

Act 2

SCENE 1

The Mayor's Office - Curtain Music *Three blind mice (Track 11)*
The Mayor is sitting at his desk and Creep and Twitch are standing to one side of the desk

Mayor Thank you. You may go and get on with your work now.

Creep Excuse me Mr Mayor, sir.....

Twitch You sound like Larry the Lamb.

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Mayor What do you want now?

Creep I just wanted to let you know that that piper fellow was hanging around outside. Would you like me to show him in?

Mayor No I would not, thank you very much, unless you have a thousand guilders to give him.

Creep No, Mr Mayor. I'm afraid I haven't.

Twitch I could lend you ten 'P'.

Mayor and Creep Shut up Twitch.

Mayor Now get on with your work and leave me in peace.

They leave. The Mayor looks through some papers on his desk, and while he is doing it, King Rat creeps in.

King Rat Excuse me.

Mayor (*startled*) What? Oh. What do you want? I thought we had got rid of you.

King Rat 'Fraid not.

Mayor Well get out of here before I call that piper again. I'm sure he'll get rid of you for good next time.

King Rat Maybe. But I ask myself, 'Would it be worth a thousand guilders to get rid of one little rat?'

Mayor What do you mean? Why should it cost me anything?

King Rat Well. The way I look at it, little man, is that as of now, you owe him nothing.

Mayor And why is that, may I ask? He's outside even as we speak, waiting for his money.

King Rat Yes, but if he had missed one single rat, he would not have fulfilled his part of the agreement. So as of now, you owe him nothing. On the other hand, if he were to complete the job, you would have to find the dosh. Right?

Mayor I see what you mean. I think you and I would make a good team. Stick around and I'll see what I can do.

The King Rat gives a low bow, mockingly, and leaves.

Minstrel (*singing*)
Track 12
Minstel 4

You should have heard the Hamlin people
Ringing the bells till they rocked the steeple.
'Go,' cried the Mayor, 'and get long poles,
Poke out the nests and block up the holes!
Consult with carpenters and builders,
And leave in our town not even a trace
Of the rats!' - when suddenly, up the face
Of the piper perked in the market place,
With a, 'First, if you please, my thousand guilders!'

The piper enters

Piper Mr Mayor. I think you will find that I have carried out my part of the bargain and your town is now free of rats. So, if you would be kind enough to give me my thousand guilders, I will be on my way.

Mayor I'm sorry, but that won't be possible.

Piper Oh? And why not?

Mayor Well, as you will be aware, I am the custodian of the public purse and have to be very careful with the tax payers' money.

Piper So?

Mayor So I cannot pay you for an incomplete job. The tax payers would never stand for it.

Piper Incomplete? What are you talking about?

King Rat creeps in behind the piper.

Mayor Look behind you!

The piper turns and is startled to see King Rat standing there.

As you will see, there are still rats in the town.

Piper I don't see that one rat will be a problem. I have got rid of the rest of them, so I will settle for nine hundred and ninety nine guilders!

King Rat Well, I feel insulted. Am I worth only one guilder?

Mayor Quite. Anyway, it is a matter of principle. You said you would rid the town of every last one of its rats, and you haven't. So sorry, no money. 'Bye.

He turns his back on the piper who looks very annoyed, and strides out of the room SL.

As I said, Ratty, We make a good team.

Creep and Twitch return and remove the furniture while the Mayor and King Rat leave, aym in arm.

SCENE 2

The Market Place

Twitch and Creep approach Tim's rat trap.

Twitch What do we do with that?

Creep I don't know. The Mayor said to get rid of it, but I don't know how to.

Twitch We could make it into a bonfire and have some fireworks.

Creep Don't be silly. They haven't invented fireworks yet.

Twitch Well, perhaps if we just leave it here someone will come and take it away.

Creep Oh all right. We'll come back for it later.

Twitch If it's still here.

Creep Oh shut up Twitch.
They leave SL and Tim walks in with May Blossom SR.

May Look Tim. Here's your Marvellous invention.

Tim There's no need to make fun. At least I tried to do something.

May Yes, I suppose you did, even if it didn't work.

Tim It was more than that stupid Rodger did!
Rodger appears SR.

Rodger Oh was it, Mr Clever Cloggs?

Tim Rodger! I didn't see you there.

Rodger No, you didn't did you? Well I saw you and it's about time I taught you a lesson.

May Leave him alone Rodger. He's not harming you.

Rodger I'll make sure of that.
Rodger grabs Tim and pushes him into the rat trap and closes the door.
Look at this May. A nice little rat in a trap.

Tim Let me out at once.

Rodger Oh yes? And what will you do if I don't?

May Just let him out.

Rodger Oh all right. If you insist.
As he goes towards the trap the first sounds of the piper's pipe are heard.
*Rodger stops, transfixed. **Minstrel 2 (Flute) - Track 13***

May What are you waiting for? Let him out.

