A Musical for Young Children

Script and Music by

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Winner of the 2007 Robert C. Hayes playwriting competition

Produced by Storybook Theatre April 2008

# **Cast of Characters**

(in order of appearance)

**SOPHIE** 

**AUNT HATTIE** 

DOGBANE (the Butler)

THE VELVETEEN BEAVER

THE ROCKING MOOSE

**BEAVER I** 

**BEAVER II** 

**DOCTOR** 

Note: the roles of Beaver I and Beaver II can be played by the Doctor and the Butler, thus the total cast can number as few as six.

# **Vocal Numbers**

#### Act I

- 1. Too Many Toys Blues (Sophie)
- 2. Oh, I'd Love to Be a Beaver (The Velveteen Beaver)
- 3. Welcome Treasure (Sophie, Beaver, and Moose)

#### Act II

4. We're All Individuals (Beavers I, II, and the Velveteen Beaver)

#### Act III

- 5. Little Sophie Is Sick Sick! (Aunt Hattie, Moose, Beaver, Doctor and Butler)
- 6. Reprise: We're All Individuals (The Velveteen Beaver)

#### Act IV

- 7. But When Will We Be Parted? (Sophie, Beaver, and Moose)
- 8. Oh, It's Great to Be a Beaver (All)

See Appendix I (page 57) for vocal scores, and Appendix II (page 75) for full scores.

# Act I

Scene: A little girl's bedroom. There is a bed, a night table, and a large cupboard. The bed is piled high with stuffed animals. Stuffies litter the floor. Gentle morning music is playing (see appendix — Introductory Music) — this ends abruptly when the alarm clock rings. The pile stirs and a girl sits up in bed, turns off the alarm clock, yawns and stretches.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(off stage)

Good morning, Sophie!

#### **SOPHIE**

Good morning, Aunt Hattie!

(Sophie looks at the pile of stuffed animals and picks up a rabbit)

Good morning, rabbit.

(The stuffed rabbit says "Good Morning" back, and Sophie picks up another stuffy. The voice of the rabbit, and the other stuffed animals, will likely come from a speaker near or under the bed. A live actor or actors could speak for the stuffies, or their voices could be prerecorded. A recording limits flexibility regarding timing, but eventually the voices of the stuffed animals overlap in a confused babel, and a recording is necessary at this point)

Good morning, dog.

(The stuffed dog says Good Morning)

(Sophie continues to pick up stuffed animals, to say good morning to them, and they each respond)

Good morning, cat.

(Good morning)

# **SOPHIE** (CONT'D)

Good morning, duck.
(Good morning)
Good morning, frog. Good morning, bird. Good morning ( <i>looks puzzled - can't identify</i> )umfurry thing-a-ma-bob. Good morning stuffie. Good morning other stuffie. Good morning other stuffie.
(Sophie sighs, evidently weary of saying good morning)
Bonjour stuffie number twenty seven. Guten morgen stuffie number five hundred and six. Buenos dias stuffie number six hundred and seventy eight ( <i>pause</i> )point two. ( <i>i.e.</i> 678.2)
(Sophie, tired of specifying the animal, picks stuffies up at random and says good morning in various languages)
Buon giorno!
Buon giorno!
Aloha!
(Aloha!)
Namaste!
(Namaste!)
Ohayou gozaimasu! (Pronounced ohio go-zah-ee-mahs)
(Ohayou gozaimasu!)

#### **SOPHIE** (CONT'D)

Good morning, good morning, good morning, good morning! (Sophie's tone is increasingly exasperated. The stuffed animals begin saying good morning simultaneously, resulting in a gradually increasing cacophony of sound. Meanwhile Aunt Hattie rolls in a trolley heaped with presents; when she says Good Morning, the noise ends abruptly)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Good morning, Sophie, and ... Happy Birthday!

#### **SOPHIE**

Good morning, Aunt Hattie. Oh, wow, just look. *More* stuff. Aunt Hattie, why do you always give me so many stuffed animals when I come to stay with you?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Because when I was a girl I dreamed of having a room full of stuffies, just like this one!

#### **SOPHIE**

Oh yeah? What was your room like when you were a kid?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Oh, it was horrendous! I haven't always been very, very rich you know. Why, when I was a child I only had one toy — a cold, hard, spiky, metal toy — *and* it was broken! Otherwise, my room was as empty as the inside of a bubble. Oh, you would have hated it!

#### **SOPHIE**

(looking around wistfully)
Are you sure about that?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Oh yes indeed! Why, it only makes sense, Sophie! If one stuffed animal is a good thing, then seven hundred and twenty eight stuffed animals —

#### **SOPHIE**

seven hundred and fifty nine —

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

— then seven hundred and fifty nine stuffed animals must be that much better!

#### **SOPHIE**

You think so?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Of course! Now, don't forget that today we're having a big birthday picnic — a birthday picnic just for you!

#### **SOPHIE**

(brightening)
Oh yeah, I forgot!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

So, my dear, you need to get up — chop, chop — get dressed, wash your face, brush your teeth, comb your hair, have a little breakfast — and —

#### **SOPHIE**

And?

**AUNT HATTIE** 

Before we go....

**SOPHIE** 

Before we go?

**AUNT HATTIE** 

I want you ....

**SOPHIE** 

You want me?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Yes, Dear, of course I want you, at least while your parents are away on their trip. Anyway, I want you....to tidy — your — room! Why, just look at it, Sophie! It's a mess!

# **SOPHIE** But — **AUNT HATTIE** A disaster! **SOPHIE** But — **AUNT HATTIE** A state of emergency! (Aunt Hattie turns to leave) **SOPHIE** But, Aunt Hattie — it's my birthday! You mean I've got to tidy up all this on my birthday? **AUNT HATTIE** (Exiting) Yes, of course. These are all your things — therefore they are all your responsibility. Besides, you know I'm allergic to mess! (Sophie groans, falls back on bed)

#### **DOGBANE**

(Dogbane the Butler enters, perhaps with a glass of water to put on the night table)

Good morning, Miss.

#### **SOPHIE**

Good morning, Dogbane. Dogbane! (Sitting up) I've got it! You can help me.

#### **DOGBANE**

Can I? Oh, joy.

#### **SOPHIE**

See, Aunt Hattie says I've got to tidy up all these stuffies — and you're just the man for the job!

#### **DOGBANE**

I'm afraid not, Miss. A butler does many things, but the tidying up of a room is *not* one of them. Besides which these are all *your* things —

#### **SOPHIE**

I know, I know — therefore they are all my responsibility.

**DOGBANE** 

Precisely.

#### **SOPHIE**

You know, Dogbane, I never thought I'd say this but — I think Aunt Hattie's given me too many stuffed animals!

**DOGBANE** 

I agree entirely.

**SOPHIE** 

And I need — help!

**DOGBANE** 

Perhaps I can be of assistance.

**SOPHIE** 

Really? But I thought you didn't clean rooms?

#### **DOGBANE**

I most definitely do *not*. However, I do have a suggestion.

**SOPHIE** 

What is it?

#### **DOGBANE**

Just this — you could give some of these stuffies away to those children in the world who haven't got quite so many.

#### **SOPHIE**

You mean, give away *all* these stuffed animals?

#### **DOGBANE**

Not all of them, of course. Just those for which you no longer have the time or attention.

#### **SOPHIE**

But where would I send them?

#### **DOGBANE**

I understand the children at the South Pole are not overrun with animals of the stuffed variety.

#### **SOPHIE**

Hey, great idea, Dogbane! I'll send some of *these* stuffed animals to the kids at the South Pole — kids who might not be as lucky as me. Hurry, Dogbane, get me a box. A BIG box. And I'll figure out how I'm going to get all these stuffies into it. Hmm. I don't think I can do it alone. (*Addressing the audience*) Say, maybe some of *you* can help me! I know — if you'd like to come up and toss a stuffy into the box, put your hand up and Dogbane will choose volunteers.

(Meanwhile, Dogbane has rolled in a comically large box which says "To the South Pole" on it)

(The song begins. The pianist improvises a simple blues pattern while Sophie speaks her lines rhythmically, or sings them ad libitum. See Appendix — The Too Many Toys Blues.)

Dogbane chooses volunteers — hopefully children with good aim — to toss animals into the box. The volunteers should stand with their backs to the audience so that they won't accidentally throw a stuffed animal into the crowd)

#### (Indented lines can be cut if necessary for timing)

I'VE GOT SO MANY TOYS, WHY,
I FEEL THAT I CAN'T MOVE.
IT'S CRAMPING ALL MY STYLE,
IT'S MESSING UP MY GROOVE.
I'M JUST ONE LITTLE KID
WHO'S GOT A BIG IMAGINATION,
BUT WHAT'S LEFT TO IMAGINE
WHEN I'VE GOT ENOUGH TOYS FOR A NATION?
ALL THESE STUFFIES, YES THEY'RE CUDDLY,
CUTE AND SWEET AND DEAR,
BUT I'VE HAD CUDDLY, CUTE AND SWEET
AND DEAR RIGHT UP TO HERE!
(Motions above head)

I'VE GOT SO MANY TOYS,
I FEEL THAT I CAN'T DANCE.
I STEP UPON THEIR STUFFY HEADS —
CALL THE STUFFY AMBULANCE!
IMAGINE IF I ONLY HAD ONE TOY,
MY AUNT WOULD SAY,
SOPHIE PUT YOUR TOY AWAY,
AND I'D BE DONE STRAIGHT AWAY!
BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT TO CLEAN THEM UP,
LOTS OF TOYS MEAN LOTS OF FUSS.
I FEEL LIKE I'M LIVING AT TOYS - R - US!!!!

