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The magic tree

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THE MAGIC TREE

A music/drama written in conjunction with the class and teacher of a Grade 2/3 at St. Mary’s Girls School and a lecturer and students from Churchlands College.

Music

-- Kenneth D. Spanney

Song of Expectation, Finale and Orchestral Arrangements

— Phyllis E. Wilkin

Dialogue and Movement

— Zelda Cadlolo
Class Teacher at St. Mary’s Girls School

Song Lyrics

Students of Music Elective “Music/Drama in the Primary School” at Churchlands College

Director/Co-ordinator

— Phyllis E. Wilkin
THE MAGIC TREE

Characters:
Mother
Luemba
Mavunga
Evil Spirit
Narrator
Two Children
Two Birds

Crocodile
(two actors)
Princess
Trees — Chorus
Priest
Priestess
Messenger

Properties:
Hut
Crocodile
Boat
Masks

Act 1
The home of the twins and their mother — in the forest

Act 2
The Village of the Princess

Act 3
Mavunga's old home, in the forest
(All directions are given from the position of the actor, i.e., right = actor's right.)

Act 1, Scene 1

Hut — right; Forest — left; River — front centre.

Overture.

Song: Magic Spell Song (1st and 2nd verses)

During the overture and these two verses, the following mime takes place.

Mother stands at door of hut. She sees Mavunga and Luemba off to play in the forest — gives them fruit as they go, and returns to hut.

Interlude: during which mime continues. Boys play in forest left centre. Evil Spirit enters left, and dances first unnoticed by boys. Evil Spirit dances among trees and moves towards boys. Boys see Evil Spirit and Luemba runs into the forest. Mavunga is trapped, and Evil Spirit dances round and casts spell.

Evil Spirit: Mooroomba Booroomba Booroomba BANG!

Cymbal crash.

Black out, during which Mavunga dons Evil mask.

Spotlight picks up Evil Spirit dancing off left.

Mavunga rises from the floor.

Chorus: Magic Spell Song (3rd and 4th verses)

Mime during song. (Lights up)

Luemba comes from behind tree, and mimes horror at sight of Mavunga. Luemba runs towards hut (right). Mother at door of hut, sees boys, and also shows horror — she pulls Luemba into hut. Mavunga sits sadly on step at doorway to hut.
OVERTURE

(Whispered)

Voices:
Ma-vung-a, Lu-em-ba, Ma-vung-a, Lu-em-ba, Ma-vung-a, Lu-em-ba, Ma-vung-a, Lu-em-ba
4.

MAGIC SPELL SONG

XYLO 1

XYLO 2

MET. 1

MET. 2

VOICES

V.1 Time was there 'd two broth-ers small Both of them look'd the same, Carin-ga Nin-ga Nin-ga ti Carin-ga Nin-ga ty

V.2 Brightly the sun shone as they played Loved by their mo-ther dear,

VIOLONCELLO

DRUM
INTERLUDE

MELODICA
OR
VIOLIN

WOOD
BLOCKS

DRUM

SUSPENDED
CYMBAL
V.3 Happy they were till one dark night Magic spells were cast.
Moom-boom-ba Room-ba Moom-boom-ba, Ba-

Drum

S. Cymbal

PP
room-ba Room-ba BANG! V. A Ma-vunga is he who now is sad. Lu-er-mba is still glad. Ca-rin-ga Nin-ga Nin-ga ti - Ca-rin-ga Nin-ga
Magic Spell Song

Time was there liv'd two brothers small,
Both of them looked the same,
Caringa ninga ninga ti,
Caringa ninga ty.

Brightly the sun shone as they played,
Loved by their mother dear,
Caringa ninga ninga ti,
Caringa ninga ty.

Happy they were till one dark night
Magical spells were cast,
Moomboomba Roomba
Moomboomba, Baroomba Roomba BANG!

Mavunga is he who now is sad,
Luemba is still glad,
Caringa ninga ninga ti,
Caringa ninga ty.
(Lights off except spot.) Spot on Narrator.

Narrator: As time passed, and the Sun rose many times, Luemba and Mavunga grew up. Luemba was handsome and happy — always friendly and smiling. He had many friends. But Mavunga was bad tempered and cruel — he never smiled, and nobody smiled at him.

(Lights up.)

Children enter left, and play game in centre.

Mother: (at door of hut) Boys — please pick some bananas for our meal.

