

KING MIDAS

An Operetta for Children

by

DREY COLE

SchoolPlay Productions Ltd

15 Inglis Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3HU

KING MIDAS
[Vocal Score]

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CAST

Midas	<i>A King in Ancient Greece</i>
Chloe	<i>Daughter of the King</i>
Spiros	<i>A close family friend</i>
Lydia	<i>Chief maidservant</i>
Bacchus	<i>God of wine</i>
Silenus	<i>Close friend of Bacchus</i>
Servant	
2 Musicians	
Chorus	
Choir	<i>Additional Singers and/or Musicians</i>

Setting - A Palace in Ancient Greece.

It is suggested that the **Chorus** be about 20 in number and form a group at the back of the stage. They should participate in the action throughout the play, showing expressions of surprise, shock, happiness, etc.

The **Choir** could form two additional blocks of singers which could be positioned on either side of the stage.

KING MIDAS

by Drey Cole.

MUSIC 1 - OVERTURE - Instrumental

MUSICIANS retire and CHORUS enters to group at the back of the stage. CHOIR also stands.

MUSIC 2 - MIDAS

*Midas, Midas, King in Greece.
Midas, Midas, kept the peace.
Ruled all his people well
In those far off days.
Midas, Midas, always won praise,
Always won praise.*

*Golden, golden, such were his dreams.
Golden, golden, or so it seems.
Given one wish to choose,
He asked for too much.
Golden, golden was his touch.
Was his touch.*

ACT I

SCENE 1

The Palace Garden.

Speaker: This is the story of King Midas and the Golden Touch.

Chorus: *(To be recited together but with solo speakers for numbered parts).*

*We have a tale we'll now unfold
About a king in days of old.
The place was Greece where skies were blue.
The people were happy, their troubles were few.*

- (1) The pine-covered hills were always green,
- (2) The birds sang happily in this scene.
- (3) The days were peaceful,
- (4) The king ruled well
- (5) But this was to change as we now will tell.
- (All) The king's love of gold was to make him sad.
He almost lost the life he had.

Speaker: Here comes the good King Midas with the daughter he loves so much.

(MIDAS enters R. CHLOE skips in from L. MIDAS looking pompous, nose in air, hands folded behind).

Midas: You're looking very pretty today, Chloe. What a lovely dress.

Chloe: Thank you, father. Shall we sit and eat some fruit before you go to talk to your people?

Midas: Yes, indeed. *(Rings bell. LYDIA enters L and curtseys).* Lydia, bring a bowl of fruit and some of my finest wine.

Lydia: At once, my Lord. *(Curtseys, exits L).*

Midas: Now what will you do today, my dear?

Chloe: *(skipping about).* I think I'll write a song for you, Father.

Midas: What a lovely thought. Will it be a happy tune?

Chloe: Yes, I feel so happy. *(Skips around. LYDIA enters L).*

Lydia: Your fruit and wine, my Lord.

Midas: Thank you, Lydia, that will be all. *(LYDIA curtsies and exits R).* Now, Chloe, come and taste these beautiful grapes grown on my own vines.

Chloe: They look lovely, Father.

(Enter SPIROS, R, looking dejected).

Midas: Spiros, my friend, why are you looking so downhearted?

Spiros: Oh, Midas. My wife has such a bad temper. She makes my life a misery and now her mother is coming to stay. *(Throws up hands in horror).*

Midas: Come, Spiros, nobody can be unhappy on such a lovely day. Come and taste my beautiful wine.

Spiros: You are so lucky, Midas. You are loved by your people. You are wise and thoughtful and you have a beautiful daughter.

Midas: Yes, my people are happy. I love my home and my daughter and yet....

(Enter SERVANT, R, dashing in panting).

Servant: (*Bows to MIDAS*). Your Highness, there has been an accident. A weary traveller has fallen from his horse.

Midas: Bring him in at once. We will give him shelter for the night. (*SERVANT bows and exits R*). Chloe, my dear, run along and write my tune.

Chloe: Yes, Father, then I'll come and play it for you later. (*Skips across stage and exits R. SILENUS and SERVANT enter R*).

Silenus: My name is Silenus and I am most grateful to you, Midas.

Midas: You must stay and rest with us, my friend. Have some wine.

Silenus: You are very kind. You will be well rewarded.

Midas: (*shouts*). Lydia, bring on the musicians.

(*Enter LYDIA and MUSICIANS L*).

