

# RAINMAKER

**Rainmaker is an original musical by Jan Stroud inspired by a traditional story of the Tzutujil Maya from Guatemala. It incorporates ideas and concepts held by Native American Indians, involving animal power and the lessons they can bring to people (medicine) and draws on ancient Inca belief systems. It is essentially a moral story, shedding light on the whole human condition. The original music is an eclectic mix of styles, drawing from Latin American, Afro-Caribbean, rock and American Indian.**

**Rainmaker** is designed, as are all our musicals, to offer a flexible format that can be adapted to fit your requirements but we feel that this musical presents an outstanding opportunity to create a really spectacular production, with artwork, costume and dance to match the high quality and dramatic music. The story, music and pageants provide a wealth of material for whole-school work across the curriculum that links to environmental and multi-cultural themes. The musical is particularly suitable for festivals and Arts projects and makes a stunning production whatever time of year.

Both the music and play are challenging and will engage pupils to the age of 13. Infants also enjoy involvement in some dramatic pageants, in addition to dance, art activities and mask making. The music is designed to offer opportunities for soloists, to challenge and develop an able choir and is the element most enjoyed by the children. The running-time of a full production is just over 1 hour.

## The Story

**Rainmaker** begins with a song establishing the villagers as 'Children of the Sun'. Four children from the village beset by severe drought, wonder at the disastrous turn taken by their lives. They feel abandoned. Chep's mother reminds them of the 'blueprint' of care required of everyone originally, set out by 'Creator'. These ideas are expanded through the first song. Chep's mother suggests that the drought is a result of humans forgetting to follow this blueprint and tells the children the legend of Apu Illapu, the Rainmaker whose helpers bring different kinds of rain according to the colour of the cloaks they wear. The children hear of Kongan Hab who wears a purple cloak and brings the Heavy Downpour Rain which has killed Nawbey, her husband and, with Chep a very reluctant follower, they set out to find the Rainmakers and discover what has gone wrong. They meet with a snake, who shows them that animals have powers from which they can learn. Through the song, 'True Colours', the children develop an understanding that their true nature will be discovered and tested through their experiences.

The children then meet with a group of frogs whose 'ribbit' calls down the Thunder god, a larger-than-life comic character with a group of sycophantic followers. He tells the children that they will find Apu Illapu and the Rainmakers in the mountains. Reaching the mountains, they discover a very large bear guarding the entrance to a cave. Chep realises that the bear seems fierce only because he is 'Loco for a Coconut'. He enlists the help of a group of parrots, who collect fruit to feed the bear. No longer hungry but still rather 'loco', the bear tells the children where to find the Rainmakers.

Through the song, 'Lord of Rain', the children ask for the drought to be lifted. Apu Illapu explains that the drought is a result of a rebellion by Kongan Hab and a group of renegade Rainmakers who have occupied their cave and stolen the coloured capes, using only the destructive purple of Heavy Downpour rain. Encouraged by one particular Rainmaker and demonstrating his new-found bravery, Chep enters the cave where he finds Kongan Hab, a deeply sinister and evil Rainmaker, guarding the coloured cloaks. The snake returns to help by wrapping himself around Kongan Hab, while the other animals herd the rebels into a corner of the cave. This allows Chep to collect the coloured cloaks but Kongan Hab breaks free from the snake and strikes Chep with his mace causing major injuries. Chep manages to crawl out of the cave with the cloaks, which he returns to Apu Illapu.

In recognition of finding the courage to liberate the cloaks even though it is proving fatal, Apu Illapu makes Chep a Rainmaker and awards him his 'true colours' symbolised by a multi-coloured cloak. As he dies, Chep discovers that the Rainmaker who had encouraged him is in fact his father Nawbey.

Apu Illapu then banishes Kongan Hab and the rebels, and sends the remaining children back to their village to tell what has happened with the promise that if they call for him he, along with Chep, Nawbey and the other Rainmakers, will answer their call. The children return to their village to tell Chep's mother that, although it cost him his life, her son has restored the cloaks to the Rainmakers and has rejoined his father as a Rainmaker. Apu Illapu with the Rainmakers including Chep and Nawbey fly to the village, lifting the drought and ending the musical by establishing the villagers as 'Children of the Stars'.

## The Pageants

The story is set in a land of mountains and rainforests, somewhere in Central or northern South America.