I'VE GOT SO MANY TOYS,
I FEEL THAT I CAN'T BREATHE,
(Addressing toys)
I'M SORRY BUT I FEAR IT'S TIME
FOR SOME OF YOU TO LEAVE.
A KID NEEDS EDUCATION, SHELTER,
FOOD AND LOVE GALORE,
DOES SHE REALLY NEED A BUNCH OF
MASS-PRODUCED TOYS FROM A STORE?

I LOVE YOU ALL WITH ALL MY HEART BUT YOU NEED MORE ATTENTION, THAN JUST ONE KID CAN GIVE YOU AT THIS STUFFY TOY CONVENTION!

(Sophie is dancing/navigating her way through the mess. She clears stuffed animals from in front of the cupboard so that she can open the door, only to have an avalanche of stuffed animals fall to the floor when she opens the cupboard doors. Sophie must clear the animals away from the cupboard doors so that she can close them again)

IMAGINE ALL THOSE CHILDREN
WHO HAVE NO TOYS AT ALL.
LIKE THE CHILDREN AT THE SOUTH POLE –
WHY, THEY HAVEN'T GOT A MALL!
NO DRUMS OR KITES OR PUZZLES,
NOT A TRAIN UPON A TRACK.
I FEEL LIKE PHONING SANTA –
HEY YOU CAN HAVE ALL THESE TOYS BACK!
MY AUNTIE ALWAYS TAUGHT ME
TO BE GENEROUS AND SHARE,
SO I'LL FIND SOME KIDS WHO DON'T HAVE TOYS
AND SEND THEM OVER THERE!

(Optional instrumental. Continue until all stuffed animals are in the box)

(Dogbane wheels box off stage, as well as trolley of presents previously rolled in by Aunt Hattie)

#### YIPPEE!!!

I'VE NOT GOT ANY TOYS, FINALLY I'M FREE!
I CAN FLOP UPON MY BED WITH IMPUNITY!
NO STUFFY NEEDS TO WORRY
THAT I MIGHT JUMP ON HIS HEAD.
AT LAST I'LL GIVE THE SPRINGS A WORKOUT
AS I JUMP UPON MY BED!

AND I CAN RUN AND ZOOM AROUND AND ACT LIKE JUST A CHILD, WITHOUT TRIPPING OVER STUFF AS I GO WINGED AND WILD!

(Stretches arms out like a plane and zooms around room)

I'VE NOT GOT ANY TOYS,
SO I DON'T NEED TO CLEAN!
HOORAY! MY ROOM IS TIDIER
THAN IT'S EVER BEEN!
I'VE NOT GOT ANY TOYS,
SO FINALLY I CAN DANCE,
AND KICK MY LEGS UP
WITHOUT KICKING STUFFIES IN THE PANTS.
BEST OF ALL MY FLOOR IS CLEAR
OF STUFFIES AS YOU SEE,
AND MY CUPBOARD'S EMPTY –
AS EMPTY AS CAN BE!

(Sophie opens the cupboard door to prove it — and there are the Velveteen Beaver and the Rocking Moose. Obviously the cupboard has a false back, and the Beaver and Moose have entered through the back in the meantime.)

#### **SOPHIE**

What? Oh my goodness! Why it's my old Velveteen Beaver, and my old Rocking Moose. Gosh, I had so many other stuffies, I must have forgotten about you two. Well that's all right. (Sophie turns her back to the toys to give them a chance to shuffle out) I should have at least a couple of toys at Aunt Hattie's when I come to stay, and you two have always been my very favorites. Come on out of there and — (she turns and sees that beaver and moose have shuffled out) Oh, hello. Now I know I'm supposed to be getting ready for the picnic but — well, I don't suppose Aunt Hattie will mind if I play for just a minute. So — come on, Beaver! Come on Rocking Moose!

(Sophie gets on Moose's back)

#### **SOPHIE** (CONT'D)

Hmm, let me think. (Sophie closes her eyes. Pianist improvises music appropriate to each suggestion) We could pretend to be ballerinas.... (Ballet music is heard the Velveteen Beaver does a humourous little ballet dance).... or we could pretend we're in love with a handsome prince (Beaver acts like he's in love).... or we could pretend we have a baby (Beaver rocks and cradles imaginary baby).... or we could play monsters (Beaver suddenly transforms into a scary monster).... or school teachers (Beaver acts like a scary monster again).... or we could pretend to be musicians in a band (Beaver plays air-guitar).... or we could pretend to be animals (Beaver acts like all the following animals).... Elephants.... or ducks.... or dogs.... or monkeys.... or frogs.... or penguins.... or platypuses (Beaver scratches head) or beavers (Beaver just points to himself)..... Or — I know! (Sophie opens her eyes) Let's pretend we're cowboys — I mean cow girls — I mean cow individuals riding on the open range! (Cowboy music is heard. Moose and Sophie rock slowly back and forth — Beaver is also rocking, mimicking Sophie's movements) Yeeha! Let's go see how the cattle are doin' in the pasture. Huh? What in tarnation is that? Why, there be cattle rustlers up ahead, and they're afixin' to steal our cows. Come on, boy, we gotta catch those ne'er-do-wells before they get away. Get-yup! (Music speeds up in response to the action) Faster, boy, faster! (Sophie pretends to crack a whip — slaps moose on rump — moose's eyes widen) Yeeha! Faster and faster!!!! .... WHOA!!!! (Sudden stop — sound of brakes) Shh! We gotta sneak up on 'em, real slow like and .... Ah ha! Gotcha! Stop in the name of the law! Unhand them thar cattle, you scrofulous scallywags. Yer all a-goin' to jail, yessiree. And I demand that you —

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(off stage)
Sophie!

#### **SOPHIE**

(quickly getting off moose, rushing to night table, taking out toothbrush and hairbrush)

Yes, Aunt Hattie!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(enters)

Are you getting ready for the picnic?

#### **SOPHIE**

Yes, Aunt Hattie! (Spoken while brushing teeth and hair at the same time with the wrong brushes — realizes error —)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(looking around room)

Good heavens! You've done an outstanding job of tidying your room, Sophie. If I didn't know any better, I'd say you owned only two stuffed animals —

#### **SOPHIE**

(nervous laugh)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

— that mangy-looking moose and that shabby old beaver. (*Clucks tongue, inspects fur*) Ugh! *Anything* could be living in that ratty old fur.

#### **SOPHIE**

Oh, Aunt Hattie — the only thing living in that fur is Moose and Beaver.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(*Humphs*) I'll have to take your word for it. At least it's not a *real* beaver. They're *rodents* don't you know — like enormous mice. Ugh!

#### **SOPHIE**

What's wrong with mice?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Everything is wrong with mice!

#### **SOPHIE**

Well, I like rodents. They're cute. And besides, I thought you said that old beaver dam upstream prevents your house from flooding.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Yeeeesss — that's true, it does. But still .... a rodent is a rodent ....and I don't like rodents! I'm allergic, you know that. Anyway, Sophie, do hurry up. Breakfast awaits and then — picnic time! (*Exits*)

#### **SOPHIE**

Aw, she didn't mean it guys. (*Hugs Moose*) You both have lovely soft fur. (*Hugs Beaver*) Now, I've got to get some breakfast. But I'll be back soon and then, Beaver, I'm going to take *you* with me on my birthday picnic! (*Sophie exits*)

(Beaver and Moose look in direction of exit. Then both sigh, stand at ease)

#### **BEAVER**

Whoa. It's been a long time since we've been out of that cupboard.

**MOOSE** 

Months!

#### **BEAVER**

My back's killing me! But yours must feel worse. How can you stand having a child ride on your back like that?

**MOOSE** 

I don't really mind.

**BEAVER** 

Really?

**MOOSE** 

Yeah. You don't mind so much — when you're real.

**BEAVER** 

Real? What do you mean? What's real?

#### **MOOSE**

You know — real is what happens when a child really, really loves you. And it also happens if you get lost or thrown away. Did you know that? You don't stay lost — you don't stay thrown away. You become real.

**BEAVER** 

Cool. Are you real?

#### **MOOSE**

Yeah, sure. Sophie made me real when she was just a little tyke. She used to ride on my back whenever she came to stay with Aunt Hattie, back in the good old days when she was a 25-pounder. (*Rubs back*) We had quite the adventures.

#### **BEAVER**

Oh, Moose, you're so lucky! I'd love to be real — I mean *really* real, you know? Not the kind of beaver that's made out of fun fur and stuffing, (*Patriotic music begins to play, much like Pomp and Circumstance. Beaver and Moose stand at attention, put hands on chests*) but a beaver who is a semi-aquatic rodent — Species: C. canadensis. Genus: Castor. Family: Castoridae. Order: Rodentia. Class: Mammalia. Phylum: Chordata. Kingdom: Animalia! The kind of beaver who has kept the water systems of North America healthy for thousands of years by building dams that create wetlands, by removing toxins from the water, and by leaving behind a rich layer of organic soil for future generations. The kind of beaver who is Canada's national symbol, who is the state mammal of New York, and who appeared on the very first Canadian postage stamp. The kind of beaver that everybody loves. The kind that *I* love. Oh, Moose....

# (See Appendix — Oh I'd Love To be A Beaver)

(Note: audience members should be encouraged to clap and sing along on the chorus)

#### Chorus:

OH I'D LOVE TO BE A BEAVER, ALL FURRY AND BROWN, WITH WEBBED BACK FEET TO HELP ME SWIM AROUND, A BEAVER — WITH A TAIL AND TEETH TO CHEW, TO BE REAL WOULD BE A DREAM COME TRUE.