MUSIC 3 - MUSICIAN'S PIECE (Instrumental)

(*After piece MIDAS clicks fingers, LYDIA and MUSICIANS bow to company and exeunt L*).

Silenus: Thank you, Midas, and now I would like to rest.

Midas: (*to SERVANT*). Show Silenus to his room. (*SERVANT bows to MIDAS and exits R with SILENUS*). Now I must speak to my people. (*Exit MIDAS L*).

SCENE 2
Inside the Palace.

Chorus: Now we reach the end of this day
Silenus has been invited to stay
(1) Later King Midas climbs the stairs
(2) He goes to his room to say his prayers.
(All) Let us listen to what he says
When to Bacchus he kneels and prays.

(*MIDAS kneeling and prostrating in exaggerated fashion, saying 'salami, salami', then putting hands together muttering loudly, 'bddbdb' etc. After 3 times jumps up looking shocked. Meanwhile BACCHUS has entered R and stands with arms raised in air. Two GONG-BEATERS enter L, one carrying large gong, other soft beater. Both stand poised with noses in air*).

Midas: Wh-wh-what's that? A strange shape. It's getting clearer. I don't like it.
Wait - can it be?

Bacchus: Yes. It is I [*gong*]^m, Bacchus^m, god of wine^m. You have pleased me greatly, Midas. (*Lowers arms*).

Midas: Me, Bacchus^m? How? I know I've drunk a lot of wine lately.

Bacchus: Today you welcomed into your house my friend, Silenus.

Midas: Your friend, Bacchus?^m *MIDAS looks irritatedly at GONG BEATERS*). I didn't know that.

Bacchus: Yes, my oldest and dearest friend. For that I am most grateful.

Midas: I'm honoured to have pleased you, Bacchus^m. (*MIDAS turns and pushes GONG BEATER. They go off looking deflated*).

Bacchus: I am so pleased that I am going to grant you a wish. [*chimes*]^v.

Midas: A wish^v?

Bacchus: Yes, just one wish^v. So choose wisely, Midas. I will return tomorrow.
(*Swirls out R*).

Midas: (*dashes about excitedly*). Chloe, everyone! Come quickly and listen!

(*In rush CHLOE, SPIROS, SILENUS, LYDIA*).

Chloe: What is it, Father? Are you all right?

Silenus: Why are you so excited, Midas?

Spiros: I hope it's important. I was having a lovely dream that my wife and her mother were drifting out to sea in a boat with no oars.

Midas: I've just met the great god, Bacchus.

Chloe: Oh, Father, how exciting! Why you?

Midas: He's granted me one wish because I helped you, Silenus.

Spiros: One wish? Whew! That could solve all my problems.

Chloe: What will you choose, Father?

Silenus: Choose wisely, Midas.

Midas: One wish. What shall I choose? Just one wish.

MUSIC 4 - ONE WISH

All: *Oh, what would you ask if you had one wish?
Would you ask for a dream to come true?
A life that is long and free from care
In a land where the skies are always blue.
In a land where the skies are always blue?*

[*gong* = m] [*chimes* = v]

*Oh, where would you go with the world at your feet
Who would you take as your friend?
What would you say to the ones left behind?
What would you find at the end?
Oh, what would you find at the end?*

*Would you ride on a star, would you fly to the moon?
Would you sail on the ocean blue?
Would you stay close to home, never more to roam?
Would you wish for a love strong and true?*

*Oh, what would you ask if you had one wish?
Would you wish that you'd never grow old?
Or, maybe you'd wish for a lifetime of peace,
Or that all you touch turns to gold,
Or that all you touch turns to gold.*

*SCENE 3
Inside the Palace*

Chorus: So Midas tossed and turned all night
He hasn't slept and now it's light,
(1) And as he listens to the birds
(2) He thinks about his family's words.
(All) He knows that now he has to choose.
His friends are waiting for the news.

(Enter LYDIA, CHLOE L - SPIROS, MIDAS R).

Spiros: Midas, have you decided what you will ask for?

Chloe: Yes, Father, please tell us.

Midas: Well, first I thought of asking for precious stones. Sapphires or rubies or pearls.

Chloe: Oh, lovely! Think of the necklaces I could make.

Midas: Then I thought of diamonds.

Spiros: Yes, they make beautiful rings.

Midas: But then I decided....

Spiros) : Tell us, Midas.