Mavunga: No! Do it yourself!

Luemba: I will Mother. (Goes off left and returns with bananas.)

Mother: I wonder what's happened to Mavunga. He never used to be so bad-tempered.

Child 1: Do you want to play with us Mavunga?

Child 2: Come on Mavunga, come and join our game.

Mavunga: No! Don't want to play your game!

Children: Alright — we'll play by ourselves.

Drum

(Drum)

(Lights off — spot on narrator.)

Narrator: Mavunga was very unhappy for many weeks. He became so lonely that one night he set out to look for happiness far away.

(Lights off — end of scene.)

Magic Spell Song (Verse 1, Interlude, Verses 3, 4 and Coda) during scene change.
MAGIC SPELL SONG

XYLO 1

XYLO 2

MET. 1

MET. 2

MELODICA OR VIOLIN

VIOLONCELLO

DRUM
INTERLUDE

MELODICA

VIOLIN

WOOD BLOCKS

DRUM

SUSPENDED CYMBAL
INTRODUCTION -- Act 1, Scene 2.

SOPRANO

GLOCKENSPIEL

METS.
1 & 2

VOICES

Ah — Ah — Ah — Ah — Ah — Ah —

S.G.

M. 1 & 2

VOICES

Ah — Ah —

Ah
Act 1, Scene 2

Orchestra: Music — Ah, etc.

In dim light trees move scene to music.

Scene: Boat right; trees take up new positions along river bank.

(Lights up, as Mavunga creeps down to boat—from right—and starts journey.)

Narrator: Mavunga quietly crept down to the river, where he found his Mother’s canoe. Quickly he pushed it into the water and paddled down the dark, unfriendly river — away from his home, and all the things he knew and loved.

Glockenspiels glissando during narration.

Chorus: Song of Travel

During verse 2, the two birds enter left and dart, screeching across stage — off right.

During verse 3, the crocodile enters left, and snaps its way off right.

Mavunga reaches tree (Magic Tree) left of centre. Princess is in centre of group with hands stretched upwards — children in circle with hands also up to join Princess.
V.1 I wonder if this is the right thing to do. Ah Ah Before I can leave I will
V.2 There's so many things that I may see Ah Ah I'd better go I'll try they
V.3 I hope the bird has gone a-way Ah Ah I wish the night would

(Spoken softly) 1. Sh 2. Yark 3. Grunt

Drum Claves
The night is so dark and its frightening here yet now is the time when I must go. Ah

I can hear something up in the sky, an enormous bird goes screeching by. Ah

I can hear something down in the water, A horrible crocodile come to slaughter. Ah

Sh -- Yark - Yark --
Grunt -- Grunt -- Grunt --

Sh --
Yark --
Grunt --
I wonder if this is the right thing to do, Ah-Ah-
Before I can leave I will need a canoe, Sh-Sh-
The night is so dark and it's frightening here, Ah-Ah-
Yet now is the time when I must go, Sh-Sh-Sh-
There's so many things that I may see, Ah-Ah-
I'd better go fast, they frighten me, Yark-Yark-
Oh can I hear something up in the sky, Ah-Ah-
An enormous bird goes screeching by, Yark-Yark-
I hope the bird has gone away, Grunt-Grunt-
I wish the night would turn to day, Grunt-Grunt-
Oh can I hear something down in the water, Grunt-Grunt-
A horrible crocodile come to slaughter. Grunt-Grunt-
Spot on Narrator — other lights dim.

Narrator: Mavunga crouched in the canoe, overcome by fear and weariness. As the canoe bumped against something Mavunga started up to find a tree so bushy that he could not pass. The tree made strange noises, and as Mavunga listened, he heard —

Voices of Leaves: Pick the leaves...
Let us free...
Help us please...
We're trapped you see...

Mavunga picks the leaves one by one.

Leaves bow to Mavunga as they become people — and pass right.

Leaves: (in turn) Thank you for setting us free.

Last is the Princess, and as she comes before Mavunga he and the people drop to one knee before her.

Princess touches Mavunga's head, and he rises — followed by the people.

Princess: Thank you for freeing me and my people. An evil spirit put a spell on us long ago, and turned me into a tree, and my people into leaves.

(Princess sees how ugly Mavunga is.)

Princess: (Touching magic charm at her neck.) Now that Mavunga has saved us, I will change him into a handsome prince — and he will be my husband.

Tingly tingly tingly tu,
Magic charm, what will you do?

