

Storyteller:

Once upon a time and right now.....

...right now...

...right now...

...there was a beautiful pleasure garden.

In the very center of that garden was a tree. Do you know what was special about that tree? That tree bore golden apples--real gold!

The beautiful garden was behind the palace of a King, who had three sons.

When it came time that the apples were getting ripe, they were counted, but the very next day, one of the apples was missing. The King called his Eldest Son... [Enter Eldest Son] ...and sent him to keep watch.

#5a ♩ = 60 As midnight approached, he could not stay awake any longer.

[Eldest Son fades to backstage and exits]

...and in the morning, what do you think! Another apple was missing! Who could be taking these apples? So the next night, the King called his Second Son. [Enter Second Son]

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[Enter Golden Bird]

The bird, its feathers shining with gold, landed on the tree and plucked off an apple.

But the arrow had struck one of the bird's golden feathers, which fluttered to the ground.

The next morning, the Prince took the amazing gold feather to his Father, and told him what he had seen.

It happened with him just as with his older brother.

As the clock struck twelve, he could no longer stay ...awake.

[Exit Second Son, fading to black]

...and in the morning, as before, another apple was gone. The King did have a third son.

This prince was quite ready and willing to help his Father, and glad to protect the apples. The King had less trust in him, and thought he would be useless at the task--even worse than his brothers. But the Prince begged him for a chance, and finally the King let him try.

This Prince stayed awake...

...and as the clock struck twelve...

The King called his council together...

...and all the wise men said:

"This one gold feather is worth more than your entire kingdom!"

So the King said, "If this one feather is so precious, one is not enough for me. One is NOT enough for me. ONE IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME! I must, and will have, the whole bird!"

He thought of himself as very clever, and so he was sure he would get the Golden Bird right away--no problem!

[Enter Eldest Son] vamp: v.s. to #18b as one

After he had traveled a ways, he came to the edge of a wood, and there he saw...

So he took aim with his rifle, but the Fox called out, "Don't shoot! Don't shoot! And in return I'll give you some good counsel, some useful advice! I know what you are looking for--you seek the Golden Bird! Well, tonight you will come to a village, and in this village there are two inns that stand opposite each other. One of them is brightly lit and full of merriment and partying, but do not go into that place! Go into the other inn, even though it looks like a bad one!"

"What a silly beast!" said the Eldest Son to himself, "How can his advice possibly be any good!"

And then he pulled the trigger... #20a

hand drum

But luckily he missed the Fox, who ran off quickly into the trees. #20b

[Exit Fox]

He went his way, and when he came to the town, it was just as the Fox had said--- there stood two inns, and one was full of people carousing and carrying on.

#21 $\text{♩} = 58$

loca

The other looked poor, and silent. #22

"I'd sure be a crazy fool to go into *that* shabby place!" thought the Eldest Son. So he went into the rowdy tavern, and lived a riotous life. He completely forgot about his Father...and the Golden Bird... as well as all the wise things he had ever been taught.

Months passed. #23

xyln ----- (etc. ad lib)

The Eldest Son did not return home. [Exit Eldest Son]

So the Second Son set out to find the Golden Bird.

[Enter Second Son]

#24 (easy swing)

Do you think he followed the Fox's advice? Yes, he did! Why, when he got to those two inns he didn't even look at the wild one! He went to the plain one straightaway, where he spent a peaceful night.

The next morning, off he went. #31

When he got to the open country, guess who was there? #32

The Fox! [Enter Fox]

And the Fox said, "Now I'll tell you what else you must do. Go straight, and finally you will come to a castle. You will see a whole regiment of soldiers out in front, but never mind them! They are fast asleep, and you can walk by them quite safely. Go straight through their midst, straight into the castle, straight through all the rooms, and at last you will come to a room where the Golden Bird is sitting in a wooden cage. Now be careful! Close by there is an empty gold cage, but it is just for show! DON'T take the bird from the common cage and put it in that fine golden one, or all will go badly for you!"

And once again, the Fox stretched out his tail, the Prince jumped on, and they were off like the wind! #33

xyln ----- extend ad lib [Exit Fox]

In no time they arrived at the castle. #34

It was just as the Fox had said---all the guards were asleep!

He walked straight by those snoring guards...straight through the castle... #35 $\text{♩} = 60$

xyln ----- (etc. ad lib)

...and he came to the room where he found the Golden Bird!

#36 $\text{♩} = 80$ *poco rit.*

(norm.)

