

# The Pied Piper of Hamelin

A Pantomime by

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# THE PIED PIPER

## CHARACTERS

THE RODENT LORD  
 LORELEI (The good witch of the mountain)  
 PIED PIPER  
 KARL  
 LIESL  
 BURGOMASTER  
 FRIEDA VON FROTH (Owner of the Beer Garden)  
 CARROTS (Karl's lame younger brother)  
 WILLY (Frieda's Son)  
 GRETCHEN (His girlfriend)  
 THE MOUNTAIN KING

CHORUS OF CITIZEN OF HAMELIN, CHILDREN AND PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAIN

## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

### ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE COUNTRYSIDE  
 SCENE 2 THE CITY OF HAMELIN  
 SCENE 3 THE RIVER WESER  
 SCENE 4 FRIEDA'S BOUDOIR  
 SCENE 5 THE BEER GARDEN  
 SCENE 6 THE COUNTRYSIDE  
 SCENE 7 KOPPELBERG MOUNTAIN  
 SCENE 8 THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING

### ACT TWO

SCENE 1 THE BEER GARDEN  
 SCENE 2 THE COUNTRYSIDE  
 SCENE 3 KOPPELBERG MOUNTAIN  
 SCENE 4 THE CITY OF HAMELIN  
 SCENE 5 THE COUNTRYSIDE (SONG SHEET)  
 SCENE 6 BURGOMASTER'S HALL

## ACT ONE

SCENE 1	THE COUNTRYSIDE	Front Cloth
SCENE 2	THE CITY OF HAMELIN	Full stage. Beer Garden entrance right. Burgomaster's house left. A pump upstage with sliding top.
SCENE 3	THE RIVER WESER	Front cloth with river bank cut out on stage left.
SCENE 4	FRIEDA'S BOUDOIR	Cloth or inset. Screen on Stage.
SCENE 5	THE BEER GARDEN	Full stage with trees, light etc Outdoor bar to one side.
SCENE 6	THE COUNTRYSIDE	As scene 1
SCENE 7	KOPPELBERG MOUNTAIN	Front cloth/Gauze with rock covered entrance to one side.
SCENE 8	THE HALL OF THE MOUNTAIN KING	Full set. Brightly coloured scene with whatever the transformation ballet Requires.

## ACT TWO

SCENE 1	THE BEER GARDEN	As 1 – 5
SCENE 2	THE COUNTRYSIDE	As 1 – 1
SCENE 3	KOPPELBERG MOUNTAIN	As 1 – 7
SCENE 4	THE CITY OF HAMELIN	As 1 – 2
SCENE 5	THE COUNTRYSIDE (SONG SHEET)	As 1 – 1
SCENE 6	BURGOMASTER'S HALL	Full set with Tudor woodwork and decoration. Banners hanging with various coat of arms etc.

## CHARACTERS

THE RODENT LORD	Voice only except for an appearance in the final scene. Should be of a good build to fight with the Principle Boy. (Double Mountain King & Chorus.) <i>See note.</i>
LORELEI	The good witch of the mountain. Not the 'Fairy' type. Young to middle-aged. Good, clear speaking voice – non singing.
PIED PIPER	Young in appearance. Agile, likable and quick-witted with an ability to charm and amuse. Small amount of singing.
KARL	Principle Boy. Good looking, charming with a good singing voice. Age mid 20's – mid 30's.
LIESL	Principle Girl. Pretty and likable. She is strong willed as well as romantic. Good singing voice required. Age mid 20's.
BURGOMASTER	Pompous, authoritative and full of his own importance. Also under the control of the Rodent Lord. Singing required with company.
FRIEDA VON FROTH	Owner of the Beer Garden and panto Dame.
CARROTS	Karl's lame younger brother. Age approx 15. Singing with Company
WILLY	Frieda's Son. Energetic and comic. Good singing voice. Age mid 20's – mid 30's.
GRETCHEN	His “sometimes” girlfriend. Full of life and a bit of a man eater. She wants to snare Willy at whatever the cost! Great comic timing. Good singing voice. Age mid 20's – mid 30's.
THE MOUNTAIN KING	Larger than life and jovial. Can double with the Rodent Lord & Chorus.

