

# The Cosmic Nightingale

Book by

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Music & Lyrics by

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“The Cosmic Nightingale”

Written by Mariner Pezza  
Music & Lyrics by Cheryl Kemeny

## ACT I

Overture

Scene 1 “1930’s Radio Studio”

**Song** “*Klaxo Powered Milk*” (*The Mellow Milktones*)

**Song** “*My Lucky Star*” (*Diane Parks*)

Scene 2 “Aboard the Spaceship”

Scene 3 “Hunts Peak Observatory”

Scene 4 “It Turned”

**Song** “*It Turned*” (*Leaders of U.S., China & Russia*)

Scene 5 “The Street Singer & the Prophetess of Doom”

**Song** “*Repent Sinner*” (*Prophetess of Doom, Doomsayers & Cast*)

**Song** “*Take Me to the Stars*” (*Jennifer Parks, Samantha & Amanda*)

**Song** “*Without Me You’re Nothing*” (*Johnny Dollar & Jennifer Parks*)

Scene 6 “Shipboard”

Scene 7 “World Reaction”

**Song** “*Send Them a Message*” (*Africans, Indians, British*)

Scene 8 “At the U.N.”

**Song** “*What Else Could You Have That We Could Possibly Want?*”  
(*U. S. president, Indian Advisor, British P.M., Aliens & Cast*)

## INTERMISSION

## ACT II

Scene 1 “Take Me To Your Leader!”

**Song** “*Take Me to Your Leader*” (*Jane Castleman*)

Scene 2        “The Conspirators”

**Song**    **“This Conversation Never Took Place”** (*Italy, Russia, U.S.*)

Scene 3        “Control Room”

Scene 4        “Tryouts At the U.N.”

**Song**    **“It’s All Who You Know”** (*Girls 1, 2, 3, Amanda, Samantha & Jenn Parks*)

**Song**        **“Sing!”** (*Jennifer Parks, Amanda & Samantha*)

Scene 5        “The Prophetess Plots”

Scene 6        “The Auditions”

**Songs**      **Insert public domain Italian & Irish songs, then**  
**“Raw Passion”** (*Patty Beecker*)

Scene 7        “Central Park”

**Song**        **“If I Could Be The One”** (*Jennifer Parks, Amanda & Samantha*)

**Song**        **“Finale - Take Me To The Stars!”** (*Cast*)

### **Cast of Characters (*in order of appearance*)** **(*doublings listed after*)**

Johnny Johnson (*1930’s radio announcer, glib, suave, non-singing role*)  
(Radio Studio Floor Manager, Stagehands, Tap-dancers, Audience Members)

The “Mellow Milktones” (*3 singers*)

Diane Parks/ Jenn Parks (*grandmother of Jenn Parks. The singer whom the aliens hear. Her song attracts the aliens. Played by the same person*))

*[The aliens come from a great galactic confederation of numerous species, which is generally centered around the galactic hub where the stars are most dense. Their civilization is very old, staid and technologically advanced. Aliens #1 and 2 are photosynthesis -based humanoids, rather smallish and green. They come from a very old and cautious culture that has lost most of its zeal and zest for life. They exude equanimity to the extreme, and speak in clipped monotones with a dispassionate, succinct and semi-scientific manner. The third alien developed from an herbivore based evolution and comes from a comparatively young culture. His curiosity and exuberance appalls the other two, but is tolerated because of his ability to take risks. He is animal-ish and humanoid.]*

Alien 1 / **Primary** (*plant-derived, unemotional-creatures of reason & pure logic*)

Alien 2 / **Secondary** (*plant-derived, unemotional*)

Alien 3 / **the “accomplisher”** (*animal-evolved, capable of emotion & feelings*)

*\*The conflict between the aliens arises from this difference*

Professor Gruber (*pompous scientist, desperate to make a discovery, speaking role*)

Paula Avery (*Gruber’s assistant, speaking role*)

James Kent (*speaking role*)

Amanda DeLuca (*friend of Jenn Parks, sings*)

Samantha Turner (*friend of Jenn Parks, “discovers” the space-ship. She’s into Philosophy, Astrology, Astronomy. Singing part.*)

Jane Castleman (*TV news anchor; has “belt” solo*)

U.S. President Louise Sherman (*speaking & alto/belt singing*)

U.S. General

U.S. Advisor 1

U.S. Advisor 2

U.S. Science Advisor

Chinese leader (*speaking & alto solo*)

Chinese General

Chinese Advisor 1

Chinese Advisor 2

Chinese Advisor 3

Russian leader (*speaking & belt solo*)

Russian General

Russian Advisor 1

Russian Advisor 2

The Prophetess of Doom (*high belt solo, wild "cult"-leader, male or female*)  
"Doomsayers" (*back-up singers and followers*)  
Policeman 1 (*speaking parts*)  
Policeman 2

Jennifer Parks/Diane Parks (*the Cosmic Nightingale, soprano/belt*)  
Girl 1 & girl 2 & Girl 3 (*speaking parts*)  
Johnny "Dollar" (*a sleazy music manager, rock tenor or male alto*)

