



Beyond the Scarlet Door Audition Sides

Prepared for actor auditions and callbacks

Book Music and Lyrics John P Volz

Source Latest supplied Beyond the Scarlet Door script

Use Private audition and casting use only

www.TheScarletDoorMusical.com

Actors should prepare only the side assigned by the casting team. Reader lines are included for context and do not need to be memorized.

How to Use These Sides

Each side contains a short excerpt from the musical and identifies the roles that may use it. Casting staff may shorten an excerpt, begin at a marked line, or combine it with a vocal or movement audition. Actors should follow the instructions in the audition notice and any directions given in the room.

Audition Safety

Do not bring weapons or attempt stage combat. Any fight movement, restraint, fall, lift, or prop-weapon work must be introduced and supervised by authorized production staff. Performers may decline or modify physical work when safety requires it.

Editing Note

Cue numbers and most technical track directions have been removed for readability. Character naming, punctuation, and obvious extraction artifacts have been standardized for audition use without changing the dramatic intent of the dialogue.

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For audition use only. This packet does not authorize public performance, recording, publication, or distribution.

Side 1

Barker

Scene Welcome to Vox Humana

Roles in this side Barker Ensemble

Preparation note Command the room with warmth seduction and carnival energy. The invitation should feel exciting enough that Christian might actually accept it.

Barker: (Podium wheeled onto stage) Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, welcome to the city that never sleeps! A land of passion, pleasure, desire---a kingdom of epic proportions! The city where you are kings and queens of your own destiny; where YOUR voice and YOUR song is ALL that matters. Welcome to the one and only, (everyone) “VOX HUMANA”! Step right up...buy a ticket to the greatest spectacle ever experienced by man, or woman-kind! An extravagant array of lights, music, dance --- a journey to the depths of your soul.....how about you sir? Give it a shot? Come on, you only live once! It'll be like a million pounds fell off your back. This could be your DESTINY! (everyone - multiple times) Your Destiny!

(Christian walks guardedly, yet entranced, towards the barker and ticket. He is “intercepted” by Evan G. List, who runs in from off stage. (He is a prophet, clothed something like Lord of the Rings/Star Wars)

Side 2

Christian and Evan G List

Scene The First Meeting

Roles in this side Christian Evan G List

Preparation note Christian shifts from confusion to desperation. Evan combines urgency authority precise comic language and genuine warmth.

Evan: STOP! (Grabs Chris and scurries him to center stage---when he does this the barker, and other extras back up slowly, with arms outstretched towards Chris and exit stage) One more step and VOX HUMANA would have been YOUR destiny.....and your death!

Chris: (pulls away fearful but intrigued) Hey, leave me alone. What is wrong with you?...(looks around). What is going on...Where is everybody...what is happening? Who are you?

Evan: My name is Evan G. List and I am from the Celestial City, where I was duly summoned by the king of all kings and was instructed to embark on this quest to set you on the path to “said city”, hence satisfying the aforementioned request of record.

Chris: (pauses in disbelief) Duly summoned, aforementioned.....WHO talks like that? Just tell me what’s going on---I’m not in the mood for a bunch of legal mumbo jumbo!

Evan: Did you not read the book in your very hand & learn of the coming destruction to Vox Humana? And as a result of your reading, did not a tremendous burden suddenly appear on your back---a burden that pulls you closer and closer to Hell with every step you take? And did you not cry out, in utter desperation, “WHAT SHALL I DO”, and “WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED FROM THIS”?

Chris: (pauses, then explodes) YES, YES, YES!!

Evan: Then why are you still standing here?

Chris: (shouts/cries) BEEEEEE-CAUSE I DON’T KNOW WHERE TO GO!!

Evan: (jumps right in) Ha, ha! That’s where I come in!! (Puts arm around Chris and points) Do you see the far end of that distant field--there’s a Scarlet Door---do you see it? You absolutely MUST see it!

Chris: (squinting to see) I, I think so.

Evan: GOOD! Keep your eyes on the Scarlet Door! Go directly TO the Scarlet Door. When you get there you will knock ON the Scarlet Door. It is there that you will be told what to do next. (Reaches into his pocket and hands medallion to Chris) Now, take this medallion and be on your way. Guard it with your life and give it to the doorkeeper when you arrive....he will let you in.

Chris: (reads aloud) “TETELESTAI” [NOTE: “It is Finished” in Greek] I don’t understand...

Evan: (puts his arm around Chris) don’t worry my son, you will.....you will. (Runs off)

Side 3

Help and Christian

Scene The Slough of Despair

Roles in this side Help Christian

Preparation note Play the danger honestly while allowing Help's humor to come from confidence practicality and affection.

Chris: Wait! Come back!! (Pauses and then looks to heaven and cries out in disbelief, not anger) How could you just leave me here to die like this, after I left everything to follow you? I'm having a panic attack. Rescue me! Set me free!

(Yells) HELP!! HELP!! Somebody HELP ME!! (Drops his head)

(As Man #2 leaves the stage, "HELP" enters from opposite side, speaking as she walks in.)

