Edith Cowan University

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THE MAGIC BOW
THE MAGIC BOW

by
Phyllis E. Wilkin

Perth
Churchlands College
1977
THE MAGIC BOW

A music drama in three acts, for Junior Primary School children. The story is based on the Ramayana saga, as told by Joanna Troughton in her book The Story of Rama and Sita. The words of the drama have been drawn from discussions with the children, and wherever possible the children’s own words have been used.

Students from Churchlands College of Advanced Education were involved in the development of the drama, and in planning and conducting preparatory experiences for and with the children.

The children’s art work was selected and arranged by Peter Evans.

Music

Phyllis E. Wilkin

Pianoforte Arrangements

Kenneth D. Spanney
John L. Wilson
THE MAGIC BOW

Characters (in order of appearance)

King
Sita — his daughter
Four Suitors
Page
Herald
Courtiers
Rama
Golden Deer/Demon (Ravana)

Animals
King of the Vultures
King of the Monkeys
Queen of the Sea
Sea Creatures
Monkeys
Demons
Chorus and Orchestra

The Orchestra consists of:

Two Glockenspiels
Three Metallophones
Three Xylophones
Two Recorders

One Orff Tympani
Three Triangles
One Wood-block
One set Claves

One Suspended Cymbal

Properties

Throne-chair
Two other Chairs
Cardboard Posters of: Rooster, Lizard, 3 Monkeys
Cardboard Poster of: Demon (one side), Golden Deer (2nd side)

Bow
Masks

The action takes place on the mainland, and on the nearby island of Lanka. The story is the Indian version of the Ramayana Saga.

[All instructions are from actor's right.]

Act I : Scene 1 — Court of the King
Act I : Scene 2 — In the Forest
Act II — Clearing in the Forest
Act III : Scene 1 — Sea, and Shores of Lanka
Act III : Scene 2 — Lanka
Act III : Scene 3 — King’s Court on Mainland
OVERTURE

Recorders I and II

Glockenspiel I

Glockenspiel II

Metallophones

Xylophone I

Xylophone II

Tympani

Triangles

Susp. Cymbal
Recs I & II

Glock. I

Glock. II

Mets.

Xylo. I

Xylo. II

Tympani

Triangles

Susp. Cymbal
ACT I Scene 1

Overture

The scene opens on the court of Sita’s father. The King is seated down left of centre, and his courtiers are positioned behind him. Sita is seated on the King’s right. A grove of palm trees is situated up right of centre. Half light on King.

Narrator 1: Our story begins in the Kingdom of which our heroine is the Princess Sita. Sita’s father is the reigning King, and he is seated with Sita and his Court as our story opens.

Curtain Open — Spot on Narrator 1, stage right.
Spot off Narrator 2, left.

Narrator 1: Long ago there was a King who had a very beautiful daughter — the Princess Sita.

(Dim spot 1. Roving spot on Herald, as he moves down centre.)
One day the King had his Herald announce a contest for the hand of the lovely Sita in marriage.

(Spot off Narrator 1, and on Narrator 2.)

Narrator 2: “Whoever can bend the magic bow can marry Sita. The man who is strong enough to do this must shoot an arrow thru’ a grove of twenty trees — Sita shall be his prize.” — so said the King!

(Herald returns to position on King’s left. Spots off. Lights on choir, and full stage.)
Choral Speech: From over high mountains, across the wide seas — Prince Rama is riding to Sita today.

(Wood-blocks)
Bend the bow, bend the bow,
(Suitor 1 fires arrow)
Shoot the arrow, shoot the arrow,
(Suitor crosses right)
Can none shoot the arrow through all twenty trees?
Bend the bow, bend the bow,
(Suitor 2 fires arrow)
Shoot the arrow, shoot the arrow,
(Suitor crosses right)
Can none shoot the arrow through all twenty trees?
Great Princess they come, strong muscles they show,
Perhaps now this one — or this one — —
Oh no — — — — — — oooo o!
Bend the bow, bend the bow,
(Suitor 3 fires arrow)
Shoot the arrow, shoot the arrow,
(Suitor 3 crosses right)
Can none shoot the arrow through all twenty trees?
Bend the bow, bend the bow,
(Suitor 4 fires arrow)
Shoot the arrow, shoot the arrow,
(Suitor 4 crosses right)
Can none shoot the arrow through all twenty trees?
Choral Speech: Prince Rama has come now to take up the bow,
The Princess is watching — her eyes are aglow!
Bend the bow, bend the bow,
(Rama takes bow and arrow)
Shoot the arrow, shoot the arrow,
(and aims at trees)
Can none shoot the arrow through all twenty trees?
(The arrow flies through the trees, and chorus shouts — )
Choral Speech: Hoorah!!!!!
(Spot on Narrator 1 — house dim.)

