

THE SEVENTH DAUGHTER

A Musical in Two Acts

Written for the stage by John Mills

AN INTRODUCTION

Book, Lyrics and Script by JOHN MILLS

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What is 'The Seventh Daughter' All About?

Silly child! Dreaming of becoming a great musician. No time for that when you're an apprentice Clock-maker. Silly child! Frightened by the whispers coming from Grandfather's clock. It's all in your head, Mel. Silly child! Throwing your tools into the muddy Estuary. What were you thinking? And then you were surprised when the Moon got angry! Such dreadful consequences. For you, for your brother, who was born unable to hear or speak. For your family as they faced the frightening Clock- Giant. Silly child!

Set in times past, '*The Seventh Daughter*' tells the journey of Mel and her brother Ally and her love of music. A coming-of-age tale that captures the innocence and foolishness of childhood which lead to unexpected consequences. With many characters including the dreadful Moon, Prince Of Night, scary Moonshadows and a fearsome Clock-Giant, this musical has all the ingredients for a heart-warming tale of family, love and growing into adulthood. Full of tuneful and dramatic music and plentiful opportunities for dancing, '*The Seventh Daughter*' is sure to bring a smile and nudge a few tears from audiences of all ages.

CAST

Village Characters

Young/Youthful Mel	Aged 7 and 14. The hero of this tale. Learning to play the penny-whistle. An apprentice to her Mother, a Clock-maker.
Adult Mel	Aged 21, then older, as a clarinettist who entertains at weddings.
Young/Youthful Ally	Aged 7 then 14, plays the squeezebox then accordion
Adult Ally	Aged 21 then older, expert accordion player
Mother	Mel and Ally's mother. Caring, patient, skilful Clock-maker
Father	Mel and Ally's stern father. Hard-working.
Mel's Uncles	3 named: Bert, Bob & Ron
Mel's Aunts	3 named: Ebb, Flo & Pearl

Company of Aunts/Uncles/Villagers

Imaginary Characters

Moon, Prince Of Night	Threatening presence clad in shining armour.
Moonshadows	Haunting guardians of the Moon
Clock-Voices	Full of whispers and rumours from within Grandfather's Clock
Clock-Giant	Constructed from clockmaker tools e.g. callipers, files, hacksaw etc. A fearsome giant who loves music and dancing!

Notes For The Director

The story offers a myriad of creative scenes and dances which range from seaport villagers simply-dressed to the dramatic intensity of the Moon, the Clock-Voices and the Clock-Giant.

As time passes through this musical, the performers will need to age. Some staging device e.g. trying on/changing several pairs of different sized clothes/shoes would help support time passing.

The role of Mel should be taken by a performer who is comfortable playing a recorder/clarinet as this role requires the clarinet to be played with increasing skill as the show progresses. It does not require an expert player but does need someone who is happy to 'perform' even if the clarinet is actually played by someone in the band, or is pre-recorded for miming. Similarly, but to a lesser extent, Ally should be able to play a few notes on a squeezebox/accordion.

Characters age considerably through the show. Mel should be willing to learn basic British Sign language for Hello, Goodbye, Stop, Danger, Love, Sorry etc

The Clock-Giant is fearsome but is calmed by her love of music. Costume is made of oversized clockmaker's tools

The Grandmother and a Grandfather clock are important motifs for love and loss.

Synopsis

'*The Seventh Daughter*' opens with Father rowing across the Estuary when the tides suddenly rises causing Grandmother's Clock to be lost overboard. The *Main Theme/The Prince Of Night* introduces and depicts the power of the Moon who controls the tides and the fears associated with shadows and night-time.

We are introduced to Mel, an unwilling apprentice to his mother, a clock-maker. She loves to play her penny-whistle and magically troubles fade whenever she plays. Perhaps it's because she is the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter. *The Seventh Daughter* sets the scene for a reluctant Mel and her hard-working family of Aunts and Uncles.