The age ranges are for the characters and just a guide.

### NOTE:

The Rodent Lord can be an actual character throughout the pantomime if you so wish. With small adjustments to the script he can appear in a single light down stage left until his final entrance.

The placing of the musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences – particularly the younger members – like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially the ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' and have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

## THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

### ACT ONE

#### SCENE 1 THE COUNTRYSIDE

*[During the Overture the silhouette of rats is seen on the house tabs or show curtain. After the overture, down stage right the lights pick up LORELEI, THE WHITE WITCH of Koppberg Mountain.]*

LORELEI Dear people of – *[Place where panto is playing.]* I am Lorelei, the white witch of Koppelberg Mountain. There's no need to be afraid because I'm a good witch! At the foot of the mountain is the ancient city of Hamelin. Normally everything is peaceful and calm there, but recently the city has been overrun with rats. They're eating everything and causing chaos. They want to drive to people out so their leader, the Rodent Lord, can take control of the city.

*[The voice of the RODENT LORD is heard.]*

RODENT That is correct.

LORELEI *[Surprised.]* You are here?

RODENT I am everywhere. Especially in the minds of the weak or susceptible. The Burgomaster is one such person. I can play on his greed to get him to work for me.

LORELEI How is that?

RODENT In return for his helping me to take over the city I have said I will assist him in becoming Chancellor of the country. Just watch. Come here my willing subject. *[Down left of the stage the BURGOMASTER enters. It appears as if he is in a trance.]* Anything I want this puny mortal to do he does. *[Calling to the BURGOMASTER.]* What is happening in the city?

BURGOMASTER Everything is progressing well.

RODENT Make sure no-one interferes with my plans.

BURGOMASTER They won't. I assure you. Very soon the people will have had enough and leave.

RODENT And then I will assume my rightful position. Go now. I will call on you later.

BURGOMASTER Yes, my lord. *[HE exits.]*

RODENT See. I am all powerful, so don't waste your time trying to defeat me.

LORELEI You are right. I am no match for you powers.



- RODENT                   And you will do well to remember that. I am invincible. I am the Rodent Lord!  
*[With an echoing laugh the voice ends.]*
- LORELEI                   I may not be able to help those poor people of Hamelin, but I know someone who might.  
  
*[She exits as the lights come up on a front cloth with the Pied Piper's Wagon set right of centre. A magical tune is heard and suddenly the PIPER appears playing his pipe. Over his waistcoat and trousers he wears a coat of red and yellow.]*
- PIPER                     *[To the audience.]* Hello! I am the Pied Piper. How nice to see you. Have you come far? Did my tune make you stop and listen? I have many more. Tunes for every occasion. I can play a happy one for birthdays or anniversaries. Do any of you have a birthday soon?  
*[Reaction.]* Well this is for you. *[HE plays a snatch of a happy tune.]* Or I can play you a sad tune for when you are feeling down or under the weather. *[Play a mournful tune.]* But you don't want to hear one of those, do you? Not today while the sun is shining and everyone is feeling on top of the world.  
  
*[LORELEI enters.]*
- LORELEI                   Not everyone is feeling on top of the world my friend.
- PIPER                     Hello! I've not seen you in a while. What brings you looking for me?
- LORELEI                   There is a problem in the town of Hamelin. They are preparing for their annual festival but the whole place has been overrun by rats.
- PIPER                     Rats? Not my favourite animal. I don't mind white mice. They can be very friendly. A young girl I once met called Cinderella found them very useful – but that's another story!
- LORELEI                   I thought you might be able to help them out.
- PIPER                     That may be a possibility. Hamelin you say? Mmm, I've never been there. Maybe I should pay them a visit.
- LORELEI                   I think it could be to your advantage.
- PIPER                     Then visit them I shall. *[The PIPER pulls his wagon off left. With a wink at the audience.]* I shall see you all later.
- LORELEI                   Good luck my friend.  
  
