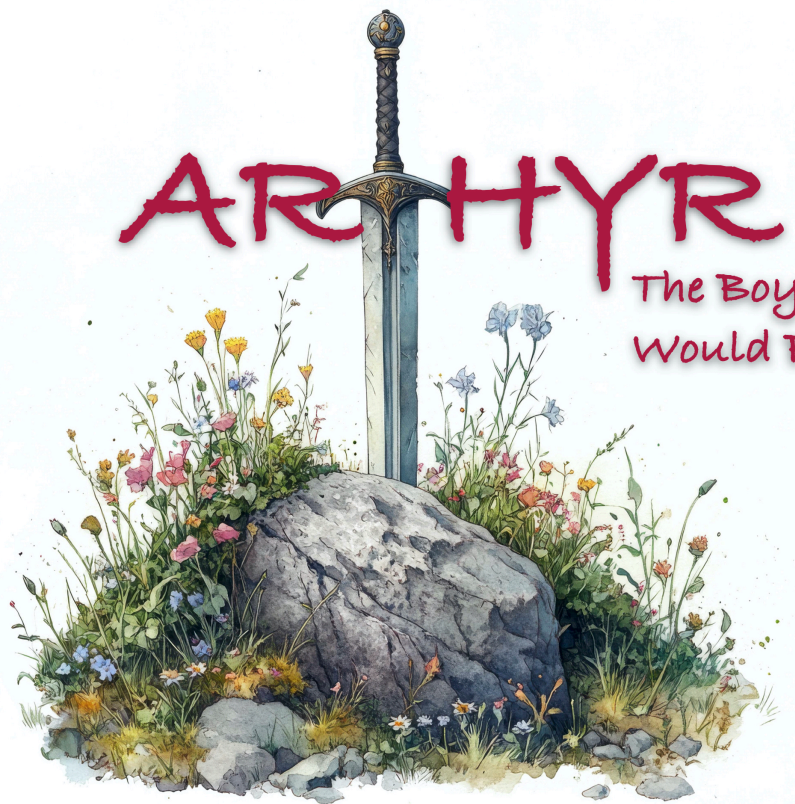


**PRODUCTION SCRIPT**

**January 21.V29**

**THIRD DRAFT**



# ARHYR

The Boy Who  
Would Be King

A New Musical by  
**C. MICHAEL PERRY**  
and  
**CONI KOEPFINGER**

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**ARTHYR: THE BOY WHO WOULD BE KING**

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS — (in order of appearance)