Help: (jolly old grandma type) Help me, help me, help me! Everybody's always shoutin' out MY name. SET ME FREE!! When's somebody gonna shout, "Let me help YOU!" Yea, that'll be the day! Ain't it the truth! So, what you shoutin' about boy? Come on...you got me all the way over here to this God forsaken place...now speak up! I'm gettin' annoyed!!

Chris: Well, besides the small issue of MY IMPENDING DEATH!! a man named Evan G. List told me to follow this road to the Scarlet Door. He said that's where I needed to go to get rid of this heavy burden that's on my back and it's where I could escape the destruction - the impending attack. And...uhhh...that's when I sort of fell into this muck...who are you, ma'am?

Help: Who am I? Who am I? Ha! I'm the one NOT swimmin' in a bunch of muckity-muck! That's who I am? If I didn't wander by, well...good luck! Now why didn't you just climb out of that there muck when you first fell in?

Chris: Don't you think I tried? I was just so filled with fear, I couldn't even think.

Help: Come on now, child...give me your hand, so you can get movin' on to the Scarlet Door.

(As soon as Chris touched her hand, he stood up straight and realized he could stand all along. She walks Chris around and up the bridge.)

Chris: Thank you! Thank you! I...I don't know what to say. I really thought I was a goner there for a minute. Then you show up out of the blue!

Help: Well honey, if I wasn't in the neighborhood you woulda been some big old gator's afternoon snack!! Now, what you need to do is to keep your eyes on the Scarlet Door and get yourself to the Celestial City....ASAP!!....Now go on!

Side 4

William Wiceman and Christian

Scene The Road to Morality Cove

Roles in this side William Wiceman Christian

Preparation note Wiceman should persuade rather than announce that he is a villain. Christian is exhausted vulnerable and eager for relief.

Chris: Excuse me, I'm trying to get by!

W.W.: Ahh, my young friend. I am William Wiceman, and if you would, indulge me for just a moment. I would be ever so honored if you would allow me to impart a taste of my acquired wisdom with you son. After all, you are young and I am..(Chris says: Old?) Mature....so it would be in your best interest to listen to me, especially since you are carrying such a heavy burden on your back I see. I have a GREAT deal of experience in matters of this degree, and can surely counsel you on getting rid of your burden quickly!

Chris: (excitedly and hopeful) that's why I'm on this road!.....to lose this terrible burden! I'm traveling now to the Scarlet Door....my friend told me they could help me out for certain!

W.W.: (condescending and then sneaky) Ohhhh...Of course he did!....and, and who was it exactly that told you to take this dreadful road in the first place?

Chris: Like I said, it was my friend, Evan G. List.

W.W.: (changes from his stoic stance to hunched over, speaking with an evil and angry voice) THE EVANGELIST!!! How I loathe him and his self-righteous antics. Curses on him! Curses!

Chris: (is unsure of what he is saying so he approaches) Uh...Mr. Wiceman, is everything alright? (17 ENDS)

W.W.: (regains his stoic composure--clears his throat) uhhhh....Yes, indeed, my young friend! I was just SO grieved to hear that you are traveling down the most dangerous and deadly road ever conceived. It shouts CAUTION!! Poor boy, I can tell by your appearance that you've already fallen prey to misfortune....no doubt arranged by that dubious EVANGELIST! Hear me now, since I am older and wiser than you, no disrespect intended. If you insist on continuing down this intellectually narrow path, then you will most certainly meet with pain, sorrow, sickness, poverty, hunger, dangers of all sorts, even death...it is the universe's wrath! It will be your doom....You'll be tired, lonely, surrounded by darkness and gloom. (Compassionately) Now, is THAT any kind of life for such a kind, intelligent young man, such as yourself? --especially when your "counsel" was received from such a....SELF-RIGHTEOUS RELIGIOUS FANATIC! who is COMPLETELY boring and quite ordinary! So, how is it that you came into possession of such a heavy, cumbersome burden, such as you carry?

Chris: By reading this book....here, take a look! (Tries to show him a passage in his book)

W.W.: NO!! (scurries a few feet away) I've seen many weak men, such as yourself, read that book and then try to take on the world, going places and doing things they shouldn't be meddling in! Good luck! They go on long, dangerous journeys, searching for what?

Chris: (boldly) searching for freedom! To be FREE from this terrible burden!

W.W.: Hahaha....is THAT all you want? You should have told me, lad. Without a doubt I can direct you to a place that specializes in your type of situation...A place that can cure those who have become somewhat "unbalanced" in the carrying of their burden. And hear this....instead of danger and death, I can offer you safety, folks who are unbelievably sincere!....people who will tell you exactly what you want to hear!

Chris: (steps to front of stage, ponders back and forth quickly---he talks to himself first) this man seems very, very wise in his counsel. He IS much older than me and has been around, and I am SO tired of this weight on my back. (now quickly speaks to WW) OK sir....tell me what I need to do to finally get back on track.

W.W.: You are wise beyond your years for asking, young man! (Points) Now, do you see that mountain not far from here? That's where you need to go. It's the town of Morality Cove. They will most definitely ease your burden, soothe your weary feet, embrace you as one of their own. It's the first house you come to, you can't miss it----the owners are very civil and accommodating people in that town---now, be on your way!