SCENE 3

The Same

The piping continues and the piper enters playing his pipe, followed by all the children. May and Rodger join in. He dances round the stage and then exits through the audience followed by all the children skipping merrily after him. As they disappear through the audience, Tim shakes the cage so violently that the door springs open and he steps out of the cage. But the music has stopped and he is left alone.

Tim *shouting after them*

Wait for me!

He runs down into the audience and when he gets a little way he stops and looks dejected.

Wait for me.

He turns and walks back onto the stage. The widow rushes onto the stage from SR followed by the other townspeople.

Widow Tim, Oh Tim. Thank goodness you are all right. But where are all the other children?

Tim They've gone, all gone.

Widow What? Where? How?

Tim It was the piper. He played his pipe and they all danced around. I wanted to join them but I couldn't get out of the cage. Then he danced off and they all followed him and I couldn't go with them.

Widow *to Mayor* This is all your fault. You wouldn't pay him, would you, so he has taken all the children.

Mayor Except one, and that one is your son. But my daughter has gone. How will we ever get them back?

Tim I'll get them back. I'll take my cat and we'll follow them until we find them. Then I'll bring them back.

Widow Don't be so stupid, Tim. I'm not going to risk losing you as well. Anyway, how would you persuade the piper to let them go?

Tim I'll take the money that the Mayor owes him. That should do it.

Mayor But I haven't got any money. That's problem.

Widow What? No money? Well you'll just have to sell something. What have you got?

Mayor Nothing at all. At least nothing worth a thousand guilders.

Twitch Except your chain of office.

Mayor But I can't sell my chain of office. It wouldn't be right.

Widow Who cares about that? Give it to me.

Mayor No. You can't have it.
He runs off and the Widow chases him round the stage.

Widow Stop him. Stop him.
Several of the townspeople block his way and the Widow catches him and removes his chain of office.

Mayor No. You can't have it. I absolutely forbid it.

Widow In what capacity do you forbid it, may I ask?

Mayor In my capacity as Mayor, of course.

Widow Oh well in that case I will have to refuse, because I don't think you are the Mayor.

Mayor What? Of course I am the Mayor. Tell them Creep.

Creep I think that you will find that....

All Shut up Creep!

Widow You see..... whoever you are. If you were the Mayor you would have a chain of office, and however hard I look, I do not see a chain of office around your neck.

Mayor Of course you don't. And do you know why? Well I will tell you. It is because you have just pinched it.

Widow Rubbish! You can't make accusations like that. Take him away and lock him up.

Mayor Oh no you don't.
He runs off SL followed by the townspeople in hot pursuit. The Widow, Tim, Twitch and Creep remain.

Tim I must go now or I will never catch up with the children.
The Cat comes on SR with a bundle on a stick over his shoulder.
Are you ready, Cat?
The Cat nods.
Good. Let's be off then.

Widow And you two can go with him to see he comes to no harm.

Tim Oh thank you very much, mother. That's all I need.
Creep and Twitch pick up the trap and they all troup off SL.

SCENE 4 **Somewhere in the Forest.**

King Rat enters SR

King Rat Oh dear, the Mayor thought he was clever,
But the Pied Piper is a much brighter fellow,
Because the Mayor his bargain broke,
The Piper has played his major stroke
By playing his pipe in a magical way,
So the children followed, laughing and gay.
Tim, Creep and Twitch, the Mayor they serve,
And we all must admire their nerve,
But in the forest I'll have my fun.
I'll scare them so, and homeward they'll run.

He exits SL and Tim and Cat enter SR

Tim Come on you two. We'll never get there at this rate.
They continue across the stage and exit SL
Creep and Twitch enter SR and dawdle across the stage.

Twitch Can't we go back now? It'll be getting dark soon and I don't like the dark.

Creep Don't be a sissy. There's nothing to be afraid of.
King Rat pokes his head round the scenery SL and watches them.

King Rat Oh yes there is!

Twitch Who said that?

Creep I did, of course. I said 'There's nothing to be afraid of.'

Twitch Yes, but someone said, 'Oh yes there is.'

Creep *to audience* Did you hear anyone say, 'Oh yes there is?'

Audience Yes.

Twitch I'm scared!

Creep Don't be so silly. There's nothing to be scared of.

King Rat Oh yes there is!
Twitch jumps into Creep's arms.

Creep Get off. Look, if it will make you happier, I'll get the nice people here to warn us if they see anything.

To the audience Will you do that for us? Will you? We're getting very tired so I think we will settle down here for the night.
Twitch, put the things down here.
Twitch puts the things he is carrying on the ground USC and makes himself comfortable amongst them.
Now, are you comfortable?

Twitch Yes thank you.

Creep Good. Now move over and make room for me.

To audience And if anything comes sneaking round I want you to shout out at the top of your voices, 'There's something nasty coming, there's something nasty coming!' Do you think you can do that?