*[The lights fade and the scene changes to.....]*

SCENE 2                      THE CITY OF HAMELIN

*[The Square with the Burgomaster's House to one side and the entrance to Freida Von Froth's Beer Garden on the other. The CHORUS of Townspeople are getting ready for the beer festival. KARL enters during the number.]*

OPENING NUMBER – COMPANY AND KARL

*[At the end of the number a large rat runs across the stage. Some of the GIRLS scream.]*

KARL                              What's the matter.

1<sup>st</sup> GIRL                              Karl, didn't you see it?  
MAN                                      *[Small measurement with his hands.]* It was only that big.

*[GRETCHEN, a typical fraulein with a larger than life comic personality, enters from the Beer Garden.]*

GRETCHEN                              No it wasn't. It was that big. *[Arms wide]* I just chased it out of the Beer Garden.

KARL                                      Hello Gretchen.

2<sup>nd</sup> GIRL                                The rat problem is getting worse.

KARL                                      They do seem to be bolder. Venturing out in broad daylight!

GRETCHEN                              Something has to be done you know. The whole town is overrun with them.

KARL                                      The Burgomaster doesn't seem to care. Every time the problem is mentioned by the Town Council he ignores it and says there are more – *[Imitating the BURGOMASTER]* – important things to worry about.

MAN                                        More important?

GRETCHEN                              This plague will ruin the Annual Festival.

MAN                                        Can't you talk to him? You work in the council offices.

KARL                                        I'm only a simple book clerk. I have no influence.

GRETCHEN                              What about the Burgomaster's daughter? *[Giving KARL a nudge.]* You must have a bit of influence there!

*[ALL agree.]*

KARL                                        Liesl and I are just good friends. *[HE doesn't see LIESL enter behind him.]* We've know each other since we were kids.

GRETCHEN                              But you'd like to be a bit more than 'just' friends, wouldn't you?

KARL Well – yes – I suppose so.

GRETCHEN And what about her?

KARL Oh, I don't know.

GRETCHEN I think she'd like to be.

KARL Do you?

LIESL Oh yes please.

KARL *[Looking at GRETCHEN.]* Your voice just changed. *[GRETCHEN turns him round to face LIESL.]* Oh, hello!

LIESL Hello!

GRETCHEN We were just talking about this problem with the rats. What is your father going to do about it?  
*[ALL ad lib questioning Liesl.]*

KARL Now wait a minute. Liesl can't answer for her father.

LIESL I'm sorry everyone. I've tried talking to him, but he just won't listen. He's changed so recently and is convinced the rats will just go away.

CROWD That'll never happen. They're eating us out of house and home. Etc.

LIESL I wish there was something I could do.

KARL Don't worry. We'll get through this.

*[There is a crash off stage and WILLY is heard shouting. The CHORUS run off.]*

WILLY *[Off.]* Owwww! Help! Gerroff!

KARL Willy?

*[WILLY enters running around the stage with a rat attached to his rear.]*

WILLY Help. Get this thing off me.

KARL Stand still.

WILLY *[Still running round.]* I can't. He's chomping away at me. He's finished his starter and soon he'll be moving on to his main course!

KARL *[To GRETCHEN and LIESL.]* Hold him steady. *[The two girls hold WILLY whose legs are still 'running'. KARL pulls the rat off WILLY'S behind and throws it off stage.]* There. All gone.

WILLY *[Hiding behind LIESL.]* Are you sure he's not coming back for dessert?

KARL Quite sure.