Chris: (each are walking in separate directions) Thanks Mr. Wiceman. I feel better already!!

Side 5

Doorkeeper and Christian

Scene The Scarlet Door

Roles in this side Doorkeeper Christian

Preparation note Balance comic speed with genuine spiritual warmth. The change after the medallion is recognized must feel immediate and sincere.

Chris: Hello? Is anyone there? hello?? (knocks again)

Doorkeeper: (he appears on the other side of the door, visible to the audience) Who is it?! and what do you want at this late hour? Come one make it quick!!

Chris: My name is Chris and I left my homeland of Vox Humana to escape the coming wrath of God. A friend of mine told me that I needed to pass through the Scarlet Door in order to continue my journey to the celestial city. Will you please let me in?

Doorkeeper: And who might this friend be and did he give you anything to give me?

Chris: His name is Evan G. List.

Doorkeeper: (shouts excitedly off stage) He's a Friend of the Evangelist! (does a happy dance!) Prepare the house! (clears his throat and straightens his clothes) So, did this "Evan G. List" (giggles) give you a token of introduction for you to present to me?

Chris: (thinking and feeling his chest pockets, and talking to himself) Uhhh, token, token....WHAT token? (shouts) Yes, WAIT! he gave me a medallion and said that when I came to the Scarlet Door I was to give it to the Doorkeeper! I HAVE THE MEDALLION!!!

(Pulls it out and reads it quickly and excitedly) "TETELESTAI" (when the Doorkeeper hears this, he jumps up and down, holding his mouth from rejoicing!)

Doorkeeper: (opens the door and pulls him in quickly) GET IN HERE QUICK!! (After pulling him in, he peeks out the door - looking for trouble)

Chris: (stumbling in and confused) what was THAT all about?

Doorkeeper: SHHHHHH!! Not too far from this very door is the castle of the Devil himself! He shoots his deadly arrows at travelers as they approach the Scarlet Door, trying to stop them from entering! But, now you are here inside, safe and sound, and (shouts out the door) NO ONE can harm you here! (Slams door and puts his arm around Chris) So tell me, my new friend, how was your trip so far?

Chris: Well...it definitely has had its ups and downs! Some good times, some bad times, good days and some not so good days....(is interrupted by the Doorkeeper)

Doorkeeper: (jumps right in quickly and dogmatically, counting) So you basically ran out of town, took the wrong road, fell in the sludge pit of despair and despondency, got bamboozled by William WISEman, was almost crushed by the deadly cliffs of Morality Cove and was basically spanked by our mutual friend, Mr. Evan G. List.....was that basically it in a nutshell?

(looks at him closer) More or less? (closer) I was basically in the ballpark, right, because....(is interrupted by an upset Chris)

Chris: Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!! I know I'm a screw-up....(walks towards door) Just let me leave, I shouldn't even be here....(Doorkeeper jumps in front of him and protects the door with his body)

Doorkeeper: Are you nuts? I can't let you leave---I would lose my job! Don't you know the verdict sent down from the KING himself? (Calls off stage) GET ME A COPY OF THE VERDICT!! (To Chris) You're gonna love this---the BEST memo we ever got from the King

(someone runs it out, bows and runs off---the Doorkeeper mumbles as he reads and then speaks) Ah, here it is--section 6, subsection 37: "No matter what the traveler---that's you--- has done BEFORE entering the Scarlet Door, it has been duly erased from the record of keeping for all eternity and he shall in no wise be cast out of this place". (acts tough) So you see---you CAN'T leave....nope...nada.....no way...IMpossible!

(Chris is still for a second, then passionately hugs Doorkeeper--who has his arms at his side)

Chris: THANK YOU....THANK YOU! (Doorkeeper looks towards audience, stunned---then Chris gains his composure and takes a step back, straightening the Doorkeeper's clothes with his hands)

Doorkeeper: (he is still for a second, that HE passionately hugs Chris, who has his arms at his side) YOU'RE WELCOME.... YOU'RE WELCOME!! (composes himself) Now, the medallion?

(Chris gives it to him and the doorkeeper reads it quietly) TE-TEL-ES-TAI - it's the ancient word for, "my debt is paid". All righty then....come, come....it's time to go. Do you see that really big, well lighted road, with pavement like thick, plush carpet, and lots of people giving food and drinks to the travelers....where milk and honey flow?

Chris: (excitedly) Yes....yes! YES!

Doorkeeper: Well, that's the wrong road. (Chris reacts with disappointment) Now, do you see that tiny, narrow, ugly, scary looking, bumpy road, WAY off in the distance....(Chris squints, rubs his eyes, squints again)....yup, that's you, man...the epicenter, ground zero, the PROMISED land!!

Chris: Why am I not surprised?

Doorkeeper: (speaks seriously, but passionately) The only REALLY cool thing, and you're gonna love this, is that it's the SAME EXACT road as Abraham, Moses, David, the Prophets, the Apostles, the Disciples....even CHRIST HIMSELF traveled on!! Talk about your cloud of witnesses!!

Chris: Yea, that is pretty awesome (pauses, then quickly speaks) But what about my burden? Evan G. List said you'd show me how to take it off.

