

THE BALLAD OF PHINEAS McBOOF

Characters (7-24)

Phineas McBoof.....The charismatic rock star monkey
Backbone The Octopus.....The world's only 8-armed drummer
Sidney The Beak.....The rappin' songbird with attitude
Doctor Noize.....The protégé who learned to rock
Bottomus The Hip Popotamus..The groovy hippo bassmaster, Baby!
Riley The Robot.....The synthtastic robot poet of song
Lenny Long Tail.....The yodelin' fiddlin' cowboy lizard
Chorus Chameleons.....Are many things to many people!

FULL SYNOPSIS

Note: Text in red indicates plot moments in the FULL VERSION that are not in the JUNIOR VERSION.

ACT 1

A Band of colorful characters bursts onto stage, introducing an interactive musical and teaching the Audience to sing along. They sing a song about the legendary Phineas McBoof, the rock star monkey who made audiences go crazy but has mysteriously disappeared — and introduce themselves as Phineas' International Band Of Misunderstood Geniuses. Phineas may be gone, but his music lives on.

A flashback to Phineas' glory days shows Phineas and his band of four monkeys playing their huge island hit, *Don't Monkey With My Heart*. Phineas sings "Set me free!" and "Go where you wanna be!" over screaming concert fans who are so overcome with love for him — a condition called Monkeymania — that they can hardly even hear or see the real Phineas anymore.

So Phineas makes a shocking decision. One night, he hops on a rowboat and leaves the island he rules to refocus on his true passion: Music. On a peaceful and quiet ocean, he's interrupted by a curious character: Backbone The Octopus, the world's only 8-armed drummer, who's intrigued to meet a monkey with a guitar. Overcoming Phineas' hesitation to form another band, Backbone wins the monkey over, and they write and play a song together in various musical meters and instrumentations. Backbone gives Phineas the Bandleader necklace she made for the day she joined a band, and they pledge to work together to write The World's Greatest Song.

They arrive at a deserted island to find a hippo in shades rocking bass solos. Bottomus The Hip Popotamus tells them of his songs about love yet his struggles to get others to love his music at home, and they inspire him to join their new Band, called The International Band Of Misunderstood Geniuses. The three rock an ode to Phineas' true love, *Banana*, on the island.

Invigorated by friendship and shared musicianship, they launch their world tour. Along the way, they discover a factory where they meet Riley The Robot, who is supposed to be manufacturing whatchama-gadgets in silence, but is instead humming, singing and making up rhymes as she works. Showing the rugged individualism of a poet, the heart of a musician, and wicked synthesizer skills, the Band invites her to join them — and she immediately leaves her post at the factory to do so. As she leaves her "home," they write and sing a song called *My Parents Think They're Very Important*.

The Band's tour becoming more and more popular, they stumble on a classical music concert that piques their curiosity. Expressing their excitement as at a rock show, the Band is quickly scolded by stuffy members of the audience for interrupting the sanctity of the show. Suddenly Lenny Long Tail — a yodeling, fiddling lizard — leaps onstage to play country fiddle over Mozart. The crowd does not approve, and boos — but the Band loves his rebellious creativity and asks him to join them. They write and play the world's first country song about a robot, called "What My Robot Said."

Riley's batteries expire and she powers out. Backbone recharges her as the Band decides it's time for a food break. As the Band leaves the stage, Riley — who does not eat — stays behind to provide Intermission Ambience with one of her World Famous Improvisatory Stream-Of-Artificial Consciousness Keyboard Fantasias. It's Intermission time.

ACT 2

Riley returns to finish her Intermission Fantasia. One by one, the members of The International Band Of Misunderstood Geniuses peek out to ask Riley when the show starts up again, and she announces them onto the stage before they're quite ready. They gamely slap together a song that becomes more and more virtuosic and energized with the addition of each new instrument, until all but Phineas are onstage harmonizing to a refrain that asks "Where is Phineas?" Lenny passes out singing a way-too-long climactic note, and the band decides Phineas would say "On With The Show!"