- WILLY                    *[Rubbing his backside.]* I hope that rat's got a nasty taste in its mouth! Do you think it has done any permanent damage?
- GRETCHEN              *[Advancing on him.]* Would you like me to look?
- WILLY                    'Ere, gerroff!
- GRETCHEN              Why are you so shy, my little Willy.
- WILLY                    Not so little!
- KARL                     Come on Liesl, I think these two want to be alone. *[THEY exit.]*
- WILLY                    Here, hang about. Don't leave me.
- GRETCHEN              What is the matter with you? Everyone knows you and I are going steady!
- WILLY                    Everyone might – but I don't.
- GRETCHEN              Oh don't be so bashful my little pumpernickel!
- WILLY                    Stop saying 'little'! Haven't you got work to do? My mother will get mad if things aren't ready for the festival.
- GRETCHEN              Don't worry my lit--- *[HE looks and SHE stops herself.]* --- my big knockwurst sausage. Everything is going fine. As long as these awful rats don't ruin the day. *[Seductively.]* I will see you later. *[SHE exits into beer garden.]*
- WILLY                    Ohh! I don't know what to do. Gretchen is always chasing after me - and I'm a young man. I don't want to settle down yet. *[CHORUS girls now start entering from various parts of the stage.]* I mean there are plenty of fish in the sea so to speak. *[Looking at the girls.]* Hello girls.
- GIRLS                    Hello Willy. *[THEY gather round him.]*
- WILLY                    See what I mean!
- NUMBER – WILLY and CHORUS
- [During the number the MEN enter and join in. At the end of the number the BURGOMASTER enters from his office. HE is an irritable man.]*
- BURGOMASTER        What's going on here? Why aren't you all working? Don't you know the festival is tomorrow? We'll never be ready at this rate.
- WILLY                    We'll never be ready unless you do something about this rat problem.
- [ALL agree.]*
- BURGOMASTER        The Town Council and myself have the matter in hand. The rats will be exterminated.

- WILLY                    He sounds like a Dalek!
- CHORUS                 But when? They are worse than ever. Etc.
- BURGOMASTER        Already a lot of treasury money has been spent on the problem.
- [KARL has entered followed by LIESL. KARL'S lame brother, CARROTS, also enters. HE is a likeable and, if possible, red-haired lad of about 15.]*
- KARL                     That's not true. Hardly anything has been spent.
- BURGOMASTER        *[In a rage.]* Mind what you are saying or else you will be looking for alternative employment.
- CARROTS                My brother Karl is right. I've just come from the children's playground and it's overrun by rats.
- BURGOMASTER        Children's playground! Children should be in school or working to help with festival arrangements.
- LIESL                    Father!
- KARL                     Why can't more money be spent to eradicate these rats.....
- [At this point the lights change and the stage freezes. We hear the RODENT LORD'S voice.]*
- RODENT                 Be careful Burgomaster. Don't let this young upstart ruin our arrangement.
- BURGOMASTER        *[In a trance.]* No. I will keep avoiding the question of ridding the town of rats.
- RODENT                 Good. You will have your reward when I once more materialise in human form.
- BURGOMASTER        My reward! To become Chancellor of all Germany?
- RODENT                 Of course. Just let my rats keep working for me.
- BURGOMASTER        I will do as you ask.
- [The lights return and the stage unfreezes. The BURGOMASTER stops KARL from speaking further.]*
- Hold your tongue. Unless you remember who you are speaking to the consequences will be severe. Now all of you go about your business.
- [The CHORUS, WILLY and GRETCHEN exit, grumbling. The BURGOMASTER turns to go and finds CARROTS in his way.]* Out of my way boy. *[HE pushes CARROTS, who falls over, then exits.]*
- LEISL                    *[Going to CARROTS.]* Oh my goodness. Are you all right?

CARROTS            Yes thank you, miss. *[LEISL and KARL help him up.]*

KARL                Carrots will be fine, won't you?

CARROTS            Of course I will. I'm tough!

LEISL                *[Laughing.]* I'm sure you are.

KARL                This is my younger brother who has been away at school in Dresden. Carrots, this is Leisl.

CARROTS            Pleased to meet you.

LEISL                Likewise. *[Pointing to his crutch.]* But whatever happened to you.

CARROTS            I've been like this since birth.

LEISL                Oh I am sorry.

KARL                *[Making light of it.]* We hardly notice it now, do we old chap?  
*[The BURGOMASTER appears from the House.]*

BURGOMASTER    Leisl. What are you doing fraternising with the hoi polloi? *[To KARL.]* Get about your business and leave my daughter alone.

KARL                But sir.....