Doorkeeper: Just a little longer, my friend, and your burden will be released---without your help! Go now, and in a short while you'll come to the Librarian's House--you'll want to speak with her. She'll give you valuable information needed to complete your journey. (They hug

Side 6

Librarian and Christian

Scene The Great Hall of Truth Entrance

Roles in this side Librarian Christian

Preparation note The Librarian is eccentric and demanding but completely serious about the lesson. Avoid playing the role as a cartoon.

Chris: (knocks on the door) Hello...is anybody there? (looks through an imaginary house window) The Doorkeeper sent me here---I'm on my way to the Celestial City....Hello!....

(he is interrupted by the Librarian as she swings the door open and jumps out)

Librarian: QUIET!! Can't you see this is a library? You can't SHOUT in a library! Didn't you learn ANYTHING in school?

Chris: Yea, but, I was home-schooled, and we really didn't have a library to speak of.

Librarian: (mocking) "YEAH, BUT" you're making a mockery of the King's English you are! Oh, never mind all of that, come with me. (leads him through the door into library, where Chris is overwhelmed at the vastness of the artifacts, books)

Chris: (in awe) Yikes! This place is incredible! Where'd you get all this stuff? Look at this! This is SO cool!! (begins to run from one imaginary thing to another, like a kid in a candy store)

Librarian: (chasing him around yelling) DON'T TOUCH THAT! THAT'S 5000 years OLD!! STOP, those books are very OLD and very fragile--the pages could rip very easily....ahhhhhhhhhh!!! (as he screams, Chris comes upon a mysterious painting and stops short) (actor standing behind picture frame)

(no trax)

Side 7

Vicar Salty Warriors and Christian

Scene Palace Magnificat

Roles in this side Vicar Salty Warriors Christian

Preparation note Use this as a group read. The Vicar leads with good humor and authority. The Salty Warriors should feel weathered loyal and distinct.

The Vicar: Hey! Where are you going? You're not afraid are you? Oh, is it the lions you're afraid of? Don't worry about them, they're both chained up and quite secure. They're there as more of a test--you know, to see which travelers have the faith to advance and which ones retreat, like a cowardly little field mouse! That wouldn't be you, young pilgrim...uh...would it??

Christian: (advancing boldly) No, no, I've got more faith than ten/eight/FIVE men put together...uh, are you sure their chains are secure? I wouldn't wanna cause a stir or wake up anyone...uh, are they?

The Vicar: Have courage, friend...advance without fear---well, unless you trip, then THAT would be bad.

Christian: DON'T SAY THAT! (Walking like on a balance beam towards The Vicar)

(Sheepishly) OK...nice little kitty cats (roaring lions trax) You really wouldn't wanna waste your energy on little old me--I'm sure I don't taste very good at all. I guarantee! (Jumps across bridge and looks back at lions) NOW THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!! Don't EVEN mess with me! Check me out!! (ROAR and he jumps scared)

The Vicar: Now there Braveheart! Come let me introduce you to three very old friends of mine that have been with me since the start. They may come across as a bit "salty" and rough around the edges but they are mighty warriors, who love the King with all their hearts and have served Him faithfully for many years...so, I beg your forbearance on their behalf.

(Walks up to dinner table with chairs & mugs on opposite side of stage) Ah, my friends, please welcome a weary pilgrim on his way from VOX Humana to the Celestial City!

(they all stand and toast)

Salty 1: Long live the King! TO THE KING! TO THE KING! (The other 2 chime in)

Salty 2: (sternly) Say now young traveler...you don't have any lingering ties to that VOX Humana, do you boy....yay or nay? do you concur?

Christian: (boldly) NO MA'AM! I've given up EVERYTHING to follow the King and travel to the Celestial City! (Humbly) Well, to be truthful, from time to time, some of my old ways do rise up, but then I open my book and pray and I take the ugly monster by the throat and say, YOU WILL NOT HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME TODAY!! (Shouts last line with Holy boldness)

Salty 3: Ahhh...good to see a little fire in those eyes when you speak of the King and of mortifying your flesh...that's a good thing, boy...a mighty good thing! A fine example to all the rest! (Now the three of them talk alone)

Christian: The Vicar says you all have firsthand stories of the King. Is that true?

Salty 1: TO THE KING! TO THE KING! (They toast) And He told us there is no greater love than His love for His pilgrims. He gave up glory so sinners might receive a rich inheritance....

Salty 3: TO THE KING! TO THE CELESTIAL CITY!! TO THE KING! (they toast. Christian, exhausted, sleeps) to the king!

Side 8

Christian and Apollyon

Scene The Valley of Humility

Roles in this side Christian Apollyon

Preparation note Begin with controlled verbal danger. Do not stage contact or bring weapons. Any physical callback must be supervised by the production team.

Narrator: Christian climbed up and through the mountains and then down the other side into the Valley of Humility, where he encountered many severe trials and hardships. It was here that he came face to face with the fiend of Hell, the Prince of Darkness, the Lord of Vox Humana---Apollyon, the Beautiful. At first glance, Christian was filled with fear. His first inclination was to run, but he realized that if he did, his back, which had no armor or protection, would be an easy target for the fiery darts of Apollyon. He knew that his only choice was to hold his ground and stand firm in his faith.....

