

HOW TO BECOME AN ELF

A Merry Musical for Unison and 2-Part Voices

By Andy Beck and Brian Fisher

With Additional Music by Michael Souders, Mary Donnelly
& George L. O. Strid, Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse

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See back cover for audio track numbers.

Performance time: approximately 45 minutes

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CAST OF CHARACTERS and COSTUMES

Eli:	A regular boy with a dream of becoming an elf. He's naturally cheerful, jolly, thoughtful, generous, talented, creative, and loves Christmas. Dressed casually in everyday school clothes. Optional quick-change elf costume for his finale entrance.
Mom:	Eli's mom. She's quite busy with holiday preparations and her professional life, but is always supportive of her son. Dressed as if coming from or heading to work, adds a kitchen apron mid-show.
Jax:	Eli's dog and best pal. Jax doesn't talk, but communicates clearly with canine reactions and noises. A lovable companion! Dressed as an adorable pet. Adds reindeer antlers for the finale.
DJ, Reese, Riley, Logan:	Eli's school friends, any gender. They are fun, light-hearted, and loyal. Everyday school attire.
Santa:	The real one, with all the traditional characteristics, including the iconic costume. Whenever Eli reads from his book, we recognize Santa's voice as the voiceover.
Jingle & Jangle:	Actual elves and Santa's trusty helpers. Consider using character voices for the full elf effect. They dress in festive red and green elf attire.
Elf Chorus:	This optional ensemble wears matching elf attire and may remain on risers to perform their "dream" songs, or sing and dance around sleeping Eli and Jax. Feature as many singers as you'd like, or (for a smaller cast) all the Elf Chorus songs may be performed by Jingle & Jangle alone.



SETTING

A park bench and evergreen trees represent the public park. A small bed and optional backdrop make Eli's bedroom. Incidental music allows time for Eli's room to come on and off as needed (in front of the park), or if space allows, both sets can be permanently displayed on opposite sides of the stage. Place choral risers down front, upstage, or off to the side(s) for the Elf Chorus. Optional stanchions with red ropes may be used to delineate a lineup area whenever Santa is visiting the park. His elf helpers can set and strike these each time.

PROPS

- **Candy canes**—for Jingle
- **"How to Become an Elf" book**—Jingle gives to Eli
- **Backpacks**—for Eli and his friends
- **Popsicle stick ornament**—for Eli
- **Tin of cookies**—Mom gives to Eli
- **Paper note**—slightly chewed by Jax
- **Crazy Christmas sweater**—preset in Eli's backpack
- **Four Santa hats**—Eli gives to his friends, also preset in his backpack

STAGING

Complete choreography is included throughout the score. Feel free to follow the notes precisely or adapt and enhance the ideas to best fit your performers.

SOUND EFFECTS

"Magic Book" and "Alarm Clock" sound effects are included with the audio.

1. ALMOST TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

(Kids, Jingle & Jangle, Elf Chorus, Santa)

Arranged, with additional Words, by
ANDY BECK and BRIAN FISHER

Words and Music by
MARY DONNELLY and GEORGE L. O. STRID

Enter and take places with enthusiasm

With bright energy (♩ = ca. 132)

Fanfare (♩ = ca. 112)

PIANO

f

molto rit.

mf

8^{vb}

4 KIDS, JINGLE & JANGLE, ELF CHORUS

mf

It's

7 Jazz hands arch R and L in front (opt. step touch) 4x

al - most time for Christ - mas. There's mag - ic in the air. Just

3. ALMOST TIME INCIDENTAL

With bright energy (♩ = ca. 132)

PIANO *mf*

The musical score is for a piano piece in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (three flats). It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody in the right hand with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a bass line in the left hand with quarter notes. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the melody and bass line. The third system (measures 9-12) includes a 'rit. e decresc.' marking and ends with a 'mp' marking. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

(Eli arrives home in his bedroom.)

ELI: (calling out) Mom, I'm home.

MOM: (offstage) Hey, Eli. I'll be right there.

(Eli hides the book under a bed pillow. Jax, the dog, enters barking, excited to greet Eli.)

ELI: Jax, old buddy, old pal. (Eli scratches behind Jax's ears.)

JAX: (joyful bark)

ELI: Attaboy. (ad-lib settling Jax)

MOM: (entering) Hi, honey. How was your day?

ELI: It was great, Mom. Couldn't ask for better.

MOM: Well, that's wonderful. Did you get to meet Santa Claus?

ELI: And a couple of elves, too!

MOM: That sounds amazing. Any homework tonight?

ELI: (answers quickly) Nope. (remembers the book) Well, actually, there's some reading I have to do.