Audience Yes!

Creep Good. But I think we'll have a practice just in case. Ready? 'There's something nasty coming, there's something nasty coming.' That's no good. I didn't here a thing. I'm sure you can do beter than that. Let's try again. Ready? 'There's some thing nasty coming, there's something nasty coming!' That's better. You'll have to shout very loud because we are very heavy sleepers. Right. Time for bed.
Creep lies down beside Twitch and tries to get some of the blanket that Twitch has pulled over himself. There is a bit of tugging and pushing and pulling until they eventually settle down. Twitch starts snoring and Creep prods him etc. Finally all is quiet.
One by one, creatures of the night creep out and peek at them. Hopefully the audience will be shouting, but Creep and Twitch do not stir.
Finally, King Rat appears. He looks at the two sleeping and then turns back to the audience.

King Rat Oh shut up. ***If the audience do not quieten he says it again.*** Shut up.

Creep ***in his sleep*** Shut up Twitch.

King Rat Right you lot. If you don't behave yourselves I will come down there and sort you out. Oh yes I will.

Audience Oh no you won't!

King Rat Oh yes I will!

Audience Oh no you won't!

King Rat Quiet! ***He holds his hands up and as the audience quietens he points at someone near the front.***
You look nice and plump. I think I'll have you for my supper. Anyway, you can't hinder my plans because I am Julius Caesar, the King Rat, and I am going to stop these two idiots helping Tim get the children back. I am going to get them lost, and then I'm going to find Tim and eat him. And you can't stop me. Ha ha ha!
He leaves SL.

SCENE 5 **Still in the Forest**
Gradually the light comes up and Creep and Twitch wake up.

Creep There you are Twitch, what did I tell you? Not a sound all night. It was just your imagination. Right, pack the things it is time to be on our way.
Twtch starts packing the things, helped by Creep. King Rat enters SR and stands behind them.

Audience There’s something nasty coming, there’s something nasty coming.
Twitch grabs hold of Creep.

Twitch I’m scared. I’m scared.

Creep Now don’t be so silly. Let go of me will you! ***To the audience.*** Did you see some thing?

Audience Yes!

Creep Where is it?

Audience It’s behind you.

Creep What? Where? ***He starts creeping round the stage followed closely by Twitch who is followed closely by King Rat.***
I can’t see anything, can you Twitch?

Twitch ***with his hands over his eyes***
No. I can’t see anything.
They start going round the other way.

Creep I still can’t see anything.

Twitch Neither can I.

King Rat Neither can I.

Twitch ***turning round to King Rat***
Oh, that’s all right then. ***He then realises who it is and leaps in the air with a strangled scream, and runs off SL.***

King Rat goes across to where Creep is standing.

Creep It’s no use. What do you think Twitch?
He puts his hand on King Rat’s shoulder, without looking, and finds the whiskers and ears etc.
Twitch, I really think you should have shaved this morning.

King Rat Do you?
Creep turns and sees King Rat who chases him round the stage until Creep dashes off through the audience.
I have enjoyed myself today,
But what a shame they’ve run away.
However, I’ve still got Master Tim,
So I’m away to settle him.
Exits SL.

SCENE 6 Somewhere else in the Forest
Tim and Cat enter SR

Tim Come on Cat. It looks as if we are on our own now. That useless pair must have gone home. Do you think we are on the right track?
The Cat nods,
I’m glad you think so, because I think we’re lost.
Cat shakes his head.
Anyway, I’m going to have a rest. ***He sits down.***

SONG - Me and my Shadow - Track 14

During which rabbits etc. hop out to listen. Tim strokes them as he sings. As the song finishes, the rabbits look suddenly alert, and look off SL, then scamper off SR.

Tim I wonder what that was all about.

Cat points SL.

What is it, Cat? I can't see anything.

Suddenly King Rat leaps out at them and knocks Tim to the ground. There is a struggle and King Rat stands up holding the Mayor's chain of office, which he places over his own head.

King Rat Now I am Mayor of Hamelin, and you..... are breakfast.

He walks menacingly towards Tim who shuffles backwards to get away from him.

Tim Leave me alone.

Cat leaps on King Rat and tries to pull him away.

SCENE 7

The same.

At that moment the children from the town rush in followed by the Pied Piper. King Rat is grabbed and the chain of office taken from him and handed to the Piper. King Rat sneaks off SR.

Piper So you have decided to join us after all, have you Tim?

Tim Well, no..... actually. I've come to ask you to let all the children to come back to the town..... even Rodger.

Rodger Well that's nice of you I must say.

Piper And why should I let them go? They still haven't paid me.

Tim That chain of office must be worth at least a thousand guilders.

Piper Well it is a nice little trinket, but it's not the money or the value that's important to me. It's people keeping their promises. If the Mayor had given me the money, as promised, I would have thanked him kindly and given it back again. You see, I didn't need money. But it is a token of trust.