Apollyon: (slick, smooth, slides in) Hello Chrisssss, my old friend. It's nice to ssssee you again! Where might you be headed on thissss fine evening? (slithery, "dancing" & speaking)

Christian: (scared, but bold) It's Christian now, and I've left Vox Humana and I'm on my way to the Celestial City!

Apollyon: Chrissstian, is it? Hmmm....Celestial City? Not sure if I ever heard of it! Oh yessss...little town, full of whiney, weird, wimpy, small minded "Christ-followers"....not a sssstar in the lot! Uh...you DO know that I bruised His heel not too long ago....quite a messssy ordeal, but alas, I did prevail!!

Christian: (pointing at him) Be careful what you say, Lord Apollyon. I travel on the King's highway and I am in HIS service, so take heed and DO NOT OVERSTEP YOUR BOUNDS TODAY!

Apollyon: Oh my, aren't we the testy one! You know, you are quite correct to call me Lord, as you ARE one of my subjects...and if wasn't for the fact that I might have need of you, I would strike you down and KILL you right where you stand! (says this loud and scary, as a joke to scare Christian--jumps at him)

Christian: I will NEVER follow you! I've sworn my allegiance to the King and I WILL NOT be a traitor to Him or His Kingdom. He took my burden & now I've given Him my life...and gladly so.

Apollyon: Remember this, young Christian. You FIRST swore your allegiance to ME and MY kingdom. It was quite a touching ceremony. You took all that I offered...As your Lord, I did all that you asked...TO ME you gave your life! (calms down and sighs) But...I am willing to forget about your little indiscretion towards me and graciously forgive you, IF, you renounce this "king" of yours and return home to Vox Humana where you belong.

Christian: I CANNOT GO BACK! My dealings with you were before I knew any better. The King has absolved me of ANY allegiance to you and He Himself has pardoned my sin...I am now HIS servant.

Apollyon: (laughing) Yes, indeed! But, you know it is VERY common for those, like yourself, who have accepted the promise of their "king" and who have tried to follow His very cruel and brutally demanding path, to awaken to the error of their ways & return home to me & the myriads of friends & loved ones, just waiting to welcome them back to the fold. Besides... you've already been unfaithful to your "king."

Christian: YOU LIE! I would never be unfaithful to the King!

Apollyon: Oh, contraire! You've already been unfaithful! You fell into the Slough. You followed William WISEman. You fell asleep and lost the King's gifts. Shall I continue?

Christian: (humbly) Everything you've said is true...and you left out plenty more. But you are forgetting one thing! They are ALL forgiven by the King and covered in FULL under His covenant of blood. Shall I go on Lord Apollyon?

Apollyon: (incredible rage) ENOUGH! I am done talking about your "king". I hate him, I hate his ways, and I hate his people...the only reason I am here is to arrest you and bring you back where you belong.

Christian: Be very careful of what you do next, Apollyon, and do not overstep your bounds. I remind you this one last time that I am a servant of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. You will not have your way with me EVER again!

Apollyon: Well then prepare to die my ignorant young friend for tonight I take your SOUL!

Side 9

Faith and the Court of Vanity

Scene Vanity Fair Trial

Roles in this side Faith Lord Hategood Prosecuzor Fairs Christian

Preparation note Faith's stillness conviction and emotional courage are the center of the scene. The court may be read by several actors or one reader.

Fair #1: You can't leave without buying something, friend! How much money do you have to spend?

Fair #2: What's your pleasure? Blonde, brunette...short, tall, we've got no shortage of 'em all!

Fair #3: Now look at how they've come dressed to our fine town! It's disrespectful to say the least!

Fair #4: I say they're troublemakers! Rabble-rousers! They have an agenda; I can see it in their eyes!

Faith: We seek the truth and we have one agenda -- to continue on our journey to the Celestial City! (She says this boldly and after she does they all shrink back in horror & shock!)

Fair #5: (scared) Did anyone understand a word of what she said?

Fair #6: Come on, speak the language, girl!

Fair #7: Yeah! When in Rome! (Everyone: Yeah! That's right!)

Prosecuzor: (steps forward) She said.....that they were buying truth and had no interest in buying anything else from our fine town! (Angry mob scene--"Fair" actors quickly run towards front of stage, one at a time, to say their line)

Fair #1: The TRUTH!! What arrogance....do they think we're stupid?

Fair #3: I say we string 'em up...lock 'em up....beat the foolishness right out of 'em!!!

Fair #4: (Restrains #3) No, the honorable Lord Hategood will decide their fate!

Prosecuzor: The Lord of the Fair will be swift in his verdict and merciless in the sentencing of these criminals! BIND THEM!!!

(The mob shouts & encircles the two and "beats & kicks" them and while they are hidden, chains are placed around their necks and cuffs on their hands. When the music stops the crowd backs away and the two are sitting, bound-- Lord Hategood is opposite stage)

Lord Hategood: Bring the criminals---uh, I mean the "defendants" before me! (Everyone laughs as they are pushed towards the court--fall to their knees in pain) Who then presents this case and what are these "pilgrims" charged with? (Everyone laughs mockingly as the Prosecuzor steps forward)

Prosecuzor: Your Honor, these defendants have disturbed the peace of our beloved town of Vanity, rejected our merchandise, persuaded citizens to question our ways and openly defied the authority of this court....especially this female pilgrim, who has called YOU an enemy of the King of the Celestial City!