#### Verse 1

I'M BUSY ALL THE TIME BUILDING LODGES AND DAMS, YOU MIGHT SAY I'M AN OVER-ACHIEVER, I CAN'T BUILD A BOOKSHELF OR A FENCE OR A BOAT, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING DAMS JUST LEAVE IT TO BEAVER!

Verse II

WHEN I'M FEELING FRIGHTENED I SLAP MY TAIL, TO WARN OTHER BEASTS OF PREY, I STAY UNDER WATER TILL THE COAST IS CLEAR, THEN I POP RIGHT UP AND START TO BEAVER AWAY!

Verse III
I CAN TAKE A MEADOW TURN IT INTO A POND,
NOBODY MAKES CHANGES LIKE ME,
BUT I MAKE CHANGE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE,
JUST LOOK ON OUR NICKEL AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!

#### **BEAVER**

I don't know, Moose. I'm just not satisfied being made out of fun fur and plastic pellets. Compared to a *real* beaver I'm just a big fat *nobody*.

Well that's not true.

BEAVER
Well, that's how I feel. Can I build a dam?

MOOSE
No, but...

BEAVER
Can I slap the water with my tail?

MOOSE
No, but...

BEAVER
Do I even have a tail?

MOOSE
No, but...

#### **BEAVER**

Can I chew down a tree and build a lodge with the branches?

#### **MOOSE**

No, *But*...on the other hand....I'll bet you don't have beaver breath.

**BEAVER** 

So?

**MOOSE** 

And you don't need to... you know....

**BEAVER** 

What?

**MOOSE** 

You know....

**BEAVER** 

What?

**MOOSE** 

You know....

**BEAVER** 

WHAT?

**MOOSE** 

Poop.

#### **BEAVER**

(Clicks tongue and rolls eyes) So what?! Just face it, Moose. I'm just a fiddle-faddle, namby-pamby, twopenny, piffling, piddling — hey, wait a minute. I just thought of something. I've got this great big label sticking out my back end. What does it say, Moose? Maybe it says...maybe it says I'm real! Read it, Moose, read it!

#### **MOOSE**

Ahem.	"Th	is label is	affixed in	compliance w	ith the uphols	tered and stuffed	
articles	act.	Not to be	removed	until delivered	to consumer.	. Content: plastic	
pellets	and j	polyester f	ibers. Wa	ashing instructi	ions — put in	washing machine -	

**BEAVER** 

WASHING MACHINE!

**MOOSE** 

"And tumble dry —"

**BEAVER** 

TUMBLE DRY! Aw, gee, Moose. Doesn't it say anything else?

**MOOSE** 

Just one other thing.

**BEAVER** 

Yeah? Yeah? What's that, Moose? Does it say I'm real?

**MOOSE** 

It says, "Made in China."

**BEAVER** 

Aw shucks. Doesn't it say anything else?

**MOOSE** 

Nope. Oh wait, well what do you know. It does say one other thing.

**BEAVER** 

Really? What's that, Moose, what does it say?

**MOOSE** 

It says, "This stuffed animal is NOT real."

**BEAVER** 

Drat.

#### **SOPHIE**

(offstage)
Just a minute, Aunt Hattie!

**MOOSE** 

Shhh!

(Sophie enters)

#### **SOPHIE**

All right, Beaver, it's time for the picnic. Hey, why the glum face? We're gonna have a wonderful time. Gee, sorry you can't come, Moose. I'll make it up to you when I get back by riding you in the Kentucky Derby.

(Sophie sees a mouse running across the floor)

Hey, wait a minute, what was that? I think it was a mouse! Here mousie mousie!

(Sophie runs around the stage, out into audience, chasing an — at this point — invisible mouse. A person in the audience (or assistant) has been given a toy mouse in advance and, after half a minute or so of Sophie searching, the assistant announces "Over here! I've got it!" Sophie is given the fake mouse, handled as if it is real of course)

Oh, look guys, it's an adorable little mouse. Aww! What a treasure. Hey, that's a great name — I'm going to call her Treasure! And Treasure is about to go on her very first picnic. (*Puts mouse in pocket*)

(See Appendix — Welcome Mouse)

I'LL PUT YOU IN MY POCKET, MY TINY LITTLE TREASURE. SOPHIE, BEAVER, MOOSE AND MOUSE, LET'S BE FRIENDS....FOREVER!

Oh, won't Aunt Hattie be surprised? You know how she loves rodents. Hee hee. C'mon, Beaver! C'mon little Treasure. This is going to be the best picnic ever!

(See Appendix — Ragtime Beaver Entr'acte — The scene changes ought to be done by two or three stage hands dressed as mice (or some other rodent), who should "perform" to the music as they are changing the scenery. Ideally, a miniature comedy routine should be worked out between them, probably involving amusing dance moves (loosely choreographed or, at the other extreme, synchronized), and either working seamlessly together or, perhaps, bumping into one another, accidentally tripping each other, and so forth. A running gag involving some sort of physical comedy would be highly effective, especially since it would naturally be dramatically altered between the third and fourth act, during the tragic Doom Music. At any rate, there should be a lot of activity which will hold the attention of the children. Note that all of the music in between each of the scenes can be shortened — to as little as fifteen seconds — or lengthened accordingly.)

# Act II

(Outside. Sounds of birds, crickets, a stream. Blanket spread out on floor. Picnic basket. Woman's handbag. Velveteen Beaver sitting on blanket)

#### **SOPHIE**

(*Puts daisy chain on Beaver's head*) And now, with all the power invested in me, I crown thee Beaverus Velveetus, King of all Beaverland. And you shall rule over rodents everywhere, and they shall pay homage to you in the form of sticks, and twigs, and mud, and all that you require to build a palace fit for a King. A Beaver King, that is. And —

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(off stage)
Sophie!

#### **SOPHIE**

Yes?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

It's time for your birthday treasure hunt! And bring me my handbag please!

#### **SOPHIE**

All right, Aunt Hattie! Oh, this is going to be a great treasure hunt — what's that Treasure? (*Takes mouse out of pocket* — holds beside ear) You want to go where? You want to go...in Aunt Hattie's handbag? Oh, how sweet! Won't Aunt Hattie be surprised when she finds a little "Treasure" in her purse! You know how she just loves rodents! (*Puts mouse gently in handbag*) C'mon Treasure, in you go. Now, King Beaverus Velveetus, you stay here and guard the royal treasury (*points to picnic basket*) while I go and search for gold coins to fill the coffers. Don't worry, I won't be long. We're coming — I mean, *I'm* coming! (*Exits*)

#### **BEAVER**

You know, I was feeling a bit sad earlier, about not being real and all, but I feel much better now. There's nothing like being crowned King to lift the spirits. Actually, after all the excitement of a royal coronation, I'm feeling a little sleepy. (Head starts to nod, snuffles a couple of times, falls asleep)

#### (See Appendix — Beaver Music)

(Beavers I and II enter to music, wearing construction hats, carrying sticks in their arms and piling them up to make a dam. Eventually, at end of Beaver Music, Beaver I trips over the Velveteen Beaver. The Velveteen Beaver awakens and he and Beaver I look at each other in surprise. They both yell in alarm)

#### **BEAVER I**

(close to beaver's face)

Whoa! No offense but — what are you?

#### **BEAVER**

Whoa! No offense but — you've got beaver breath!

**BEAVER I** 

Oh, sorry.

**BEAVER** 

That's all right. I envy you really.

#### **BEAVER II**

So, like my friend here asked ...what are you?

#### **BEAVER**

What do you mean what am I? I'm a beaver — just like you!

#### **BEAVER II**

A beaver just like us? Then what's happened to your tail?

#### **BEAVER**

What do you mean what's happened to my tail?

#### **BEAVER II**

Oh, come on. It's completely flat!

**BEAVER** 

Well — all beavers have flat tails.

# BEAVER II Not this flat! This tail is.... two dimensional! Like a piece of cloth — BEAVER I — exactly like a piece of cloth — BEAVER Well, um...you know how it is. BEAVERS I AND II Do we? BEAVER Sure you do. You know how beavers like us have a great sense of hearing...

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Uh huh...

**BEAVER** 

And a great sense of smell...

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Yup...

**BEAVER** 

And a great sense of touch...

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Uh huh...

**BEAVER** 

But not such good eyesight...

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Yup...

#### **BEAVER**

Well, you see, um....because of my bad eyesight I...um...I accidentally wandered into a....into a construction site and before I knew it a....a steam roller — that's right, a steam roller — a GIANT steam roller — had run right over my tail!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Yeah?

**BEAVER** 

And flattened it completely!

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Hmmmm.... (Disbelieving tone)

**BEAVER** 

Yup! That's what happened. Absolutely.

**BEAVER I** 

Well, all right — that explains why your tail is so flat. But why is it so white?

#### **BEAVER**

White? Oh, that. Well, you see, ah... after the steam roller ran over my tail it backed up and it...uh....

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Continue... (beavers might make a rolling motion with their hands)

#### **BEAVER**

Uh...it....it pinned me to the ground by my ears!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Your ears!?

#### **BEAVER**

Yeah, that's it! It pinned me to the ground by my ears and I lay there for hours and hours in the baking sun, and my tail got....you know — bleached!

