

MICRO Christopher Norton's
MUSICALS

Vikings

for Selwyn Primary School, Highams Park, London

SCRIPT

SCRIPT

Stage directions are suggestions only.

Owners of a valid performance licence for **Micromusicals | Vikings** may photocopy this script.

SCENE 1

Stage left and right are land, and centre stage is the ocean.

There is a blue ocean backdrop or a sea image projection. SFX (Sound effect): ocean waves.

NARRATOR 1 Who were the Vikings? We think of frightening men with big beards, arriving from out of the darkness and laying waste to the British Isles. But as always, the truth is stranger than that...

Between 10 and 20 children form a longboat of VIKINGS centre stage. SFX fades.

1

16

31

SONG 1 | VIKINGS

(PAGE 13)

12 children positioned in two equal groups on either side of the stage are British VILLAGERS. The VIKINGS row their longboat in time with the music. Half of the VIKINGS should march out from the longboat to attack the VILLAGERS, who are suitably scared. One by one each VILLAGER is captured and marched to their grizzly fate at the back of the stage. This process continues as the whole cast sings the song:

ALL **Vikings in their longboats
came from Denmark
to terrify the local population.
They were warriors,
they were settlers.
They helped to build the modern British nation.**

(Repeat)

**No place was safe for three hundred years;
they were the focus of everyone's fears.
No-one could beat them -
they kept coming back
till they won and settled a kingdom.**

(Repeat all)



*forward
to next track*

SCENE 2

*optional incidental music
for scene change*

2

17

32

fade if required



forward to next track

A backdrop or projection of a map of Britain shows the key cities within Danelaw.

NARRATOR 2 As the song says, the Vikings kept coming back. There must have been something about the British Isles that appealed to them. Maybe it was the weather.

NARRATOR 1 Alfred the Great, king of Wessex way back in 871, had too many things on his mind. He couldn't completely defeat the Vikings so he had to find a way to do a deal with them.

- ALFRED** I just can't defeat the Vikings! There are too many of them and they are in too many places at once. I'm going to have to come to some kind of arrangement.
- COURTIER 1** What kind of arrangement?
- ALFRED** I think money talks with these people - they're not just raiders, they're traders. I might have to part with hard cash....
- COURTIER 2** Will it give us some breathing space?
- ALFRED** It might stop them attacking towns in our area. They've settled in London and York, but those places are too far away for me to worry about. I'll see if I can get a five year ceasefire out of them so that at least our kingdom is safe for a while.
- NARRATOR 1** Money did talk, and Alfred's treaty held for about five years. But after that the Vikings started attacking again, and only a blockade set up by Alfred gave his people some let-up.
- NARRATOR 2** Sadly a surprise attack saw many of Alfred's troops killed, and Alfred only just escaped with his life. But over time he rallied his people behind him and eventually beat the Vikings into submission.
- NARRATOR 1** At that point he decided that if the Vikings were prepared to only live in certain parts of the country he would agree to them staying. It was the best he could hope for.
- NARRATOR 2** And so the Vikings stayed - and in fact they're still here...

3

18

33

SONG 2 | ALFRED THE GREAT

(PAGE 16)

ALFRED THE GREAT moves to centre stage where he is seen paying two Vikings.
A group of other children slowly march around the stage carrying banners with the Viking names of cities in Danelaw (such as **Jorvik** and the modern equivalent, **York**), or maps of Danelaw that they have created. Other children could be pointing out key places on a large Danelaw map or projection, as everyone sings:

ALL **Alfred the Great then came to the throne.
He paid off the Vikings to leave him alone.
Five years of peace till they came back again,
then Alfred agreed that the Vikings remain
in Danelaw, in Danelaw.**

**Four hundred years - they had their own way;
brought peace and prosperity to the UK.
When Eric the last Viking king passed way
the Vikings became Britons living today
in Danelaw, in Danelaw.**

**London to Cambridge, from Goole to Scunthorpe,
Stamford to Ely, to Grimsby, to York...
The Vikings remain in the way that we talk,
the Vikings remain in the way that we walk
in Danelaw, in Danelaw, in Danelaw.**

SCENE 3optional incidental music
for scene change

4

19

34

fade if required



forward to next track

Valhalla - home of the Gods.