Fair #2: TRAITOR!

Fair #5: HERETIC!

Fair #6: NO MERCY FOR THE INFIDELS!

Fair #7: OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

Faith: (stands up and shouts/cries) Can I PLEASE speak in my defense?

Prosecuzor: (hits her sending her to the ground) How DARE you raise your voice in this court!

(Is about to hit her again when he is stopped)

Lord Hategood: STOP! (Speaking to Faith--condescending) You are quite the brave, yet none the less misguided young traveler. You deserve to be driven through by the sword this very instant, but, to show the good people of Vanity Fair that I am a “fair and gentle judge”...

(Sighs and flips his hand in her direction) let the heretic speak in her defense.....be it ever such a futile attempt at redemption. (fade track)

Faith: Sir...your honor. Please show me where I am wrong and I will retract my statement and humbly apologize to the court. (Everyone acts pleased with themselves, like they won) I testified, saying that any rule, law or custom that opposed the Word of God, was in direct opposition of God Himself. (Crowd mumbles) I also said that the worship of God must be the outflow of divine faith and revelation that He alone gives---we may not add anything of our own works to that faith. (Crowd mumbles louder---Faith becomes very bold) And with regards to my statement about YOUR lord and king (Silence)....He is the enemy of the TRUE king, the enemy of all that is good and righteous, (Crowd freaks) and I defy him and all of his evil cohorts, as well as the prince of the Fair, this court, and YOU (points to Lord Hategood) Long live the King of the Celestial City and long live His Son!

(Keeps repeating this as she is subdued by the “Fair” people and muzzled)

Lord Hategood: SILENCE!! You have defied this court, condemned our ways and proclaimed allegiance to the King we reject. I find you (pause)....GUILTY!!! and SENTENCE YOU TO BE HANGED UNTIL YOU DIE!!

(Crowd erupts---Faith & Christian embrace before they are torn apart. Christian is dragged away. Faith alone in the middle of stage--spot on her--total silence--long pause)

Faith: (exhausted, emotional, yet joyful, she says (breathy, broken) Christian!! I see the heavens opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God!!

(Faith Dies) (fade track) (lights fade to black)

Side 10

Hope and Christian

Scene The River of Death

Roles in this side Hope Christian

Preparation note Both characters are frightened and physically depleted. Hope must lead with faith while Christian moves from despair toward trust.

Narrator: They pleaded with the heavenly beings, hoping they would join them on this, the final leg of their journey. They could see the gate of the Celestial City from where they stood, but between them and the gate was a deep, dark cold river....The River of Death. At the sight and smell of the river Christian and Hope turned pale and weak.

(Christian collapses with Hope holding him up)

Hope: (distraught & pointing to the “river”) Is there NO other way besides THIS?

“In your own faith you must proceed alone, through the River of Death, or you will not gain entrance into the city of God.”

Narrator: And so, the two frightened pilgrims accepted the inevitable and stepped into the River of Death.

(PROPS....Lights are low and a blue light is shining from the “river”, to look eerie. In this “river scene” both are scared, but Christian is the weaker one, semi-collapsing, with Hope holding him up & trying to encourage, even though she is scared also...their tone is emotional & desperate. Two Demons, dressed in black are dancing behind them, taunting them--possibly step down to lower stage section--demons above.)

Christian: It’s so cold! God, help me...I have no strength and the waves are overpowering me!

Hope: Be strong, my friend...my feet are touching the bottom...just hold on to me!

Christian: I’m sinking!! I will never see the great city of God...(keeps slipping) Help, I can’t see!! (Christian “goes under water” then comes back to the surface, grasping for air.)

Hope: (looks up, praying) God, help me keep my brother’s head above water...please Lord!

(sees Christian’s plight & tries to encourage him) Christian, look....I think I can see the gate of the Celestial City! There’s a massive crowd of saints and angels waiting for us! Can you see it?

Christian: It’s beautiful!

Christian: But it’s YOU they’re waiting for, not me! Because of all my sin God in His justice has brought me to this horrible place and left me here to die! (Collapses)

Hope: Get behind him Satan...he is a child of the Almighty and bought by the blood of Christ!

Christian: (cries out) MY SIN IS TOO GREAT!!

Hope: (screams) AND SO IS MINE!

Christian: But God’s grace is GREATER and we MUST stand strong in HIS grace! NOW is the time to remember His goodness and to TRUST Him...even in this River of DEATH!

(sings) “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness...” (pause)

Christian: “On Christ the solid rock I stand,

BOTH: All other ground is sinking sand;

Christian: All other ground is sinking sand.... Hope, I can see the city! I can see the arms of the King outstretched towards us, calling us to Himself!

Hope: He's calling our names! (demons flee)

Christian: We've made it!....

Hope: We're home! (vamp, dance, etc.)