Tim Does that mean that you will let them go, then?

Piper I'll think about it. In the mean time, you may as well stay and enjoy yourself here in the forest.

DANCE - Come Lasses and Lads - Track 15

At the end of the music, the children disappear on either side and Tim is left alone with May Blossom.

May You were very brave to come after us like this.

Tim Well I just had to. I couldn't leave you alone out here in the forest.

May But I'm not alone.

Tim No. You've got Rodger. But that doesn't matter. I still had to rescue you.
She takes his arm and they stroll off SL.

SCENE 8

Hamelin Prison

Twitch and Creep carry on a table SR and set it up sideways on to the audience and sit at one side of it, waiting. Twitch is holding a large custard pie.

After a few moments, the Mayor enters SR dressed in prison uniform with ball and chain, escorted by a guard, who stands to one side as the Mayor sits down opposite Twitch and Creep.

Mayor Am I glad to see you? It's terrible in here. I can't wait to get out. Right then, let me have it.
Twitch looks at the pie, and then at the Mayor, and grins.
I said let me have it. What's the matter with you?
Twitch grins again and with head gesture asks the audience if he should.

Twitch *to the audience* Shall I?

Mayor I'm waiting. I said 'Let me have it'.
Twitch pushes the pie in the Mayor's face who leaps up spluttering.
What do you think you are doing? Have you gone completely mad?

Twitch But you said.....

Creep Shut up Twitch!
Creep produces a large handkerchief and proceeds to wipe the custard pie off the Mayor who snatches it from him and continues wiping himself.
I sorry, your worship, but we didn't get it.

Mayor Didn't get it?

Creep I'm afraid we got lost in the forest.

Mayor Got lost in the forest?

Twitch There's a tremendous echo in here.

Mayor Shut up Twitch..

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Twitch There it is again.

Mayor So what you are trying to tell me, is that you didn't catch up with Tim and most likely the Piper is now in possession of my chain of office?

Twitch That's about the size of it, unless he was eaten by something in the forest.

Mayor Well either way, I am still without my chain of office, and without that I'm not the Mayor. This calls for drastic action.

Creep Yes Mr Mayor. anything you say Mr Mayor.

Twitch But he just said he wasn't the Mayor any more.

Mayor Shut up Twitch. What I want you to do is to find King Rat.
Creep and Twitch look very scared.
And get him to help you capture Tim when he returns.

Twitch Oh no! I'm not going near that King Rat. Not in a million years.

Mayor Well in that case I'll just have to do it myself.

Twitch And how will you do that when you're locked up in here?

Mayor I'm glad you asked me that, because I won't be in here. Not after you get me out.

Creep Of course, Mr Mayor, sir. Leave it to us.

Twitch Yes. Leave it to us.
The Mayor gets up and walks off SR followed by the guard.
Leave what to us?

Creep Shut up Twitch.

Creep and Twitch get up and carry the table off SR. Then return and make their way slowly across the stage.

SCENE 9 Outside

Twitch I don't want to find that King Rat. He scares me.

Creep I can't say I'm too fond of him myself. Anyway, we won't have to, if we get the Mayor out of prison.

Twitch *in a loud voice* Get the Mayor out of Prison?

Creep Ssssssh. Not so loud. We'll come back tonight when it's dark.

They leave SL.

SCENE 10 Outside the Prison

A small section of wall has been exposed, with a barred window through which the Mayor is peering. Twitch and Creep enter leading a pantomime horse. Twitch is carrying a length of rope.

Creep Tie the rope to the bars.
Twitch ties the rope to the bars and walks over to the horse.
Now I want you to pull on this rope.
The horse looks at the rope and shakes its head.
If you pull on this rope I'll give you a carrot.
The horse shakes his head and starts to leave.
A bucket of oats?
He thinks and then shakes his head again.
A bale of hay?
He thinks again and then shakes his head.
I'll have you made into sausages!

*The horse grabs the rope in its mouth and starts to pull. The front of the prison falls down and twitch, Creep and the horse run off SL
After a few seconds, the Mayor emerges cautiously and creeps off SR.
When he has disappeared, the prison guard appears, looks both ways and then two stage hands come out and help the guard to remove the fallen scenery. They take it off SR.*

SCENE 11 The Market Place

Twitch and Creep run on SR and stop, panting, in the middle of the stage.

Twitch What are we going to do now?

Widow Patchett enters behind Twitch and Creep and tries to listen to what they are saying.

Creep Nothing. Just act normal. Mind you, that would be difficult for you.

Twitch Yes, but what are we going to do now?

Creep I think we should go back into the forest and see if we can find Tim and the other children.

Twitch No, not the forest again. I'm scared of the forest.

Creep You're scared of everything. Look at it this way. We're two wealthy Lords going to visit friends.