BURGOMASTER    Did you hear me?

KARL                *[Defeated.]* Yes sir. Come on, Carrots. *[HE and CARROTS exit.]*

LEISL                Father, why are you behaving like that? Karl is a good and kind man.

BURGOMASTER    *[With disdain.]* Good and kind. All he's after is a way of bettering himself. He's a book-keeper and that's all he'll ever be.

LEISL                That's not true.

BURGOMASTER    Leisl, I won't hear another word. Come in at once.

LEISL                Yes father.  
*[SHE exits with the BURGOMASTER. Some shouting is heard off.]*

MAN                 *[Off.]* Mind your backs. Special delivery.  
*[Two MEN bring on a large beer barrel and place it centre stage. They are about to exit when then there is some shouting from inside the barrel. It is FRIEDA VON FROTH.]*

FRIEDA              Will someone get me out of here? Can you hear me? Get me out of here.

*[The MEN open the barrel. NB. It is split in two and hinged at the back. FRIEDA staggers out.]*

FRIEDA Finally! You two idiots. Didn't you hear me shouting? *[The MEN shake their heads.]* You must be drunk! Get out of here. *[The two MEN exit laughing.]* And don't think you'll get served again in my beer garden. You're barred! It'll be the Rover's Return from now on for you. *[FRIEDA moves to look out at the audience.]* Hello there. Have you all come for the festival? *[Audience reaction.]* Well I better introduce myself. I'm Frieda Von Froth and I am the proprietor, owner and head cook and bottle washer of the local *hostility!* *[SHE points to the beer garden.]* Well that's what they call it after a Saturday night! I used to run the place with my late husband, Fredrich Von Froth, but he was taken from me. It was very sad. We were having our evening meal and he just keeled over stiff as a board. A chill went right through my marrow. And it didn't do much for my Brussels sprouts. So here I am. A widow with one son to help me run this place. You've met Willy, have you? *[Reaction.]* Not the sharpest knife in the box but he's a good boy but one of these days he'll get himself married and leave me and then I'll be on my own. A lonely old woman. Years ago we used to compare age to different parts of the world. When you're in your 20's you're like the plains of Africa. Fresh and unspoiled. Your 40's are like America. Rich and exciting. But when you get to your 60's you're like Leicester. *[Or local town.]* You know where it is but you don't want to go there!

NUMBER – FRIEDA

*[At the end of the number KARL and CARROTS enter.]*

KARL Hello Frieda. How are you?

FRIEDA Oh Karl, I've just had the most awful experience. I'd just popped round to the wine merchant to make sure my order for the festival would be delivered on time and I noticed this keg of beer just standing there minding its own business. It was a new brand, so I thought I just have a taste to see if my customers would like it. Well there was only a few pints at the bottom of the barrel so I had to lean in to get at it. Well the next thing I'd fallen in head first and some big brute of a store man had nailed the top on! The next thing I'm being whisked off.

KARL *[Looking in the barrel.]* A few pints you say? But the barrel's empty.

FRIEDA Well I had to have something to steady my nerves! *[SHE staggers.]* Oh it was such a shock! My whole life flashed before me – all twenty-five years of it! *[CARROTS falls about laughing.]* And who might this be?

KARL Carrots, my brother. *[Introducing FRIEDA.]* This is Frieda Von Froth. She runs the beer garden where we hold the Hamelin Festival.

CARROTS Very pleased to meet you, ma'am.

FRIEDA *[An attempt at being posh.]* Lukeways I'm sure! Well I better get on. Have you seen Willy?

