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*Dramatic Publishing*

# Aesop's Fable-ous Barnyard Bash



Book and Lyrics by  
Michael Gravois

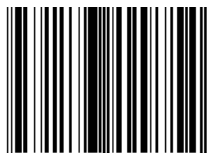
Music and Sound Design by  
Zachary Badreddine

# Aesop's Fable-ous Barnyard Bash

**Comedy with music. Book and lyrics by Michael Gravois. Music and sound design by Zachary Badreddine.** *Cast: 6 to 65 either gender.* The Barnyard Bash is always a big hit on Aesop's farm. Too bad it only happens once a year! With a monthly countdown, the farmers and animals tell tales about life on a farm, giving familiar fables a barnyard twist. During *The Dog Days of Summer* (August's fable), the animals cheer one another up—in the style of "Laugh-In"—proving that "laughter is the best medicine;" a scarecrow and crow perform a ventriloquist act and outwit the hungry fox; and the farm mouse croons a country song to his rapping city cousin. A dozen vignettes feature all of your favorite barnyard characters and blend humor, rhythmic elements, rapping, puppetry, poetry, song and storytelling to create a fast-paced, fun-filled show that is sure to delight. *Flexible set. Music excerpts available on-line. Optional accompaniment CD available. Approximate running time: 50 minutes. Code: AK8.*

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# **Aesop's Fable-ous Barnyard Bash**

Book and lyrics by  
**MICHAEL GRAVOIS**

Music by  
**ZACHARY BADREDDINE**



**Dramatic Publishing Company**  
Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

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Book and lyrics by MICHAEL GRAVOIS

Music by ZACHARY BADREDDINE

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(AESOP'S FABLE-OUS BARNYARD BASH)

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For Jackie Nichols and Karin Barile  
at Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tenn.

Thank you for your constant support and faith.

*Aesop's Fable-ous Barnyard Bash* premiered on Nov. 23, 2013, at the Circuit Playhouse in Memphis, Tenn.

## CAST

Wesley Barnes  
Rosemary Blakeman  
LaVita Brooks  
Noby Edwards  
Ron Gordon  
Daniel L. Martin

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Executive Director ..... Jackie Nichols  
Director ..... Michael Gravois  
Scenic Designer ..... Jimmy Humphreys  
Costume Designer ..... Patrice Trower  
Original Music and Sound Design ..... Zachary Badreddine  
Choreographer ..... Jordan Nichols  
Puppet Designer ..... Alex Nahon  
Props Designer ..... Karin Barile  
Stage Manager ..... Karin Barile  
Technical Director ..... Kat De Camillo  
Circuit Tech Director ..... Chris Raines



# **Aesop's Fable-ous Barnyard Bash**

## **CHARACTERS**

**CASTING:** The play calls for a cast of six, but if you cast each scene independently, you can have as many as 65 different actors. The cast can be any age, gender or race.

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### March: It's All Relative

*(CD track #8. CITY MOUSE enters wearing a baseball cap with mouse ears. COUNTRY MOUSE begins to sing in a country style.)*

COUNTRY MOUSE. Yee haw!

IT'S MY COUSIN FROM THE CITY AS I LIVE AND  
BREATHE!

COME JOIN ME OVER HERE BENEATH THE SHADE  
OF THESE TREES!

*(CITY MOUSE begins to sing in a hip-hop style. The down-beats are in bold.)*

CITY MOUSE. **Yo**, how's it **goin'**? My **country** cousin **show-**  
**in'** me the **row** he's been **hoein'**. I **know** it's been forever  
since we **met**—it's a crime (*Beat.*) —but I **know** ya gonna  
**show** me a **remarkable** time!

COUNTRY MOUSE. Yes, sir!

I GATHERED UP SOME CORN AND SOME CRUMBS  
AND SOME SEEDS,

THE FIXIN'S OF A MEAL COMPRISED OF ALL A  
MOUSE NEEDS.

SO SIT RIGHT DOWN MY CUZ FROM TOWN FROM  
WAY UP NORTHEAST.

I'VE PREPARED FOR YOU A LOVELY VIEW, A BAR-  
LEY BREW,

A CORN FONDUE, A SEEDLING STEW, LONG-OVER-  
DUE WELCOMING FEAST.

CITY MOUSE. **Whoa**, 'sup with **that**? That's not **fit** for a rat. (*Beat.*) **Corn** and crumbs are **for** the bums; we **gotta** fix that **stat**! You **come** with me and **you** will see the **city**'s where it's **at**. **Although** the country's **pleasant**, you're **eatin'** like a **peasant**. In the **city**? Sittin' **pretty**. Each **meal** is like a **present**. There's **cake** and jam, and **they** bake ham with **spices**. Bam! Come **on**, let's scam.

COUNTRY MOUSE. Yee-haw!