Twitch Now I know you've flipped. Us Lords? We haven't got two pennies to rub together.

Creep You don't have to have money to be a swell. It's all in the mind.

Twitch It sure is.

SONG - We're a Couple of Swells - Track 16

Widow *coming forward* A couple of swells? You? You're just a couple of idiots.

Creep Now hold hard, my good lady.....

Widow Don't you 'My good lady' me. Anyway, what's all this about going into the forest to save the children?

Twitch That was Creep's idea. I don't like it.

Widow But I do. I like it very much.

Creep Do you? I'm so glad.

Twitch I'm not.

Widow and Creep Shut up Twitch.

Twitch Shut up Twitch, shut up Twitch, that's all anyone can say. I'm fed up with it all.

Widow Oh do be quiet. We're wasting time. We should be on our way.

Creep We? Who said you were coming?

Widow I did.

Twitch She did.

Creep Oh all right then. As long as you realise who's in charge.

Widow There's no problem there. I know who's in charge.

Creep Good.

Widow I am.

Creep What? Oh all right then. Lead on.

Widow No, after you. I insist.
They march off SL. The lights fade slowly to 'dim'.

SCENE 12

Back in the forest

King Rat enters SL

King Rat

They come again, will they never learn?
To save the children is all they yearn,
But I'll not make their task so easy,
In fact I'll make them feel quite queasy.
The Widow Patchett's quite a hoot,
Shhhh! they're coming, so I must scoot.

The three appear again SR moving more slowly and groping their way in the half light.

Creep

Where are we?

Widow

How should I know. You're leading.

Creep

But you're in charge.

Widow

Well I don't know. Perhaps we should make camp here for the night and move on again when it gets light.

Twitch

I don't like it here.

Creep

Nor do I.

Widow

Well that's hard luck, 'cos we're here, and here's where we're going to stay until morning. Any arguments?

Creep

Well, as you put it like that..... No.

Widow

Good.

They start to get themselves settled.

Twitch

Will you tell us a story?

Widow

No. Go to sleep.

Twitch

I won't go to sleep if I don't have a story.

Widow

Oh for goodness sake. Creep doesn't want a story, do you Creep?

Creep

Well, if you wouldn't mind. It would settle us both nicely.

Widow

Oh all right then.

They gather round the Widow with their backs to the audience. As the story progresses, the creatures of the forest hop out to listen.

Once upon a time there were two naughty little boys. And one day their mother said to them, 'I want you to promise me that you will never go into the deep dark wood on your own.'

'Of course we won't,' said the two little boys, and went off to play. Later that day they found themselves wandering down by the edge of the deep dark wood. At that moment, who should appear from inside the wood but the big bad wolf himself. 'Hello,' said the wolf. 'Would you like to come and have tea with me at my home in the deep dark wood?'

The boys shook their heads as they remembered what their mother had said to them.

'But it will be a very nice tea,' said the wolf, 'with all your favourite things.'

'Oh that's different,' said the two boys, and off they went with the big bad wolf into the deep dark forest. And when they reached the wolf's house, they had the most wonderful tea, and ate and ate until they were bursting at the seams.

Then they settled down by the nice warm fire and went to sleep and had beautiful dreams.

Twitch That was a lovely story, Widow Patchett. Thank you. I feel much better now, don't you Creep?

Creep Yes, much better. It was nice of the wolf to give all that food to the two boys. Did they eat everything?

Widow Yes. Every last scrap. Why?

Twitch Well I'm rather worried about the wolf, though.

Widow And why is that then?

Twitch Well, if he gave all the food to the two boys, what was he going to have for his supper?

Widow The two little boys!
Creep and Twitch look at each other, think for a moment and then scream. The creatures of the forest run off in all directions frightening Creep and Twitch, who start running in all directions yelling 'We're going to be eaten.'
 Oh do be quiet will you?
Eventually they all quieten down.

Twitch I won't sleep now. I just know it.

Creep Nor will I.

Widow Good.

Creep and Twitch What?

Widow I said 'Good.' You can stay on guard while I sleep. You, Twitch, stand over there. *She points SL.* and you Creep can stand over there, *points SR.* Now I will settle myself down to sleep. Good night.
Music - a lullabye - Track 17
She makes herself comfortable and is soon asleep. After a while Twitch turns towards Creep.

Twitch Creep!

Creep What do you want?

Twitch I'm scared. I think something is out there.... Watching me.
Creep goes over and stands behind Twitch, looking out into the darkness.

Creep I can't see anything.

Twitch Over there, look. *He points SL. They both peer into the wings SL and while they are doing this, King Rat creeps on SR and creeps up behind them.*

King Rat Boo! *Twitch leaps into Creep's arms.*

Creep Get off. What are you doing?

Twitch Rat, rat, rat, rat, rat!

Creep Well if you can't be civil, be quiet.