### **6m, 6f, + ensemble**

- ANNA**, a prophetic out of time, a Keeper/Protector, daughter of Joseph of Arimathea, descended from King David; made a Keeper by Gildas around the same time as Merlyn was [can deliver the prophecies and even narrate/introduce, when necessary.] (f)
- NIMUE** — a capriciously magical Cornish water nymph (also known as Elayne, the Lady of the Lake) charged with the end of Merlyn, oldest half-sister to Arthyr through Igrayne and Gorlois. As The Lady of the Lake she gave Excalibur to Arthyr and then imprisons Merlyn out of jealousy — because she can. (f)
- MORGAUSE** — Nimue's sister, a Cornish sorceress, charged with magically corrupting 14-year-old Arthyr, middle half-sister to Arthyr, sharing the same mother, Igrayne, her father is Gorlois. Later she is the wife of King Lot of Orkney and mother to Gawain, Agravain, Gaheris, Gareth, and Mordred, (Arthyr's son). Her hatred stems from Gorlois' death, the rape of her mother, and her resentment towards Uther and Merlyn, whom she believes was responsible for it. She also feels a deep sense of betrayal and anger by Arthyr's continuation of Uther's rule. (f)
- MORGANA** [Morgan LeFey—meaning Fairy] — Nimue's sister, a Cornish sorceress, youngest half-sister to Arthyr, daughter of Igrayne, but not Gorlois, instead, an un-named wood nymph. She schemes to usurp Arthyr's throne, much later indirectly becoming an instrument of his death. (f)
- MERLYN EMRYS** [Emrys meaning immortal], the boy, now man, who lived backwards in time from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to Atlantis then forward again, Keeper and Protector of Arthyr, if he carries a staff, he calls it Erwydd (air-oo-ith) (m)
- ARTHYR PENDRAGON**, the boy King who was foretold from both the future and the past, age 12-14 Raised by Merlyn (who stole him away the morning after his birth) and a wet nurse, then at age 12 apprenticed to Sir Lionel. (m)
- SIR LIONEL**, a Knight, loyal to Uther (m)
- SIR KAY**, his son, young enough to only be loyal to himself, for the time being (m)
- UTHER PENDRAGON**, Arthyr's father, unknown to Arthyr until revealed by Merlyn, was born Romulus Augustus, the last Emperor of Rome, smuggled out by Merlyn to Britannia at a young age. High King of Britain. (m)
- GILDAS**, a Keeper of the First Order, teacher to Merlyn, and Anna, a person of ultimate magical power, the only Keeper who knows that Merlyn was born in the present time and lived all the way back to Atlantis, where he gained his education and magical powers. (f)
- THE RED DRAGON** [Kilgarrah] — a large puppet manipulated by several performers and voiced by ONE (or ALL) (gender neutral)
- OTHER KNIGHTS**
- MARC** — a minor Cornish King sworn to aid ARTHYR (m)
- LOT** — King of Orkney, husband to Morgause, father of the following (m):
- AGRAVAYNE** — (“adopted”, skilled fighter known for malice and villainy, yet sometimes capable of heroic deeds, Igrayne's younger full brother, Arthyr's Uncle) (m)
- GAWAIN** — (heroic, compassionate warrior, nephew, becomes closest of companions to ARTHYR) (m)
- GAHERIS** — (nephew of, and exceptional skill in combat and unwavering loyalty to ARTHYR) (m)
- GARETH** — (heroic, loyal, brave and honorable, youngest and often most chivalrous of the Orkney princes, nephew to ARTHYR) (m)
- QUEEN IGRAYNE** of Cornwall married to KING GORLOIS of Cornwall, is the daughter of Amlawdd

Wledig, a king of Wales, and Gwenn, a princess of northern Britain. Her children are Nimue and Morgause through Gorlois, and Arthyr through Uther, and Morgana through a wood nymph. Agravayne is her brother, adopted after their parents were killed by the High King Uther Pendragon. Her father is a descendant of the sister of Joseph of Arimathea, Enigeus (f)

**KING GORLOIS** of Cornwall, a minor king who took affront from Uther Pendragon and Uther declared war on him. Gorlois died in battle, while Uther seduced his wife, Igrayne. He is the father of Nimue and Morgause. (m)

**THE GREAT DIRECTOR — COLLECTIVE VOICE** — the Keeper of Keepers, several members of the cast, male or female

**SAXONS**

**TOWNESPEOPLE**

**ARTHYR'S SOLDIERS**

**TIME:** Around 480 AD

**LOCATIONS:** Ancient Britain [Logres or Prydain], after the Romans are gone:

Tintagel in Cornwall [Cernyw];

a forest and Glastonbury in Devon, [Dumnonia];

Roman/Saxon fort promontory at Rivers Glein and Till, Northumberland (1<sup>st</sup> Battle);

Caerleon, Wales;

Alderley Edge in *Snowdonia, Wales*

Broceliande Forest in Eastern Wales [Cumru];

**NOTES:**

PROTECTORS are those who have written stories of Arthyr and Merlyn, turning myth to truth and truth to myth to confuse those who would stand in the way of the Boy Who Would Be King.

KEEPERS know the truth behind the stories. They are magical beings from Atlantis who have kept the writings safe throughout more than 2000 years by using both truth and misdirection to lead and mislead, so that those vital to the story are protected and their identity obscured — but KEEPERS know the truth behind it all.

**NOTE:** Excalibur has 2 other names: Caliburnus, and Caliburn

**NOTE:** GORLOIS was killed in battle against Uther's army on the same night that ARTHYR was conceived by Uther, who was magically transformed by Merlyn to look like Gorlois.