Chloe) : Tell us, Father.

Lydia) : Tell us, Sir.

Midas : Gold!

Spiros/Chloe/Lydia: Gold?

Midas: Yes, gold!

MUSIC 5 - GOLD

Midas: *I know that now I must be strong,
Ask for my heart's desire.
My secret longing is just for gold,
Of that I'll never tire.
Sapphires and rubies won't change my life,
Strings of pearls leave me cold.
Diamonds and silver I'd forget
If I could just have gold.*

(After solo by Midas piano plays tune with accompaniment by maracas while MIDAS, CHLOE, SPIROS and LYDIA dance. Everybody joins in song after dance.)

All: *We know that now he must be strong.
Ask for his heart's desire.
His secret longing is just for gold
Of that he'll never tire
Sapphires and rubies won't change his life
Strings of pearls leave him cold
Diamonds and silver he'd forget
If he could just have gold.*

(After song gong beaters re-appear L and BACCHUS^m appears R).

Bacchus: *(arms raised).* So, Midas, have you decided? *(Lowers arms).*

Midas: Yes, Bacchus. What I want more than anything is gold.

Bacchus: Very well, Midas. You shall have gold. *(Indian bells ☒).* From now on
. *(points at MIDAS)* everything you touch will turn to gold☒).

(GONG BEATERS beat gong and BACCHUS swirls out R).

End of Act I

[Indian bells = ☒]

ACT II

SCENE 1

The Palace Garden.

Chorus: Now Midas really thinks he's rich
He doesn't know that there's a hitch.
(1) He's got the wish he craved so much,
(2) He knows he has the golden touch.
(All) So let us see what we will hear,
He's on his own and coming near. (*MIDAS enters R.*)

Midas: So - everything I touch will turn to gold? Let's see if it does! I'll start on
the flowers - (*dashes about*) It really works! Gold roses , violets ,
daisies . Hey, everybody! Come and look! Chloe, Spiros, Lydia.

Spiros: } What is it, Midas?

Chloe: } Yes, Father?

Lydia: } Yes, sir?

Midas: Look at my lovely golden garden.

Spiros: (*happily*). Fantastic!

Chloe: (*dismayed*). Oh, no!

Lydia: (*dismayed*). Oh, no!

Chloe: Oh, Lydia, what has he done?

Lydia: All those beautiful flowers.

MUSIC 6 - FLOWERS

(*Duet by CHLOE and LYDIA - humming chorus by CHOIR between verses and
CHOIR singing last line of verses*).

Chloe / Lydia: *Oh, look what has happened to the flowers,
They have all turned to gold
The petals that once we loved to touch,
Now feel so cold.*

Choir: *Now feel so cold.*

Chloe / Lydia: *The flowers that were growing by the pond,
Made the prettiest scene.
With petals of pink and white and red,*

And stems of green.

Choir: *And stems of green.*

Spiros: Take no notice of these two miseries, Midas. They look great!

Midas: Thanks, my friend. I knew you'd like them. (*Takes SPIROS by the arm*).
Oh, no! What's happened? Speak to me Spiros!

Lydia: It's no use. He's turned to gold.

Chloe: What have you done, Father?

Midas: (*blustering*). Well, don't worry. It probably won't last. He'll be back to normal soon. Lydia, bring some fruit. This excitement has made me hungry.

Lydia: Yes, sir. (*exit L.*).

Midas: Don't worry, Chloe. He makes a rather nice statue, don't you think?
(*Chucks SPIROS under chin. LYDIA enters L.*).

Lydia: Here's your fruit, sir.

Midas: (*Takes plate of fruit*) Now isn't that pretty? A golden plate. Run along now, Lydia. (*touches arm*).

Chloe: Oh, no! - Now Lydia's a statue.

Midas: Don't worry! It really won't last. Here, have an apple. Well a pear.
(*puzzled*) How am I going to eat? I know, I'll use my teeth. Oh, well -
Chloe play the tune that you've written for me.

MUSIC 7 - RECORDER TUNE (Instrumental - CHLOE)

Chloe: Did you like it, Father?

Midas: Lovely, Chloe. Give your old Father a hug. Oh, no! This is too much!
Not my beautiful Chloe. Now what am I going to do? (*Sinks to knees, head
in hands*).

