When Joseph
Went to Bethlehem
(with optional verses of
When Mary Went to Nazareth)

Girls sing verses about Mary, and boys about Joseph.
All sing last page together.
Musical interlude after first two verses
to represent the journey.
When Mary went from Nazareth, I think she swept her floor, and closed the shutters tightly, and locked the painted door,
Perhaps she looked up at the hills

and said good-bye to them, as she went down the narrow road to far-off Bethlehem.
When Joseph went to Bethlehem I think he took great care to place his tools and close his shop and leave no shavings there.
He urged the donkey forward, then, with Mary on its back,

and carried bread and goat cheese in a little linen sack.
SSSSSHHHHHH!
I think the man who kept the inn stood in the lantern's light and grieved because he had no room for Mary on that night.
And in the stable,  
I am sure,  
The oxen's eyes were mild,  
and white lambs watched  
her as she held  
the newborn Jesus Child.
I think there at the busy inn that he was meek and mild
and awed to be the guardian of Mary’s sacred child.
Perhaps all through the chilly hours he smoothed the swaddling bands, and Jesus felt the quiet strength of Joseph’s gentle hands.
And close beside the manger bed he dimmed the lantern’s light, and held the little Jesus close upon that holy night.