**NOTE:** Roman name of Merlyn: Ambrosius Aurelianus (Uther knew him by that name)

**NOTE:** Merlyn's staff is powered by Ynysium, an element that powered Atlantis. All of the magic in the Arthyrian world emanates from Atlantis through Merlyn, Gildas and Anna, and what Merlyn brought from ancient Atlantis as he made himself a student there.

**NOTE:** Arthyr's Seat, in Edinburgh Scotland is the home of *Castellum Puellarum* the Castle of Women, its mistress was Morgan LeFey. All three seductresses use it as a base of operations. (It is thought Shakespeare based his 3 witches in Macbeth on these three.)

**NOTE:** Every Keeper, except GILDAS, and many of the Protectors throughout history have been direct descendants of Arthyr and/or Merlyn.

**NOTE:** The Tabyl Mound is one of the established names for the Roman amphitheatre at Caerleon. It is also called the Tabyl Round, or the Round Table.

## **LIST OF SCENES and MUSICAL NUMBERS — so far**

### **ACT ONE**

**Prologue** — the mists of time

**MUSICAL #1a** — **THE NEVER-TOLD TALE OF ARTHYR** — *Nimue, Morgause, Morgana, Igrayne,*

**Scene One** — a forest in Devon, about 480 AD

**MUSICAL #1b** — **CHANGE** — Merlyn, Arthyr

**PROPHECY 1** — *ARTHYR'S DESTINY - Merlin*

**MUSICAL #2** — **IF THAT IS NOT A FATHER...** — *Arthyr*

**Scene Two** — Castle Tintagel, in Cornwall

**MUSICAL #3** — **MIGHT TO RIGHT** — Merlyn & Arthyr

**PROPHECY 2** — *IGRAYNE'S CHOICE — Anna*

**MUSICAL #4** — **TWO ARE A PAIR** — *Anna*

**Scene Three** — the mists of time

**MUSICAL #5** — **KEEPERS AND PROTECTORS** — *Anna & Gildas*

**Scene Four** — a forest in Devon

**MUSICAL #6** — **TO BE BELIEVED** — *Merlyn*

**Scene Five** — Glastonbury in Devon, Jousting Arena

**MUSICAL #7** — **FOLLOW YOUR HEART** — *Merlyn*

**Scene Six** — Glastonbury in Devon, towne square

**PROPHECY 3** — *RISE OF EXCALIBUR — Merlyn*

**MUSICAL #8** — **ONE TRUE KING** — *Townespeople & Merlyn*

### **ACT TWO**

**Scene One** — the mists of time

**MUSICAL #9** — **PROPHECY 4: FROM ROME [MERLYN]** — *Anna*

**Scene Two** — Caerleon, Wales

**MUSICAL #10** — **IT IS THERE!** — *Arthyr and Merlyn*

**Scene Three** — The Cave of the Red Dragon

**MUSICAL #11** — **I SEE MYSELF** — *Arthyr & The Red Dragon*

**MUSICAL #12** — **A BOY AS KING!** — *Uther and Arthyr*

**Scene Four** — Northumberland, A promontory with castle and moat

**MUSICAL #13** — **WHERE TWO RIVERS MEET** — *Company*

**Scene Five** — The mists of time

**MUSICAL #14** — **PROPHECY 5: [LOVE OF A NYMPH]** — *Anna and Gildas*

**Scene Six** — Broceliande Forest

**MUSICAL #15** — **WHERE I STAND** — *Merlyn*

**MUSICAL #16** — **SING ME A REFLECTION** — *Nimue and Merlyn*

**Scene Seven** — the mists of time

**MUSICAL #17** — **PROPHECY 6: IMPEGGED [NIMUE]** — *Anna*

**Scene Eight** — *Castle of the Women, Edinburgh, Scotland*

**MUSICAL #18** — **PROPHECY 7: TAPESTRY [MORGANA]** — *Anna*

**MUSICAL #19** — **MAGIC IS** — *Merlyn, Arthyr*

**Scene Nine** — *Alderley Edge, Snowdonia, Wales*

**MUSICAL #20** — **THE QUEST** — *Merlyn, Arthyr*

**Scene Ten** — Castle Caerleon, Wales

**Scene Eleven** — The Round Table, Castle Caerleon, Wales

**MUSICAL #21** — **CROSSED SWORDS AND ROUND TABLE [FINALE]**

**ARTHYR: THE BOY WHO WOULD BE KING a musical** by C. Michael Perry and Coni Koepfinger. 