NARRATOR 3 Having learnt of how the Vikings came to live in Britain, we now will tell you about some of the stories that were important to them.

ODIN, THOR, FREY and FREYA enter, and stand side by side, centre stage.

NARRATOR 4 Norse myths were very important to the Vikings. They believed that there was an enormous hall located in Asgard called Valhalla which was ruled by Odin, the god of war. [*ODIN steps forward. SFX: war*] Alongside him was Thor, the god of thunder [*THOR steps forward. SFX: thunder*] and Frey, the god of prosperity. [*FREY steps forward. SFX: money*]

NARRATOR 3 There was also a goddess of love and beauty, called Freya. [*FREYA steps forward. SFX: harp*]

NARRATOR 4 Legend had it that warriors who died in battle went straight to Valhalla to rule with these gods.

5

20

35

SONG 3 | ODIN - THE GOD OF WAR

(PAGE 20)

ODIN, THOR, FREY and FREYA step forward once again as their names are sung. A small group of Vikings bring a dead Viking on stage to present to the gods who welcome him into Valhalla, as everyone sings:

ALL

**Odin - the god of war,
Thor - the god of thunder,
Frey - the god of prosperity;
gods to inspire wonder.**

**Freya - the goddess of love and beauty,
loved by the Norsemen, adored by the Danes.
All men who died in the heat of battle
went to Valhalla with the gods to reign.**

(Repeat)

forward
to next track

Odin's throne is positioned centre stage. ODIN takes his place on the throne.

ODIN Loki, the god of mischief, keeps making trouble, and the prophets say that his three children will cause even more serious mischief if left unchecked.

THOR Serious mischief?! We must act now! I hear the three children are already growing into terrible creatures and by all accounts they're headed for Asgard.

FREY They could threaten our prosperity.

ODIN Never mind prosperity! These creatures threaten our very existence! I'll do something about this as soon as they get close. They'll be no mischief here...

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SONG 4 | ODIN ON HIS THRONE

(PAGE 22)

ODIN continues to sit impressively on his throne. He looks around and sees three monsters, one of which is FENRIR the wolf. Rising from his throne, he casts the FIRST MONSTER into the sea (children wave blue material in front of the monster and roar as it leaves the stage) and the SECOND MONSTER into darkness (children wave black material in front of the monster and roar as it leaves the stage). FENRIR stands facing ODIN menacingly.

ALL

**Odin on his throne looked around him:
saw three monsters - the children of Loki.**

**Asgard was in danger;
the monsters threatened the city.**

**Odin threw one into the sea,
one was thrown into darkness.**

**But the third was a wolf;
its name was Fenrir.**

forward
to next track

(Repeat)

NARRATOR 1

So one child of Loki was thrown into the sea.

NARRATOR 2

The next child was thrown into outer darkness.

NARRATOR 1

But the third child, Fenrir, was a wolf - and the gods thought that they could use Tyr, the god of law [TYR steps forward], to keep him under control - even to feed him.

NARRATOR 2

But Fenrir kept getting bigger and bigger...

NARRATOR 3

and bigger...

NARRATOR 4

and bigger!

SCENE 4optional incidental music
for scene change

7

22

37

fade if required



forward to next track

Asgard - one of the nine worlds of Norse mythology.

8

23

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SONG 5 | FENRIR

(PAGE 24)

ODIN is seated in a semi-circle at the back of the stage with THOR, FREY, FREYA AND TYR. FENRIR is led centre stage by two Vikings. FENRIR grows by the addition of more children until at least triple the size, all the time snarling at the gods. TYR stands and silently commands FENRIR to sit. He does and is chained and then led off stage by TYR as everybody sings;

ALL

**Fenrir was brought to Asgard
where they hoped that they might tame him.**

But he grew more ferocious!