- KARL                   He's around somewhere. Hiding from Gretchen I expect!
- FRIEDA                Oh that boy. He's just like his father. Never knew when a good woman was staring him in the face! See you all later. *[With a wave SHE exits into the beer garden. The music for the PIPER'S entrance starts. The CHORUS and CHILDREN run on excitedly. WILLY and GRETCHEN join KARL and CARROTS. The PIPER enters with his wagon.]*
- PIPER                 Good day my friends. Come gather round and see what I can do to entertain you. *[To a CHILD.]* Would you like to hear a tune? *[The CHILD nods and the PIPER plays a happy tune. One CHILD is standing apart from the CROWD looking sad.]* What's the matter with you? You don't look very happy.
- CHILD                 She never does.
- PIPER                 I bet I could make her smile. *[The CHILD looks away as the PIPER starts to play. Then SHE starts to smile. ALL react. HE speaks to another CHILD.]* Can you dance? *[The CHILD shakes his/her head.]* Oh yes you can. *[HE plays again and the CHILD starts to dance. ALL applaud.]* Would you like to see a magic trick?
- ALL                    Oh yes please. Etc.  
  
*[The PIPER performs a trick to which they all applaud.]*
- CARROTS             Can you do any kind of magic trick?
- PIPER                 Any magic trick you like.
- CARROTS             I bet you can't magic these awful rats away.
- PIPER                 I bet I can! *[ALL react.]*
- KARL *[Smiling.]*      Now Mr Piper. Don't go filling the children's heads with promises you can't keep.
- PIPER                 But I can get rid of the rats for you. If the price is right.
- GRETCHEN            How?
- PIPER                 You saw how I got that child to smile and that one to dance. There is a tune for everything.
- WILLY                You mean you can rid Hamelin of this plague of rats – just by tooting on your flute?
- PIPER                 From the very smallest to the very biggest rat.
- WILLY                Talking of big rats – look who's coming.  
  
*[The BURGOMASTER enters followed by LEISL.]*
- BURGOMASTER      Are you people still hanging around here? Be off with you at once.



KARL                   Burgomaster, we may have solved the rat problem.

BURGOMASTER       What do you mean?

KARL                   Our friend here says he has a way of ridding Hamelin of the rats.

BURGOMASTER       Oh he has has he? *[Looking at the PIPER.]* And how can a mere street entertainer do what no-one else can?

CARROTS             He plays a tune on his pipe.

BURGOMASTER       *[Incredulously.]* Plays a tune? Be off with you, you charlatan – *[HE moves towards the PIPER backing him towards the beer garden.]* - or I'll have you arrested for inciting a disturbance.

*[The PIPER is backing off as FRIEDA enters and HE almost ends up in her arms.]*

FRIEDA               Oh I say it's James Galway! *[Or a pop star.]* And who might you be you fine figure or a man?

PIPER                 *[With a bow.]* I am the Pied Piper at your service.

FRIEDA               Ohhhh, you can be at my service any time!

WILLY                Mother, have you no scruples?

FRIEDA               No, but I've got a selection of pork scratchings!

CARROTS             He says he can get rid of all the rats.

FRIEDA               Really?

PIPER                 Indeed.

BURGOMASTER       Poppycock.

FRIEDA               How do you do it.

PIPER                 By playing a tune with a secret formula of transcendental perpleximism mixed with a basic form of mesmerism.

FRIEDA               *[Bewildered.]* Oh!

PIPER                 You know what I mean?

FRIEDA               *[First nodding and then shaking her head.]* No – but I'm all yours to demonstrate on!

PIPER                 Well first, before I evoke the occult, I have to know if you are a hypnotic subject.

FRIEDA               No, I was born in Nuneaton. *[Or nearby town.]*

BURGOMASTER I've heard enough of this rubbish.

FRIEDA But it's a big problem. Do you know the other day I found a rat in the drawer where I keep my unmentionables.

WILLY You didn't *mention* it!

FRIEDA It was unmentionable! And do you know it was nibbling on everything. My stays are shattered and my corset's collapsed!

KARL Well I think we should give the Piper a chance?

RODENT *[ALL agree. Suddenly the lights change and the stage freezes. The LORD is heard speaking to the BURGOMASTER.]*

RODENT Be careful Burgomaster. I don't want anything to disrupt my plan.

BURGOMASTER Don't worry. I will put a stop to this.

RODENT See that you do.

*[The lights change back and the stage unfreezes.]*

BURGOMASTER Playing a tune to entice the rats away? I've never heard anything so absurd.

PIPER I have tunes that can make anything happen.