Christian: We're home..... (TRACK ENDS)

Side 11

Giant Despair Gloom Hope and Christian

Scene Doubting Castle and the Key of Promise

Roles in this side Giant Despair Gloom Hope Christian

Preparation note The threat must be specific without uncontrolled shouting. Hope's grounded encouragement should contrast with the theatrical menace of Giant and Gloom.

Giant: WAKE UP! Get up, you vagrants! (Startled, they jump up, scared) How dare you trespass on my private land! Who are you and what are you doing here?

Christian: We're sorry sir....we're pilgrims on the way to the Celestial City....we took the wrong path and lost our way....we really didn't mean to trespass...we were just seeking refuge from the flood waters.

Giant: SILENCE!! There is no mercy in these parts...you've broken the law and you are my prisoners! (fade track)

Narrator: So Giant Despair took the two by force and brought them to his castle and threw them in a dark, smelly dungeon (same as Nope cage). He asked his wife, whose name was Gloom, what she thought he might do with the prisoners. (table & chairs have been brought out on opposite side of stage, where Gloom appears)

Gloom: Oh, why don't you give them a hot bath and some tea. Maybe a massage! (gets irate) You fool! Crush their hope, shame them! Make them believe there is no way out! Now GO!

Narrator: Giant Despair returned to the dungeon and battered the pilgrims with shouts of despair, hopelessness and desolation. He threw jabs of shame, misery and wretchedness upon their heads with such intensity that they wallowed in a sea of self-pity. Their agony was great as they moaned and sighed throughout the day & into the night.

(Giant walks to wife at table)

Gloom: They still live? Then go after the doubt buried inside them. Convince them there is no hope and that surrender is their ONLY relief!

Giant: (frustrated) Gladly...

Gloom: Convince the poor young pilgrims that the most merciful choice is for them to end their own pitiful lives before things get even worse.

Giant: (shouting & mean as he walks towards them) PILGRIMS! Take heed you wretched & miserable beings! Why do you insist on embracing such agony and suffering when you MUST know that you will NEVER get out of this place alive! I will NEVER feed your wanting stomachs or give drink to quench your parched throats! Why would you choose to live another minute with no hope of life or escape. End this unnecessary misery and anguish now...the knife, the rope...a lethal dose of poison...I can assist you in any of these...I am your humble servant and wish to help. (acts almost merciful)

Hope: (desperate & pleading) Sir, please withdraw this offer....

Christian: (desperate & pleading) ...it's too much to bear! You are right, it is the easy way out... but we serve the most high God.....(giant is visibly upset and paces)

Hope: (desperate & pleading) and he would never permit such a cowardly act of surrender---no matter how desperate and intolerable our plight.

Giant: INFIDELS!! You mock me right to my face! I will kill you myself! (as he runs towards them, he has stroke like symptoms and grabs his arm in pain) Wife! Help me! (he hobbles over to her and she attends to him at the table)

Christian: Hope, maybe we should listen to his counsel...I am so tired and weary.....

Hope: (encouraging) Brother, our lives are not in the hands of this giant...we live under the sovereign hand of the King and He alone knows the number of our days. Remember all the hardships you overcame along your journey? You conquered adversaries that I could never even think of facing. Remember how valiant you were against the mighty and evil Apollyon? The Prince of Darkness couldn't defeat you as you held strong to the word of God....he ran away like a quivering coward. And remember Vanity Fair!! The King is faithful to us, Christian....stand strong!

Christian: (he hugs Hope) Your faith, my friend, has given me the hope to stand firm in Christ...

Gloom: (to her husband) They choose hope?! Tomorrow, show them the bones of the pilgrims who died here. Make them believe the same end is waiting for them!

Giant: In the morning it will be done... (Hope has fallen asleep) (fade track)

Christian: (stands up quickly as with adrenaline) What a fool I am!! Idiot! I can't believe how stupid I am! Hope, wake up! Quick, wake up! (shakes Hope as he says this)

Hope: What's the matter with you? I haven't slept in days & we're about to be killed by a giant!

Christian: QUIET! Now look around my neck...what do you see? (Hope looks closely)

Hope: Uh....dirt?

Christian: BESIDES THE DIRT!! Look "AROUND" my neck!

(Hope moves his shirt a bit to reveal collar)

Hope: It's a chain (pulls it out) with a key! (reads key) It says Promise?

Christian: YES! When my burden was removed at the Cross of Christ I was given a key - The Key of Promise! In times of despair it will open any prison door and lead to freedom. It was a gift from the King Himself!

Side 12

Iggy Christian and Hope

Scene The Land of Conceit and the Celestial City Gate

Roles in this side Iggy Christian Hope

Preparation note The first excerpt needs comic confidence without losing the character's sincerity. The optional gate excerpt reveals the tragic consequence of that confidence.

Primary excerpt The Land of Conceit

Narrator: (sign-post in road: Celestial City / Conceit/ Vox Humana) So the pilgrims left the beautiful Land of Immanuel & headed towards the Celestial City. A short way down the road they came upon an intersection, which spurred in from the backward country town of Conceit. It was here they encountered a very arrogant young man that was called Iggy by most. His real name was Ignorance.

Iggy: Fellow pilgrims...comrades in the cause of the Almighty! I've been waiting for worthy companions to accompany me on my journey...WELCOME!

