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Dramatic Publishing

Redwall: The Legend of Redwall Abbey

A Musical in Two Acts
by
EVELYN SWENSSON

Based on the book *Redwall*
by
BRIAN JACQUES

Written for Opera Delaware
World Premiere – March 7, 1998
The Grand Opera House



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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MMIV by
EVELYN SWENSSON
Based on the book *Redwall* by
BRIAN JACQUES

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(REDWALL: THE LEGEND OF REDWALL ABBEY)

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Redwall: The Legend of Redwall Abbey had its world premiere at The Grand Opera House, Opera Delaware, on March 7, 1998. The production was directed by Leland Kimbal, with music conducted and directed by Evelyn Swennson, and included the following:

CAST

- 1) Matthias Mouse Eric Miller
- 2) Abbot, a mouse. John Dennison
- 3) Methuselah, a mouse Kurt Bieg
- 4) Constance, the Badger. Lois Alt
- 5) Cluny the Scourge, a rat Alan Wagner
- 6) Fangburn, a rat Carl Pouncy
- 7) Frogblood, a rat Gerald Blanchard
- 8) Ragear, a rat Rob Hull
- 9) Mangefur, a rat Ray Murphy
- 10) Redtooth, a rat Jack Hollister / Ensemble
- 11) Cheesethief, a rat Carlos Alicea / Ensemble
- 12) Darkclaw, a rat Justin Vye / Ensemble
- 13) Scumnose, a rat Andrew Curtin / Ensemble
- 14) Wormtail, a rat. Kurt Bieg / Ensemble
- 15) Killconey, a weasel Brandon Burk / Ensemble
- 16) Jess, a squirrel Marie Rose Gardner
- 17) Silent Sam, her son. Conner Gardner
- 18) Brother Alf, a mouse. Elliot Jones
- 19) Hugo, a mouse Brandon Burk
- 20) Basil, a hare Rob Hull
- 21) Capt. Snow, an owl Jack Hollister
- 22) Julian, a cat. Ray Murphy
- 23) King Sparra, a bird. Gerald Blanchard
- 24) Dunwing, a sparrow. Stephanie Santer
- 25) Warbeak, a sparrow Jennifer Zetlan

- 26) Sela, a vixen Tina Betz
- 27) Chickenhound, a fox James Smith
- 28) Shadow, a ferret James Smith
- 29) Ambrose, a porcupine Andrew Coonin
- 30) Winifred, an otter Dayle Joseph / Ensemble
- 31) Sister Clemence, a mouse Melissa Daniels / Ensemble
- 32) Mr. Churchmouse Kurt Bieg
- 33) Mrs. Churchmouse Lisa Dodson / Ensemble
- 34) Cornflower, their daughter Caitlin Ganc
- 35) Mrs. Vole Rupal Pinto / Ensemble
- 36) Colin Vole, her son Thomas Anderson
- 37) Battlehawk, sparra warrior Caitlin Kerchner
- 38) Windplume, sparra warrior Jessica Moss
- 39) Guosim, shrew leader Arwen Sheridan
- 40) Log-a-log, a shrew Ryan Maguire
- 41) Voice of Asmodeus Alan Wagner
- 42) Foremole . . . Robby Williams: Voice . . . John Dennison
- 43) Doby Mole . . Andrew Coonin: Voice Carl Pouncy
- 44) Walt Mole . . John Lasher: Voice Fred Smith

LADIES ENSEMBLE

- 1) Amanda Alicea
- 2) Gail Alicea
- 3) Nancy Bailey
- 4) Melissa Daniels
- 5) Deb Lehman
- 6) Heather Robb

STUDENT CHORUS

- 1) Julie Constantine Sparrow
- 2) Kelly Curtin Sparrow
- 3) Caitlin Custer Shrew