# **BEAVERS I AND II**

Bleached?
<b>BEAVER</b> Yeah, you know, like when your Mom does the laundry and she uses bleach to make your socks white and (trails off)
BEAVERS I AND II
Hmm
<b>BEAVER II</b> Okay, that explains why your tail is so white. But what's this writing all over it?
<b>BEAVER</b> Writing? What writing? Oh, <i>that</i> writing. Well, you see, as I was lying there I
<b>BEAVERS I AND II</b> Yes?
BEAVER I
BEAVERS I AND II Tell us!
BEAVER IIt's graffiti!
BEAVERS I AND II Graffiti?
BEAVER  Veah graffiti. As I was lying on the ground, pinned by my ears under the

Yeah, graffiti. As I was lying on the ground, pinned by my ears under the steamroller, these vandals came along and...

# **BEAVERS I AND II**

And?

#### **BEAVER**

...and just wrote all over it!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Hmm.

#### **BEAVER I**

So what did these vandals write then?

#### **BEAVER**

Oh, no! Don't read it! It's too horrible! All sorts of naughty words and —

(Beaver I grabs tail and reads. Beaver puts fingers in ears and says Lalalalal loudly and tunelessly while Beavers read the label.)

#### **BEAVER**

Lalalalalalalalalala...(continue)

#### **BEAVER I**

"This label is affixed in compliance with the upholstered and stuffed articles act."

#### **BEAVER II**

"Not to be removed until delivered to consumer."

#### **BEAVER I**

"Content: plastic pellets and polyester fibres."

#### **BEAVER II**

"Washing instructions — put in washing machine —"

#### **BEAVER I**

"And tumble dry."

Beaver stops lalalaing, takes fingers out of ears.

# BEAVERS I AND II

BEAVERS I AND II
(speaking rapidly) "Made in China."
BEAVER La-la-la!
BEAVER II And it says one last thing.
BEAVER No it doesn't!
BEAVER I Oh yes it does. It says
BEAVERS I AND II "This stuffed animal is NOT real"!
<b>BEAVER</b> Oh, great. Well, now you know. Okay, fine! Go ahead. Make fun of me. Call me names.
BEAVERS I AND II Huh?
BEAVER Go on! Call me aa Beaver Bluffer!
BEAVERS I AND II A Beaver Bluffer?!
BEAVER

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

A flap-doodling fathead?!

Call me ....a flap-doodling fathead!

#### **BEAVER**

Call me a bamboozler, a flim-flammer, and a hornswoggler!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

A bamboozler, a flim-flammer, and a hornswoggler!?

#### **BEAVER**

Call me a hoddy-doddy, noodle-poodle, ninnyhammered, fake fur foodlefanny!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

A - what?

**BEAVER** 

Well? Go ahead! Call me names!

#### **BEAVER I**

We don't have to. You've done it all for us.

#### **BEAVER II**

There aren't any names left.

#### **BEAVER I**

Besides which, we don't want to call you names, Beaver. Nobody should ever call anybody names. (Beaver I should turn to the audience for confirmation) Right kids? (Note: Beaver I should by no means speak in a scolding or accusing tone of voice — rather he should appeal to the children's expertise in matters of name-calling, kicking, teasing, and so forth. In other words, keep it light.)

#### **BEAVER**

You're not going to call me names? Oh, I see. You probably want to kick me instead.

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

What?!

#### **BEAVER**

Yeah, that's right. Kick the stuffing out of me. Go ahead! See if I care!

#### **BEAVER II**

We don't want to kick you, Beaver. Nobody should ever kick anybody else. (*Again, Beaver II turns to the audience*) Right kids?

#### **BEAVER I**

Honestly, what does it matter that you're a stuffed animal, and we're not?

#### **BEAVER**

It matters because you can slap the water with your tails, and build lodges and dams, and chew down whole trees with your teeth — and I can't do anything!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Not true!

#### **BEAVER**

Yes, it is true! All that I am is on my label, you see? You read it yourself. I'm just fun fur and plastic pellets!

#### **BEAVER II**

You're NOT just fun fur and plastic pellets. I mean, what would my label say if I had one?

#### **BEAVER**

I dunno.

#### **BEAVER II**

It would say "This item composed of fur and teeth and blood and nerves and gooey guts and squishy intestines and a slimy brain and..."

#### **BEAVER**

Eww! That's disgusting!

#### **BEAVER I**

The point is, Beaver — there's more to us than what's on a label!

#### **BEAVER**

Yeah? Well I've always heard that it's what's inside that counts, and all that's inside me is stuffing!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Nonsense!

(See Appendix — We're All Individuals)

#### **BEAVER I**

YOU SEE, BEAVER: IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE STUFFED.

#### **BEAVER II**

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE REAL.

#### **BEAVER I**

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE BROWN OR BLACK OR WHITE OR STRIPED OR PLAID OR PINK OR TEAL.

#### **BEAVER II**

EVERY CREATURE HAS ITS OWN APPEAL.

#### **BEAVER I**

OH, I LOVE TO BE A BEAVER;
IT'S GREAT I MUST CONFESS,
I DRESS IN FINEST FUR,
A COZY LODGE IS MY ADDRESS,
I CHEW, I BUILD, I SLEEP,
I'M AN AQUATIC ACROBAT,
BUT THERE'S EVER SO MUCH MORE TO ME,
MORE TO ME THAN THAT.
DON'T SAY I'M JUST A RODENT
WHO CAN CHEW DOWN A TREE,
I'M AN INDIVIDUAL,
I'M A PERSON,
I'M ME!

#### **BEAVER**

(spoken)

That's all very well for you. But what about *me*?

#### **BEAVER I**

(spoken)

We're getting to that part.

#### **BEAVER II**

BUT HOW LUCKY YOU'RE A STUFFY,
WHO'S NEVER HOT OR COLD,
WHO NEEDN'T EAT, WHO NEEDN'T SLEEP,
WHO'S NEVER YOUNG OR OLD,
WHO COMFORTS LITTLE CHILDREN,
BRINGING JOY AND LOVE AND BLISS,
BUT THERE'S EVER SO MUCH MORE TO YOU,
MORE TO YOU THAN THIS.
DON'T SAY YOU'RE JUST A STUFFY
WHO HAS NOT GOT A CLUE,
YOU'RE AN INDIVIDUAL,
YOU'RE A PERSON,
YOU'RE YOU!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

CREATURES ARE INCREDIBLE, WHETHER STUFFED OR REAL, WE'RE IN A CLASS OF OUR OWN IT IS TRUE.
BUT EVERYONE IS WONDERFUL IN HIS OR HER OWN WAY, AND THIS APPLIES TO YOU — AND YOU, AND YOU, AND YOU!

(Point to individual audience members)

#### ALL THREE BEAVERS

OH WE LOVE BEING BEAVERS, IT'S GREAT WE MUST CONFESS, WE DRESS IN FINEST FUR, A LODGE (OR CUPBOARD'S) OUR ADDRESS, WE LOVE TO COMFORT CHILDREN

OR TO CHEW DOWN A TREE,
BUT THERE'S EVER SO MUCH MORE TO US,
MORE THAN YOU CAN SEE.
DON'T SAY WE'RE STUFFED OR REAL,
DON'T BE SUPERCILIOUS!
WE ARE INDIVIDUALS,
WE ARE PERSONS,
WE'RE US!

**BEAVER I** 

You get it, Beaver?

**BEAVER** 

I think so. I do feel ever so much better. Really, I can't thank you enough.

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Our pleasure.

**BEAVER I** 

Well, Beaver, it's been great —

**BEAVER** 

You bet it has!

**BEAVER II** 

But we can't *stick* around all day.

**BEAVER** 

Why not?

**BEAVER I** 

We've got trees to chew down...

**BEAVER II** 

Dams to build...

BEAVER I Dams to repair
BEAVER II Meadows to flood
BEAVER I  This little meadow, in fact.
BEAVER This one?!
BEAVERS I AND II This one.
BEAVER Why this one?
<b>BEAVER I</b> We've got a building permit.
BEAVER II Gotta put in a new subdivision.
BEAVER I  I've got a wife with four pups on the way.
BEAVER II Me too.
BEAVER I You see, we need a little extra habitat — and this place is perfect!
BEAVER Well, can you wait a little while to flood it? I mean, at least until Sophie comes back to take me home.

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Well.... all right.

#### **BEAVER II**

But we'll need to start flooding first thing in the morning.

#### **BEAVER**

Oh, I'm sure that Sophie will come and get me before then.

**BEAVER I** 

Well — goodbye, Beaver.

(Beavers shake paws all 'round)

**BEAVER** 

Goodbye, Beaver.

**BEAVER II** 

Goodbye, Beaver.

**BEAVER** 

Goodbye, Beaver.

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

(shaking each other's paws) Goodbye, Beaver.

(Beavers exit, perhaps with more Beaver Music)

#### **BEAVER**

Well, weren't they nice. Ooh, but I do wish Sophie would hurry up. It's getting dark and I ...

(Night sounds commence, such as crickets)

I...I sure hope they don't flood the meadow before Sophie comes back.

(Wolf howls)

#### **BEAVER** (cont'd)

I...I feel frightened!

(Grabs corners of blanket — pulls over head)

(More night sounds. Wolves. Possibly lightning and thunder, but not so loud that it will scare the little ones. It gets darker. Beaver shivers under blanket)

Ohhh!

#### **SOPHIE**

(off stage)

I'm sorry, Aunt Hattie, but I've just got to find him!

(Sophie enters)

Oh, where did I leave Beaver? I'll never find him — unless — I know! I'll bet some of you have seen Beaver. Let's play hot and cold. I'll move around the meadow, and if I'm getting closer to Beaver, you say "Warmer!" And if I'm getting farther away from Beaver, you say "Colder!" Okay?

(Sophie plays hot and cold with audience until she backs into Beaver)

Oh! Oh Beaver! (*Hugs Beaver*) Oh, please forgive me! I couldn't remember where I'd left you and....and I thought I might have lost you forever! And when I thought I'd lost you, then I realized — I *never* want to be parted from you! You're too important to me now!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(off stage)
Sophie!