6m, 6f, + ensemble. This story presents a unique take on the King Arthyr legend where Merlyn is a boy from the 21st Century having lived backwards in time, been educated in Atlantis and now grown into his manhood. As the story opens, the older wise Merlyn mentors Arthyr, revealing his true parentage as the son of King Uther Pendragon and Igrayne. He guides the young Arthyr towards his destiny, which begins through his apprenticeship to Sir Lionel, and the mistreatment he must endure by Lionel's son, Kay, a young knight in training. During a joust at Glastonbury, Arthyr loses Kay's sword and is guided by Merlyn's magic to find and pull the sword in the stone. With that, as prophesied, Arthyr is proclaimed King of Britain at the age 12. Act Two begins Arthyr's reign, training under his father Uther, and Arthyr's first battle victory. During this time he also experiences challenges with the dark magic of Nimue, Morgan LeFay, and Morgause in which he proves the pureness of his heart, by having the power to save Merlyn. The play culminates with Arthyr and Uther, preparing to unite Britain, setting up their dynasty at Caerleon (which later becomes the infamous "Camelot"). The story is shaped by the magic and prophecies delivered by the Keepers and Protectors of ancient Atlantis; they aid in manipulating the facts and events that ensure Arthyr's destiny. Set around 500 AD in various locations in Britain. About 90 minutes. **ORDER #ARTHYR**

**Coni Koepfinger** — A member of TYA / Theatre for Young Audiences, artist and educator, Coni Koepfinger believes creativity is never lost-- it simply changes hands and hearts. Winner of the 2021 Olwen Wymark Theatre Award by the Writers Guild of Great Britain, New York Indie artist, Coni Koepfinger is the host of AIRPLAY and DETERMINED WOMEN. Coni is a Media Advisor for Lifeboat Foundation, a Lifetime Member of The Dramatists Guild, a former board member of the International Center for Women Playwrights and the League of Professional Theatre Women. Recent work includes Garrett, the Blue Giraffe at Pan Asian Rep; Takin' It Back for THE ME TOO PROJECT in Harlem; and Playing House commissioned for *UNTOLD STORIES OF JEWISH WOMEN*; *My Dinner with Mary* for The Producer's Circle at the Players NYC; *Simon Says* in PLAYBILL'S Virtual Theatre Festival 2020; *Josie in the Bardo* at The Chain Theatre and *The Unusual Chauncey Faust* at the Rogue Festival 2022. Coni has several musical theatre collaborations with composer, Michael Perry which include TINKERTOWN, which was a commission from the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. Her published works can be found at Leicester Bay Theatricals and Next Stage Press.

**C. Michael Perry** — Winner of an 1978 Emmy Award and a Best of the West award for his score to the television puppet musical, "CINDERABBIT" on PBS, he has been writing, producing, directing and choreographing professional and amateur shows since his late teens. His AN ENCHANTED APRIL - THE MUSICAL played Off-Broadway in 2019 to great reviews, but its forward motion was cut short by Covid-19, 4 months later. His musicals POLLYANNA, and THE SHADOW DANCERS, THE SAGA OF SASQUATCH C'LONE (with Coni Koepfinger) have had industry readings, along with a version of EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON, (with George and Gayanne King). Their STAR OF ISRAEL, COMING HOME, and HEIDI have also had recent workshop productions. TINKERTOWN! (with Coni Koepfinger) are also in the works. Adaptations of TEMPEST, GREAT EXPECTATIONS and LITTLE MEN (based on the sequel to "Little Women") are gathering interest. His titles are published by Leicester Bay Theatricals, Zion Theatricals, Eldridge Plays and Musicals and Next Stage Press.