Twitch No. Look behind you.

Creep Oh you can't catch me like that. Do you think I was born yesterday?

Twitch ***Mouthing the words***
It's King Rat.

Creep Where?

Twitch It's behind you!

Creep ***to audience*** Is it?

Audience Yes ***etc.***

Creep Where?

Audience It's behind you!

Creep turns and sees King Rat.
Aaaaaah!

King Rat Good evening to you. I hope you are well.

Creep And what is it to you?

King Rat Just a polite enquiry. I assume you are heading for the Pied Piper's realm?

Twitch What if we are?

Creep Shut up Twitch.

King Rat Well, if you are, I think you are very brave.

Creep Well, of course we are brave, aren't we Twitch?

Twitch ***in a high pitched squeak.***
Yes.

Creep But why do we need to be brave?

King Rat Well, it's rather a fearsome place, full of enchantments and guarded by magic spells.

Creep Is it?

King Rat Oh yes. And then there are the creatures of the forest.

Creep Creatures?

Twitch Creatures? Oh dear.

Creep Shut up Twitch. And why would we be worried about creatures? The children weren't worried, were they? They came out here into the forest with the Piper without a worry in the world.

King Rat Yes, and where are they now?

Twitch Oh dear. I think I'd better be getting home. It's past my bedtime.
During this, the Widow wakes up and listens to them.

Widow What's all this then? An oversized rat, if I'm not mistaken.
Grab him you two.
They grab King Rat, who struggles a bit then gives in.

King Rat All right, all right. Don't be so rough. I give in.

Widow Good. And as you seem to know your way around here, you can lead us to the Pied Piper.

King Rat Oh no, not that. Have mercy.

Widow Oh do be quiet and lead the way or you will be in trouble.
They exit SL Some creatures of the forest creep in from both sides and watch them go, then they follow them off.

King Rat, the Widow, Twitch and Creep enter again from SR.

Widow How much further is it?

King Rat Not far now.
They exit SL.

SCENE 13

A brighter part of the Forest

More creatures of the forest hop onto the stage and soon the Piper appears SL and the creatures gather round him.

Piper What is that you say? Coming this way are they? Well I shall wait for them here.
Shortly, the group enters SR with Creep and Twitch holding onto King Rat and the widow following behind.
 Welcome to the enchanted wood. I'm please to meet you.

Widow Enchanted, I'm sure. Oh listen to me. That a wit I am.

Creep Just as I've always said.

Widow Have you?

Creep Yes. I've always said you were a twit.

Piper Enough! What do you mean by this?

Widow I'm sorry to disturb you at this late hour, but I'm looking for my son, Tim. He set out to find the children from the town and he hasn't returned.

Piper That is because he is here in the forest with me. And now, it seems, so are you.

Widow Surely you don't mean to keep them here?

Piper I don't compel them to stay. They just seem to like it here, so they stay of their own accord.

Widow You've enchanted them, haven't you?

Piper If music is enchantment, then they are enchanted.

Widow You can't keep them here with music..... can you?

Piper In this forest, anything is possible. You could enchant them yourself if you wished.

Widow Me? How?

Piper You just have to sing to them.

Creep and Twitch Oh no!

King Rat Go for it Gal.

Widow Right. I'll do it. I'll sing to them.

Piper Tell you what. Let's make it a competition.

Widow How do you mean?

Piper We will both sing and see who wins.

Widow What? Both at the same time?

Piper Why not? And what's more, you can get all your friends to help.

Widow Right then. I'll have this lot out here. *Indicates the audience.*

Piper I think we should share them, don't you?

Widow Oh all right. If we must. Let's split them down the middle.
She indicates the middle of the hall.
 Everyone on this side sings with me, and everyone on that side sings with the piper.
 I don't like to look of your lot.
 Right, here we go then. I'll let you start.

SONG - Simple Melody - Track 18
The piper sings the first verse, the Widow sings the second verse and they both sing together the third time round.
A certain amount of adlibbing to the audience is in order at the end of the song.

Widow What's the matter? You want some words, do you? Well, I'll see what we can do.
King Rat goes off SR and returns with the words for the second verse while the Mayor enters SL with the words for the first verse.
The song can be sung several time as required.

Widow Right then. Who's coming home with me?
All the children shout and wave their hands.

Piper And who wants to stay here?
King Rat puts up his hand.
 Well, perhaps we can make something of you, eventually.
 And what about this?
He holds up the Mayor's chain of office.
 If you don't have this, you can't have a Mayor.

Widow I don't think our Mayor deserves to be Mayor. Perhaps we should leave him with you.

Piper Perhaps. But first we must find a new Mayor.

Creep Well I think you need look no further. I have been second in command for ages and I think I know a thing or two about Mayoring.

Piper Good. Then I think you will approve of my choice.

Creep Oh Thank you, thank you.