- 4) Caitlin Kerchner Sparrow
- 5) Jessica Moss. Sparrow
- 6) Jessie Novotny Sparrow
- 7) Brittany Ramone Shrew
- 8) Tiffany Rerenauer Shrew
- 9) Meghan Shara Sparrow
- 10) Arwen Sheridan Shrew
- 11) Bethany Somers. Sparrow
- 12) Caroline Sparks Sparrow
- 13) Thomas Anderson. Shrew
- 14) Andrew Coonin Sparrow
- 15) Timothy Keeler. Shrew
- 16) John Lasher Sparrow
- 17) Christopher Leck Shrew
- 18) Ryan Maguire. Shrew
- 19) Patrick O’Hanlon Shrew
- 20) Logan Osberg Shrew
- 21) Ross Ramone Shrew
- 22) Robby Williams. Sparrow

REDWALL: THE LEGEND OF REDWALL ABBEY

A Musical in Two Acts
For 10-20 characters or more, with children's chorus

CHARACTERS

MATTHIAS	CLUNY
ABBOT	REDTOOTH
CONSTANCE	CHEESETHIEF
METHUSELAH	FANGBURN
BROTHER ALF	FROGBLOOD
SISTER CLEMENCE	MANGEFUR
HUGO	RAGEAR
JESS	SELA
WARBEAK	CHICKENHOUND
JULIAN	SHADOW
CAPT. SNOW	VOICE OF ASMODEUS

Optional roles

BULL SPARRA, DUNWING, BATTLEHAWK,
WINDPLUME, AMBROSE SPIKE, WINIFRED, MR. &
MRS. CHURCHMOUSE, MRS. VOLE, DARKCLAW,
SCUMNOSE, WORMTAIL, KILLCONEY, OTHER RATS

Children's chorus (Mice, Shrews, Sparrows)

GUOSIM, LOG-A-LOG, FOREMOLE, TOBY, WALT, (op-
tional:) COLIN, CORNFLOWER, SILENT SAM

*Less w/ doubling—see next page

*If Sparra Court is omitted, Warbeak can sing Dunwing's #20.

Doubling suggestions for 8 men, 2 women:

ABBOT / METHUSELAH
BASIL / RAGEAR
BULL SPARRA / CHEESETHIEF
CAPT. SNOW / REDTOOTH
CLEMENCE / WARBEAK
CLUNY / VOICE OF ASMODEUS
HUGO / FANGBURN
JESS / SELA
JULIAN / MANGEFUR
SHADOW / CHICKENHOUND

ACT I

(MUSIC #1: OVERTURE)

(Orchestra. Music continues into Scene 1)

SCENE 1, Redwall Abbey. The Great Hall.

(Tapestry as backdrop.)

(REDWALLERS gather for the feast of celebration.)

(MUSIC #1A: SUMER IS ICUMEN IN)*

ALL *(RATS sing offstage).*

SUMER IS I CUMEN IN,
LHUDE SING CUCCU,
GROWETH SED AND BLOWETH MED,
AND SPRINGTH THE WINDE NU; (wind a-new)
SING CUCCU

AWE BLETETH AFTER LOMB
(Ewe a-bleating after lamb)
HOUTH AFTER CALVE CU:
(And cow for calf doth moo)
BULLUC STERTETH, BUCKE VERTETH
(Bulls are snorting, bucks cavorting)
MURIE SING CUCCU.

CUCCU, CUCCU, MURIE SING THE CUCCU
MURIE SING CUCU.

*John of Fornsete (1280) Monk of Reading Abbey

WINIFRED. I say, Matthias. Where's that giant grayling you hooked today? I wish I could land a beauty like that!

MATTHIAS. Oh, thank you, Miss Otter. That's quite a compliment from you, our champion fisher-lady. I believe that Friar Hugo is planning to serve it tonight.

(MUSIC #2: BROTHERS OF REDWALL)

BROTHERS.

**WE ARE THE BROTHERS OF REDWALL
WE LIVE BY THE BELL ALL OUR DAYS,
WE SLEEP AND WORK AND STUDY
AND SING OUR SONGS OF PRAISE.**

ALL.

ALLELUIA!

**WE ROTATE ALL OF THE DUTIES
SO NO ONE WILL BE BORED.
WE LIVE A LIFE THAT BY OURSELVES
WE NEVER COULD AFFORD.**

ALL.