And like his brother, he met... #25

...the Fox... [Enter Fox]

...who gave him the same good advice... [Fox gestures]

#26a #26b

hand drum [Exit Fox]

...which he also dismissed.

And sure enough, when he arrived at the village, he saw the two inns. His older brother waved and called to him from the window of the raucous tavern, so what do you think he did? He couldn't resist---he had to go join his brother! And there, living a life only for pleasure, he also forgot what he came for.

More time passed. #27

[Exit Second Son]

[Enter Prince] xyln ----- (etc. ad lib)

The youngest Prince wanted to go and try his luck at finding the Golden Bird. But the King wouldn't allow it. He thought, "It's no use! How can he possibly find the Golden Bird when his brothers have failed? Besides, if something went wrong, he wouldn't know how to help himself---he's not so bright."

But the Prince gave him no peace, until finally he gave him his blessing and let him go. #28 $\text{♩} = 52$

And guess who he met? #29

Of course, the Fox! [Enter Fox]

Do you think the Fox gave him the same good advice? Of course he did! But this Prince was not like his brothers! He was good natured, and so he said, "Don't worry, little Fox! I won't hurt you!" And the Fox said, 'You won't be sorry! In fact, I'll help you get there sooner. Climb up on my tail!"

And off they went, so fast that the wind whistled in the Prince's hair. #30

extend ad lib [Exit Fox]

C
F
B
E

The bird sat in a plain cage, even though there was a beautiful golden cage close by. Three golden apples were lying about. "Oh!" thought the Prince, "I can't possibly leave this beautiful bird in this ugly cage! That would be absurd!" And he opened the cage door, took the bird, and put it into the fine cage.

The bird shrieked! #37a cowbell

The guards awoken! (etc. ad lib)

They threw the Prince in prison! #37b (slap bass wires forcefully, L.V.)

ff

The next day he was brought before the judges, and he confessed everything. He was sentenced to death! But the King said, "I will grant you your life on one condition. There is a wonderful Golden Horse, which runs faster than the wind. If you can bring me that Golden Horse, you will have your freedom AND I will even give you the Golden Bird as a reward. So the Prince left in search of the Golden Horse.

But so heavy-hearted and sorrowful! How is he going to find the Golden Horse?

#38 $\text{♩} = 112$

(continue as underscore)

Well, guess what! All of a sudden, he saw... #39

The Fox, his old friend sitting right on the road! [Enter Fox]

And the Fox said, "What did I tell you! This happened because you didn't listen to me! But! Have courage! I will help you again. To find the Golden Horse, all you need to do is go straight on, and you will come to another castle. The horse is in the stable nearby. The grooms are all there, but you needn't worry about them, since they will all be asleep. All you have to do is walk right into the stable and quietly lead out the Golden Horse. But you must be careful of one thing! Whatever you do, make sure you saddle him with the common saddle of wood and leather, and *not* the golden one, or things will go badly for you."

And once again the Fox stretched out his beautiful tail, and off they went, the wind whistling in his hair! #40

extend ad lib [Exit Fox]

C
F
B
E

Do you think it happened just as the Fox said? Sure enough! The Prince came to the castle and found the stable, where all the grooms were lying about, asleep.

#41 The Prince walked by them all and entered the stable. *extend ad lib as needed*

xyln - - - - -

There was the wonderful Golden Horse!

#42 ♩ = 80

f

molto rit.

The Prince took heed of the Fox's advice, and waited until midnight.

#48

8th ----- *extend ad lib as needed*

Everything and everyone was in a deep sleep. And then, the Beautiful Princess came out to go to the bath-house.

#49 ♩ = 112

The Prince jumped out and kissed her, and she said she would willingly go with him!

#50

"But...!" she said...

"...you must let me take leave of my parents." The Prince remembered the Fox's instruction, and he refused. She began to beg, to weep...

#51 ♩ = 104

Finally she threw herself at his feet, and he could resist no longer. But as soon as she got to her parents bedside...

#52a

cowbell (etc. ad lib) Everyone awoke!

#52b

ff (slap bass wires forcefully, L.V.)

Again he was thrown into prison!

The Prince went up to the horse, and was about to put the common saddle on him. But then he thought, "It would shame this magnificent creature if I don't put the good saddle on which by rights belongs to him!" So he picked up the golden saddle.

No sooner had the saddle touched the horse than it began to neigh loudly!

#43a

cowbell (etc. ad lib) The grooms awoke and rushed in!

They grabbed the Prince and threw him into prison!