# ARTHYR: THE BOY WHO WOULD BE KING

## ACT ONE

### MUSICAL #1a — THE NEVER-TOLD TALE OF ARTHYR

**PROLOGUE** — *CRASHING CHORDS* from the orchestra. *LIGHTS* come up as the mists of time roll across the stage, swirling around and then revealing ANNA THE PROPHETESS standing conspicuously elevated above the rest.

**ANNA:** It was a very long time ago, but not so very far away, that there was the boy, Arthyr — the boy who would be king. Then there were his three half-sisters and their mother — all were aching to destroy the boy.

*(Enter NIMUE, MORGAUSE, MORGANA from different directions, dressed in robes, with a mysticism about their movements, Theirs was an unholy mission, almost. They cautiously greet each other as MUSIC continues under.)*

**NUMUE:** Morgause.

**MORGAUSE:** Nimué.

**NIMUE:** Morgana.

**MORGANA:** Nimué.

### THREE SISTERS:

THE MAGICAL SISTERS OF ARTHYR.  
EACH OF US HAS A REASON TO HATE.  
WE TOOK A VOW,  
WE MUST ACT NOW,  
BEFORE IT GROWS TOO LATE!

LISTEN TO THE NEVER-TOLD TALE OF ARTHYR, KING ARTHYR.

**MORGAUSE:** *(Arthyr's middle half-sister)*

THE TALE OF HOW I MADE A BOY A MAN!

**MORGANA:** *(Arthyr's youngest half sister)*

A BOY USURPER OF THE CROWN  
THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN MINE! OF GREAT RENOWN!

**NIMUE:** *(Arthyr's oldest half-sister)*

AND HOW I STOPPED A WIZARD FROM REVEALING IT ALL!

### THREE SISTERS:

DOING WHAT OTHERS WILL NOT DO!  
PURSUING WHAT OTHERS WILL NOT PURSUE!  
BECAUSE THEY LACK THE COURAGE TO PLAY THE GAME,  
HATE IS HATE! IT'S ALL THE SAME!

*(IGRAYNE enters.)*

**THREE SISTERS:** Mother?!

**IGRAYNE:** *(Arthyr's mother)* Daughters.

I TAUGHT MY GIRLS TO CARRY THE FIGHT TO UTHER AND MERLYN  
AND ALL OF THOSE STILL STANDING BESIDE MY SON!  
AVENGING MY HUSBAND'S NEEDLESS DEATH.  
HEAR MAGICAL MERLYN TAKE HIS FINAL BREATH!  
AND WATCH BRITAIN BURN WHILE KNOWING IT'S I WHO FIN'LY HAVE WON!

**THREE SISTERS & IGRAYNE:**

DOING WHAT OTHERS WILL NOT DO!  
PURSUING WHAT OTHERS WILL NOT PURSUE!  
BECAUSE THEY LACK THE MAGIC TO WIN THE GAME,  
HATE IS HATE! IT'S ALL THE SAME! WE CLAIM WE WILL SUBDUE!

*(MUSIC, retaining but softening, as the SCENE SEGUES to ARTHYR and MERLYN, )*

*(LIGHTS OUT.)*

**SCENE ONE** — *A forest in southwest Britain, the area of Devon. 480 AD, in the time before magic lost its power. MERLYN seated, and ARTHYR, pacing.*

**SEGUE TO:**

**MUSICAL # 1b — CHANGE**

**ARTHYR:**

WHO AM I? YOU KNOW!  
WHERE AM I TO GO?

**MERLYN:**

I DO NOT SEE FOR CERTAIN.  
FOR THERE IS A VEIL, A CURTAIN,  
THAT ONCE IT'S OPENED WILL OVERFLOW.

**ARTHYR:**

TO SWALLOW ME?

**MERLYN:**

TO LIFT YOU UP!

**ARTHYR:**

BUT I'M NOT STRONG.

**MERLYN:**

THAT WON'T TAKE LONG!

**ARTHYR:**

HOW CAN I KNOW THE TRUTH?

I'M JUST A CHILD, A YOUTH.

**MERLYN:**

SO YOU MUST GROW UP, NOW.

DO NOT ASK WHY OR HOW.

THE WAY WILL BE MADE CLEAR.

YOU'RE STARING AT A NEW FRONTIER.