1. The Creation Pageant –whole cast limitless number
2. Scene 1. Outside a cave in the mountains – Rainmakers, Kongan Hab and rebels
3. Scene 2. A village in Central America – Children of the Sun cast, limitless number
4. Scene 3. The Rainforest Pageant
  - i) Animal medicine – Dragonfly, Butterfly, Chameleon, Snake, Chep + friends, rainforest animals
  - ii) Thunder god and Frogs - thunder god, cronies, children, frogs
5. Scene 4. South American / Caribbean pageant. Children, Bear, Parrots, animals, Caribbean cast
6. Scene 5. The Fight - Apu Illapu and Rainmakers, Kongan Hab and rebels, children, Snake, Shaman
7. Scene 6. The Rainmaker- Children of the Sun cast, Children of the Stars cast, whole cast except Kongan Hab and rebels.

## **Characters**

**The Shaman**

**Chep - a small child (musical solo)**

**Ignacio, Juanita and Relda - friends of Chep**

**Chep's mother (musical solo)**

**Villagers - Children of the Sun - limitless number**

**Animals - limitless number -26 mentioned in first song alone**

**Anaconda - the snake**

**3 Frogs - many more for Rock and Roll dance**

**Thunder god (musical solo)**

**Thunder god's cronies - up to 15**

**Apu Illapu - the Lord of Rain**

**Rainmakers - up to 20 all with different coloured capes**

**Nawbey - Chep's father**

**Bear**

**Parrots / Exotic birds - up to 20**

**Caribbean cast - Animals, children, steel band etc**

**Kongan Hab - Leader of the Rebel Rainmakers**

**Rebel rainmakers - up to 10**

**Dragonfly (musical solo)**

## The Music

### Backing Tracks

We know that children respond brilliantly to our backing tracks. We feel that the broadcast quality of the recording helps you to present a very professional production and motivates the children to perform at the highest level. You can listen to all our music and songs on our website and also on **SoundCloud** and **Facebook**.

### Piano/Vocal score

This is available for a live performance, rehearsal or conductor's score. If you would like to see more pages from this score than are available on our website please contact: [info@firesticksandsong.com](mailto:info@firesticksandsong.com) or telephone +44 (0) 1803 813977

### Band parts

The 7 band parts replicate the orchestration really well. This is done mainly through the use of 4 keyboards with simple drum, guitar and bass arrangements. It is possible to substitute real instruments for some of the keyboard parts, or to use just the Keyboard 1 part, maybe with some guitar and percussion. The band parts are an optional feature. Please contact us for further samples: [info@firesticksandsong.com](mailto:info@firesticksandsong.com) or telephone +44 (0) 1803 813977

### Vocal guide tracks

The vocal tracks help children to 'pick up' the songs, however difficult, after listening only a few times. For these reasons, we used professional male musical theatre actors to demonstrate dramatic character, good singing technique and diction, which should make teaching the songs even easier. Instructions for soloists and groupings are also in the text of the script. Some organisations may prefer a 'live' performance so we also include a full vocal / piano score with a fairly challenging piano accompaniment. As CDs may not be copied, many groups choose to purchase the vocal tracks on CD for the cast and choir. Alternatively, a licence to copy can be purchased.

## The Songs

Rainmaker provides an opportunity to develop an able choir, so we recommend that a static, core choir of your best singers is present at all times, perhaps disguised as 'Children of the Stars' to avoid the feeling that they are not incorporated in the dramatic action. Grouping for each song is as follows:

**You can listen to samples of all songs on our website – (audio gallery, button icon and again at the bottom of the page for each musical) - as well as on Facebook and SoundCloud.**

**CREATOR:** Chorus and whole cast sections, split into two groups for the overlapping phrases.

**CHILDREN OF THE SUN:** Chorus, Chep and Friends

**THE GIFT:** Chep (Solo) Mother (Solo) Chorus and Friends

**TRUE COLOURS:** Dragonfly (Solo) Butterfly (Solo) Chameleon (Solo) Choir, Friends and Rainforest animals.

**WIRED FOR SOUND:** Thunder god (Solo) Frogs, Chorus  
**LOCO FOR A COCONUT:** Bear (Solo) Chep (Solo) Parrots, Chorus, Animals  
**LORD OF RAIN:** Chorus, Children, Animals  
**CREATOR REPRISE:** Whole Cast except Kongan Hab and Rebels  
**CHILDREN OF THE STARS:** Whole cast  
**BUTTERFLY (musical solo)**  
**CHAMELEON (musical solo)**

**From a Choirmaster**

**"I have a Choir of 110 children. They all love singing your amazing songs. Self esteem and confidence shine through when they perform on stage to their parents. They are always so proud of what they do. So am I! The quality songs and thought provoking scripts captivate the children and they perform with such enthusiasm – it's quite emotional at times!"**

## Script Samples

Rainmaker' is one of the most spectacular musicals available to you and most organisations, in addition to delighting and impressing audiences, make a substantial profit through a modest ticket charge. We know from the many e-mails, phone calls and videos we have received, that schools and theatre groups around the world really love this musical, which has been described by Guy Fletcher, Chairman of the Performing Rights Society as 'West-end bound' and by Cameron Macintosh as 'fun and accessible'. We hope that, after listening to our broadcast quality songs and music, and reading the following you will choose to perform it too.