Only Tyr could control him.

forward
to next track

(Repeat)

SCENE 5

optional incidental music
for scene change

9

24

39

fade if required



forward to next track

A forge, where THOR is fashioning a chain on an anvil with a hammer. [SFX: blacksmith]

NARRATOR 1

The gods decided they had to bind Fenrir so they had strong chains made. After two of the chains were snapped like twigs, Thor offered to make a chain himself, forging it personally. He told the other gods not to be afraid - this would definitely solve the problem.

10

25

40

SONG 6 | DO NOT FEAR

(PAGE 26)

THOR continues to fashion the chain.

The other gods watch from behind (lit dimly) as he sings this song to the audience:

THOR

**Do not fear, don't be afraid.
With the help of my hammer I'll find a way.
With my chain I'll bind him fast.
I'll work in my forge till the break of day**

**Hammer on steel, sparks will fly.
The chain will be strong and no-one will die.**

ALL

**We won't fear, won't be afraid.
With the help of his hammer he'll find a way.
With the chain he'll bind him fast.
He'll work in his forge till the break of day**

**Hammer on steel, sparks will fly.
The chain will be strong and no-one will die.**

forward
to next track

SCENE 6

optional incidental music
for scene change

11

26

41

fade if required



forward to next track

Cavern of the Dwarves. A cauldron is placed centre stage around which many dwarves form a semi-circle.

NARRATOR 2

Unfortunately this didn't work either, so the gods sent a desperate message to the kingdom of the dwarves. The dwarves agreed to make a chain from six magical ingredients, deep in their underground caverns.

12

27

42

SONG 7 | TWO DAYS AND NIGHTS

(PAGE 30)

Some of the dwarves slowly pass a chain along the semi-circle from stage left to stage right, hammering it in time with the music, whilst others add the named ingredients to the cauldron, as everybody sings:

DWARVES

**Two days and nights to make a chain.
It will be so strong it won't break again.
Made from stones, the foot-fall of cats,
the beards of women and the skins of bears.
The spittle of birds and the voices of fish;
if you put them in the chain you will have your wish.**

(Repeat)

You will have your wish, you will have your wish.

**SCENE 7**

*optional incidental music
for scene change*

13**28****43***fade if required**forward to next track*

The halls of Valhalla, where a huge feast and celebration is taking place.

NARRATOR 3

The chain made by the dwarves had worked.
But there was one cruel twist still to come...

FENRIR

You have bound me at last. But to prove to you that I won't fight anymore,
let someone put his hand in my mouth while I test the chain one more time.

TYR

I have learned to trust him - I will do this...

FENRIR struggles and TYR's right hand is bitten off, but the chain holds.

ODIN

The sacrifice has been great, but the beast is defeated.

THOR

We are safe at last.

FREY

Make sure Loki doesn't have any more children!

ALL

The beast is defeated! Hooray! *[They all applaud and cheer.]*

14**29****44****SONG 8 | THE BEAST IS DEFEATED****(PAGE 32)**

*The gods are seated around a large table full of food and drink. More and more Vikings join the celebration.
In the background FENRIR is chained to a large rock.*

All

**The beast is defeated!
The chains have held fast.
Fenrir is beaten -
silent at last.**

**The gods in Valhalla
live safely once more.
Strife is forgotten;
peace is restored.**

**In praise of the Vikings
our feast has begun.
They came to our country
and now we are one.**

(Repeat)



15

30

45

SONG 9 | VIKINGS (REPRISE)

(PAGE 35)

Those children who were not on stage as Vikings in the previous song enter wearing modern-day clothes depicting the professions included in the final song. If possible one or two of the gods should be wearing modern day clothes underneath their mythological costume so that they can quickly change from god to teacher/accountant/businessperson on stage.

*You may wish to localise the song by changing the word 'Britain' to the name of your town/locality.

ALL

**Vikings in Mercedes
in their pin-stripes
are still at work and trading in the city.
They are teachers and accountants.
Forgetting where we came from is a pity.**

(Repeat)

**The Vikings live in Britain* today.
They've never left us, they're in the UK.
We are the Vikings, we keep coming back.
We came and settled a kingdom.**

(Repeat all)



THE END