Piper Because I now bestow this jewel on the new Mayor of Hamelin.
Creep bows his head to receive it, but the Piper walks past him and places the chain of office around Tim's neck.

Creep What? Why him?

Piper Because he never thought of himself. He was safe but risked all to save the other children.
Tim. May you govern wisely.
May runs over to him, and Creep runs over to the Mayor and sobs on his shoulder.

May Oh Tim. I'm so glad for you.

Tim Thank you. And I hope you will be happy with Rodger.

May But I don't want Rodger. I never did. But I don't suppose you will believe me. Anyway, I hope you will be happy.
She turns and walks away.

Tim Thank you May. Why don't you walk back to Hamelin with me. I shall need all the help I can get if I am to be Mayor.

Citizen 1 Three cheers for the new Mayor

All Hooray!

Citizen 1 Hip, hip!

All Hooray!

Citizen 1 Hip, hip!

All Hooray!

Minstrel (*spoken*) We hope you've all had a happy time
And enjoyed our story in words and rhyme.
Alas our Pantomime is at an end;
Your homeward way you all must wend.
But one last thing before you go,
To prove that you've enjoyed the show,
Please clap your hands or stamp your feet,
As, for the last time, the cast you meet.

The cast come forward, as they are mentioned, to take their bows.

Minstrel First come the children, Citizens and rats
Taking their bow as they receive your congrats.

The we have Tim and his faithful pet Cat,
Followed by May and Rodger, he's not a bad chap.

Here's twitch and Creep, now what can I say?
This commical duo have kept cares at bay.
Twitch steps forward

Twitch I would just like to say a few words...

All Shut up Twitch!

Minstrel Poor Mr Mayor, who thought he'd be clever,
With trick and deceit - a misguided fellow.

Now comes King Rat, what a villainous creature.
When mischief is planned, he's certain to feature.

There's Widow Patchett, she's been such a good mum,
Though she likes to keep Tim right under her thumb.

Minstrel

And last but not least, we have the Pied Piper.
The morals he taught us should make us much nicer.
So we thank you all for your kind support,
As off you go home, with a song in your heart.

SONG - Put on a happy face - Track 19

Sung by all.

Get the audience to join in.

During the last two lines, all take a bow.

Optional Encore

You can rerun Simple Melody, Track 18, as an encore if you feel the audience is receptive.

Final Bow

Curtain

THE END

Lyrics

Minstrel 1

Hamlin Town's in Brunswick,
By famous Hanover City;
The river Weser, deep and wide,
Washes its wall on the southern side;
A pleasanter spot you never spied;
But, when begins my ditty,
Almost five hundred years ago,
To see the townsfolk suffer so
From Vermin, was a pity.

They fought the dogs and killed the cats,
And bit the babies in the cradles,
And ate the cheeses out of the vats,
And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,
And even spoiled the women's chats
By drowning their speaking
With shrieking and squeaking
In fifty different sharps and flats.

Minstrel 1 - Second Time

Rid this town of rats, now, rid this town of rats!

They eat our food, our clothes they tear,

All these vermin we can't bear.

We want some action straight away

So what have you to say, now?

Here's a petition signed by all,

So show yourself and open this door

Or we will get quite nasty|

Rats!

They fought the dogs and killed the cats,

And bit the babies in the cradles,

And ate the cheeses out of the vats,

And licked the soup from the cooks' own ladles,

Split open the kegs of salted sprats,

Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,

And even spoiled the women's chats

By drowning their speaking

With shrieking and squeaking

In fifty different sharps and flats.

Minstrel 2

And in did come the strangest figure!
His queer long coat from heel to head
Was half of yellow and half of red,
And he himself was tall and thin,
With sharp blue eyes, each like a pin,
And light loose hair, yet swarthy skin,
No tuft on cheek nor beard on chin,
But lips where smiles went out and in;
There was no guessing his kith and kin:
And nobody could enough admire
The tall man and his quaint attire.

Minstrel 4

You should have heard the Hamlin people
Ringing the bells till they rocked the steeple.
'Go,' cried the Mayor, 'and get long poles,
'Poke out the nests and block up the holes!
'Consult with carpenters and builders,
'And leave in our town not even a trace
'Of the rats!' - when suddenly up the face
Of the Piper perked in the market place,
With a . 'First, if you please, my thousand guilders!'

Just An Old Fashioned Girl

I'm just an old fashioned girl with an old fashioned mind
Not sophisticated, I'm the sweet and simple kind.
I want an old fashioned house, with an old fashioned fence
And an old fashioned millionaire.

Our little home will be quaint as an old parasol,
And instead of carpets I'll have money wall to wall.
I want an old fashioned house, with an old fashioned fence
And an old fashioned millionaire.

I'll stay weaving at my loom,
Be no trouble to my groom,
If he'll keep the piles of money mounting.
In our cottage there will be
A soundproof nursery
Not to wake the baby while I'm counting.