#### **SOPHIE**

Yes, Aunt Hattie, I'm over here!

(Aunt Hattie enters)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Ah. So you've finally found that mangy old rodent. Goodness gracious, Sophie, I feel like we've been searching for hours. Why couldn't you just be happy with your other stuffed animals?

#### **SOPHIE**

I AM happy with Moose.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

I don't just mean Moose. I mean the other seven hundred and fifty seven!

#### **SOPHIE**

Oh, them. I gave them .... I mean....I.....I mean Beaver's special!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Ugh! Well, you've found him now. Let's go home. I just need to blow my nose — you've been dragging me through that forest, and you know I'm allergic to trees. (*Opens handbag*) Now, I'm sure I've got a tissue in here somewhere. Hmm? What's this?

(Aunt Hattie sees mouse. Screams)

Ahhhhhhhh! A mouse! A mouse! Ahhhhhhh! (Closes handbag, throws it in air, Sophie catches it, Aunt Hattie runs offstage screaming)

#### **SOPHIE**

Well — I think our work here is done. C'mon Beaver! (Opening handbag and addressing mouse) C'mon Little Treasure. Let's go home!

(See Appendix — We're All Individuals Entr'acte)

### Act III

(Sophie's bedroom. Mouse cage on night table, preferably with real mouse in it. Rocking Moose at end of bed, Beaver sitting at foot of bed, Sophie under the blankets. Everyone sleeping. Alarm goes off. Keeps on ringing. Beaver and Moose look at each other. Shrug. Beaver reaches over and turns off alarm. Aunt Hattie enters)

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LJ	ν,	1	LI	u	Ľ.

Groans

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(enters)

Sophie! You won't believe it — but you've gotten a letter — a letter from the South Pole of all places! An *incomprehensible* letter, thanking you, and all the other children — what other children I'm sure I don't know — for the enormous box of stuffed animals. No, it makes no sense at all. None whatsoever. Sophie? Sophie! Are you listening?

**SOPHIE** 

Groans

**AUNT HATTIE** 

Sophie! Sophie, what is it?

**SOPHIE** 

I feel sick.

**AUNT HATTIE** 

(Pulling back covers)

What?

**SOPHIE** 

(sits up — white, covered with spots) I said, I feel sick.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Sick! Sick? Oh no, oh no! You know I'm allergic to sick! Help! Dogbane!!!

(Dogbane rushes in as music begins)

(See Appendix — Little Sophie is Sick Sick Sick!)

LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, SHE WON'T GET OUT OF HER BED.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK,
PUT THE WATER BOTTLE ON HER HEAD.
SHE'S COUGHIN' AND SNEEZIN' AND HER THROAT IS SORE,
SHE'S GOT GERMS GALORE.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK,
SHE WON'T GET OUT OF HER BED.

LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, CALL THE DOCTOR ON THE PHONE.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, WITH DISEASES YET UNKNOWN.
SHE'S OUT OF SORTS, SHE'S INDISPOSED, SHE'S GOT A RUNNY NOSE.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, CALL THE DOCTOR ON THE PHONE.

(Doctor enters — black bag, stethoscope)

LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, SHE'S AS HOT AS THE FIRE IN THE SUN.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK,
GOT A TEMPERATURE OF 40 POINT 1.
GOTTA SPONGE HER OFF, GOTTA WIPE THAT FROWN,
GET THE FEVER DOWN.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK,
SHE'S AS HOT AS THE FIRE IN THE SUN.

LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, TAKE A BLANKET OFF OF THE BED.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, PUT ANOTHER BLANKET ON INSTEAD.
GOTTA FLUFF THAT PILLOW MAKE IT BILLOWY, SO SHE'S ALL COMFY.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, TAKE A BLANKET OFF OF THE BED.

LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, POOR LITTLE THING'S IN PAIN.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, SICK, SHE'S GOTTA BLOW HER NOSE AGAIN.
SHE'S TOSSIN' HER COOKIES ALL OVER THE FLOOR, CALL THE JANITOR.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, POOR LITTLE THING'S IN PAIN.

LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK, GOTTA MAKE HER FEEL BETTER AGAIN.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK,
GOTTA SPOON THAT MEDICINE IN.
GOTTA DRINK THAT WATER, GOTTA TAKE THAT PILL,
SO SHE WON'T BE ILL.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK,
GOTTA MAKE HER FEEL BETTER AGAIN.
LITTLE SOPHIE IS SICK, SICK, SICK
GOTTA MAKE HER FEEL BETTER AGAIN!

(As Aunt Hattie sings, Beaver is also coughing, sneezing — he's obviously sick too. Aunt Hattie reaches into night table drawer for various medical objects — applies to both Sophie and Beaver. Butler and Doctor also participate. Temperatures are taken, hot-water bottle placed on heads, spoonfuls of medicine administered, pillows plumped, blankets replaced, and so on. Aunt Hattie could also frantically hand tissues to audience members, frenetically ripping through an entire box)

(Sophie obviously asleep)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Oh, Doctor! Whatever can be the matter with Sophie?

**DOCTOR** 

I'm afraid — Sophie is sick!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(gasps) But I'm allergic to sick!

#### **DOCTOR**

Don't worry. It's nothing serious. I've given her some medicine to help her sleep now, but she'll be up and around in no time at all!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Oh, that's wonderful news!

**DOCTOR** 

However....

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

However?

#### **DOCTOR**

However....I'm afraid this Beaver of hers....

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

You mean that *rodent*? Yes, what about it?

#### **DOCTOR**

I'm afraid this rodent.....will have to go! It's absolutely covered in germs!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Oh, I thought as much. Mangy old thing. I'll get rid of it while Sophie's sleeping. Oh, Doctor, thank you so much! Dogbane — let us both see the Doctor to the door. (*Aunt Hattie, Dogbane, and Doctor exit*)

#### **BEAVER**

(talking with stuffy nose)
Oh, Moose! Did you.... (sneezes loudly).... hear that?

#### **MOOSE**

Yes!

#### **BEAVER**

They're going to throw me away! Like so much trash! Like garbage! Like ....(sneezes)! Oh, Moose! Sophie would never allow it if she were awake. We've got to wake her up!

#### **MOOSE**

No, Beaver! The Doctor gave her some medicine to help her sleep. We *can't* wake her up. And besides, she *needs* her sleep. She's sick!

#### **BEAVER**

Yes, I know, Moose, but — but what am I going to do? Sophie needs me!

(See Appendix — We're All Individuals — Beaver Solo)

A CHILD NEEDS A STUFFY,
WHAT I DO BEST IS CUDDLE,
AND LISTEN TO A CHILD,
WHEN A CHILD'S IN A MUDDLE,
I'M IMPORTANT! I'M ESSENTIAL!
WHEN SOMETHING IS AMISS,
BUT THERE'S EVER SO MUCH MORE TO ME,
MORE TO ME THAN THIS.
DON'T SAY I'M JUST A GERMBALL –
I HAVE MY DIGNITY,
I'M AN INDIVIDUAL,
I'M A PERSON,
I'M ME!

(Aunt Hattie sneezes loudly offstage)

#### **MOOSE**

Shhhh!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(off stage)

Now, about that Beaver — I've got to throw him away right this second!

#### **DOGBANE**

(offstage)

Would you like me to do it, Madame?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(offstage)

No, thank you Dogbane. I'd very much like to do it myself.

#### **BEAVER**

Oh, Moose! You'll look after Sophie when I'm gone, won't you?

#### **MOOSE**

Of course I will!

(Aunt Hattie enters)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Ah, there you are, Beaver. Now, I'm very sorry — well, actually I'm not that sorry — nevertheless, you heard the Doctor. Time's up for you! We've got to get you out of here while Sophie's asleep so there won't be any fuss. Besides, she won't miss you — she's got hundreds of other stuffed animals to keep her company. Where are they anyway? Ah well, never mind. Come on now, Beaver — out we go!!!

(See Appendix — Jazzy Doom Music Entr'acte)

### Act IV

(Outside in the meadow. Outdoor sounds, faint sound of rushing water. Beaver alone.)

#### **BEAVER**

(sniffling)

Oh, the inhumanity! I've been thrown away — and now I'll never get to play with Sophie or Moose ever again! (Sobs) I'll never pretend to be an elephant (Beaver ribbits, mimes a frog), or a ballet dancer (waddles like penguin), or a scary monster (dances like a ballerina), or somebody with a little baby (roars and acts like a scary monster), or somebody in love (quacks and waddles like a duck). Oh! I'm so confused! I'm so lost! Without Sophie and Moose nothing makes sense anymore! (More sobbing. Beaver sits in front of a curtain so that the label can be replaced with a tail without revealing the transformation.)

(Real beavers enter, slowly, dragging a log which has trapped their tails)

**BEAVER I** 

Look! It's that stuffed Beaver!

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

Beaver! Beaver! Over here!

(Beaver looks up, stops sobbing, blows nose loudly)

**BEAVER II** 

Beaver! You've got to help us! There's been a terrible flood!

**BEAVER I** 

There's water everywhere!

**BEAVER II** 

We made it out alive —

**BEAVER I** 

— barely!

#### **BEAVER II**

— but we've got to try to save the others!

**BEAVER** 

But how?

#### **BEAVER I**

You know! Beavers warn other beavers of danger by slapping their tails!

#### **BEAVER II**

Slap your tail, Beaver! Slap your tail!

#### **BEAVER**

Hello — aren't you guys forgetting something?

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Huh?