### Introduction

*Shaman.* In the very beginning was an emptiness outside our imagination. No light and no darkness. No hot and no cold. No up and no down. To call it a 'void' doesn't come near to explaining the vastness.  
And then ... movement ... the first movement ... that in this story we call Viracocha – the Creator.

**Song 1 – Creator.** *(As this song progresses, all the animals come onto the stage making a whole creation pageant in which Apu Illapu and the Rainmakers, along with Kongan Hab and his supporters, play a major part. Split the choir / singers into several groups. Best danced with static choir. There is a five minute animation to project during this song if desired)*

ALL

Creator made the earth and the heavens, the seas, the lakes, the land  
Creator set the earth and the heavens apart when time began  
To the earth he gave the waters, dividing lands afar  
To the heavens he gave the rainbow, sun and moon and stars

SMALLER GROUP OF BEST SINGERS

Stars of heaven dance on by powdering the evening skies  
Sun by day send heat and light, brother moon will rule the night

ALL

Creator made the hills and the rivers, the forest, and the plains  
Creator blew wind from the heavens, sent lightning hail and rain  
To the earth where rocky mountains and hills made green by trees  
Received the teeming waters and sent them to the sea

ENTER RAINMAKERS, KONGAN HAB and REBELS

ALL

Lightning cackle, thunder roar, hail will rattle rain will pour  
Summer Autumn Winter Spring circle round and seasons bring

ENTER BIRDS AND FISH

ALL

Creator made the creatures who swim in the sea and fly through air  
Creator knew where each would be happy to live and placed him there  
To the seas he gave the dolphin, the turtle and the whale  
To the skies he gave the eagle, raven, hawk and quail  
Those with fins and those with wings, all the creeping crawling things  
Those who swim and those who fly, find your ocean find your sky

ENTER ALL ANIMALS

CHOIR IN GROUPS

GROUP 1

Creator made the rat and bat and frog and toad and elephant  
Creator made wasp and bee, Creator made both you and me

GROUP 2

Tiger, fox and dragonfly, those who run or flutter by  
Rabbit, hedgehog, kangaroo, those who look like me and you

GROUP 1

Lizard and chameleon, antelope and pelican  
Zebra and rhinoceros, Creator made all of us

SPOKEN or SUNG by CREATOR

Every colour, every line - Camouflage or bold design  
Man alone became defined by a blueprint just like mine

ENTER WHOLE CAST

ALL

Creator made a beautiful world for everyone to share  
Creator put man and woman on earth to take great care  
Of a world that needs defenders when monsters show their might  
And all those who need befrienders to show them what is right  
I will watch you from above; Let your heart fill with my love

Every woman every man - Live according to the plan.

Creator    Creator    Creator

*Shaman.*            There you have it then ... at the start of things it was all set up beautifully. A fantastic world for us to share and a blueprint of care underneath it all. Viracocha made a beautiful world, filled with the love of creation. The earth was divided from the heavens and the skies were filled with myriad stars sparkling with beauty. An iridescent carpet was laid, that we call the Milky Way, as a pathway from the world below to the great beyond ... a bridge over which the ancestors travelled at the end of the journey of life to become Star Children ... and over which the Star Children returned to the Earth. And some of these Star Children became Rainmakers. But something went wrong, not down below on Earth, but up above. With the Rainmakers.

Scene 1. Outside a cave in the mountains.

*(Apu Illapu and the Rainmakers with Kongan Hab and his followers sit outside the cave. Apu Illapu wears robes and feathers, and carries a mace of office. Inside the cave, hanging from stalactites, are cloaks of different colours.)*

*Apu Illapu.*            We must now order our work for the coming season. We must make sure that each region receives from us the rain it needs. We must wear the white cloaks to bring the Cool Mountain Rain to fall at midday on the pastures and fields. We will also need the yellow cloaks to bring our Late Afternoon Rain

*Kongan Hab.*        *(Sneering)* And just why should we do this?

*Apu Illapu.*            This is the task. This is why we are here. This is our part in Viracocha's blueprint.