ALTHOUGH I MIGHT BE COMFOR'BLE, THE  
PICKIN'S MIGHTY SLIM.

I GUESS I BETTER PACK MY BAGS AND GO TO  
TOWN WITH HIM.

ENOUGH OF SEEDS I NEED TO FEED ON SOME-  
THING MORE THAN MEAD.

I'M HEADIN' TO THE CITY WHERE A BANQUET'S  
GUARANTEED.

*(Haystack turns to reveal a dining room with a table filled with food.)*

COUNTRY MOUSE (*cont'd*).

*WOW!*

CITY MOUSE. **See** all the **finery**, the **dinery**, all **mine** ya see.

COUNTRY MOUSE.

*FOOD!*

CITY MOUSE. **Each** meal is **ecstasy**. No **specks** to see. Sit **next** to me.

COUNTRY MOUSE.

*DESSERT!*

CITY MOUSE. **They** over**stock** it here. They **rock** it here, with **chocolate** here.

COUNTRY MOUSE.

*LEFTOVERS!*

CITY MOUSE. **Each** day a **different** take, **sometimes** it's cake or **sirloin** steak.

COUNTRY MOUSE.

*CAT!*

CITY MOUSE. **Scat!**

*(CAT appears. Chase music.)*

CITY MOUSE *(cont'd)*. **Whoa**, that was **close**. You and **I** were nearly **toast**; gotta **keep** my heart in **check**, or so my **doctor** diagnosed. Let's **wait** another **minute**—two or **three** at the **most**—and **I'll** resume my **duties** as your **bona fide**, **certified**, **city-wide**...

*(CAT appears.)*

COUNTRY MOUSE.

*RUN AND HIDE!*

*(Chase music.)*

COUNTRY MOUSE *(cont'd)*. Whoo-whee!

I THANK YOU FOR THE VISIT, CONVERSATION,  
CHOW, AND CHEER.

ALTHOUGH I'D LIKE TO STAY I MUST SAY I DON'T  
LIKE IT HERE.

BUT NOW A LESSON DOES APPEAR TO WHICH WE  
MUST ADHERE—

BETTER CRUMBS IN COMFORT THAN FINERY WITH  
FEAR.

CITY MOUSE.

BETTER CRUMBS IN COMFORT THAN FINERY WITH  
FEAR.

*(COUNTRY MOUSE and CITY MOUSE remove the March banner, revealing a banner that reads "April: Pay It Forward." On the back of the March banner is the moral "Better crumbs in comfort than feasting with concern." They show the moral to the audience and finish the song.)*

**BOTH.**

**BETTER CRUMBS IN COMFORT THAN FINERY WITH  
FEAR!**

*(Together, they hang the banner on the two hooks on the fence and exit.)*

### **Not I, Said the Farmer (Part Two)**

*(FARMER BROWN enters.)*

FARMER BROWN. Goodness gracious! Hey, everybody, come see!

*(FARMERS BLUE, PINK, YELLOW, WHITE and RED enter.)*

FARMER BROWN *(cont'd)*. Look! It's already April! My how time flies. We only have eight more months to prepare for the Barnyard Bash, and there's no time like the present to get started.

FARMER BLUE. Prepare?

FARMER PINK. The present?

FARMER YELLOW. Get started?

FARMER BROWN. Nothing on a farm happens quickly.

FARMER WHITE. True, but ...

FARMER BROWN. We need to plant the seeds to grow the wheat to get the grain to grind the flour to make the cake to take to the Barnyard Bash. So ...

**(#9: “Not I, Part Two”)**

*(CD track #9.)*

FARMER BROWN *(cont'd)*. Who will help me plant the seeds so we can grow some wheat?

FARMER RED. Not I, Farmer Brown

FARMER BROWN. Why not, Farmer Red?

FARMER RED. It's spring and my allergies went to my head.

*(Exits.)*

FARMER BLUE. Not I, Farmer Brown.

FARMER BROWN. Farmer Blue, not you?

FARMER BLUE. I think I heard my milk cow moo. *(Exits.)*

FARMER PINK. Not I, Farmer Brown.

FARMER BROWN. Farmer Pink, why not?

FARMER PINK. It's time to take my horse for a trot. *(Exits.)*

FARMER YELLOW. Not I, Farmer Brown.

FARMER BROWN. Farmer Yellow, come on!

FARMER YELLOW. My favorite TV show is on. *(Exits.)*

FARMER WHITE. Not I, Farmer Brown.

FARMER BROWN. All right, Farmer White.

FARMER WHITE. I hope I'm not too impolite. *(Exits.)*

FARMER BROWN. Then I guess I'll do it myself! *(Exits.)*

**April: Pay It Forward**

*(This scene is told through actions and animal sounds. CAT enters and walks across the stage meowing. The number of animal sounds is a suggestion; use as many sounds as needed to convey the characters' intentions.)*

CAT. Mew. Meow. Meow. Mew. Meow. (“What a nice day!”)