(Mavunga has gone into centre of group, and new steps out in a beautiful cloak, and without the ugly mask.)

Chorus: Song of Joy (Verses 1 and 2).

Song of Joy

We are now a happy band
Free to roam this wondrous land,
Oh what a happy day this is.
Oh what a happy day this is.
We are now a happy band
Now our Princess sings with us
Oh what a happy, happy day this is.

Come Mavunga come with me
To a land where we shall be
Happy and laughing, gay and free
Happy and laughing, gay and free,
Come Mavunga come with me
Where our river meets the sea
Happy, laughing, gay and free are we.

See Mavunga, there he stands
Wed's the Princess of our land
Oh what a happy day this is.
Oh what a happy day this is.
See our Princess happy now
Joined in marriage to her King
Oh what a happy, happy day this is.
Joined in marriage to her King
Oh what a happy, happy day this is!
We are now a happy band
Free to roam this wondrous land. Oh what a happy-

Come Ma-vun-go come with me
to a land where we shall be—

Happy and laughing—
day this is Gay and free
Oh what a happy day this is—
HAPPY and laugh—
gay and free—
We are now a happy band—
Now our princess
Come Ma-vun-ga come with me—
Where our river
Oh what a happy, happy day
 gay and free

sings with us.
 meets the sea.

Happy and laughing
Act 2, Scene 1

Black out. Spot on Narrator.

Narrator: Together Mavunga and the Princess, and her people journeyed on until the river widened, and here they stopped. This, they decided, was the place to live. The Princess once again touched her magic charm, and on the river bank a magnificent village grew up. Here Mavunga and the Princess would be married.

Orchestra: Dance (Song of Joy)

During this the people of the village dance.
Mavunga and the Princess move down centre after dance.
Act 2, Scene 1

DANCE

DRUM

XYLO 1

XYLO 2

METS. 1 & 2

DRUM

TRIANGLE
Princess: Here we will stay
    In this jungle glade,
    But first, my husband you’ll be made.
    Promise Mavunga, never to tell
    The secret of my magic spell.

Mavunga: You have given me wealth and beauty,
    To keep your secret will be my duty.

Princess: With this charm our pledge is complete.

Mavunga: Your secret I will forever keep.
    *(Princess places charm about Mavunga’s neck.)*

Priest: comes forward — joins Mavunga and Princess’s hands
    touch twice (hands)
    touch twice (heads)
    Spreads arms.

Priestess gives garland.

    Princess and Mavunga dance.

Orchestra plays Song of Joy as at Act 2, Scene 1.

Chorus: Song of Joy (Verse 3 and Coda).

*Lights fade — dancers move back.*
V.3 See Ma-vun-ga there he stands       Weds the Prin-cess of our land,       Oh what a hap-py day this is,       Oh what a hap-py
day this is see our Princess happy now. Joined in marriage to her King Oh what a happy happy day this
is joined in marriage to her King. Oh what a happy day this is.
Act 2, Scene 2

Narrator: Time passed, and Mavunga was happy with his new friends. The sun crossed the sky many times, night followed day, and month followed month.

(Mime sun crosses stage.)
Day by day Mavunga began to feel homesick. He longed to see his Mother, and to speak to his brother Luemba. He wished to share his good fortune with them.

(Mavunga mimes dejection – Princess gestures towards him.)

Mavunga: I wish I could see my Mother again
To tell her I’m sorry for causing her pain.
My brother Luemba I want to see too
To bring them here is the thing to do.

(Mavunga beckons messenger.)
I want you to go and bring my people to me.

(Messenger goes off right.)

Chorus: Chant with drum.
Mavunga is sad, Mavunga is sad.
Act 2, Scene 2

SOP.
GLOCK.

VOICES

Ma • vun • ga is sad Ma • vun • ga is sad Ma • vun • ga is sad Ma • vun • ga is sad

DRUM
Narrator: Along the river, through the dense jungle, the messenger sped. By and by Mavunga's Mother and brother Luemba were brought to the Magic Village. There was great happiness.

Mime: Mavunga and family embrace. Mavunga takes his Mother and Luemba to meet the Princess.

Narrator: Mavunga's Mother became very curious about her handsome son, and the mysterious Princess.

Mother: Mavunga my son, you are so changed . . . . Where did these people find you? What is this charm? Who are these people? Tell me my son — please do.