Grandfather's clock holds many secrets and when Mel listens very carefully she hears whispers and voices which puzzle her greatly. Perhaps they can help her dearest wish to become a great musician? *Whispers From The Clock* give some puzzling advice to throw his tools away. Without thinking, Mel hurls her tools into the muddy Estuary with devastating effect. The Moon is apopleptic and sings *I Curse You*. Three curses are laid upon Mel and her family. Mel is overwhelmed and is determined to find her tools and make amends.

Mel's new-born brother Ally doesn't cry. Mel is distraught, blaming herself for Ally's affliction and sings *My Promise To You* in which she pledges to look after Ally forever.

Years pass. Mel can now play the penny-whistle with great skill. Dances depict the passing of years. The *Dance Of The Tides and Seabirds* and Dance of the Stars and Comets depict the passing of time.

One day, after a severe storm, Mel and Ally find the remains of Grandmother's Clock. Inside are a silver clarinet and silver accordion. There is a fearsome exchange with the Clock-Giant as the children escape with the instruments and Grandmother's clock-face.

Mel's Uncles and Aunts share rumours and strange happenings in the quayside. *Trouble Brewing* describes troublesome events. The Moon, Moonshadows and the Clock-Giant terrorise the villagers *I'm Coming To Get You!* What can Mel do? In *Let Battle Commence* Ally encourages Mel to play her clarinet to calm the enemy. In the heat of the battle Ally find his voice. He joins in the music making and they manage to calm the Clock-Giant. As their music-making become more enthusiastic the dancing Clock-Giant throws off first one tool, then another and another until all the tools have been thrown onto the Estuary shore. The Clock-Giant kicks the Moon and Moonshadows out of sight. In the moment of quiet that follows, Mel and Ally sing their reprise of *My Promise To You*.

Time passes and Mel and Ally have become celebrated musicians, playing at weddings.

Ally meets with Mel at one such occasions and is surprised to learn that it is Mel's wedding that he's to play at. The *Wedding Dance* captures the happy mood of this celebration.

More years pass. Mel has become a mother – to a boy they name Ally. No more 'seventh daughters!'

Music

MP3 music tracks are available, both with and without guide vocals. A compilation of extracts from '*The Seventh Daughter*' can be found at our website earwormmusicals.com

Musical Numbers

ACT 1

01	The Tide Rolls Out - Instrumental	
02	Main Theme – Concert Performance - Instrumental	0'36"
03	Enter The Moon	0'26"
04	The Prince Of Night/Exit The Moon	2'21"
05	The Tide Rolls In: The First	0'39"
06	Ticking From The Clock - Instrumental	
07	The Tide Rolls In: The Second	0'39"
08	The Seventh Daughter	2'54"
09	Voices From The Clock	2'32"
10	I Curse You	2'49"
11	I Curse You – Instrumental Reprise	
12	The Tide Rolls In: The Third	0'40"
13	My Promise To You/I Curse You – Reprise	3'29"

ACT 2

14	The Seventh Daughter/The Tide Rolls In: The Fourth	2'12"
15	Dance Of The Tides And Seabirds - Instrumental	1'43"
16	Enter The Moon - Instrumental	
17	Dance Of The Stars And Comets - Instrumental	
18	Dance Of The Stars And Comets – Instrumental Reprise	
19	Main Theme – Instrumental Duet	
20	The Clock-Giant Stirs - Instrumental	
21	Main Theme – Instrumental Duet - Reprise 1	
22	Main Theme – Instrumental Duet - Reprise 2	
23	Rolling In And Out	0'38"
24	Trouble Brewing	1'37"
25	Let Battle Commence	5'00"
26	The Tide Rolls In: The Fifth	
27	My Promise To You – Duet	1'09"
28	A Happy Giant - Instrumental	
29	Main Theme – Instrumental Duet – Reprise 3	
30	Wedding Dance - Instrumental	
31	Wedding Dance – Instrumental Reprise	
32	The Tide Rolls In: The Sixth	0'40"
33	Finale - Main Theme/The Tide Rolls Out	1'10"

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