Narrator 1: Sita loved Rama at first sight, and was very happy that he had succeeded in winning her hand.
(Page moves beside King to give him the bow.
Spot off Narrator 1, and spot onto Narrator 2.)

Drum Roll (5 seconds)

Narrator 2: "Rama, you can marry the Princess Sita. The magic bow will be my Royal wedding gift to you" — so said the King!
(King gives Rama the bow and arrow. Rama and Sita move to centre of stage. King leads people off right, during singing of Song of Betrothal. At the end of song Rama and Sita exit left.)

Song: 

Song of Betrothal
Rama has won the hand of fair Sita,
His strength with the bow has been proved.
The King gives his blessing, the people rejoice,
Oh happy and long may they live!
“Come now my love, we will ride in the forest,
For you I will catch a young hind.
For you my sweet Sita — for you my great lady,
Whatever you wish I shall find.”

(Curtain)
SONG OF BETROTHAL
Ra-ma has
"Come now my love we'll ride in the forest, For you I will catch a young hind,"
"won the hand of fair Si-ta, His strength with the bow has been proved,"
The King gives his blessing, the people rejoice, Oh happy and long may they live.
For you my sweet Sista, for you my great lady, What ever you wish I shall find.
ACT 1: Scene 2

Rama and Sita enter left. Trees on right stage as before. Rama and Sita cross down right, spot on them. Roving spot picks up deer entering left, and circling round trees on right, and down right past Rama and Sita, then across left, followed by Rama. Deer goes behind trees — Rama chases off right. Deer (now in Demon costume) returns down right to Sita. As deer makes first circuit —

Narrator 1: "Rama — look!" cried Sita. "A deer with a beautiful golden coat — oh Rama — do catch it!"

So Rama chased the deer, calling to Sita as he rode away —

Narrator 2: "Pick some flowers, and wait here till I come back."

Narrator 1: But the deer was really a demon in disguise. He too loved Sita.

(At the end of singing of Song of the Demon the demon pushes Sita off right.)

Song: Song of the Demon

"Ah lovely Sita, my prisoner you will be —
I am Ravana — King of the demons —
My castle is over the sea,
I am Ravana — King of the demons —
My castle is over the sea.

Far off to Lanka, there you'll be my Queen,
I am Ravana — King of the demons —
King of the monsters green,
I am Ravana — King of the demons —
King of the monsters green."
SONG OF THE DEMON
SONG OF THE DEMON

Ah lovely Si-ta my princess you will be
Far off to Lan-ka--- there you'll be my Queen
I am Ra-va-na
King of the Demons, my Castle is over the sea.
I am Ra-va-na
King of the Monsters green.
Narrator 2: And so Ravana carried Sita away in his chariot, high over the sea to Lanka.

(Fade lights)

Choral Speech: (Spot on choir)
"Rama, Rama, save me," Sita cried in vain. The demon laughed a terrible laugh —
Ha ha ha ha !!!!
"He will not save you — on Lanka you will stay until you marry me."

Curtain closes.

Narrator 1: (Spot on Narrator 1)
Rama, meanwhile, had lost the deer, and returned to where he had left Sita — there was no one there . . .

Blackout.
CHANT:
Sita is gone, Sita is gone, Ravana has taken her away.
(Repeat as necessary)
ACT II : Scene 1

Stage in darkness -- roving spot comes on Rama entering left, and follows him as he searches the stage.

Curtain Open -- Animals in position down right.

Choral Speech: (Starts as soon as curtain begins to open.)
Sita has gone,
Where shall I find her?
Sita has gone,
Whom shall I ask?

(Voices and spot face)

Orchestra and Chorus: (Spot on chorus and orchestra)
Chant:
Sita is gone, Sita is gone, Ravana has taken her away!
Sita is gone, Sita is gone, Ravana has taken her away!

(Spot moves to Narrator 2 and spot on Rama moving across to animals.)

Narrator 2: "This must be magic!" cried Rama, as he searched for Sita. He searched for days and nights, long nights and long days, but could not find her. He asked all the animals. "Have you seen Sita?"

