

~~SCUTTLE~~

~~I'm tellin' ya kid, on the open sea, ya won't get more than a few clams. But I'm prepared to offer~~

-

~~ARIEL~~

~~I'm not selling it, Scuttle! I'm saving it for my collection!~~

-

~~SCUTTLE~~

~~Howza 'bout a swap? (brandishes an old-fashioned tobacco pipe with an enormous bowl.) I got something stupelicious! Museum quality, really. A banded, bulbous...snarfblatt. (ARIEL and FLOUNDER "ooh" and "aaah".) Second cousing to the tuba.~~

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~~FLOUNDER~~

~~It makes music?~~

-

~~SCUTTLE~~

~~Sure thing, kid. (FLOUNDER blows into the pipe; seaweed pops out the other end) I ain't just blowin' smoke. Why, it makes music so fantabulous—so absolutely marvica—~~

-

~~ARIEL~~

~~(suddenly stricken with panic) Music? Oh no! Oh my gosh, my father's gonna kill me!~~

-

~~FLOUNDER~~

~~The concert was today?~~

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~~**#3A. OH NO, THE CONCERT**~~

-

~~ARIEL~~

~~I completely forgot! Come on, Flouder. Thank you, Scuttle.~~

-

~~SCUTTLE~~

~~Ya change your mind and wanna sell, call me first, ya hear?~~

~~**SCENE TWO: KING TRITON'S COURT**~~

~~(Our eyes adjust to the murky depths of the sea; a school of silver FISH flicker past in perfect formation, their tails flashing with iridescent light. Three or four diaphanous JELLYFISH undulate in the gentle current. It's a tranquil, pleasant place, this seabed at the bottom of the ocean floor. A trumpet blast summons everyone to King Triton's Court; MERMEN, MERMAIDS, STING RAYS, CRUSTACEANS and a myriad of wonderful SEA CREATURES. KING TRITON enters, flanked by two SEAHORSES. His Royal Court is now officially in session. Everyone swims to attention. Beneath TRITON's imposing presence and commanding nature lurks the harried single father of seven girls. He holds a trident like a scepter.)~~

~~KING TRITON~~

~~Benevolent Merfolk! Creatures of the Deep! Today marks a special anniversary – for many years ago, on this fateful day, I inherited my father's Kingdom and banished the Sea Witch Ursula forever!~~

~~ALL SEA CREATURES~~

~~Hail, King Triton!~~

~~(KING TRITON laughs, delighted by their devotion to him.)~~

KING TRITON

And so, it's time to celebrate our victory! In honor of the occasion, may I introduce our Master of Ceremonies....

(The seahorses WINDWARD and LEEWARD swim forward.)

WINDWARD

Presenting the Court Composer ---

LEEWARD

Horatio Thelonius Ignatius Crustaceous Sebastian!

(The crab SEBASTIAN scrambles forward. He speaks with a Jamaican accent.)

SEBASTIAN

(to the crowd) Mornin' to ya'll! *(The crowd whistles for SEBASTIAN)*

KING TRITON

So, tell us, what have you in store?

SEBASTIAN

I got a special song, just for the occasion! And it's gonna be performed by none other dan your seven love-lee daughters! I wrote this little number for my star pupil ---

KING TRITON

(knowing full well) And who might that be?

SEBASTIAN

Your youngest! Ariel! Such a voice, dat child! Notes as clear as ice, pitch as pure as water! Why, I haven't heard such magnificent sound since -- well --
....

KING TRITON

(finishing SEBASTIAN's thought, touched)since Her Royal Highness, may she rest in peace.

SEBASTIAN

You're gonna be a proud Papa, you'll see! *(sotto)* If only she'd show up for rehearsals once in a while....

KING TRITON

Let the merriment begin!

(With that, six of KING TRITON's offspring -- all vivacious, winning young MERSISTERS -- swim onto the stage.)

~~#4. DAUGHTERS OF TRITON~~

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~~MERSISTERS~~

~~AH, WE ARE THE DAUGHTERS OF TRITON~~

~~GREAT FATHER WHO LOVES US AND NAMED US WELL~~

~~AQUATA, ANDRINA, ARISTA, ATINA, ADELLA, ALLANA AND ARIEL.~~

-

~~IN CONCERT WE HOPE TO ENLIGHTEN~~

~~THE HEARTS OF THE MERFOLK WITH MUSIC'S SWELL.~~

~~AQUATA (AHAAAAAAAAHA), ANDRINA (AHAAAAAAAAHA)~~

~~ARISTA, ATINA, ADELLA, ALLANA~~