MUSIC 8 - MIDAS BELL

Chorus: *Midas, Midas, now look what you have done.
When you started this was a bit of fun.
You thought life was such a bore,
And so you wanted more,
But we can see and you'll agree
That your troubles now weigh a ton! (last words shouted).*

SCENE 2

(Outside the Palace, where a crowd has gathered).

All: Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb....

1st Speaker: Fred's over there. Ask him if he knows anything.

2nd Speaker: Hello, Fred. What's happening in the palace?

Fred: I don't know but I don't like it!

3rd Speaker: I don't like it, either!

1st Speaker: I've heard that anyone who goes in there doesn't come out again

Fred: Maybe we should all go home before WE disappear. (*rhubarb, rhubarb etc.*)

4th Speaker: They say the king's had a curse put on him.

5th Speaker: Eh, speak up! I can't hear like I used to!

6th Speaker: He said the king's had a curse put on him!

4th Speaker: Yes, they say everything he touches turns to stone.

5th Speaker: Eh, he's turned into a bone? (*laughter*).

Fred: There is something odd going on in there.

2nd Speaker: Something very odd!

3rd Speaker: Things just aren't the same.

MUSIC 9 - CHANGES

Crowd: *There's been some changes made* (random finger clicks).
There's been some changes made. (Yeah!)
Now nothing is the same
And we all know who's to blame.
Yeah, there's been some changes made.

There's been some changes made, (Yeah!)
There's been some changes made.
If you want to bend the rule
You have got to play it cool
But there's been some changes made

There's been some changes made (Oh, Yeah!)
There's been some changes made.
If you want to play with fire
Just to get what you desire
Then there'll be some changes made.

(YEAH!)

Fred: Here's the king now.

1st Speaker: Quick! Let's get out of his way (*CROWD disperse noisily*).

Midas: What am I going to do? It's awful in the palace. Everyone I love is so golden and still. Let's think! Maybe - if I go into the woods - and touch everything I see - maybe - I'll somehow use up all the power. Let's give it a try!

End of Act II

ACT III

(Inside the Palace).

Chorus: So now the king's in deep despair.
He rants and raves and tears his hair.
(1) His love of gold has turned quite sour.
(2) But still he seems to have the power.
(All) If only Bacchus would be kind
And let poor Midas change his mind.

Midas: *(miserably)*. It's no use! I can't get rid of the power. Look at them! All golden statues. Oh, Chloe, my lovely daughter.

MUSIC 10 - GOLD [Reprise]

Midas: *(sadly)* **Why did I ever ask for gold?
Look how it's changed my home.
I never thought I'd see the day
When I'd be here alone.
If I could only change all this,
Back to how it was before.
I would be happy with my life.
Never ask for more.**

Midas: I know that I've been greedy. I shouldn't have asked for so much.
(*shouts*). Bacchus! Can you hear me? (*GONG BEATERS enter L;*
BACCHUS enters R^m).

Bacchus: I hear you, Midas. So - you are not pleased?

Midas: Oh, no, Bacchus.

Bacchus: You ASKED for gold.

Midas: I know but look what's happened!

Bacchus: I could change everything, Midas, but you'd have to make me a promise.

Midas: Oh yes, anything!

Bacchus: Promise that you will never be so greedy again.

Midas: I promise. I promise.

Bacchus: All right then. (*Waves arms* mmm x x x vvv mmm x x x vvv mmm x x x vvv.
Everybody moves again)

Midas: Chloe, let me hug you. (*hesitates*). Er it will be all right, won't it,
Bacchus?

Bacchus: Why don't you try it and see?

Midas: } (*hugging each other*). Thank goodness!

Chloe: } Oh, Father!

Spiros: Well, I wouldn't like to go through that again.

Lydia: Me, neither!

Spiros: I think I'll go and give my wife a big hug.

Midas: Yes, Spiros, you do that. From now on we must ALL learn to be grateful
for what we've got.

MUSIC 11 - LAST SONG

All: *So now we've reached the end
Of Midas and his friends.
He had a wish to choose.
It seemed he couldn't lose
But when Fate takes a hand
Life doesn't go as planned..
And so he had to say*

Midas: (*speaking*) "Please take the gold away!"

All: *Oh, Midas was lucky
For Bacchus was kind
He listened to Midas
When he changed his mind.*

*All the birds are singing,
The sun shines above
And everybody's happy
Surrounded by love.*

*We're glad you stayed a while.
We hope we made you smile,
But now our tale is told
Of Midas and his gold.*

THE END