(Animals enter right -- during the last part of narrator's words, roving spot comes onto animals, who have backs to the audience. At end of narration the animals turn to the front and display posters.)
THE MAGIC BOW

PIANO SCORE

Music
Phyllis E. Wilkin

Pianoforte Arrangements
Kenneth D. Spanney
John L. Wilson
SONG OF BETROTHAL

Rama has won the hand of fair Sita, His strength with the bow has been
"Come now my love we'll ride in the forest, For you I will catch a young
proved The King gives his blessing, the people rejoice, Oh happy and long may they live!
hind For you my sweet Sita, for you my great lady, Whatever you wish I shall find."
SONG OF THE DEMON

"Ah lovely Si - ta my Princess you will be -
Far off to Lan - ka, there you'll be my Queen

I am Ra - va - na, King of the demons, My castle is over the sea.
I am Ra - va - na, King of the demons, My castle is over the sea.
I am Ra - va - na, King of the demons, King of the monsters green.
I am Ra - va - na, King of the demons, King of the monsters green."
SONG OF THE SEA QUEEN

The sea was rough the sea was deep Sea monsters fierce and wild—Prince Rama drew his
Deep down into the sea it sped "Oh ocean Queen a wake—It is Prince Rama
The Queen rose from the foaming sea "Oh seas be calm" she cried—"My creatures will not

magic bow A magic arrow fired, a magic arrow fired.
calling you—A cause-way we must make, a cause-way we must make."
harm you now—So build a cause-way wide—so build a cause-way wide."
SONG OF REUNION

Ah lovely Sita my Princess you will be
I am so happy, my husband you will be

I am Prince Rama come now to save you, For-ever together we’ll be
I am your Sita, now we’ll be married, Brave Rama at last set me free!
WEDDING SONG
WEDDING SONG

See Prince Ra-ma there he stands, Weds the Prince-cess of our land, Oh what a hap-py day this is - Oh what a hap-py day this is - See our Prin-cess hap-py now! Joined in mar-riage to her Prince.
Oh what a happy, happy day this is!
FINALE

Rama has won the hand of fair Sita, The demon Prince Rama for-

The King gives his blessing, our story is ended, Oh happy and long may they live!
Choral Speech: Chorus of Animals

"No — we have not seen Sita — how sad poor Rama must be."

"Have you seen Sita?"

"No," said the lizard, (Lizard left wheels to present back to audience)

"No," said the rooster, (Rooster follows lizard movement)

"Have you seen Sita?"

"No," said the monkeys three. (Monkeys left wheel)

(Vulture enters left and goes round Rama and 'lands'.)

Narrator 1: One day the King of the Vultures flew by.

"Prince Rama," he called, "I was flying over the sea of Lanka, and I saw a princess guarded by demons. She called to me to tell you she is a prisoner of Ravana on the island of Lanka. Her name is Sita."

(Animals off right)

Narrator 2: "I must save her," cried Rama, "but I will need help."

"We will ask the King of the Monkeys to help us," said the Vulture King.

So Rama and the King of the Vultures went to find the Monkey King.

(Monkey King enters right).

Choral Speech: "Oh great and mighty Monkey King, lend me your army to rescue the Princess Sita."

"We will help," said the Monkey King, "Let us march down to the sea."

Curtain Closes.
ACT III : Scene 1

Curtains Open — Sing as curtains open.

Rama, Vulture King, Monkey King and Monkeys enter right.
Blue and amber revolving lights on chiffon ‘sea’.

Song : Song of the Sea Queen
The sea was rough, the sea was deep,
Sea monsters fierce and wild.
Prince Rama drew his magic bow
(Rama aims at sea)
A magic arrow fired — A magic arrow fired.
Deep down into the sea it sped —
“Oh Ocean Queen awake!
It is Prince Rama calling you —
A causeway we must make! — A causeway we must make!”
(Sea Queen appears, enter left)
The Queen rose from the foaming sea —
“Oh seas, be calm” — she cried.
“My creatures will not harm you now
So build a causeway wide — So build a causeway wide.”

Narrator 1 : And so the sea creatures became tame — one or two even helped. One carried the monkeys on his back, out into the sea.

Choral Speech : (Monkeys build causeway)
Busy, busy, building, building,
To the demon island.
The monkeys built a causeway strong
To Ravana’s island.
Busy, busy, building, building,
To the demon island.

(Rama, Monkey King and Vulture King, move from right to left)
SONG OF THE SEA QUEEN
SONG OF THE SEA QUEEN

The sea was rough, the sea was deep, Sea monsters fierce and wild—Prince

Deep down into the sea it sped, "Oh ocean Queen awake—It

The Queen rose from the foaming sea, "Oh seas be calm" she cried—"My
Ra-ma drew his mag-ic bow A mag-ic ar-row fired, a mag-ic ar-row fired.

is Prince Ra-ma call-ing you - A cause-way we must make, a cause-way we must make."

crea-tures will not harm you now - So build a cause-way wide, so build a cause-way wide."
(Spot on Narrator 2)

Narrator 2: Then Rama and the Monkey King led the monkey army, two by two, across the rocks.

