

# Garabed's Armenian Christmas

*Adapted for Sunday school by Gail Chelebian*

## Cast of Characters – Scene I

Garabed: \_\_\_\_\_

Levon: \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Aram: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scene I:** All cast is on stage. Garabed and Levon are at front of stage.

**Other friends:** (Sing – “Christmas Time is Here”)

**Narrator:** It was finally Christmastime, the best time of the year. The houses were strung with tiny colored lights, their windows shining with a warm yellow glow only Christmas could bring. The scents of pine needles and hot cocoa wafted through the air, and the sweet sounds of Christmas carols could be heard in the distance. Fluffy white snowflakes tumbled from the sky onto a group of joyful children. Everyone was happy and full of holiday cheer. That is, everyone except for Garabed.

**Garabed:** (*to Levon*) I think there must be something wrong with me. I just don't understand Christmas, I guess. I might be getting presents and sending Christmas cards and decorating trees and all that, but I'm still not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel.

**Levon:** Garabed, you are the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem. Maybe Lucine is right. Of all of the Garabeds in the world, you are the Garabed-iest.

*Garabed walks thoughtfully. Goes to his mailbox, pokes head inside. Looks disappointed because it is empty.*

**Garabed:** Oof! (*sad*). Nobody sent me a Christmas card today. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?

Aram enters, reading a Christmas card.

**Garabed:** Thanks for the Christmas card you sent me Aram. (*sarcastic*).

**Aram:** I didn't send you a Christmas card, Garabed!

*Garabed grumpily puts his hands on his sides and makes a face.*

**Garabed:** Don't you know sarcasm when you hear it?

**Narrator:** Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. But Garabed was still sad.

## Cast of Characters – Scene 2

Garabed: \_\_\_\_\_

Lucine: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_

*Scene 2: Garabed sits in front of Lucine’s psychiatric booth.*

**Garabed:** I am in sad shape.

**Lucine:** “Meg var-gyan, Garabed!” I need 5 tu-ram from you for my kind of advice!

*Garabed reaches in pocket, drops a nickel in her money can.*

**Lucine:** Boy, I love the beautiful sound of cold, hard, tu-ram, that beautiful, beautiful sound. Tu-ram, tu-ram, tu-ram. That beautiful sound of plunking tu-ram. Now what seems to be your trouble?

**Garabed:** I know I should be happy during Christmas, but I can’t seem to manage it.

**Friend #1:** Well, the fact that you realize you need help indicates that you are not too far gone. I think we better pinpoint your fears. If we can find out what you’re afraid of, we can label it. Are you afraid of cats? If you are, then you have gadoo-phobia.

**Friend #2:** How about pilaf? If you’re afraid of pilaf, you have pilaf-phobia.

**Friend #3:** Are you afraid of girls? If you are, then you have aghcheek-phobia. Or maybe you have amen-a-phobia. Do you think you have amen-a-phobia?

**Garabed:** What’s amen-a-phobia?

**Friend #3:** The fear of everything.

**Garabed:** That’s it! Actually, my trouble is Christmas. I just don’t understand it. Instead of feeling happy, I feel sort of let down.

**Friend #4:** You need involvement. You need to get involved in a real Christmas project. How would you like to be the director of our Christmas play?

**Garabed:** Me? You want me to be the director of the Christmas play?

**Friend #4:** Sure, Garabed! We need a director. We've got a shepherd, a musician, animals, everyone we need.

**Narrator:** Garabed hesitated. What did he know about how to properly direct a Christmas play?

**Friends #1, 2, 3, 4 together:** Don't worry! We'll be there to help you!

**Narrator:** Garabed thought for a moment. Maybe he did need to get involved with a holiday project in order to feel better about things. Besides, he couldn't let everyone down. They needed him. Garabed agreed.

### **Cast of Characters - Scene 3**

Shoonig:

Garabed:

Narrator #1:

Narrator #2:

Sona:

Sosi:

*Shoonig enters, hauling a large brown box overflowing with holiday lights and decorations.*

**Garabed:** What's going on here?

*Shoonig grins, hands Garabed a flyer.*

**Narrator 1:** The flyer reads: "Find the true meaning of Christmas. Win tu-ram, tu-ram, tu-ram! Neighborhood Christmas lights and display contest!"

*Garabed looks into sky and shakes his head sadly.*

**Narrator 1:** Even his very own shoonig had gone commercial. The thought of the contest made Garabed feel positively sick. Was tu-ram all anyone cared about? Garabed couldn't stand it.

*Garabed throws flyer in air, walks away. Sona and Sosi enter; one is carrying a pen and the other a clipboard.*

**Sona:** We've been looking for you, big brother. Will you please write a letter to Gagahant Baba for us? You write it, and we will tell you what we want to say.

