

Music for Schools presents...

# Stella the Starfish

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...with illustrations by Jill Elstob

**Welcome to Stella the Starfish !** This is a one-act musical, suitable for Key Stage 1 (ages 5 - 7). Younger children can also be included in your performance through the many lively songs, but the speaking/acting parts are best suited to Key Stage 1. The show runs for approximately 30 minutes.

**Stella the Starfish** is a magical underwater tale with an important message about being helpful to others. Stella the starfish is found, lost and alone, at the bottom of Sophie & Stephen's aquarium. When the children agree to help reunite Stella with her family, they are transported into the ocean by a magic conch shell. They seek the advice of the colourful sea creatures, but none are able or willing to help. Eventually they arrive at the mouth of Sid the shark's cave, hoping he will be able to help them. Mysterious Sid sings them a riddle but then promptly disappears. Stella and the children follow Sid's instructions and are eventually able to find Stella's lost family.

**Characters:** Any number of pupils can perform **Stella the Starfish** . Numbers of supporting clownfish, rainbow fish or seaweed dancers are not restricted. There are good opportunities for whole-group and small-group singing and plenty of speaking parts. Note that, although fourteen *Narrator* speeches appear in the script, this number can be reduced or expanded to suit your pupil numbers. Also, additional sea creatures (e.g. sea horses, eels, jellyfish) could be featured amongst the singers or maybe the younger performers without speaking parts. Note that some solo singing is featured for the characters: Sophie, Stephen, Stella, Terry and Sid. A full list of speaking parts appears on page 2.

**Staging, costumes & scenery:** **Stella the Starfish** can be very simply staged with all the performers seated on benches, either side of a raised stage or flat floor area. Costumes, at their simplest, could be limited to plain t-shirts, colour coordinated between the different groups of sea creatures. Additionally, painted faces would be an effective way to portray each group. The *Narrators* could wear their own coordinated t-shirts, or perhaps be dressed in their own sea creature group. Movement around the stage need only be simple and stylised, although the seaweed dancers could be more choreographed, making full use of the stage and auditorium. The picture on page 4 shows the collage created for the premiere production of the show. This was used as a colourful fixed backdrop to the performance area, depicting the shipwreck scene. Alternatively, an abstract pattern of shells, seaweed, bubbles, coral, etc. could be used.

**Speaking parts (in order of appearance):**

- Narrator 1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Sophie** (a solo singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Stephen** (a solo singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 3** \_\_\_\_\_
- Stella the Starfish** (a solo singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 4** \_\_\_\_\_
- Seaweed Dancers** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 5** \_\_\_\_\_
- Clownfish 1** (a group singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Clownfish 2** (a group singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Clownfish 3** (a group singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 6** \_\_\_\_\_
- Terry the Turtle** (a solo singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 7** \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 8** \_\_\_\_\_
- Rainbow Fish 1** (a group singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Rainbow Fish 2** (a group singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Rainbow Fish 3** (a group singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 9** \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 10** \_\_\_\_\_
- Sid the Shark** (a solo singer) \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 11** \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 12** \_\_\_\_\_
- Starfish 1** \_\_\_\_\_
- Starfish 2** \_\_\_\_\_
- Starfish 3** \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 13** \_\_\_\_\_
- Narrator 14** \_\_\_\_\_

**CD, Sheet Music & Lyrics:** The CD contains all that is required to rehearse pupils and to perform the musical. To protect the CD, it is recommended that you store it in a hard case. If using the CD for your performance, ensure that its operator brings each backing track in promptly, using the pause button between tracks to avoid unnecessary silence. If you prefer to play the music live, the sheet music at the back of this publication (from page 32) can be used for accompaniment on piano, keyboard and/or guitar. The music is written out in a more simplified form than is heard on the CD. The lyrics for the eight songs are presented within the script.

## Sophie

Look Stephen, there's a clownfish and a rainbow fish swimming around those shells at the bottom of the tank.

## Stephen

They look excited. Do you think they have found something ?

## Narrator 2

As the children looked closer, they suddenly spotted a tiny orange starfish lying at the bottom of the tank. It was looking very, very sad.

## Sophie

I wonder where that little starfish has come from. I'm sure it wasn't there yesterday.

## Stephen

No. I haven't seen it before !

## Narrator 3

Then the starfish began to swim to the top of the tank - and in a magical moment...

*(Stella stands and moves forward, in between Sophie and Stephen, as if emerging from the aquarium.)*

...it was standing there between Sophie and Stephen.

## Stella the Starfish

I'm Stella the Starfish. Oh, Sophie and Stephen - I think I need your help !



## **SONG - The Clownfish** (CD tracks 4 + 15)

### **Verse 1** (Clownfish sing together)

Watch us laugh and watch us play.