*(CAT steps on a thorn.)*

CAT *(cont'd)*. Me-OW!!! Ow, ow, me-ow! (*"Ouch, ouch, ouch!"*)

*(MOUSE enters squeaking. MOUSE sees CAT and goes to her.)*

MOUSE. Squeak, squeak. (*"Hi, Cat!"*)

CAT. Me-OW! (*"Ouch!"*)

MOUSE. Squeak, squeak? (*"What's wrong?"*)

CAT. Me-OW! (*"Look! There's a thorn in my paw!"*)

*(MOUSE pulls out the thorn.)*

MOUSE. Squeak, squeak, squeak! (*"There you go!"*)

CAT. Meooooow. (*"Thank you."*)

MOUSE. Squeak, squeak. (*"Don't mention it."*)

*(MOUSE exits. DOG enters, playing with a balloon. The balloon floats away and lands on the barn roof.)*

DOG. Roof! Roof! (*"Hey, balloon, come back here."*)

CAT. Meow. (*"Hi, dog."*)

DOG. Roof! (*"Help me."*)

CAT. Meow? (*"What's wrong?"*)

DOG. Roof! Roof!!! (*"Look up there on the roof!"*)

CAT. Meow! (*"Oh, I see."*)

*(CAT climbs on fence, scales the barn and gets DOG's balloon.)*

DOG. Roof! Roof! (*"Thank you, Cat!"*)

CAT. Meow. (*"Don't mention it."*)

*(CAT exits. DUCK enters pulling a duckling on the string. Several other ducklings roll out in different directions.)*



DUCK. Quack! Quack, quack! Quack! (*"Get in a line, little ducklings!"*)

DOG. Roof! Roof! (*"Hi, Duck!"*)

DUCK. Quack! Quack! (*"Help me, Dog!"*)

DOG. Roof! Roof, roof! (*"Come on, ducklings, move along; listen to your mother."*)

*(DOG herds the ducklings into a line, attaching a hook at the front of each duckling to an eye hook at the tail of each duckling. They form a train that DUCK can pull.)*

DUCK. Quack, quack, quack, quack, quack! (*"Thanks, Dog!"*)

DOG. Roof, roof. (*"Don't mention it."*)

*(DOG exits. PIG enters grunting and lies down in the dirt. He's hot.)*

PIG. Oink. Oink. Oink. (*"Whew! It sure is hot."*)

DUCK. Quack, quack! (*"Hi, Pig!"*)

PIG. Oink. (*"I'm about to die from this heat."*)

DUCK. Quack! Quack! Quack! (*"I'll help you!"*)

*(DUCK gets a pail of water from the well and pours it on PIG.)*

*CD track #10: Water Pouring.*

*PIG rolls around splashing water on himself.)*

PIG. Oink! Oink! Oink! (*"Ah, much better! Thank you, Duck!"*)

DUCK. Quack, quack, quack. (*"Don't mention it, Pig. Come along, ducklings."*)

*(DUCK exits, pulling her train of ducklings. COW pokes his head out of the barn window. COW's bell falls to the ground where he can't reach it.)*

COW. Moooooooo! Moooooooo! (*"I can't reach it."*)

PIG. Oink, oink! (*"Hi, Cow!"*)

COW. Mooooooooooooooooooooo! (*"Can't you see I'm distressed?"*)

PIG. Oink? Oink? (*"What's wrong?"*)

COW. Mooooooooooooooooooooo! Moo! (*"My bell fell. Can you get it for me?"*)

*(PIG picks up bell and hands it to COW.)*

PIG. Oink! (*"Here it is."*)

COW. Moo, moo! (*"Thank you!"*)

PIG. Oink. (*"Don't mention it."*)

*(PIG exits. MOUSE enters searching for food, smacking her lips.)*

MOUSE. Squeak, squeak, squeak. (*"Boy, I sure could use a bite to eat right about now."*)

COW. Moo-whooo! (*"Yoo-hoo!"*)

MOUSE. Squeak. (*"I'm a bit peckish."*)

*(COW hands some cheese to MOUSE.)*

COW. Moo? (*"You want some?"*)

MOUSE. Squeak! Squeak! Squeak! (*"Yippee! My favorite!"*)

*(MOUSE takes the cheese and removes the April banner, revealing a banner that reads "May: Full of Hot Air." On the back of the April banner is the moral "One good turn deserves another." MOUSE shows the moral to the audience and reads it aloud.)*

MOUSE (*cont'd*). Squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak, squeak. (*Clears throat.*) One good turn deserves another.

**(#10: “Transition Into May”)**

*(CD track #11. MOUSE exits during the transitional music.)*