**Narrator 2:** Garabed was in a hurry to get to the school auditorium on time to play rehearsal, but he couldn't say no to his sisters.

*Garabed takes pen, clipboard from Sona and Sosi.*

**Garabed:** Okay, “yah-la!”

**Sosi:** We have been extra good this year so we have a long list of presents.

**Garabed:** *(sighs)* Uf!

**Sosi:** Please note the sizes and colors of each item and send as many as possible. If it seems too complicated, just send tu-ram. Lots and lots of tu-ram!

**Narrator 2:** Garabed was dismayed. Even his baby sisters had become greedy. Writing a letter to Gagbant Baba was one thing, but demanding tu-ram from him was just absurd.

#### **Cast of Characters – Scene 4**

Garabed:

Narrator:

(Kids)

Lucine 1:

Lucine 2:

Ani (*dressed as an angel, with curly hair*):

Levon (*dressed as shepherd, a holding a baby blanket*):

“Khozeeg”/Pigpen (*dressed as a dirty innkeeper*):

Shoonig (*dressed as sheep*):

Shoonig (*dressed as horse*):

Shoonig (*dressed as donkey or other stable animal*):

**Narrator:** Garabed rushed off to the auditorium. When he arrived, all of the kids were on stage already. Everyone was dancing and having a good time.

**Garabed:** *(yelling)* Alright, “gu-pav-ay!” We’re going to do this play, and we’re going to do it right!

*Lucine 1 walks over with a stack of scripts.*

**Lucine 1:** Alright, I’m here to assign roles. Levon, you’ll be the shepherd. Ani, you’ll be a Christmas angel. Khoz-eeg, you’re the innkeeper. Shoonig, you’re playing all of the different stable animals.

**Narrator:** Shoonig was delighted to play the roles of all the animals. From sheep, to cow, to

donkey.

**Lucine 2:** Levon, get rid of that silly blanket! What's a Christmas Shepherd going to look like holding a baby blanket like that?

**Garabed:** Alright! Let's have it quiet! Places everybody. Sevan, set the mood for the first scene.

*Piano player begins to play "Armenian Dancing music." Everyone Armenian dances.*

**Garabed:** "Gu-pa-vay! Stop! It's all wrong! Let's rehearse another scene instead.

**Ani:** Khoz-eeg's dust is ruining the style of my naturally curly hair!

**Lucine 1:** Jash goo-zenk!

**Garabed:** Uf! There's no time for foolishness.

**Lucine 2 (to Garabed):** What's the matter? Don't you think it's great?

*Garabed shakes head.*

**Lucine 1:** Look, let's face it. We all know that Christmas is a big commercial racket.

**Garabed:** Well, this is one play that's not going to be commercial. What our play needs is the proper Christmas mood. We need a "donadzar."

*Lucine 2 claps with excitement.*

**Lucine 2:** Hey, perhaps a donadzar. A great big shiny aluminum Christmas tree! That's it! Get the biggest aluminum tree you can find. Maybe paint it pink!

**Narrator:** Garabed left Lucine in charge of rehearsal, and set out with Levon to find the perfect donadzar for their play.

### **Cast of Characters – Scene 5**

Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Garabed: \_\_\_\_\_

Levon: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrator:** Garabed and Levon go to a nearby Donadzar lot. Among all the beautiful, tall trees, they find a small green pine tree on a simple wooden stand.

**Levon:** A-man! I didn't know they still made wooden Christmas trees.

**Garabed:** This one seems to need a home.

**Levon:** Chem kee-der, Garabed. Remember what Lucine said? This doesn't seem to fit the modern Christmas spirit.

**Garabed:** I don't care! We'll decorate it, and it will be just right for our play. Besides, I think it needs me.

**Narrator:** Garabed and Levon take the small tree and head back to the play practice in the auditorium. (*Garabed and Levon leave stage*)

**Cast of Characters – Scene 6**

Narrator: \_\_\_\_\_

Garabed: \_\_\_\_\_

Levon: \_\_\_\_\_

Boy #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Boy #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Boy #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend: \_\_\_\_\_

***(All characters below from PreK/Kinder class)***

Mary: \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph: \_\_\_\_\_

King 1: \_\_\_\_\_

King 2: \_\_\_\_\_

King 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Stable Animals: \_\_\_\_\_

Shepherds: \_\_\_\_\_

Angels: \_\_\_\_\_

***+ ALL OTHER CHILDREN ON STAGE IN BACK***

**Narrator:** When they arrive, they place the little tree on the piano.

**Garabed:** We're back!

**Boy #1:** Boy, are you a “tu-te-me-ku-loogh,” Garabed. You were supposed to get a good tree.

Can't you even tell a good tree from a poor tree?