BURGOMASTER Like what?

PIPER I can play a tune to make you dance.

BURGOMASTER I don't dance.

PIPER Oh yes you do. *[HE plays and the BURGOMASTER starts to dance.]*

BURGOMASTER'S DANCE

*[EVERYONE laughs as the dance gets wilder. Finally the BURGOMASTER drops to his knees.]*

BURGOMASTER Enough! *[HE gets up and looks at the PIPER.]* I expect you will require a fee for this work?

PIPER A thousand guilders is my price.

BURGOMASTER A thousand..... impossible. The town treasury doesn't have that sort of money.

KARL As book-keeper to the town I think we can afford it. Besides, think of the money the festival will generate – as long as there are no rats to keep the people away.

*[ALL agree.]*

BURGOMASTER It's throwing money away. He'll never do what he says. *[At this moment a group of rats run across the front of the stage. They stop centre as everyone backs upstage. The PIPER moves down to the rats and starts to play. The rats follow him and he leads them off stage. ALL applaud as HE returns.]* Oh very well. I'll pay you five hundred guilders now and the rest when the job is done - if it gets done.

PIPER It'll be done all right, I assure you.

*[ALL cheer. The BURGOMASTER exits as the next number start.]*

### CHORUS NUMBER

*[During the number the PIPER plays as more rats appear. The BURGOMASTER enters with a bag of money which he gives to the PIPER. At the end of the number the lights fade to black out and the scene changes to...]*

### SCENE 3 THE BANKS OF THE RIVER WESER

*[The scene is a front cloth with a cut out of a river bank stage left. During the scene change recorded voices are heard chanting.]*

VOICES *[Off.]* Great rats, small rats, lean rats brawny rats,  
Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats,  
Grave old plodders, gay young friskers  
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers.  
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,  
Follow the Piper in your dozens.

*[The lights come up and the PIPER enters right playing his pipe and followed by an army of rats. They all pour into the River Weser stage left.]*

PIPER Whew! That's the lot. Good riddance.

*[LORELEI appears down right.]*

LORELEI You have done well my friend.

PIPER All in a days work.

LORELEI I hope you get your reward.

PIPER Never fear on that account. I know the Burgomaster is a slippery customer, but he will regret it if he crosses me.

LORELEI What plan have you got up your sleeve?

PIPER One that I hope I don't have to use.

LORELEI You must take some care. There are great forces at work here. You're not invincible you know.

PIPER I know. But fear not dear lady, I have allies who will help me if the need arises.

LORELEI That is good to know. And see - there are some new-found friends coming now. I will no doubt see you again.

PIPER I look forward to it. *[LORELEI exits. The PIPER looks in the river.]*  
Great rats, small rats, lean rats brawny rats,  
Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats.....  
  
*[WILLY enters right.]*

WILLY Have they gone.

PIPER Yes. All despatched. You won't be troubled any more.

WILLY Well done Piper. The whole of Hamelin is in your debt.

PIPER And the debt is the rest of my fee!

WILLY Don't trust our Burgomaster. He's worse than – *[Name of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.]* - for breaking promises! Make sure you get your money while the town is celebrating what you have done.

PIPER Another five hundred guilders I am owed – and I intend to collect.

WILLY I know, claim it tonight at the opening of the festival. Everyone will be there so the Burgomaster will have to honour the agreement.  
  
*[GRETCHEN enters right.]*

GRETCHEN I can't believe it. Not a rat in sight.

WILLY The Piper has been true to his word.

GRETCHEN The Burgomaster will be so pleased.

PIPER And pleased to pay up I hope. *[With a bow to them he exits right.]*

WILLY We I'd better be getting back to work.

GRETCHEN Oh not so fast. We could make the most no one else being around.

WILLY What do you mean 'make the most'?

GRETCHEN We get so little time to be alone my little apple strudel.

WILLY Why are you obsessed with comparing me to food?

GRETCHEN Because I would like to eat you up, you tantalising little trifle.

You have reached the end of this perusal, to view the entire script please contact NODA on 01733 374790 or email [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)