**ARTHYR:**

SO YOU SAY I MUST TRUST?

**MERLYN:**

I KNOW YOU WILL ADJUST.

**ARTHYR:**

SOMETIMES LIFE'S HARD TO SWALLOW.

**MERLYN:**

BUT YOU MUST LEARN TO FOLLOW.

**ARTHYR:**

AND THOUGH IT'S SOUNDING STRANGE,

**MERLYN:**

THIS IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE!

**ARTHYR:** Change?

**MERLYN:** New choices.

**ARTHYR:** So my choices control my destiny?

**MERLYN:** Absolutely.

**ARTHYR:** But all around me I hear that our lives are controlled by Fate — someone else's decision.

**MERLYN:** Unfortunately, many people believe that, but it is not true.

**ARTHYR:** So what do I do?

**MERLYN:** Believe that you can make a difference in the world — and you will.

**ARTHYR:** Well, all around me I see people who have little-to-no food, and others who throw away more food in a day that whole villages could eat in a week. The King takes too much from the poor. Why is a King so much 'better' than a Baker?

**MERLYN:** *(smiling)* Is he?

**ARTHYR:** He shouldn't be.

**MERLYN:** You might be correct. And you?

### 3

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**ARTHYR:** What?

**MERLYN:** Are you better than a Baker?

**ARTHYR:** No. But I want to be something more than I am. I think others think so as well. And that is the point, Father.

**MERLYN:** I agree but... I am not your father, Arthyr.

*(ARTHYR stops, aghast. This is a thought he has never had before.)*

**ARTHYR:** Did I have a mother?

**MERLYN:** Yes, of course. Everyone does.

*(ARTHYR looks at the older man expectantly. MERLYN frets and then caves.)*

She was a queen.

**ARTHYR:** And...?

**MERLYN:** Igrayne.

**ARTHYR:** Of Tintagel?

*(MERLYN nods.)*

You've taught me of her, but not that she's my mother.

*(MERLYN shrugs.)*

So then, my father is Gorlois — King of Tintagel.

**MERLYN:** No.

**ARTHYR:** Then...who?

**MERLYN:** *(unable to hold it back)* You are the son of Uther Pendragon.

**ARTHYR:** The current King, Uther!?

**MERLYN:** The very same.

**ARTHYR:** How?

**MERLYN:** As I am yours, I was your father's magician and protector. I helped him win many battles. Even the battle for Igrayne.

**ARTHYR:** So, my father was a cuckold?

**MERLYN:** *(uncomfortably)* In a way.

**ARTHYR:** Well, either he was or wasn't.

**MERLYN:** *(struggling)* I mixed ... a potion to make your father look like Gorlois.

**ARTHYR:** Why?

**MERLYN:** You had to be born of Uther and Igrayne.

**ARTHYR:** Fate?

**MERLYN:** Destiny.

**ARTHYR:** The King I criticize is my father?

**MERLYN:** Igrayne was foolish for marrying Gorlois, a minor king with no power of his own, when it was through Uther that...

*(ARTHYR prompts him with a gesture to finish.)*

The prophecy had to be fulfilled. It is your destiny, and because of that, the choice of action is given to you.

*(Another prompt from ARTHYR. MERLYN recites Prophecy 1 ARTHUR'S DESTINY.)*

*(Spoken)*

“The boy must be born  
of a marriage torn  
To unite a divided land.

The boy will grow,  
and come to know

There’s courage in his heart and hand.”

*(ARTHUR begins pacing around MERLYN again.)*

**ARTHUR:** Why have I never heard this before?!

**MERLYN:** Because I was not ready. You were not ready! But now — it’s time.

## **MUSICAL #2 — IF THAT IS NOT A FATHER...**

**ARTHUR:** But all my life...

YOU’VE CARED FOR ME AND SHOWN ME THINGS:

WHAT MAGIC BRINGS,

AND ANCIENT KINGS.

YOU’VE SEEN ME SAFE A DOZEN TIMES.

SO MANY RHYMES;

SO MANY CRIMES.

HAVE YOU LIED TO ME?

HOLDING BACK THE TRUTH?

