

ACT TWO

~~SCENE~~

(Revival tent. A cross. Spotlight on REVEREND HIGHTOWER. He tries heroically to lift the spirits of the demoralized Hope Falls. This is an uphill battle.)

#16 A JOYFUL NOISE

REV. HIGHTOWER

OH, THE SHEEP HAS RETURNED TO THE FOLD
AND THE PRODIGAL SON HAS COME IN FROM THE COLD
SO LIKE THE PROPHETS WERE TOLD IN THE DAYS OF OLD
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE, MY SOUL!!!

TOWNSFOLK

(Mumbling weakly.)

... MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE, MY SOUL ...

REV. HIGHTOWER

OH, THE LION WILL LIE DOWN
WITH THE LAMB

AND THE SINNER WILL WALK
HAND IN HAND WITH ABRAHAM

AND HE WILL CRY TO THE SKY
"JESUS, HERE I AM!"
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE, MY SOUL!

TOWNSFOLK

ON THAT
BRIGHT NEW
DAY ...

HE WILL SHOW
THE WAY ...

HERE I AM!

(Listening to HIGHTOWER, the TOWNSFOLK miss their cue.)

... HELLO?

MAKE SOME
NOISE!
MAKE SOME
NOISE!
MAKE SOME NOISE!

SING IT LOUD!
SING IT STRONG

... FUL NOISE
MY SOUL!
MAKE SOME
NOISE!
MAKE SOME
NOISE!
HALLELUJAH
MY SOUL IS
WHOLE!
SING IT PROUD
ALL NIGHT

REV. HIGHTOWER (CONT'D)

MAKE A JOYFUL
NOISE
A JOYFUL NOISE
MY SOUL!

TOWNSFOLK (CONT'D)

LONG!
MAKE SOME
NOISE
JOYFUL NOISE
MY SOUL!

All right, let's bring it down, let's bring it down.

(The band brings it down.)

I know there's someone out there. Someone who needs healing. I can feel your distress. You've got a sin ... within! Step forward! Let the Holy Ghost heal you! The Holy Ghost is commanding you! He's putting a fire under your seat now. There's a fire under your seat. Mmmm now, feel it. No fear. Who wants the healing?

(BAT BOY, MEREDITH and SHELLEY enter, wearing their Sunday best. They stop just inside the entrance. The congregation gasps. BAT BOY steps forward. The music falters.)

BAT BOY

I want to be healed.

REV. HIGHTOWER

(Staring at him in horror.)

Oh, my Lord. Oh, Jesus, Son of God.

CONGREGATION

(Whispering.)

I can't believe it!/He showed up here?/We had an agreement.

REV. HIGHTOWER

(To congregation.)

Now, hold on, hold on. Let's bring it down, bring it down.

(They quiet down; to BAT BOY.)

You've got something bad in you, don't you, son?

BAT BOY

Yes.

REV. HIGHTOWER

And you want the healing.