Choral Speech: The Vulture King flew overhead,
The Ocean Queen swam near.
Ravana saw them, and grew pale—
His heart was filled with fear!

(Demon King appears left)

Curtain Closes.

Arrange ballet contestants.

Ballet Sequence

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The groups come to stage centre one at a time — perform a mime sequence depicting a battle, and return to their lines, to be replaced on stage centre by the next group, etc.

The ballet concluded with the demon army falling to the floor and then being banished from the stage by the monkey army.
BALLET
ACT III : Scene 2

Monkeys enter right — Demons enter left.

Curtain Opens

Choral Speech: A fierce battle began — (Ballet sequence, then—)
Monkeys all, come dance and sing
Celebrate the death of the evil King!

(Demons all run off left)

Lanka — beautiful island — free!
No longer a demon's lair,
Will become the happy home
Of the royal pair.

(Sita runs on — left) Fade.

Narrator 2: "Rama, Rama" cried Sita, "How glad I am to see you! How did you get across the sea?"

Narrator 1: "I shot an arrow into the sea to call the Ocean Queen. With her help, and with the King of the Vultures, and the King of the Monkeys, and all the monkey army, we built a causeway across to Lanka."

Song: Song of Reunion

Ah lovely Sita, my Princess you will be,
I am Prince Rama, come now to save you,
Forever together we'll be.
I am Prince Rama, come now to save you,
Forever together we'll be!
I am so happy, my husband you will be,
I am your Sita, now we'll be married,
Brave Rama at last set me free.
I am your Sita, now we'll be married,
Brave Rama at last set me free!

Curtain Closes. Arrange children in curve on stage. Orchestra and Choir join actors on stage thru' centre curtain.
SONG OF REUNION
SONG OF REUNION

Ah love-ly Si - ta, my prin-cess you will be-
I am so hap - py my hus-band you will be-
Glocks. I

Glocks. II

Mets.

Xylos. I

Xylos. II

Voices

I am Prince Rama come now to save you For-ever to-gether we'll be,
I am your Si - ta now we'll be married Brave Rama at last set me free!

I am Prince Rama come now to save you For-ever to-gether we'll be.
I am your Si - ta now we'll be married Brave Rama at last set me free!
ACT III : Scene 3

Narrator 1: "Come everyone, to the wedding of Princess Sita and Prince Rama. Let us dance and sing!"

(Rama leads Sita to centre back stage)

Song: Wedding Song
See Prince Rama, there he stands,
(All point to Rama in centre with Sita)
Weds the Princess of our land,
Oh what a happy day this is,
Oh what a happy day this is.
See our Princess Sita now,
Joined in marriage to her Prince,
Oh what a happy, happy day this is.

(Rama and Sita move to centre front of stage)
Now the wedding day is here,
Sita lives no more in fear,
Oh what a happy day this is,
Oh what a happy day this is.
Princess Sita happy now,
Joined in marriage to her Prince,
Oh what a happy, happy day this is.

Song: Finale
Rama has won the hand of fair Sita,
The demon, Prince Rama forgives.
The King gives his blessing, our story is ended,
Oh happy and long may they live!

Curtain Closes.

*** THE END ***
WEDDING SONG
WEDDING SONG

See Prince Ra-ma there he stands,
Now the wed-ding day is here
Si-ta lives no more in fear,
Oh what a happy day this is
Oh what a hap-py day this is

Recorders

Glockenspiels I

Glockenspiels II

Metallophones

Xylophones I

Xylophones II

Voices

Tympani

Triangles

Susp. Cymbals
FINALE

Recorders

Glockenspiels I & II

Metallophones I & II

Xylophones I, II & III

Voices

Tympani

Triangles

Rama has won the hand of fair Sita, The demon, Prince Rama forgives.
The King gives his blessing, Our story is ended Oh happy and long may they live!
STAIRWAY TO UNDERCROFT USED AS A DRESSING-ROOM

STAGE PLAN AND ORCHESTRA

CURTAIN - FIXED

WING CURTAIN - FIXED

ELECTRICALLY OPERATED CURTAINS

NARRATOR 1

CHOIR

STAGE PLAN AND ORCHESTRA

STEPS TO STAGE

LIGHTING CONTROL PANEL

CONDUCTOR

GLOCKENSPIELE

XYLOPHONES

TYMPANIS

SUSP. CYMBAL

METAL PHONES

PRODUCER

NARRATOR 2

CHOIR

STEPS TO STAGE