SOMETHING’S DIED IN ME.

I FEEL THAT IT’S MY YOUTH?

*(MUSIC continues under.)*

**MERLYN:** I don’t know what to say.

**ARTHUR:** You had better think of something.

**MERLYN:** For the first time words are failing me.

**ARTHUR:** *(with a little ire)* I know how that feels — all too well, I know.

**MERLYN:** But you need to know now.

*(ARTHUR nods.)*

As time has brought you to this moment.

**ARTHUR:** *(chuckles)* You have always said that I would know everything when the time was right. “When the student is ready, the teacher appears...”

*(Meekly.)*

Right?

**MERLYN:** Something like that... When a boy asks, the time is right.

**ARTHUR:** I’m sorry I lost my temper, Father.

**MERLYN:** I’m not your...

**ARTHYR:**

YOU'VE TAUGHT ME WHO I COULD BE;  
EVERYTHING I SHOULD BE—  
IF THAT IS NOT A FATHER  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WOULD BE.

THOSE MAGIC TRIPS  
ON SAILING SHIPS THROUGH TIME AND SPACE.  
THEN WITH A WORD  
I WAS A BIRD, HOW I WOULD RACE!  
I'VE NEVER KNOWN THAT MAGIC WAS ANYTHING BUT REAL.  
WHY WERE YOU BLESSED WITH MAGIC?  
WHAT GIVES IT ITS APPEAL?

YOU'VE TAKEN ME, AN ORDINARY BOY,  
AND GAVE ME WORTH.  
YOU'VE GIVEN ME, A BOY WITHOUT A HOME,  
A SECOND BIRTH.  
WHY WAS I BLESSED?  
I'VE GUESSED I'M NOT SO ORDINARY AFTER ALL.  
YOU MADE A BOLD AND BRAVE ME.  
AND WHEN I ERRED, FORGAVE ME.  
IF THAT IS NOT A FATHER,  
GOD SAVE ME.

**MERLYN:** You are too wise for your years.

*(Placing his hand on ARTHYR'S shoulder and smiling.)*

What a wondrous feat you are.

**ARTHYR:** You have made me so.

**MERLYN:** I am not certain that I can claim all of it. Just bring together the lessons that you have learned from me and I will be quite content.

**ARTHYR:** This is no longer about you, Fa...

**MERLYN:** No?

**ARTHYR:** *(shaking his head)* It is about doing good, bringing forth justice. Is it not?

**MUSICAL #3 — MIGHT TO RIGHT**

**MERLYN:**

YOU MUST RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF EVERYONE,

**ARTHYR:**

WHILE NOT NEGLECTING BAD IN ANYONE!

**MERLYN:**

THE BAD LURKS AND WAITS,  
SCHEMES AND HATES,  
CARES NOT FOR INNOCENCE OR AGE  
BUT SEEKS TO CORRUPT THROUGH RAGE;  
SERVES NOT THE GREATER GOOD;  
FEEDS ITSELF AS ONLY IT COULD.

**ARTHYR:**

I WILL USE YOUR LESSONS WELL,  
USE THIS POWER TO DISPEL,  
EVERY WRONG THAT SETS ASIDE OUR MORALS.  
POWER'S PROPER STATION  
IS THE SUBORDINATION OF MIGHT TO RIGHT,  
WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAURELS.

**MERLYN:**

FOR OUR OWN PROTECTION,  
SHIFT FROM MIGHT TO RIGHT.

**ARTHYR:**

PROPER INTROSPECTION  
CHANGES MIGHT TO RIGHT.

**BOTH:**

FOR KINGLY ELECTION IS INSECURE.  
ONLY BY DOING RIGHT CAN WE BE SURE.  
CHANGING MIGHT TO RIGHT  
WE WIN THE FIGHT  
OF MIGHT TO RIGHT!

*(BLACKOUT.)*

***SCENE TWO*** — *Castle Tintagel in Cornwall — 468 AD, 12 years prior to the previous scene. ANNA appears and stands above or outside the action, as GORLOIS and IGRAYNE enter, talking.*

**ANNA:** *(at the side of the stage)* That dreadful night of Igrayne's decision 12 years ago, will bring ruin on the house of Cornwall.

