

YOUNGER STUDENTS EXIT PS, *jingling their bells.*

LIGHTS DOWN.

CHOIR *turn on their torches.*



INSTRUMENTAL VERSE of **O CHRISTMAS TREE** begins as a procession of 2 lines of STUDENTS moves across stage from PS. The first 1 or 2 pairs carry a CHRISTMAS TREE, which they place UPSTAGE CENTRE. (CHOIR shuffles either side to make room for TREE, if required). The first 1 or 2 pairs now move OFF OP. The procession continues, each pair attaching decorations to the tree and moving OFF OP. The procession should have completely moved OFF OP by the time the INSTRUMENTAL VERSE of **O CHRISTMAS TREE** finishes.

As the INSTRUMENTAL VERSE of O CHRISTMAS TREE is playing, NARRATORS speak.

NARRATOR 1: One of the best loved Christmas traditions comes from Germany.

NARRATOR 2: It is the tradition of decorating a special tree.

NARRATOR 1: A 'Tannenbaum'.

NARRATOR 2: Which is German for the evergreen 'Fir Tree' ...

NARRATOR 1: ... or ... Christmas tree.

NARRATOR 2: For centuries, people in Germany decorated their Christmas Trees with candles, coloured glass balls, red and green ribbons and little wooden toys.

NARRATOR 1: And they sang this song around the tree.

NARRATOR 2: In German, of course.

*ALL sing the carol. During the song, each successive pair places an item on the tree and
EXITS OP.*

O TANNENBAUM

O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum
Wie grün sind deine Blätter!
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum
Wie grün sind deine Blätter!

Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit
Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit
O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum
Wie grün sind deine Blätter!

NARRATOR 1 (*to* NARRATOR 2): What did you think?

NARRATOR 2 (*to* NARRATOR 1, *a little concerned*): Hmmmm ... well ... (*indicating audience*)
they all tried really hard ...

NARRATOR 1 (*to audience*): That was a very good effort, everyone.

NARRATOR 2 (*to audience*): And we really appreciate having all of you sing the songs with
us.

NARRATOR 1 (*to* NARRATOR 2): But I get the feeling that there are not too many German-
speaking people here tonight.

NARRATOR 2 (*to* NARRATOR 1): Or German-singing people.

NARRATOR 1 (*to* NARRATOR 2): Shall we try it again?

NARRATOR 2 (*to* NARRATOR 1): Yes – but in English, this time, I think.

NARRATOR 1 (*To audience*): Are we all ready?

NARRATOR 2 (*to audience*): In your best voices.

O CHRISTMAS TREE

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us!

They're green when summer days are bright
They're green when winter snow is white
O, Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us!

NARRATOR 1 (*To audience*): Let's all sing it again.

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us!
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us!

They're green when summer days are bright
They're green when winter snow is white
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your branches green delight us!

LIGHTS UP, TORCHES OFF.

The CHRISTMAS TREE remains in place for the rest of the show.

NARRATOR 1: Another old Christmas tradition still happens in cold countries.

NARRATOR 2: Carol singers go from house to house –

NARRATOR 1: - singing their Christmas songs –

NARRATOR 2: - and hoping to be given food or sweets for their singing!

A group of CARROLLERS ENTERS OP. They may be of different sizes. They are dressed in scarves and beanies (and gloves, if required). They carry sheet music. One CARROLLER carries 'goodies' bag. One may carry a lantern on a staff. They sing the words of the song, but leave the 'fa-la-la's' to the CHOIR.