We dart about and joke all day.

(All sing) Ha, ha, ha, ha

and hee, hee, hee, hee !

We are the clowns of the sea.

### **Verse 2** (Clownfish sing)

Would you like some fun as well?

Play tease the crab or hide the shell.

(All sing) Ha, ha, ha, ha

and hee, hee, hee, hee !

We are the clowns of the sea.

### **Verse 3** (All sing)

We're too busy dashing, bumping,

blowing bubbles, laughing, jumping.

When you look as daft as us

you've got to have a sense of humour!

(slowing)

### **Repeat all above, but with ALL singing. Then...**

(All sing) Ha, ha, ha, ha, hee, hee, hee !

Ha, ha, ha, ha, hee, hee, hee !

(Clownfish sing)

Why are you staring like that at me?

We are the clowns of the...

(All sing) Jump up and down in the...

(Clownfish sing) We are the clowns of the sea.

(All shout) Hey!

Stephen *(stepping forward)*

Well yes, but we were also wondering if you have seen Stella's family. She's lost them.

Rainbow Fish 2

What do they look like ? Are they sparkling shades of orange and gold ?

Stella *(close to tears)*

Well... no. They're sort of dull and sandy. Oh, but I miss them so much ! *(Sophie gives Stella a hug.)*

Rainbow Fish 3

Please don't cry little starfish. We know a very wise shark called Sid. He lives in a dark cave at the bottom of the ocean. He might be able to help you.

*(The rainbow fish lead the way - Stella, Sophie & Stephen follow.)*

Narrator 9

The trio followed the rainbow fish deep into the ocean and soon arrived at the mouth of a very dark and gloomy cave. But at this point, the rainbow fish turned very pale and quickly swam away. *(The rainbow fish quickly swim off.)*

Left alone, Stella, Sophie and Stephen were scared to go into the cave, but soon plucked up the courage to call out.

Stella, Sophie & Stephen

Sid - are you there ? Sid - can you help us ?

Narrator 10

Slowly - ever so slowly - a dark, mysterious shape appeared at the entrance of the cave and began to sing.

*(The seaweed and all the creatures move swiftly onto the stage, ready to dance.)*

***MUSIC - Seaweed Dance 2 (CD tracks 10 + 21)***

*(As the dance music fades, the seaweed and all the sea creatures gracefully exit the stage, leaving Stella, Sophie & Stephen alone in the centre.)*

**Narrator 14**

After the celebrations had finished, Stella thanked Sophie and Stephen for all their help and told them to hold tightly on to the magic conch shell.

***Music: Pupils play suitable sound effects on their instruments, as before.***

*(Narrator 14 continues...)*

Before they knew it, Sophie and Stephen found themselves back home in front of their aquarium.

*(The fish tank is repositioned on stage, just in front of Stella, who now disappears out of sight, leaving the conch shell with Sophie & Stephen.)*

***SONG - Return to Shore*** (CD tracks 11 + 22)

*(All sing)*

Stella the starfish,  
now you are happy,  
home with your family,  
safe in the sea.

We will remember  
our adventure,  
but we will miss you  
everyday.

We are glad we could help.  
We enjoyed it as well.  
We will treasure forever  
our magical shell.

***Repeat all above, then end with...***

We are glad we could help.  
We enjoyed it as well.  
We will treasure forever  
our magical shell.

**The End !**

*(CD Track 15 can be used here for  
bowing music or as a singing encore.)*

# Terry the Turtle (CD tracks 5 & 16)

♩ = 130

(with a heavy swing)

Piano, keyboard or guitar

*ff*

Dm Dm/C Bdim B<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>7</sup>

4

Dm Dm/C B<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>7</sup>

*mf* Verse 1

(1st time: Terry sings solo)  
(2nd time: all sing)

Snap, snap, snap. I'm Ter - ry the tur - tle.

7

Dm Dm/C B<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm/C

Grump, grump, grump. Keep out of my way My flip - pers are tough and I'm

10

B<sup>b</sup>7 E A<sup>7</sup> Dm

feel\_ ing rough, so just... leave me a - lone\_\_ to - day.

13

A<sup>7</sup> Dm Dm Dm/C

Verse 2

Snap, snap, snap. I'm

# Sid the Shark (CD tracks 8 & 19)

♩ = 90

Piano, keyboard or guitar

5 (Sid sings solo)

Verse 1 Down at the bot-tom of the deep blue sea, some-one is call ing,  
 Verse 2 Down at the bot-tom of the deep blue sea, I can hear, I can taste, I can

8

call - ing for me. If they have trav - elled to my cave be - neath it  
 smell, I can see. I know what you're think - ing, and where you're from. El -

11

must be im - por - tant. I'd bet - ter take my teeth.  
 ec - tric - al sig - nals tell me what's go - ing on.