*Kongan Hab.*            According to you. You think you know everything, just because you carry Viracocha's mace. But I know better. Viracocha gave us power and we should use it. The purple cloaks of Heavy Downpour Rain are what power is all about. With the purple cloaks we can pour our torrents on the mountains, fill the rivers and then rest. No more of this pathetic dripping. The white and yellow cloaks are feeble. And so are you!

*(He grabs the mace. His followers move to block the entrance to the cave.)*

*Apu Illapu.*            You cannot overturn the blueprint. You do not know what you are doing. You will unleash dreadful damage to the world.

*Kongan Hab.*            And who will stop me. You? I think not. I have the mace now ... and I have the cloaks. *(To Followers.)* Put on the purple cloaks and we will show our strength.

*Shaman.*                And so it happened. Kongan Hab and his rebels roared over the world creating flash floods wherever they went and not caring at all who got in their way. And now our story moves to a village directly affected by Kongan Hab's rebellion. Nawbey, one of the elders of the village has been killed in one of the

floods and because the proper rains have not been falling, the whole village is suffering from a severe drought.

## Second script sample

*Juanita.* We're not frogs, we're people.

*Frog 2.* (Ribbit, ribbit) People? Never heard of them. (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Relda.* And we're looking for the Rainmakers.

*Frog 3.* Rainmakers. (Ribbit, ribbit) Don't know about Rainmakers.

*Frog 1.* Do they make rain then, these Rainmakers? (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 2.* Sounds like they ought to. (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Chep.* Of course they make rain ... and you have lots of rain here.

*Frog 3.* That we do (Ribbit, ribbit). But it just happens (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 1.* Now if you asked about THUNDER. (Ribbit, ribbit) (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 2.* We know about thunder. (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 3.* We call to the Thunder god. (Ribbit, ribbit) (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 1.* And sometimes when he comes (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 2.* And it really thunders (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Frog 3.* It rains too (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Shaman.* The frogs have a power that you can use.

*Frog 1.* Do you want us to call him (Ribbit, ribbit)

*Ignacio.* Yes.

*Frogs.* (Ribbit, ribbit) (Ribbit, ribbit) (Ribbit, ribbit) (Ribbit, ribbit)

*(Thunder god appears with gang of cronies. Larger than life figure, perhaps dressed in leather with studs etc, wielding a sling that he uses to hurl bolts of lightning [might be achieved using party poppers], which he does a lot. Shouts a lot ... very bombastic ... finds it hard to concentrate.)*

*Thunder God.* What do you frogs want?



*Cronies.* Yes. What d'you want? Ribbiting on all day and night! No let up from you lot! Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit! No stopping you. You tell 'em boss!

*Frog 2.* These 'people' want you. They want to know about Rainmakers.

*Thunder god.* Rainmakers! What about Rainmakers?

*Cronies.* Rainmakers! What next! Who do they think we are? Walking guide books? You don't have to put up with this boss. Tell 'em to go and jump!

*Juanita.* We're searching for the Rainmakers?

*Relda.* We've had no rain.

*Chep.* Well only the wrong sort of rain.

*Ignacio.* It's called Kongan Hab! Heavy Downpour Rain.

*Juanita.* And it's destroying us.

*Relda.* But we need good rain.

*Chep.* To make our plants grow.

*Ignacio.* For us to eat.

*Juanita.* And grow strong.

*Thunder god.* Rainmakers. You want the Rainmakers?

*Cronies.* They're at it now boss. You don't have to listen to them. People ... what are they anyway.

*Thunder god.* If you lot don't button it, you'll be getting a bolt of lightning where you don't expect it!

*Cronies.* Sorry boss. Didn't mean it boss. Only trying to help, Your Raucousness. We're with you boss.

*Thunder god.* For the last time!  
(Cronies dissolve into silence but still with a bit of muttering.)

*Thunder god.* Now then! Rainmakers you said. I do know the Rainmakers, but I am the Thunder God!

*Shaman.* He's the Thunder God alright! And you've only just begun to see what a racket he can make.