**Boy #2:** (*sighs*) You're hopeless, Garabed.

**Boy #3:** You've been wrong before, Garabed, but this time you really messed up.

*Children laugh, exit. Garabed is alone.*

**Garabed:** Everything I do turns into a disaster. I guess I don't really know what Christmas is about. Isn't there anyone here who knows what Christmas is all about?

**Levon:** "An-shooshd," Garabed. I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

*(Levon moves to the center of stage to the microphone.)*

**Levon:** Lights, "hadjees."

*(a spotlight shines on Levon.)*

**Levon:** "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not:'"

*(Levon drops his security blanket on purpose)*

**Levon:** "for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"

*(Levon picks up his blanket and walks back towards Garabed)*

**Levon:** That's what Christmas is all about, Garabed.

*(All sing "Loor Kee-sheer")*

*Garabed picks up tree, frowns.*

**Garabed:** I won't let all this commercialism ruin my Christmas. I'll decorate this little tree and I'll show them it really will work in our play.

*Garabed grabs an ornament from a box and puts it on the tree. The tree falls over. Garabed is sad. He hangs his head.*

**Garabed:** I killed it! Everything I touch gets ruined!

*Garabed walks away from tree. All others circle the tree. Levon picks up the tree.*

**Friend:** I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

*Children look at box and decorations, and pretend to start to put on tree. (As children are decorating the tree, replace it with a fully decorated tree with lots of ornaments.)*

**Lucine:** Garabed is a "tu-te-me-ku-loogh," but he did get a nice tree.

**Garabed:** What's going on here?

**Everyone:** "Snor-havor Soorp Dznoont," Garabed!

*Garabed looks at the tree, smiles.*

**Narrator:** Garabed's could hardly believe his eyes. His friends had transformed it into something truly special. Surrounded by his friends, Garabed realized Levon had been right about the true meaning of Christmas. This was the Christmas spirit he had been looking for all along. At last, the season seemed 100 times brighter. And for Garabed, it was truly the merriest Christmas ever.

*(All sing Jingle Bells/Zankag-ner)*

**PLAY PROPS:**

2 Small Christmas Trees

Ornaments

Blanket

Can with coins inside

Mailbox

Christmas card

Desk with 3 chairs

Box with ornaments and lights

Flyer

Pen

Clipboard with paper

Stack of paper

Piano

Stuffed cat

Bowl Pilaf

*Songs/music to play - preferable on piano:*

1. Peanuts, "Christmas Time is Here"
2. Any Armenian Dance music
3. Silent Night/Loor Kee-sheer
4. Jingle Bells/Zankag-ner

**GARABED**



**LEVON**



**LUCINE**



**KEY COSTUMES:**

**Garabed:** Yellow shirt, black shorts (*available to order online*)

**Lucine:** Blue dress, Hair bow

**Levon:** Red/white striped shirt, black pants, blanket

**All other girl characters:** Christmas Dresses



# CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE

from A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

Words by LEE MENDELSON  
Music by VINCE GUARALDI

1

Slowly

Fmaj9

C13b9

Fmaj9

C13b9

mp

3

3

Detailed description: This block shows the piano introduction for the song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then a quarter note B3. The tempo is marked 'Slowly' and the dynamics are 'mp'. There are two trills marked with 'tr' above the notes G4 and B4 in the melody.

Fmaj9

Eb13#11

Fmaj9

Christ - mas time is here, hap - pi - ness and  
Snow - flakes in the air, car - ols ev - 'ry -

Detailed description: This block shows the first line of the song. It includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'Christ - mas time is here, hap - pi - ness and Snow - flakes in the air, car - ols ev - 'ry -'. The piano accompaniment has a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then a quarter note B3. There are two trills marked with 'tr' above the notes G4 and B4 in the melody.

Eb13#11

Bm7b5

Bbm7

Am7

Abm7

cheer. Fun for all that chil - dren call their  
where. Old - en times and an - cient rhymes of

Detailed description: This block shows the second line of the song. It includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'cheer. Fun for all that chil - dren call their where. Old - en times and an - cient rhymes of'. The piano accompaniment has a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then a quarter note B3. There are two trills marked with 'tr' above the notes G4 and B4 in the melody.

Gm7

Gm7b5/C

1 Fmaj9

2 Fmaj9

fa - v'rite time of year. share.  
love and dreams to

Detailed description: This block shows the third line of the song. It includes a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics 'fa - v'rite time of year. share. love and dreams to'. The piano accompaniment has a treble clef staff with a melody and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, and then a quarter note B3. There are two trills marked with 'tr' above the notes G4 and B4 in the melody.

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*St James Sunday School*

*presents*



**"Garabed's  
Armenian Christmas"  
Program & Luncheon**

**Sunday, January 8**

**12:30pm** (immediately following church services)

**John Gogian Hall**

**TICKETS**  
\$20/Adults  
\$15/Children



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