#43b

ff (slap bass wires forcefully, L.V.)

The next morning the Prince was brought before the court. They also sentenced him to death! And once again, the King gave him another chance. He said, "I will grant you your life, and the Golden Horse as well, if you will bring back the beautiful Princess from the Golden Castle."

#44 *with nail* -----

However, luck was still with him. He found his friend...

#45

...the trusty Fox, who said, [Enter Fox]

"I ought to leave you to your trouble!!! But you know what? I pity you, so I'll help you out once more. This road leads straight to the Golden Castle. When you arrive, you must wait until midnight, when a; is quiet. At that time, the Beautiful Princess will go out to the bath house to bathe. When she goes in, you must run up to her and give her a kiss. After that she will go with you willingly. However, I warn you, do not let her say goodbye to her parents, or all will go badly."

And again the Fox stretched out his marvelous tail, and off they went, fast as the wind.

#46

extend ad lib [Exit Fox]

C# F# B E

Soon he arrived at the Golden Palace.

#47

v.s. --continue without break

The next day, the King said, "Your life will be spared on one condition. There is a hill outside my window. I can not see beyond it. If you can remove the hill in eight days, you shall go free, and I will give you my daughter as your reward.

The Prince began to shovel.

He shoveled, and he shoveled, and he shoveled without stopping for seven days.

#53a

hit cowbell with knuckles

#53b

(continue as underscore)

Near the end of the seventh day he saw how little he had done. It was as if he had done nothing! There was no way to complete the task by the eighth day. He fell into great despair and gave up all hope. Nevertheless, he continued to shovel.

#54

(continue cowbell until verbal cue for Fox)

On the evening of the seventh day...

#55

...the Fox appeared. [Enter Fox]

"You don't deserve for me to take any more trouble about you!" the Fox said, "...but lie down and rest. I will finish the work for you."

#56

chimes [Exit Fox]

C# D G# A b

The next morning, when the Prince awoke, sure enough, the hill was gone! The young man ran joyfully to the King, and told him that the task was fulfilled. Whether he liked it or not, the King kept his word and gave the Prince his daughter, the beautiful Princess.

#57

The two set off.

It wasn't long before they met up with... guess who?

#58

The Fox! [Enter Fox]

And he said, "Well, you certainly have the best! But the Golden Horse belongs to the maiden of the Golden Castle. "Well," asked the Prince, "then how can I get it?" "Listen," said the Fox, "and I'll tell you."

"First you must take the maiden to the King who sent you to the Golden Castle."

#59

"There will be unheard of rejoicing!"

#60 $\text{♩} = 108$

"They will be happy to give you the Golden Horse, and they will bring it out to you."

#61 mf

"Mount it as soon as you can, and give your hand to all as a gesture of farewell, last of all to the Princess."

"As soon as you have her hand, swing her up behind you..." #62a

"...and gallop away!" #62b

"No one can bring you back, since that horse runs faster than the wind!"

When this was done, they found... #63

...the Fox. And the Fox said, #64

"I'll tell you how to get the Golden Bird also. When you get near the palace where the Golden Bird is staying, let the maiden remain back with me. Then ride into the courtyard."

With that, the Fox ran off into the woods. #71 [Exit Fox]

The youth thought, "What a wondrous beast is this Fox! What strange whims! Who would ever pay for someone condemned to the gallows? And it has never even occurred to me to sit at the edge of a well!"

The two rode on, the King's son and the beautiful maiden... #72

...until they came to a town, where there was a great hubbub and noise.

continue as underscore as needed

He asked what all the fuss was all about, and the townspeople told him that two men were about to be hanged for their wicked deeds. When he came nearer, he saw that they were

his own two brothers #73a #73b #73c

f who had wasted all their wealth and caused all kinds of trouble!

He couldn't just let them die! So he asked, "Is there some way to set them free?"

"Sure," the people told him, "if you want to pay for them. But why would you want to do that? It's a waste of your money!" (to audience) Why would he want to do that? Ah! He wasn't remembering the Fox's advice. He didn't even think twice about it, and paid the ransom money!

So his two brothers were freed, and off they all went together. #74

mp [repeat as underscore until "The two brothers said"]

They came to the woods where they first met the Fox. It was a hot day, but cool and pleasant in the woods. The two brothers said, "Let's rest a while by this well, and eat and drink."

The Prince forgot himself, and sat down with his back to the well. #75

continue as underscore until "...into the well!"

"There will be great rejoicing!"