African President , Agushi Mbutto (*belt solo*)  
African Advisor 1  
African Advisor 2  
Africans

Indian Prime Minister (*belt solo/speaking part*)  
Indian Advisor 1  
Indian Advisor 2  
Indians

British Prime Minister (*solo/speaking/singing*)  
British Advisor 1  
British Advisor 2  
British

U.N. Secretary General, Anan Corian (*speaking*)  
French Pres. Jacques LeBeau (*speaking*)  
Italian Prime Minister (*speaking/alto solo*)  
Italian Advisor 1  
Italian Advisor 2  
Thug 1 & Thug 2 (*speaking parts*)  
Natasha Primakove (*Russian singer*)  
Sophia Cabarella (*Italian singer*)  
Irish singer/Rosey O'Leary  
Patty Beecker (*U.S. singer*)

**POSSIBLE CAST DOUBLINGS (*for small cast*)**

- 1) DIANE PARKS/ JENN PARKS
- 2) JOHNNY JOHNSON/ PROFESSOR GRUBER/ JOHNNY DOLLAR
- 3) ALIEN 1
- 4) ALIEN 2
- 5) ALIEN 3, the accomplicher

- 6) PAULA AVERY/ BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
- 7, 8, 9) 3 MILK-TONES (ADVISORS/GIRLS 1,2,3/NATASHA PRIMAKOVE/SOPHIA CABARELLA, PATTY BEECKER)
- 10) FLOOR MANAGER/ PROPHET or PROPHETESS OF DOOM
- 11) JAMES KENT/ US GENERAL/ AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER
- 12) AMANDA DELUCA /INDIAN PRIME MINISTER
- 13) SAMANTHA TURNER/ BRITISH ADVISER
- 14) JANE CASTLEMAN/ ADVISOR
- 15) US PRESIDENT
- 16) CHINESE CHAIRMAN/ ANAN CORIAN
- 17) ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER/INDIAN ADVISER
- 18) US ADVISOR/AFRICAN ADVISER/FRENCH PRESIDENT/THUG1
- 19) RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER/AFRICAN ADVISER
- 20) RUSSIAN GENERAL /POLICE MAN 1/ THUG 2
- 21) CHINESE GENERAL / POLICEMAN 2 / ITALIAN ADVISER

*\*\*\*The ADVISERS can be condensed into 1 for each country. Everyone is in the 1930's opening, the U.N. scene and the Finale. Country leaders can also be doubled to condense cast further.*

## **ACT I**

### **Scene 1        "1930's Radio Station, WKLA"**

*(The setting is a 1930's radio studio. The announcer, **Johnny Johnson**, is standing behind a music stand with a large microphone. To one side is seated the studio audience who are prompted by the **STUDIO FLOOR MANAGER** with signs indicating "**APPLAUSE**" and "**LAUGHTER**". The **STUDIO FLOOR MANAGER** has been warming up the audience with jokes, in pantomime. **STAGEHANDS** are running around with headphones, music stands and microphones, busily setting up and moving wires. To the other side, standing behind a large microphone, is the female singing trio - "**The Mellow Milktones**". In the background waits the famous singer, **Diane Parks**.)*

**Johnny:** (*STAGE HAND strikes a xylophone.*) Welcome all you wonderful people out there in radio land to WKLA -- the radio station of Klaxo Milk Powder, and to the Klaxo Milk Powder's marvelous musical radio hour. (*wild applause, some hollering, by studio audience as directed by Studio Manager*) I'm Johnny Johnson, your likable - and even lovable - radio host!

(*some girls swoon "Oh, Johnny!"*)

**Johnny:** (*aside*) Get those girls a glass of milk, Jack! (*back on track*) Yes, ladies and gentlemen, I'm proud to bring you tonight's fabulous show featuring Cincinnati's own best-kept secret, the splendiferous -- the mellifluous -- those musical wonders, "The Mellow Milktones". (*more applause*) Hi girls, welcome back!

**Milk-tones:** Hi Johnny!

**Johnny:** Girls, have you been drinking your Klaxo Powdered Milk, the world's freshest, most natural form of good old wholesome, reconstituted milk?

**Milk-tones:** Yes Johnny.

(*Applause, [directed with his hands like a conductor] by the floor manager*)

**Milk-tone #1:** We love to drink Klaxo Powdered Milk.

**Milk-tone #2:** We drink it every day.  
(*Applause and nods of approval*)

**Johnny:** That's right, folks, Klaxo's Powdered Milk is the freshest, most natural way to good nutrition and vitality. I drink it and feel good all day, every day! Do you have anything else you want to say to all those good people out there in radio land?

**Milk-tones:** Yes we do, Johnny. (*The Mellifluous Milk-tones go into the Klaxo Milk Powder jingle*)

**SONG:** "KLAXO POWDERED MILK" (*Milk-tones*)

Klaxo Powdered Milk!  
So good for you!  
Drink it ev'ry day! So good for you!  
Vitality! Mentality!  
It can even change your personality!  
Just add water, it's smooth as silk!

The world's most natural powdered milk!