ALLELUIA!

**WE BAKE OUR BREAD IN THE OVENS
AND MAKE OUR CANDLES OF WAX,
AND GROW OUR FOOD IN THE GARDENS,
AND SEW OUR HABITS OF FLAX.**

ALL.

ALLELUIA!

BROTHER ALF.

**I AM BROTHER ALF
ASSISTANT TO THE ABBOT
I PREACH AND TEACH,
GIVE HELP TO EACH,
AND WASH THE ABBOT'S HABITS.**

ALL.

AND WASH THE ABBOT'S HABITS.

HUGO.

**I AM FRIAR HUGO.
THE KITCHEN'S MY DOMAIN.
I PLAN THE MENUS, COOK THE MEALS,
AND NO ONE DARES COMPLAIN.**

ALL.

AND NO ONE DARES COMPLAIN.

AMBROSE.

**I AM AMBROSE SPIKE,
A PRICKLY PORCUPINE.
I MAKE THE CHERRY CORDIAL
AND ELDERBERRY WINE.**

ALL.

AND ELDERBERRY WINE.

CONSTANCE.

**I AM CONSTANCE BADGER,
PROTECTOR OF THE SMALL.
MY FRIENDS CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME
TO HELP THEM WHEN THEY CALL.**

ALL.
TO HELP THEM WHEN THEY CALL.

MR. & MRS. CHURCHMOUSE.
**WE'RE MR. AND MRS. CHURCHMOUSE WITH
OUR INGENUE.**

CORNFLOWER.
**THEY CALL ME CORNFLOWER. BECAUSE MY
EYES ARE BLUE.**
(She blinks her eyes.)

ALL.
BECAUSE HER EYES ARE BLUE.

MATTHIAS.
**MATTHIAS IS MY NAME
I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG.
I HEARD THE BROTHERS SINGING
AND WANTED TO SING THEIR SONG.**

ALL.
ALLELUIA!

ALL.
**WE LOVE OUR FATHER ABBOT
AND HONOR HIM TODAY
ON HIS SILVER ANNIVERSARY
AND SO WITHOUT DELAY—**

**BRING IN THE CLOWNS AND ACROBATS,
AND YOU, MUSICIANS, PLAY!**

**WE'LL SING AND DANCE AND CELEBRATE
THIS VERY SPECIAL DAY!**

ALL.

ALLELUIA!

(MUSIC #2A: DANCE—Instrumental)
(Optional: Magician, Juggler, Acrobats)

(MUSIC #2B: THE LEGEND—Intro)

ABBOT.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TONIGHT TO
CELEBRATE MY
SILVER ANNIVERSARY AS ABBOT OF
REDWALL.
IT MAY SEEM A LONG TIME TO SOME, BUT
COMPARED TO THE
AGE OF OUR ABBEY IT IS A SHORT TIME
INDEED.**

ALL. Hurray! Hurray!

ABBOT.

**LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR HERO,
WHOSE BRAVE DEEDS
FILL THIS MAGNIFICENT TAPESTRY.
MARTIN THE WARRIOR, IT WAS HE WHO
MADE REDWALL THE
PEACEFUL PLACE IT IS TODAY.**

(MUSIC #3: THE LEGEND)

ABBOT.

**REDWALL ABBEY IS A PLACE OF PEACE.
IN MARTIN'S TIME IT WAS NOT SO.
HE FOUGHT MANY FOXES AND GREAT WILD
CAT
BUT THAT WAS VERY LONG AGO.**

BROTHER ALF.

**MARTIN, THE WARRIOR, WOUNDED IN THE
WAR
LAY BLEEDING, DYING IN THE SNOW:
THE BROTHERS FROM THE ABBEY CAME AND
RESCUED HIM.
HE LIVED, BUT THIS WE NEED TO KNOW:**

**MARTIN, OUR HERO, PUT AWAY HIS SWORD.
OUR WAY OF LIFE TO HIM WE OWE.
HE TAUGHT US NOT TO HARM A LIVING
THING, UNLESS,
INVADED BY AN EVIL FOE.**

ALL.