#65 $\text{♩} = 126$

"They will bring out the Golden Bird."

#66

"STAY ON THE HORSE."

"As soon as they put the cage in your hand, gallop off back to us!"

#67 *extend ad lib*

When all was complete, and the Prince had joined the Princess again, the Fox turned to the Prince and said, "Now you shall reward me for all my help." "Oh!" said the Prince, "What do you need?" And the Fox said, "When you get into the woods, shoot me dead and chop off my head and feet."

#68 $\text{♩} = 80$

"What kind of gratitude would that be! I can't possibly do that!" cried the King's son.

#69

"If you will not do this, then I must leave you," said the Fox. *repeat as needed*

[Fox starts to leave]

[Fox returns] #70

"...but first I will give you one last bit of good advice: don't pay ransom for anyone condemned to the gallows, and don't sit at the edge of a well."

He wasn't thinking of any evil. But the two brothers! They were full of evil! They wanted to kill that younger brother of theirs! They came up to the young Prince and threw him backwards into the well!

#76 *wild glisses ad lib*

ff

They took the Golden Bird. #77a #77b #77c

They took the Golden Horse.

slow, rubato

mp

And they took the beautiful maiden from the Golden Palace. Then they continued on to their Father's kingdom.

#78 *faster--extend ad lib as needed*

mf

When they arrived, they told the King that they had won these treasures themselves. All this caused great joy!

#79 $\text{♩} = 104$

f

But the Bird wouldn't sing. The Horse wouldn't eat. And the maiden just sat and wept.

But that's not the end of the story! What about this younger brother? Maybe he's not dead. ...Look! He's alive! The well was dry! He fell upon soft moss and wasn't even hurt! But he was trapped in the well, with no way to get out...

How is he going to get out? #80 The Fox!

Even after all his forgetting, this faithful friend remembered him, and came to help him. The Fox leapt into the well, and first scolded him for his forgetfulness. Then the Fox said, "I can't give up on you, even after all this. So I'll help you back up into the daylight."

#81a "...and hold tight!" #81b "I'll pull you out!" #81c

"Grasp my tail..."

#82 And so he did.

"You're still in big danger," said the Fox, "since your brothers are not sure you are dead. They have posted guards all around to kill you if you are seen. So the young man changed clothes with a poor beggar he found upon the road, and made his way, in disguise, to the King's palace.

#83

chimes

The good King was astonished. He asked the maiden, "What does this mean?"

And she said, "I don't know. I have felt so sorrowful, but now I feel happy! I feel as if...as if... I feel as if my true bridegroom has come! I must tell you what happened, even though your two eldest sons have threatened my life if I breathe a word. They didn't win my hand, or the Horse, or the Bird! It was your youngest son who did all that! On our way home from my kingdom he ransomed them from the gallows--he saved their lives! And they repaid him by pushing him into a well and leaving him for dead!"

"But now..." #84a *single chime* "...it seems to me he is here somewhere!" #84b "I'm sure of it!" #84c

So the King ordered, "Bring everyone in the palace here before me!" Even in his disguise, the Princess recognized him at once.

#85 $\text{♩} = 112$

#86 *cowbell*

The King got rid of those two older brothers.

mf *ff*

#87 $\text{♩} = 80$

The Prince married the beautiful maiden!

mf

#88 $\text{♩} = 88$ *rit.*

And the King made the Prince the heir to his kingdom.

Now do you think the story is finished? Nope! There's one more thing!

#89 $\text{♩} = 120$

Long afterwards, the King's son was once again walking in the woods.

#90

And once again he met... The Fox!

The Fox said, "You have everything you wish for, but there is no end to my misery! And it is in your power to free me! Please, please, I beg you, shoot me dead and cut off my head and paws!

#91 *play as the Prince considers the Fox's request* *extend ad lib until Prince agrees and shoots*

xyln

#92a *rapid and sudden, as the Prince shoots* *only ff* *knock loudly on board with knuckles, timed with chopping gestures* *gliss ad lib, matching Fox's transformation* *cymbal crash*

transition to *Bb only* *A# only*

No sooner had he cut off the head and paws than a glorious young man stood before him "I'm free! I'm free!" the young man shouted. "Do you know who I am? I'm the brothe of the Princess! I'm the heir to the Golden Kingdom! Now the evil spell is broken! Now my kingdom can be restored! Thank you! Thank you!"

So they all had as much happiness as they could ever wish for, as long as they lived!

#93

And for now *chime* that's the end of the story!