*(double-time)*

Klaxo Powdered Milk!  
So-o-o good for you!  
Just add water, smooth as silk!  
The world's most natural powdered milk!  
*(TAP DANCE or SOFT SHOE)*

**Johnny:** *(interjecting)*

Listen to those dancing feet! Klaxo gives you so much energy, you can't sit still!

**Milktones:** *(singing)*

Klaxo Powdered Milk!  
So-o-o good for you!  
Just add water, smooth as silk!  
The world's most popular natural milk!  
Klaxo! *(song over)*

*(audience applause, some shouts of approval)*

**Johnny:**

Thanks girls, that was **just** marvelous-- just marvelous and so **very** important a message to all you radio folks out there in radio land - drink Klaxo Milk Powder for health and vitality! Yes, indeed!

*(STAGEHAND hits 3 notes of the xylophone )*

**Johnny:**

And now ladies and gents, we have a special treat for you in our modern and wondrous studios here at WKLA, the radio station of Klaxo Milk Powder - the fabulous, the marvelous, the lady you've been hearing all **over** your radio these past several weeks - Miss **Diane Parks!**

*( audience applauds, floor manager gestures strongly)*

**Johnny:**

Welcome, Miss Parks. May I call you Diane?

**Diane Parks:**

Sure thing, Johnny! And I'm so pleased to be here.

**Johnny:**

We're the ones pleased to have you! Diane, let me ask you a question - What's it like to have a hit song that the marvel of radio waves is taking to all those thousands of people out there in radio land?

**Diane:**

It's great Johnny. Because of this new invention of radio, I'm an instant celebrity! Everywhere I perform people recognize my voice! I know radio is going to be **really** big!



**Johnny:** And all of us here at the Voice of Klaxo couldn't agree with you more. Can you do a little number for us, Diane?

**Diane:** Sure could, Johnny. I'd like to sing my current hit - "My Lucky Star".

**Johnny:** (*cutting her off*) **But**, before you do, ... and we can't wait... let me ask you just one question - Have **you** been drinking your Klaxo Powdered Milk?

**Diane:** (*stalling because she doesn't want to lie*) Well, ... You know, Johnny, .. I **have** been doing a lot of traveling these days and ....

(*STAGE FLOOR MANAGER frantically makes "cut" sign to Johnny*)

**Johnny:** (*interrupting*) **That's** just marvelous Diane! And **now** folks, for your musical pleasure, let me give you Diane Parks, the nation's number **one** singing sensation!

(*Applause. DIANE sings the song.*)

**SONG**                    "**MY LUCKY STAR**" (*Diane Parks/Jenn Parks*)

When I was a little girl, my father said to me,  
"Ev'rybody has a star that shows what's meant to be.  
And all you have to do to make your dreams come true,  
Is wish upon that lucky star, and love will come to you."  
So I'll thank my Lucky Star,  
That you are who you are - what you are.  
Love! You're love to me.  
And I will always think of you this way.  
For in this world of darkness, I look up to you each night.  
You save me from its starkness,  
You make everything alright!  
My star! My Lucky Star!  
Even when it's cloudy, in my heart you shine.  
For the thing that makes you special is, you're mine.

(*Towards the song's end the sound and lights slowly fade out to complete darkness and silence. It finishes with a tight special on Diane Parks.*) **Song over**

## **Scene 2      "Aboard the Spaceship"**

*Cosmic background music is played, minimalist, ethereal, conveying the vastness of space. Occasionally there is interspersed snippets of "The Klaxo Radio Hour" - along with Diane*

*Parks' hit song. These were the some of the first man made signals to leave earth and are currently our furthest extension.*

***Gradually bring up eerie blue and green light to reveal the interior control room of a small interstellar spacecraft and the backs of three seats placed behind elaborate control panels and a view-screen of deep space. The audience hears dialogue and sees the high backed chairs swivel and move, but does not see the speakers, at first.***

*[The aliens come from a great galactic confederation of numerous species, which is generally centered around the galactic hub where the stars are most dense. Their civilization is very old, staid and technologically advanced. Aliens #1 and 2 are photosynthesis-based humanoids, rather smallish and green. They come from a very old and cautious culture that has lost most of its zeal and zest for life. They exude equanimity to the extreme, and speak in clipped monotones with a dispassionate, succinct and semi-scientific manner. The third alien developed from an herbivore based evolution and comes from a comparatively young culture. His curiosity and exuberance appalls the other two but is tolerated because of his ability to take risks. He is animal-like and humanoid.]*

**Alien #2:** Detecting weak electro-magnetic radiation, ... amplitude modulated....appears to be .... Non-random.

**Alien #1:** *(slightly concerned)* **Non**-random? Verify and explain non-random. Identify patterning.

**#2:** *(looking at instruments)* Non-randomness verified. Multiple patterning confirmed. Identification -- language or some form there of. Probability, point eight two.

**#1:** Very unusual. Locate source and distance.

**Alien #3:** *(standing up, with gusto)* Ah **ha!** My hypothesis is confirmed - auto-ontogenesis in the outer spiral arms. Life forms! I told you they could develop out here.