### **Song 5 – Wired for Sound**

(THUNDER GOD)

Have you ever wondered why the rumble of a thunderbolt  
Can really sock it to you if you're wired for sound  
It's gonna hit you with a hundred thousand volts  
I'll tell you why I rattle - tell you why I roll  
The music's running through me from my veins straight to my soul  
So large it up - I'm chargin' up - Rock and Roll

(FROGS and CHOIR)

When we want to party  
When we want some noise  
We ribet to call for the boys  
Everybody's jumpin' we all love to dance  
They're our favourite partners when we feel in the mood  
They've got the rhythms and we've got the moves  
To put us in the proper party groove

[Instrumental verse for dance]

(Frogs)

When you're feeling moody when you're feeling sad  
Hop straight down to my pad  
We can make you happy soon you're feeling glad  
There's no better 'pick me up'  
Stamp your feet and lift 'em up  
Let's get ready to roll Rock and Roll

(Everyone)

There's no need to grumble at the rumble of a thunderbolt  
It's not electrocution if you're wired for sound  
Let it hit you with a hundred thousand volts  
And you can feel the rattle you can feel the roll  
The music's running through you  
From your veins straight to your soul  
So large it up we're chargin' up Rock and Roll

## **Third Script Sample**

*Bear.* I'm so hungry. I haven't had a square meal since I don't know when. (grrrr) And why don't I know when? Because I can't sort out my thoughts. (grrrr) And why can't I sort out my thoughts? Because I can't rest. (grrrr) And without rest I can't think. Well why can't I rest then? Because I'm so hungry. (grrrr) I haven't had a square meal since I don't know when. And why don't I know when? (grrrr) Because I can't sort out my thoughts. And why can't I sort out my thoughts? (grrrr) Because I can't rest. And without rest I can't think. (grrrr) Well why can't I rest then? Because I'm so hungry. (grrrr)

*(Bear continues to repeat this monologue throughout the scene without acknowledging Chep or taking notice of the action, until the beginning of the song.)*

Juanita. He's huge and looks really ferocious.

Ignacio. Look at those claws!

Relda. And look at the size of his teeth.

Shaman. Look beyond what you see.

*Chep.* This bear seems more unhappy than fierce.  
Hey there! Bear! Bear! He doesn't seem to have noticed me. Hey Bear!  
*(Shouts)* Bear! No, he's not with me at all. But what's he saying? Hungry?  
Well I know how he feels.

*Shaman.* Can you do anything about it?

*Chep.* What did the Snake say? Change how you look at things. Hmm. If he wasn't hungry, then he'd go away. So how can I feed him? Are there any animals around that could help me?

*Shaman.* You're beginning to get the idea.

*Chep.* Perhaps the parrots? Bears like sweet things. They could get fruit. But they can't understand me. Change the way I look at things.

*Shaman.* Believe in yourself.

*Chep.* Parrots! Will you get me some fruit for the bear. *(No response)*  
I've got to believe in myself. Really believe! Try again!  
Parrots! Get me some fruit for the bear.

*Parrots.* Yeah! OK Man! You want fruit. We get fruit. Cummon brothers!  
We get mango. And melon. And banana. And pawpaw.

**Song 6 – Loco for a Coconut.**

*(GRUMPY BEAR)*

For a tiny taste of mango, man, I'm going crazy  
I'm bananas for bananas, I like them ripe or green  
Even though I have a passion for fashion  
I'd sell my suit for a passion fruit  
And I'd go loco for a coconut  
There is nothing that is nicer than a slice of ice cold melon  
Nothing more that I desire than papaya for my tea  
Even though I need my money for honey  
I'd lose my loot for a ripe breadfruit

And I'd go loco for a coconut

(CHEP)

That bear in there who tears his hair, who rants and raves  
Is going loco for a coconut and listing all the fruit he craves  
He isn't really very fright'ning there's no need to be scared  
If we gave him what he wanted he'd be a teddy-bear

(PARROTS)

Yo! man stay cool, don't go breakin' de golden rule  
Life is too short to make all this fuss  
You gotta hang loose and depend on us  
'Cause we know a place where melons grow big as your hairy face  
Coconuts hang out on tall palm trees  
And you're gonna love this it all comes free  
All steel band fans flock to the land that time forgot  
And you can take it as a general rule it's cool but man those pans are hot

The sunny Caribbean coast is where we mostly play  
Then wine and dine at Al Fresco's with a fruity take-away

(STEEL BAND INTERLUDE)

We gotta lotta tasty mango man you're gonna love it!  
You're bananas for bananas we know you like them ripe or green  
Though we know you have a passion for fashion  
Don't sell your suit here's a passion fruit  
And don't go loco here's a coconut

There is nothing that is nicer than a slice of ice cold melon  
'Cept the one thing you desire a papaya for your tea  
You can store those pots of money for honey and save your loot  
Here's a ripe breadfruit and (*spoken hysterically*) he'll go loco!  
A bunch of coconuts!

**RAINMAKER** is protected under Copyright Laws.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher.

**Photocopying this copyright material is illegal**