#### **BEAVER**

I don't have a tail! I've only got a useless label.

#### **BEAVER I**

Well slap your label!

#### **BEAVER II**

And do it fast! Our dam will be washed away any moment now!

#### **BEAVER I**

Come on, Beaver! You can save the others!

#### **BEAVER**

No I can't! A label doesn't make any noise!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Just try!

#### **BEAVER**

Don't you get it? Without a tail, there's no point! I *can't* make noise! It's impossible!

#### **BEAVER II**

It's *not* impossible!

#### **BEAVER**

Yes it is! Don't you see? I'm a failure! I'm a no good, unqualified, inept, fiddlehead!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Not this again.

#### **BEAVER**

I'm a botcher, a bungler, a foozler, a fumbler!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Beaver!

#### **BEAVER**

I'm a blunderer, a blockhead, a numskull, a nincompoop!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Beaver!!

#### **BEAVER**

I'm a driveler, a donut, a doo-doo dumb-dumb —

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

BEAVER!!! Just TRY!

(Beaver, exasperated, slaps what is now his tail three times. These should be three slow, dramatic, fairly loud slaps. Perhaps he should turn sideways to the audience so that they can see his new tail clearly)

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Beaver!

**BEAVER** 

What?

**BEAVER I** 

You don't have a label anymore!

#### **BEAVER**

What do you mean I don't have a label? That's impossible. You guys shouldn't tease me like that.

#### **BEAVER II**

But it's true! We're not teasing you. Besides which, nobody should ever tease anybody else. Right? (*Turns to audience for confirmation*)

#### **BEAVER**

No, I don't believe it. I can't have a tail. *Audience interaction:* I'll ask these nice people. All those who think I have a tail, put your hand up. (*Turns to Beaver I and Beaver II so that he's not looking at the audience*) See, I told you I don't have a tail.

**BEAVER I** 

(pointing to audience)
Look, Beaver! Look!

**BEAVER** 

(turning to audience)

What? You're saying I have a tail?

#### **BEAVER II**

Turn around, Beaver, you'll see!

(Beaver whirls around and around, unsuccessfully trying to catch a glimpse of his own tail)

#### **BEAVER I**

No, no Beaver. Come over here.

#### **BEAVER II**

We'll help you.

(Beaver goes over to Beaver I and Beaver II. They hold his tail. He turns gently and sees it)

#### **BEAVER**

Oh! OHHHH! Oh I don't believe it! My label's gone!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Uh huh!

#### **BEAVER**

And... and I've got a tail! Just like you!

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Just like us!

#### **BEAVER**

And I can dance! Just like you! (Beaver does a very short dance)

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Just like us!

#### **BEAVER**

And finally I can sing...just like you!

(Starts singing Oh I want to be a Beaver song..) "Oh it's great to be a beaver, all furry and brown —"

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

No, Beaver, NO! (Music stops abruptly)

#### **BEAVER I**

There's no time for singing!

#### **BEAVER II**

Only for saving! You've warned the others of danger...

#### **BEAVER I**

...but now you've got to get this log off our tails!

#### **BEAVER II**

We've got to get back to the dam and repair it, before the flood waters sweep away everything!

#### **BEAVER**

Everything?! (Gestures towards audience)

#### **BEAVERS I AND II**

Everything!

#### **BEAVER I**

Even Aunt Hattie's house! Our dam has been holding off the flood waters for years, but if it bursts — whooooosh!

#### **BEAVER**

Well, all right. I'll try!

(Beaver gasps, makes big show of rolling log off tails)

#### **BEAVER II**

Don't give up Beaver!

#### **BEAVER I**

We're all depending on you! (*Turning to look at audience*) Come on, everybody. Let's give Beaver our full support. (*Begin chant*) Bea-ver! Bea-ver! Bea-ver!

(Beaver rolls log off tails)

Hooray!	BEAVERS I AND II
Well done, Beaver! You're a	BEAVER I true hero!
Now, we don't mean to be ruc	BEAVER II de but
We must be off! We won't be	BEAVER I e long but —
We've got habitat to save!	BEAVER II
Good bye, Beaver.	BEAVER
(Again, shaking paws all 'rou	nd)
Good bye, Beaver.	BEAVER I
Good bye, Beaver.	BEAVER
Good bye, Beaver.	BEAVER II

**BEAVERS I AND II** 

(to each other, shaking paws)

Good bye, Beaver.

(Beavers I and II exit)

#### **SOPHIE**

(offstage)

Beaver?! Beaver! Oh, Beaver, where are you!?

(Enters)

**BEAVER** 

Sophie! Sophie! I'm over here, Sophie!

**SOPHIE** 

Oh, Beaver! Oh, I thought I'd lost you forever this time! (Runs to Beaver and hugs him) Beaver!

**BEAVER** 

Yes, Sophie?

**SOPHIE** 

Beaver — are you all right?

**BEAVER** 

Perfectly healthy again! And you?

**SOPHIE** 

Yes, I'm fine. What I mean is — when I hug you ... you hug me back!

**BEAVER** 

That's right.

**SOPHIE** 

And you can talk!

**BEAVER** 

That's right.

**SOPHIE** 

And you don't have a label anymore. You've got a tail!

]	BEAVER
That's right, Sophie. I'm real!	
	SOPHIE
Real?	
Yes, real! The magic worked and I'r	BEAVER In finally a real Beaver, just like I've always I so tail), and I've got beaver breath (breathes in even need to you know
What?	SOPHIE
You know	BEAVER
What?	SOPHIE
You know	BEAVER
WHAT?!	SOPHIE
Poop.	BEAVER
Oh, that. Well, that's great, Beaver.	SOPHIE I'm (sighs) I'm so happy for you.
You don't <i>look</i> happy for me.	BEAVER
No, I am really. It's just thatnow	SOPHIE  v I feel like I've really lost you.

#### **BEAVER**

Lost me? What do you mean? Hello! I'm right here!

#### **SOPHIE**

I mean....now that you're a real beaver....well, you won't be needing me anymore.

#### **BEAVER**

What are you talking about? Of course I need you Sophie! Now that I'm real, we'll have even greater adventures than ever before!

#### **MOOSE**

(Enters)

Hey, can I come on these adventures too?

#### SOPHIE AND BEAVER

Moose!

#### **MOOSE**

Well, I'm real too, remember? You made me real, Sophie, but I wouldn't mind living wild for a while.

#### **SOPHIE**

Well....okay. As long as you promise that I can still visit you both...

#### **BEAVER AND MOOSE**

Of course!

#### **SOPHIE**

And that we can still have adventures together...

#### **BEAVER AND MOOSE**

Anytime!

(See Appendix — But When Will We Be Parted?)

#### **SOPHIE**

Anytime? Are you sure?

# **SOPHIE** BUT WHEN WILL WE BE PARTED? **BEAVER** HOW 'BOUT WE MAKE IT NEVER. **ALL** SOPHIE, BEAVER, MOOSE AND MOUSE, FRIENDS ARE FRIENDS FOREVER. **SOPHIE** FOREVER? **BEAVER** FOREVER. **SOPHIE** FOREVER. BEAVER, MOOSE, AND SOPHIE FOREVER. (Beavers I and II enter) **BEAVER II** Can we join the adventure too? **BEAVER** Hey you two! Back so soon? **BEAVER I** Of course!

A dam's easy to repair...

**BEAVER II** 

# **BEAVER I** If you're professionals! **BEAVER II** Like us! **BEAVER** Terrific! You've fixed the dam so that Aunt Hattie's house won't flood! Oh, Sophie, Moose, I'd like you to meet my beaver buddies. **SOPHIE** Hello, Beaver. (Shaking hands and paws all 'round) **BEAVER I** Hello, Sophie. **BEAVER II** Hello, Sophie. **SOPHIE** Hello, Beaver. **BEAVER II** Hello, Moose. **MOOSE** Hello, Beaver.

**BEAVER I** 

**MOOSE** 

Hello, Moose.

Hello, Beaver.

(In the confusion, Sophie and Moose shake hands and say hello to each other simultaneously, as do the two Beavers)

#### **SOPHIE**

(*Takes Treasure out of pocket* — *holds mouse to ear*) What's that Treasure? Oh, Treasure says hello...

#### BEAVER, MOOSE, BEAVERS I AND II

Hello, Treasure.

#### **SOPHIE**

And what else? You want me to ask Beaver if you can visit the wild too?

#### **BEAVER**

Well of course Treasure can visit. You made me the King of all rodents once, don't forget, so as Treasure's King.... I command it!

#### **SOPHIE**

And what's that? You want to *visit* the wild...but you want to *live* in Aunt Hattie's handbag?

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

(Enters, aggravated and wet)

Ah, there you are, Sophie. I've been looking all over for you, I've gotten all soggy, and you *know* I'm allergic to the damp.

#### **SOPHIE**

I'm sorry, Aunt Hattie.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

And what are all these stuffed animals doing here? And what's this?! *Three* beavers!

#### **SOPHIE**

That's right! Three!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Ugh! Multiplying, are they? How like real rodents!

#### **SOPHIE**

They are real, Aunt Hattie, not stuffed.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Not stuffed? Nonsense! Of course they're stuffed.

**SOPHIE** 

No they're not.

**AUNT HATTIE** 

Yes they are!

**SOPHIE** 

No they're not.

**AUNT HATTIE** 

Yes they are!

BEAVER, BEAVERS I AND II

No we're not!

**AUNT HATTIE** 

(hides behind Sophie)

Ahhhhhhh! Now, Sophie — don't panic!

#### **SOPHIE**

Aunt Hattie! These beavers are our friends. They repaired the dam to prevent your house from flooding. They saved us, Aunt Hattie. They're all heroes!