**REDWALL ABBEY IS A PLACE OF PEACE
IN ALL OUR TIME IT HAS BEEN SO.
WE FEED THE POOR, HEAL THE SICK, HELP
THE WEAK,
AND BY OUR DAILY DEEDS WE SHOW THAT
REDWALL ABBEY IS A PLACE OF PEACE.**

HUGO. Good evening, Father Abbot. Congratulations on your silver anniversary at Redwall Abbey.

ABBOT. Thank you, Friar Hugo. Now, what is on the menu for the feast tonight?

HUGO. The main course will be the big fish that Matthias caught this morning. (*MATTHIAS bows. All cheer.*)

(MUSIC #4: THE FEAST)

HUGO. Let me tell you the rest of the menu.

**FIRST, WE'LL HAVE SOME FRESH-WATER
SHRIMP,
GARNISHED WITH ROSE LEAVES AND CREAM;
BARLEY PEARLS IN ACORN PUREE,
CABBAGE AND TURNIPS SUPREME.**

**CARROT CHEWS FOR THE DIBBUNS*, OF
COURSE,
SUNFLOWER SEEDS AND KIBBLE,
CHUNKS OF CHEESE AND PLENTY OF NUTS,
APPLES AND RAISINS TO NIBBLE.**

** Dibbuns - Little animals*

(TRUMPET FANFARE. TWO REDWALLERS carry in the Giant Grayling.)

HUGO. "My pièce de résistance."

**GRAYLING À LA REDWALL!
BAKED IN GOOSEBERRY WINE.
MINT AND HONEY AND BEECHNUTS, TOO
THIS DISH WILL BE DIVINE!**

ALL.

**GRAYLING À LA REDWALL
BAKED IN GOOSEBERRY WINE**

**MINT AND HONEY AND BEECHNUTS, TOO
THE DISH WILL BE DIVINE**

(Oohs and ahs then applause.)

ABBOTT. Let us sing the grace, then Hugo may serve his masterpiece.

(MUSIC #4A: THE GRACE)

ALL *(chanting)*.

**BLESS THESE NUTS AND HERBS AND FRUITS,
BERRIES, TUBERS, PLANTS AND ROOTS;
SILVERFISH WHOSE LIFE WE TAKE
ONLY FOR A MEAL TO MAKE. AMEN. ***

** Words by Brian Jacques*

(All cheer and begin eating and talking. SISTER CLEMENCE rushes in.)

SISTER CLEMENCE. Father Abbot! Father Abbot! A galloping horse just passed our gate. It was pulling a hay wagon full of rats! Huge, ugly rats!

ABBOT. Was there anything special that you noticed about the leader?

SISTER CLEMENCE. He had only one eye.

ABBOT. Can you recall anything about his tail?

SISTER CLEMENCE. He held it in his claw as if it were a whip.

ABBOT *(pacing)*. Twice in my lifetime I have heard travelers speak of this rat. His name is Cluny the Scourge.

ALL *(together)*. How terrible! What a mess! Maybe Cluny will spare us, etc.

WINIFRED. Oh, my whiskers!

SISTER CLEMENCE. Hadn't we better pack up and
move?

JESS. Maybe Cluny will spare us.

SISTER CLEMENCE. Oh, dear, oh dear—what shall we
do?

MATTHIAS. Do? I'll tell you what we'll do: We'll be
ready!

(MUSIC #5: WE'LL BE READY)

(Marching information led by MATTHIAS)

ALL.

**READY, WE'LL BE READY
WHEN THEY COME.
WHEN THEY COME!
STEADY, WE'LL BE STEADY
WHEN THEY COME!
WHEN THEY COME!**

**IF INVADED BY THE FOE,
WE WILL STAGE A COUNTER BLOW.**

**READY, WE'LL BE READY
WHEN THEY COME.
WHEN THEY COME.
WHEN THEY COME!**

(MUSIC #5A: WE'LL BE READY—Playoff)