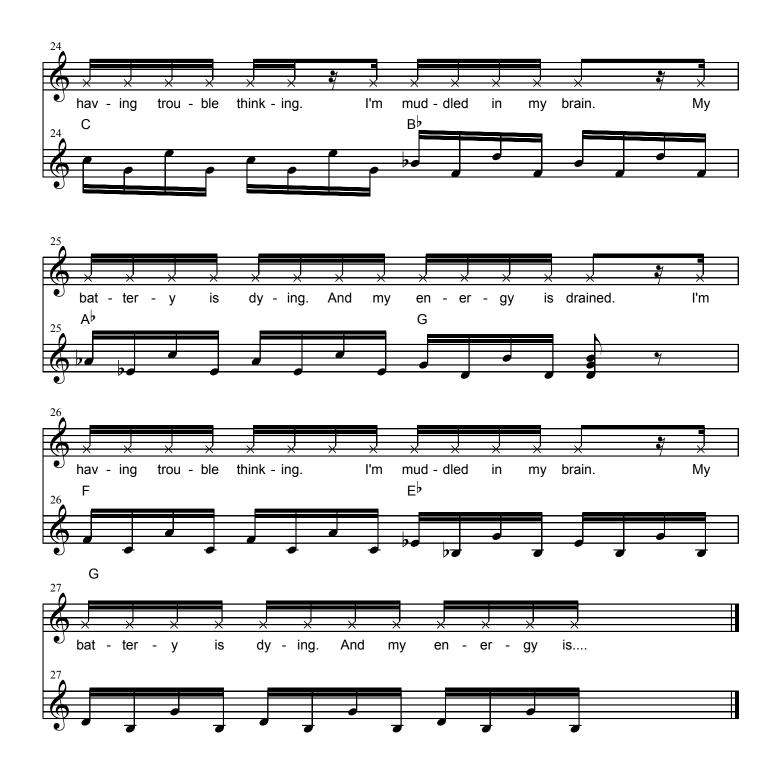
(At end of song, tempo slows and toys freeze solid)

Batteries Not Included









Child 1: This story's turning out to be a real downer, grandpa.

Child 2: What about happy endings.

Child 1: We need a feel good story.

Child 2: How you going to pull this one out of the fire?

Child 1: I know! The monkeys fly in on helicopters and . . .

Child 2: Giant rutabagas rain down from the sky and . . .

Child 1: Zombies came up out of the ice and . . . and . . .

Child 2: Ninja's?

Child 1: Ducks?

Child 2: Zombie Ninja Ducks on flying rutabagas!

Grandpa: This is MY story, thank you very much. Things looked bleak for everyone, but then. BUT THEN. Aliens arrived in their spaceship. (Children groan.)

Child 1: Aliens! Not again. Last night it was Cinderella and the aliens.

Child 2: The night before it was the alien frog prince.

Child 1: And before that, the three pigs and the alien wolf.

Child 2: 'I'll huff and I'll puff and blast your brick spaceship with my disintegrator ray.'

Children: Grandpa, we're not going to believe aliens.

Grandpa: You went along with talking penguins, gulls that could read, and singing monkeys, so what's the problem with aliens?

Child 1: Whatever.

Grandpa: So these aliens had been flying around in space and had seen all about Christmas on television, but by the time they got to earth it was over. The only place they could find Christmas still happening was . . .

Child 2: (Excited) Antarctica.

Child 1: The penguin's tree!

Child 2: The Christmas Robots!

Grandpa: Exactly.

(Suggested group for songs eleven and twelve: Grade fives dressed as Aliens.)

Song 11: We've Never Had A Christmas Before

We've Never Had A Christmas Before





Grandpa: Just then, right about the end of the alien's song, the penguins arrived back from fishing. The aliens said the usual 'We come in peace, earthlings' and they all sat down to raw fish dinner. They talked about the penguins' Christmas problem and hit on a great idea. Every year, the penguins would write letters to Santa and the aliens would swing by Earth and deliver them to the North Pole on time. In return, the penguins would give the robots to the aliens as a Christmas present. The aliens promised to keep them charged and bring them back for a Christmas party every December. So it all turned out to be a happy ending . . . just in time for bed.

Child 1: What about the monkeys?

Child 2: And the gulls?

Child 1: And the moose and the polar bears and all the other animals in the whole world.

Grandpa: Nice try, but it's bedtime.

Children: Ahhhhhh. Please.

Grandpa: If you go straight to bed without whining, tomorrow night I'll tell you about the time a Christmas catalogue was left in the Jungle Joe's crocodile farm. But why don't we join the aliens for the final number and then it really is bedtime.

Song 12: Christmas is Such a Great Thing

Christmas Is Such A Great Thing