Phineas and his new Band are becoming more and more popular — not just on the island this time, but worldwide. The Band's starting to find it's hard for them to go anywhere without being recognized. In a remote part of the world, they find someone just the opposite — a guitarist and singer who's struggling to find his audience because he takes himself a bit too seriously. They watch him simultaneously offend and bore his audience to sleep, and then hop on stage to save his show, awakening and invigorating both him and his audience with a song and dance number called *The Funky Monkey*.

Amazed at this lesson in inspiring a crowd, the newly-named Doctor Noize agrees to become a protégé to Phineas and The Band. Getting closer and closer to their goal of writing The World's Greatest Song, they journey through the forest to find a flock of birds whistling in harmony — except one. Sidney The Beak is a rappin' songbird who refuses to sing along with the other birds, and instead raps over their songs. The other birds hate Sidney's style and attitude — but The International Band Of Misunderstood Geniuses loves it. She's in.

Finally fully realized, The Band returns with enthusiasm to completing composition of The World's Greatest Song. On a break, Doctor Noize approaches the aloof Phineas and asks if he could become an awesome bandleader like him someday. "No," Phineas replies, disappointing the Doc — until he adds, "But you've learned your own brand of awesome to be a bandleader like *you*." The Band finishes writing The World's Greatest Song and votes — against Phineas' wishes — to return to Phineas' home island to premiere it.

On premiere night on the island, Phineas and his new Band step onstage to wild euphoria from the audience. They introduce the song, launch it — and are promptly drowned out by screaming fans in a state of monkeymania. Unable to hear their greatest creation, Phineas and the Band flee the stage, which the adoring crowd doesn't even notice in their giddy cheering. The Band notices Phineas' deep sadness that his fans never even *heard* his greatest song.

Seizing the moment to step up and inspire his mentor in return, Doctor Noize leads The Band in a reimagining of an old Phineas island hit to raise the monkey's spirits, ultimately leading them in a

rousing revival of "Go Where You Wanna Be" and enticing Phineas to start jamming with them again. But the Doc has planted an unexpected idea in Phineas' head...

As Phineas ponders things, Backbone and Doctor Noize harmonize on a new song they've been writing together, *Are You Awesome?* The Band, **and then the Audience**, joins them in singing a song about summoning your courage and love of life to go be awesome in exactly what you want to do. Ironically, every member of Phineas' International Band Of Misunderstood Geniuses has done precisely that — with the possible exception of Phineas.

The Band celebrates their affirming song, and Bottomus asks Backbone to sing them their own lullaby to fall asleep to. She agrees, and Backbone and Phineas sit down together — the original dynamic duo of this wonderful Band — to sing one more song. As Doctor Noize accompanies them on guitar and the others fall asleep, Backbone and Phineas sing perfect harmonies about their friends in The Band, and Phineas admires how great Backbone's become. It fades to night.

In the morning, Phineas awakes before the rest of The Band. He goes to each Band member nostalgically, staying the longest beside Backbone. Then he leaves the stage. He returns shortly to place a note and his Bandleader necklace beside Doctor Noize. He thanks The Band as they sleep, pauses a moment... and leaves for good. One by one, The Band awakes and realizes with sadness and uncertainty what has just developed.

Doctor Noize sings Phineas' note to them — a note written in song that tells them he's on to his next adventure and it's time for them to grow without him. The note pays tribute to each Band member, tells them he hopes they carry on playing the songs they've written together, encourages Doctor Noize to take over leadership of The Band, and assures them that fans will continue to value the wonderful things they do.

Realizing their leader is gone, The Band has a decision to make. One by one, upon reflection, they pledge their allegiance to continuing their work as a Band without Phineas. Doctor Noize is reluctant to take up the Bandleader necklace, but Backbone insists. Her loyalty and belief — her most beautiful attributes — mean the world to him.

Sidney The Beak turns directly to the Audience to reflect on The Band's tale in poetic verse. She encourages them to play their own song in life and be ready for the moment when your Band passes through and gives you the opportunity to both join and lead. Then Doctor Noize leads The Band in a brand new song of their own creation, *I'm With The Band*, joyously reaffirming their decision to carry on. They close with a reimagining of the opening number, updating the tale of Phineas McBoof to become the tale of the larger experience of The Band.

As a final homage to the enigmatic monkey who brought us all together on this fine day, all sing and take bows to a reprise of the monkey's main song, *Banana*.

THE END.