Luemba: You have beauty — you have wealth — share with us too.

Mavunga: No -- I promised — I must not say.

Mother and Luemba: Tell us now — the secret will be safe.

Mavunga: If this is true my secret I will share — My story is so strange . . .

Princess: BEWARE!
Tingly tingly tingly tee
Your promise once you gave to me.
Tingly tingly tingly toe
Leave us now — you must GO!
(Points to Mother and Luemba.)

Drum Roll and Cymbal

Black out.
TIMPANI

SUSP. Cymbal.
Act 3, Scene 1

Scene change music — Song of Travel (two verses).

Scene: Mavunga's old home at right side of stage. Princess and her people at left side of stage. Forest of trees centre stage.

Narrator: After his people had gone home, life went on as before for Mavunga. The sun crossed the sky many times. Night followed day, month followed month. Still Mavunga was not completely happy. He felt homesick for his own people.

Mavunga: No matter how I try, even as the months go by, I long for my own people again.

Princess: Mavunga — why do you grieve? I've given you so much, but you wish to leave.

Mavunga: My heart is sad, for my home I long. Here I have friendship, but the call of my people is strong.

Princess: Then you must go, and make up your mind. Remember your promise — or returning you'll find...

All: NOTHING!!

Mavunga departs — winding through the trees.

Narrator: Mavunga travelled back up the river, through the jungle, towards his home.

Chorus: Song of Expectation.
SONG OF EXPECTATION

This river is long and winding so many trees in my way—
hope the water is clear ahead for to my home I must go. It's been so long since I've been home, the
place where I was born—Oh how I long to hear again the voices I have known (2) Then)

travels and my past—I want to share with them the joy that's been my happy—
Song of Expectation

This river is long and winding
So many trees in my way
I hope the water is clear ahead
For to my home I must go.
It is so long since I've been home
The place where I was born,
Oh how I long to hear again
The voices I have known.

There is so much to tell them
Of my travels and my past
I want to share with them the joy
That's been my happy life.
Spot on Narrator.

Narrator: At last Mavunga saw the familiar hut and his friends of old by the river bank. Everyone was happy to see him.

Mother: Welcome my son, at last you’ve come.

Luemba: We missed you Mavunga, our home was sad without you.

Mavunga: My heart was sad, I had to come to see you just once more.

All: Let us dance,
Let us sing and cheer
This is a happy day
Mavunga is here!!!

All Mavunga’s people dance to Magic Spell Song Interlude.

Mother: Remember the question I asked you Mavunga? How did you change from what you were?

Luemba: Where did you meet that Princess? Where did you find that charm?

Mother: Tell us Mavunga, it can do no harm.

Mavunga: Yes, I will tell you. The Princess will never know. When I ran away, I found a canoe in the river. I travelled down the river until I came to a large tree. I pulled the leaves off the tree, and each leaf became a person. I wed the Princess of the Magic Tree, and she made a magnificent village. I have been very happy there . . .

Princess is seen in the light, near trees at left. As she touches the charm the light comes onto her village, and Spirits run about — to Magic Spell Interlude music — then sink to the floor.
INTERLUDE

MELODICA
or
VIOLIN

WOOD
BLOCKS

DRUM

SUSPENDED
CYMBAL
Lights OFF on right of stage, i.e., Mother’s hut.

Mavunga is surrounded by his people, he rises up dressed as at the beginning of the drama.

Lights dim on Princess and rise on Mavunga.

**Narrator:** As Mavunga told the secret, the magic village disappeared. The Princess and her people vanished, and were never seen again. 
*(Princess and people move off left.)*

**Narrator:** Mavunga became the ordinary person he had been long ago.

**Mother:** Stay with us Mavunga
We loved you as you were
Happiness awaits you here
Where your loved ones are.

**All:** Sing final song.
The story we’ve told is over, Mavunaga is home once more—His
The princess and her people all to Bouchra. The people are glad to welcome him and talk with him as before.
dream-time have returned Ma-vunga sometimes thinks of them And how for home he yearned

through the forest glades, To where his loved ones wait for him And fears long pass'd will
The story we've told is over,
Mavunga is home once more —
His people are glad to welcome him
And talk with him as before.
The Princess and her people all
To dreamtime have returned,
Mavunga sometimes thinks of them,
And how for home he yearned.

The river has carried him faithfully
Back through the forest glades,
To where his loved ones wait for him
And fears long passed will fade.