I like the old fashioned flowers, violets are for me -
Have them made in diamonds by the man at Tiffany.
I want an old fashioned house, with an old fashioned fence
And an old fashioned millionaire.

Me and my Shadow

Shades of night are falling and I'm lonely,
Standing on the corner feeling blue.
Sweethearts out for fun, pass me one by one,
Guess I'll wind up like I always do, with only

Chorus

Me and my shadow strolling down the avenue.
Me and my shadow, not a soul to tell our troubles to,
And when it's twelve o'clock, we climb the stair,
We never knock for nobody's there; just
Me and my shadow, all alone and feeling blue. (*repeat*)

I'd Do Anything for You

I'd do anything for you, dear, anything,
For you mean everything to me. I know that
I'd go anywhere for your smile, anywhere,
For your smile everywhere I'd see.
Let the clouds of grey come along,
Never mind if they come along;
Surely they won't stay very long;
If you'll only say you're mine alone.
I'd risk everything for one kiss, every thing;
Yes I'd do anything, anything for you. (*repeat*)

Busy Doing Nothing

All

We're busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,
Trying to find lots of things not to do.
We're busy going nowhere, isn't it just a crime?
We'd like to be unhappy, but we never do have the time.

Mayor

I have to watch the river to see that it doesn't stop
And stick around the rose buds so they'll know when to pop
And keep the crickets cheerful, they're really a solemn bunch.
Hustle! Bustle! And only an hour for lunch!

All

We're busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,
Trying to find lots of things not to do.
We're busy going nowhere, isn't it just a crime?
We'd like to be unhappy, but we never do have the time.

Creep

I have to wake the sun up, he's liable to sleep all day
And then inspect the rainbows so they'll be bright and gay.
I must rehearse the song birds to see that they sing in key.
Hustle! Bustle! And never a moment free.

All

We're busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,
Trying to find lots of things not to do.
We're busy going nowhere, isn't it just a crime?
We'd like to be unhappy, but we never do have the time.

Twitch

I have to meet a turtle, I'm teaching him how to swim.
I have to shine the dew drops, they're looking rather dim.
I told my friend the robin I'd buy him a brand new vest.
Hustle! Bustle! I wish I could take a rest!

All

We're busy doing nothing, working the whole day through,
Trying to find lots of things not to do.
We're busy going nowhere, isn't it just a crime?
We'd better make it snappy, there's another hill to climb.
We'd like to be unhappy, but we never do have the time.

Put on a Happy Face

Gray skies are gonna clear up,

Put on a happy face!

Brush off the clouds and cheer up,

Put on a happy face!

Take off the gloomy mask of tragedy, it's not your style!

You'll look so good that you'll be glad you decided to smile!

Pick out a pleasant outlook,

Stick out that noble chin!

Wipe off that full of doubt look,

Slap on a happy grin!

And spread sunshine all over the place!

Just put on a happy face.

- - - - - Put on a happy face!

- - - - - Put on a happy face!

And if you're feeling cross and bickerish, don't sit and whine!

Think of banana splits and licorice, and you 'll feel fine!

I knew a girl so gloomy, she'd never laugh or sing!

She wouldn't listen to me, now she's a mean old thing!

So spread sunshine all over the place,

Just put on a happy face.

A Couple of Swells

We're a couple of swells, we stop at the best hotels,
But we prefer the country far away from the city smells.
We're a couple of sports, the pride of the tennis courts.
In June, July and August we look cute when we're dressed in shorts.

The Vanderbilts have asked us up for tea,
We don't know how to get there, no siree.

We would drive up the Avenue but we haven't got the price.
We would skate up the Avenue but there isn't any ice.
We would ride on a bicycle but we haven't got a bike.
So we'll walk up the Avenue, yes we'll walk up the Avenue,
And to walk up the Avenue's what we like.

Wall street Bankers are we, with plenty of currency.
We'd open up the safe but we forgot where we put the key.
We're the favourite lads of girls in the picture ads.
We'd like to tell you who we kissed last night but we can't be cads.

The Vanderbilts are waiting at the club,
But how are we to get there that's the rub.

We would sail up the Avenue but we haven't got a yacht.
We would drive up the Avenue but the horse we had was shot.
We would ride on a trolley car but we haven't got the fare.
So we'll walk up the Avenue, yes we'll walk up the Avenue,
Yes we'll walk up the Avenue 'til we're there.

Simple Melody

1.

Won't you play a simple melody
Like my mother sang to me.
One with good old fashioned harmony.
Play a simple melody.

2.

Musical demon,
Set your honey a-dreamin',
Won't you play me some rag.
Just change that classical nag
To some sweet beautiful drag.
If you will play from a copy
of a tune that is choppy,
You'll get all my app;ause,
And that is simply because
I want to listen to rag.

3.

Both sing together against each other