Christian: (Is shaking Iggy's hand) Thanks. I'm Christian...what's your name?

Iggy: Ignacious Haught, but my friends call me Iggy. And I'm headed to the Celestial City!

Christian: (butts in) The Celestial City, huh? Then tell me Iggy...how are you planning to get into the city? You didn't come through the Scarlet Door!

Iggy: I beg your pardon! I'm quite familiar with the ways of the Lord! I've lived a very GOOD life...I'm a GOOD person--ask anyone! I owe no man anything....I give to charity, I pay weekly tithes to the church faithfully...I pray - I fast and I've given up everything for this quest!

Hope: But you didn't come through the Scarlet Door, that is the entrance the King requires... no matter how GOOD you believe you are, when you finally arrive at the city gate you'll be turned away like a common thief, a trespasser...

Christian: or a CRIMINAL!

Iggy: (composes himself) Friends, you believe what you wish. I'll follow my own heart and convictions! The Scarlet Door was far out of my way and this road is shorter. I'LL BE FINE!

(track ENDS)

Optional contrast excerpt The Gate

Iggy: (after 15 seconds he runs in frantic from off stage--spotlight hits him... ..looking around - he sees the gate and runs to it)

Iggy: I'm a pilgrim, like my fellow pilgrims, Christian and Hope, who have surely arrived by now! My Lord, I have served my whole life...prophesied in your name...I've fed and clothed the poor...given money to the church...taught Sunday school....I've always been a good person, with high morals and godly standards!
(FADE TRACK)

Voice at Gate: "Your name is not found written in the Book of Life. Depart from this place."

Side 13

Deceiver Shining One Christian and Hope

Scene The False Guide

Roles in this side Deceiver Shining One Christian Hope

Preparation note The Deceiver begins as reassuring and credible. The Shining One requires clarity authority compassion and controlled physical presence.

Deceiver: Excuse me...can I be of assistance?

Hope: Yes! We're going to the Celestial City and we don't know which path to follow.

Deceiver: Follow me, pilgrims...I'm headed to the Celestial City....I'll take you there myself!

(track fades or ENDS on its own fade)

Narrator: They followed the man in the white suit until the road twisted away from the Celestial City. Suddenly, Christian & Hope were caught in a net. The white robe fell from their guide revealing the Deceiver beneath it. (two demons in black put the net on the)

Christian: The Deceiver! The shepherds warned us!

Hope: And they gave us a map which we FORGOT to follow!

Christian: We let ourselves be deceived.

(A bright light appeared; The Shining One, bearing the sword of Truth)

The Shining One: Your guide was the Deceiver, a false prophet appearing as an angel of light.

(takes out his sword and "cuts" the net and releases them - they cringe) BE FREE! Follow me back to the right road. From now on remember the Shepherd's warning!

(Speaks as he walks off)

Hope: (pause, then looks back at Iggy-sarcastically) What do you think YOU'RE doing?

Iggy: Like I said, "You do your thing and I'll do mine!" Besides, you walk too fast for me....go on ahead and I'll catch up with you later. (As he is saying this, Christian & Hope are walking off, leaving Iggy alone)

Side 14

Narrator

Scene Selected Journey Narration

Roles in this side Narrator

Preparation note Read two contrasting selections. Prioritize clarity pace imagery and emotional connection rather than a generalized storybook voice.

The Journey Begins

Narrator: Now, in spite of the terrible burden on his back, Chris appeared to have a sudden surge of energy as he began the first leg of his journey. He felt as if nothing would slow him down....now that he knew where he was headed....to the Scarlet Door. But alas, his good intentions were quickly thwarted, as he suddenly saw a group of his friends and neighbors, even family members, running after him. They shouted insults and profanities at him. Some mocked, others threatened, some begged for him to return home with them. Though discouraged and confused by their disregard for the warning of coming destruction, Chris didn't slow down or faint in the least. However, there were two men that decided in their hearts that they would try to reason with Chris, so they hurried their pace, & were soon upon him.

(music stops)

The Battle Approaches

Narrator: Christian climbed up and through the mountains and then down the other side into the Valley of Humility, where he encountered many severe trials and hardships. It was here that he came face to face with the fiend of Hell, the Prince of Darkness, the Lord of Vox Humana---Apollyon, the Beautiful. At first glance, Christian was filled with fear. His first inclination was to run, but he realized that if he did, his back, which had no armor or protection, would be an easy target for the fiery darts of Apollyon. He knew that his only choice was to hold his ground and stand firm in his faith.....

The River of Death

Narrator: They pleaded with the heavenly beings, hoping they would join them on this, the final leg of their journey. They could see the gate of the Celestial City from where they stood, but between them and the gate was a deep, dark cold river....The River of Death. At the sight and smell of the river Christian and Hope turned pale and weak.

(Christian collapses with Hope holding him up)

Hope: (distraught & pointing to the “river”) Is there NO other way besides THIS?

“In your own faith you must proceed alone, through the River of Death, or you will not gain entrance into the city of God.”

Narrator: And so, the two frightened pilgrims accepted the inevitable and stepped into the River of Death.