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

They're rodents!

#### **BEAVER I**

You know, maybe we *should* let the old dam get washed away.

#### **BEAVER II**

Yeah, instead of just flooding that one little meadow, maybe we could just let the whole place flood.

#### **BEAVER I**

And build a brand new dam somewhere else....

#### **BEAVER**

Somewhere — where beavers get a little respect.

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

No, no surely that won't be necessary. *I* respect you. As Sophie says, you're all.... heroes. Please.... *DON'T LEAVE*.

#### BEAVER, BEAVERS I AND II

Well.... okay.

#### **SOPHIE**

Why don't you shake on it? Here, I'll hold your handbag for you. (Takes handbag — while Aunt Hattie shakes hands, Sophie makes a big show of putting mouse in, then closes handbag)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Yes, of course. Thank you. Thank you very much. (Reluctantly shakes hands with beavers)

#### **SOPHIE**

I thought you were allergic to rodents? (Gives Aunt Hattie back handbag)

#### **AUNT HATTIE**

Yes, well... I'm *not* allergic to *heroes*. But I *am* allergic to happy endings. You *know* they give me hives. (*Sneezes*) Ugh, I need a tissue. (*Opens handbag*)

#### **BEAVER**

Oh, isn't it wonderful? Everything's turned out for the best! The Beavers have repaired their dam and saved Aunt Hattie's home from being washed away, the children at the South Pole have lots of stuffed animals, Moose is free, Sophie is healthy, and Treasure has a new home — in Aunt Hattie's handbag! (Aunt Hattie opening handbag at same time Beaver says this — she screams, closes bag, throws it to Sophie, and temporarily faints in one of the Beaver's arms) And best of all.... I'm REAL!

(See Appendix — Oh I'd Love To Be A Beaver)

OH IT'S GREAT TO BE A BEAVER, ALL FURRY AND BROWN WITH WEBBED BACK FEET TO HELP ME SWIM AROUND A BEAVER - WITH TAIL AND TEETH TO CHEW BEING REAL IS A DREAM COME TRUE!

I'M BUSY ALL THE TIME BUILDING LODGES AND DAMS YOU MIGHT SAY I'M AN OVER-ACHIEVER I CAN'T BUILD A BOOKSHELF OR A FENCE OR A BOAT BUT WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING DAMS JUST LEAVE IT TO BEAVER!

(See Appendix — pianist plays Exit to Lobby while cast bows and exits)

## Appendix I - Vocal Scores

Act I	
Oh, I'd Love To Be A Beaver (The Velveteen Beaver)	59
Welcome Mouse (Sophie, Beaver and Moose)	61
Act II	
We're All Individuals (Beavers I and II and The Velveteen Beaver)	62
Act III	
Little Sophie is Sick Sick Sick! (All Except Sophie)	64
Reprise of We're All Individuals (Beaver)	
Act IV	
But When Will We Be Parted? (Sophie, Beaver and Moose)	73
Oh, It's Great To Be a Beaver (Beaver and Cast)	74

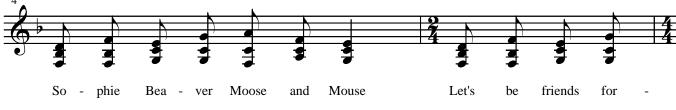
## Oh I'd Love to be a Beaver



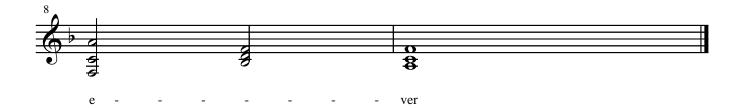


# Welcome Mouse









### We're All Individuals





# Little Sophie Is Sick





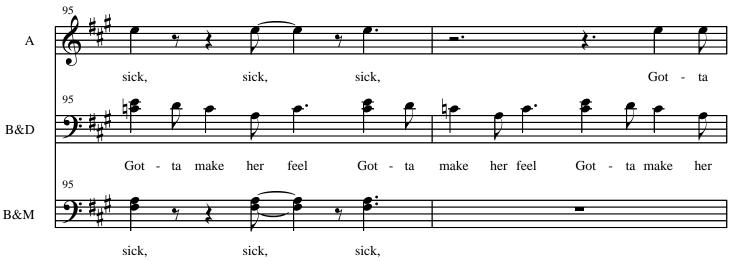














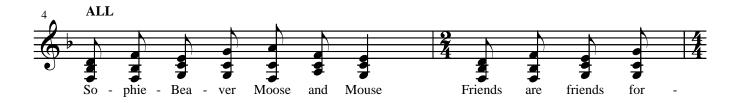


### Reprise of We're All Individuals

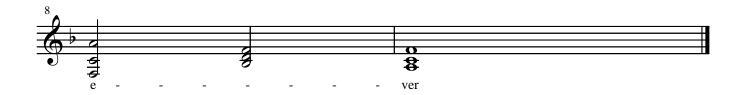


### But When Will We Be Parted?









### Oh It's Great To Be a Beaver



#### The Velveteen Beaver

#### **Appendix II - Full Scores**

Act I
Act I Intro
Too Many Toys Blues
Pomp and Circumstance
Oh, I'd Love To Be A Beaver
Welcome Mouse         87
Act II
Ragtime Beaver Entr'acte
Beaver Music
We're All Individuals95
Act III
We're All Individuals Entr'acte
Little Sophie is Sick Sick Sick! 104
Reprise of We're All Individuals
Act IV
Jazzy Doom Music
But When Will We Be Parted?
Oh. It's Great To Be a Beaver

# **Introductory Music**



#### Too Many Toys Blues

The written music should be treated only as a rough guide to performance. Ad libbing by vocalist and pianist is encouraged.

All stuffies must be in the box by the start of verse 4.









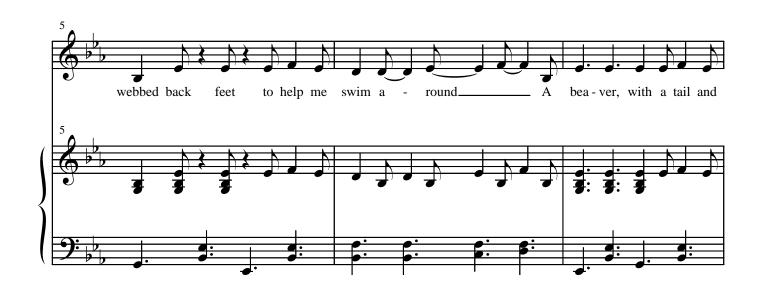
#### Excerpt from Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1

Cue: Not the kind of beaver that's made out of fun fur and stuffing.



### Oh I'd Love to be a Beaver













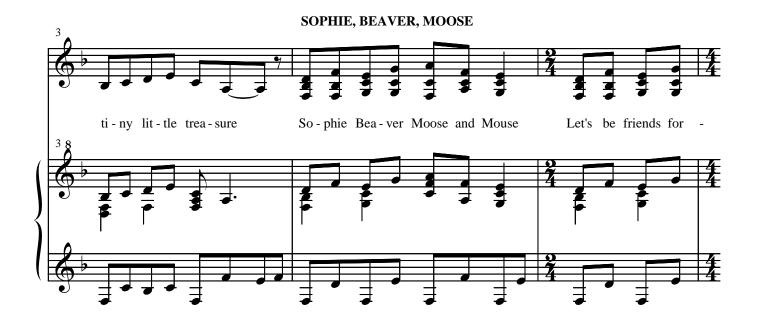
### Welcome Mouse

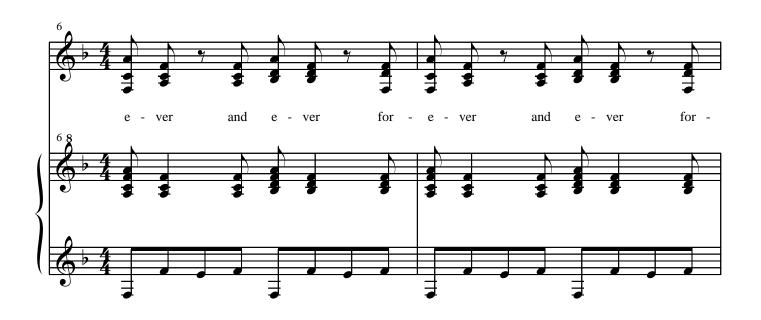
Words and Music by Ingrid Hansen Smythe

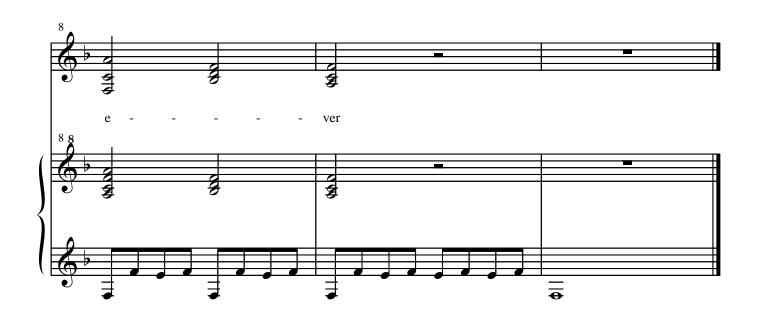
SOPHIE

Fill put you in my poc - ket my

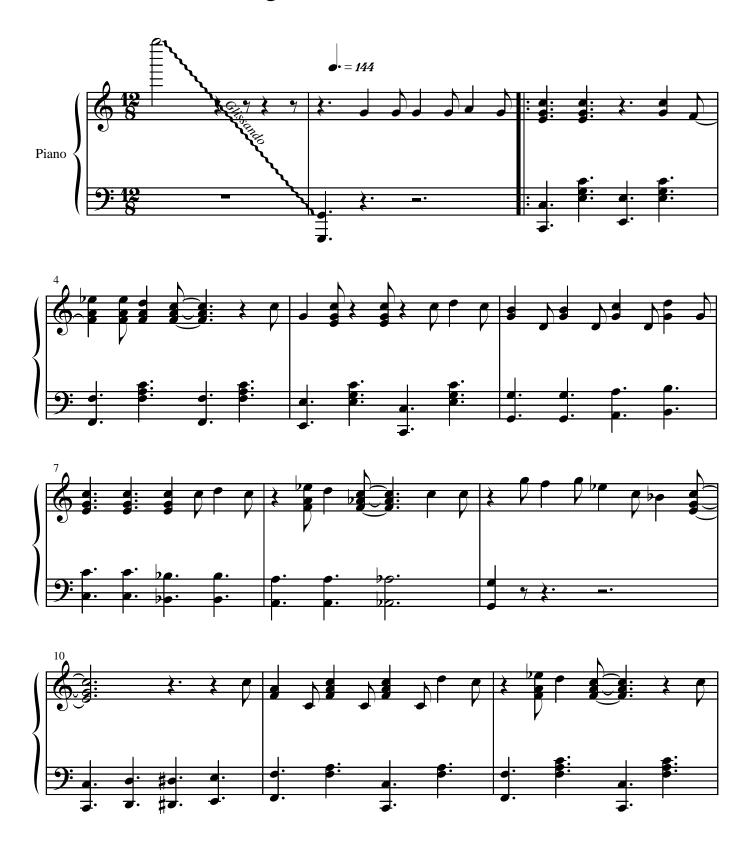
Con Pedale







## Ragtime Beaver Entr'acte







#### **Beaver Music**







### We're All Individuals











## We're All Individuals Entr'acte









# Little Sophie Is Sick



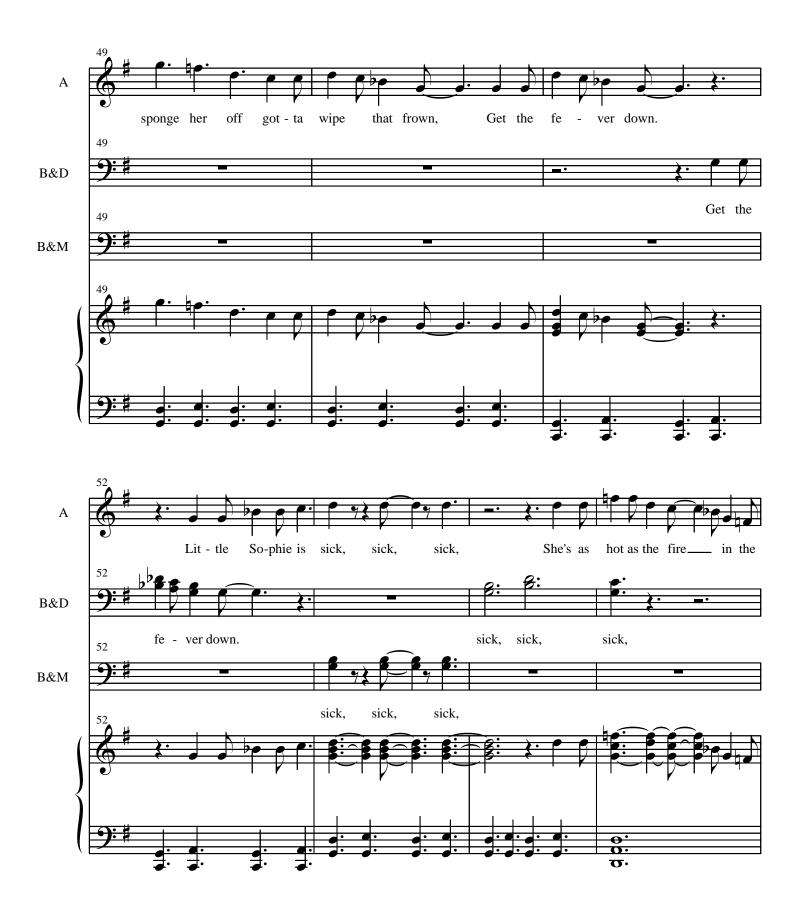


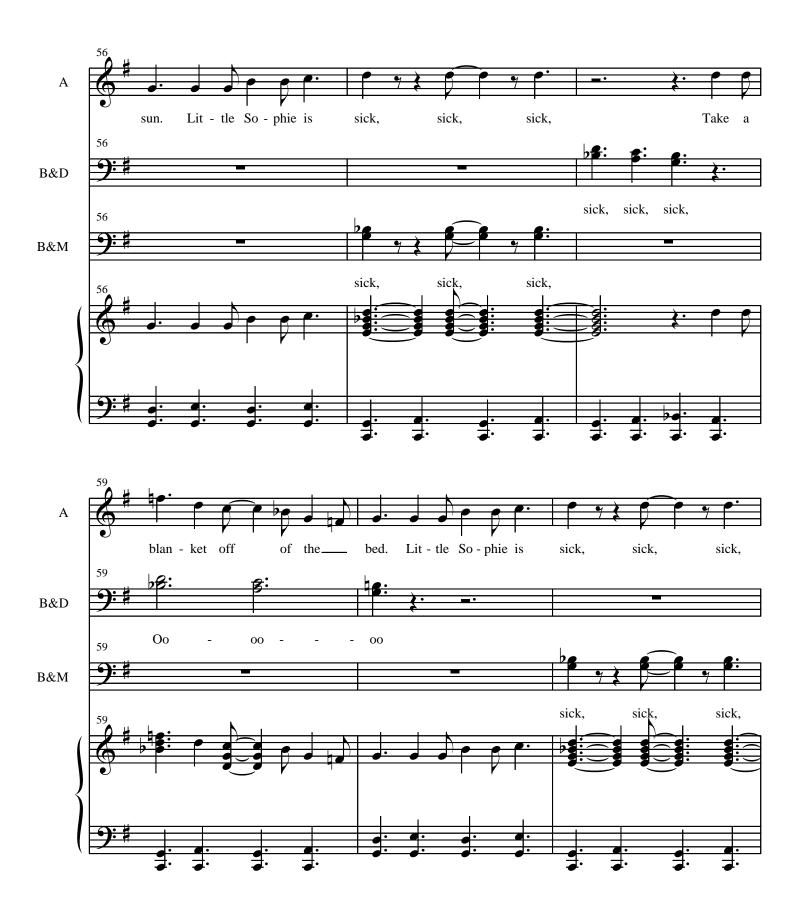




























## Reprise of We're All Individuals

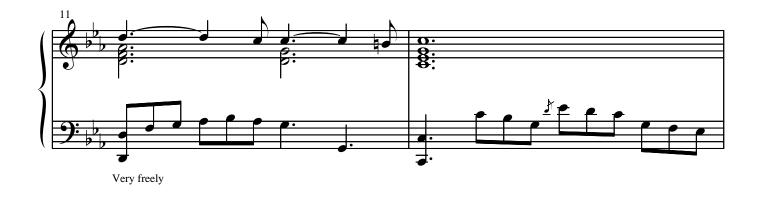




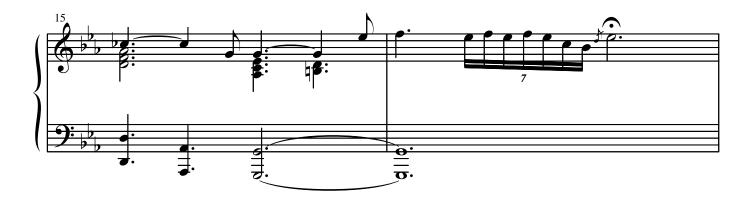


# Jazzy Doom Music





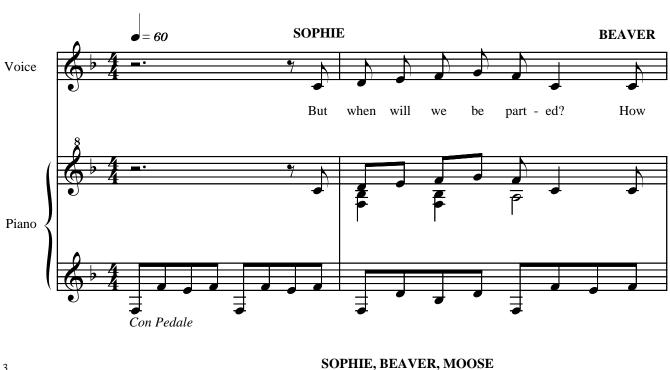


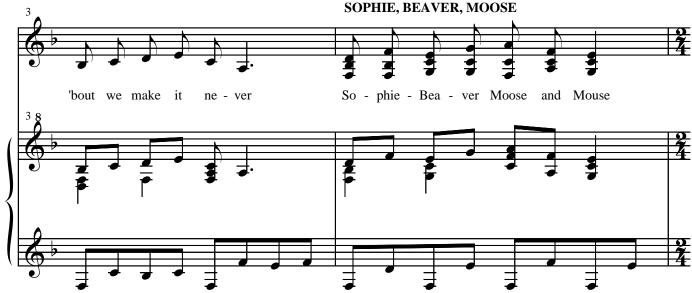


Use these notes as a rough guide to an ad libitum jazz scale flourish from treble into bass clef to end



#### But When Will We Be Parted?







#### Oh It's Great To Be A Beaver









### Exit to Lobby