**GORLOIS:** What about Uther?

**IGRAYNE:** Uther is a puffed-up adder in suit of chain.

**GORLOIS:** But Merlyn told you...

**IGRAYNE:** Merlyn says too much. I won't marry a man who cannot please me. I am not a possession for a king. Not his plaything.

**GORLOIS:** And Me? Do you consider...

**IGRAYNE:** Never.

**GORLOIS:** What about Uther's son?

**IGRAYNE:** He has no son.

**GORLOIS:** He must.

**IGRAYNE:** How is that my concern?

**GORLOIS:** You must honor the words of Merlyn. The prophecy.

**IGRAYNE:** *(sneers)* The prophecy.

**GORLOIS:** One mustn't toy with fate.

**IGRAYNE:** I am aware.

**GORLOIS:** Merlyn was born with a gift. He needs no master. He has ancient knowledge... Perhaps you should talk to Uther.

**IGRAYNE:** *(laughs)* So should I deny the truth of my own heart?

**GORLOIS:** No. But you cannot go against prophecy.

**IGRAYNE:** I choose you — not Uther.

**GORLOIS:** That makes me happy, yet sad.

**IGRAYNE:** That I will choose you?

**GORLOIS:** That we will be cursed by the prophecy.

*(Prophecy 2. IGRAYNE'S CHOICE. LIGHTS up on ANNA, as she moves across but still separate from the action. IGRAYNE appears stuck in time. GORLOIS exits.)*

**ANNA:** *(reciting)*

The choice? Igrayne's to make or break,  
to have or hold,  
he who would make  
not just a tree,  
but a dynasty—  
which was foretold.

#### **MUSICAL #4 — TWO ARE A PAIR**

**ANNA:** *(now speaking plainly)* Three years after Igrayne's decision to marry Gorlois, he was killed on the field of battle on the very night Uther — at Castle Tintagel — usurped his kingly position.

**IGRAYNE:**

SOMETHING I CAN'T OWN.  
THAT'S WHAT LIFE HAS SHOWN,

EVEN WHEN I'M LONELY.  
SOMEONE AT MY SIDE  
I NEVER HAVE TO HIDE  
YES, I BELIEVE THAT ONLY!  
IF IN MOMENTS I FORGET,  
THEN IT'S HOPE THAT REMINDS ME.

*(IGRAYNE continues as LIGHTS come up as GORLOIS enters on another part of the stage. The two are in separate places and must never indicate that they can "see" each other.)*

**IGRAYNE:**

SOMETHING I CAN'T OWN  
THAT'S WHAT LIFE HAS SHOWN  
EVEN WHEN I'M LONELY  
SOMEONE AT MY SIDE  
I NEVER HAVE TO HIDE  
YES, I BELIEVE THAT ONLY!  
IF IN MOMENTS I FORGET  
THEN IT'S HOPE THAT REMINDS ME.

**GORLOIS:**

I MUST NOT LIVE WITHOUT HER!  
WHY DID I ALWAYS DOUBT HER?  
SHE'LL BE A QUEEN!  
SO SERENE!  
I'M PAST MY DAYS,  
IN MANY WAYS,  
BUT TODAY IS THE DAY  
I HEAR HER SAY SHE'S MINE!

**BOTH:**

TWO ARE A PAIR  
KING AND QUEEN ON A CHAIR.  
POWER FLOWS, POWER EBBS!  
ITS TASK? SPINNING WEBS THAT HOLD!  
NOT FAIR, BUT JUST,  
WE LEARN TO TRUST!  
AND SO WE RULE;  
NO FOOLISH NOTIONS DARE  
TO INTERRUPT OR LEAVE US EMPTY THERE!  
TWO OF A PAIR!

*(LIGHTS fade.)*

**SCENE THREE** — *A place out-of-time where only KEEPERS can go. The scene opens with ANNA and GILDAS high atop a hill.*

**THE GREAT DIRECTOR:** *(a creative voice)*

*The pangs of birth*

*have outworn our worth.*

*We appeal again here and now*

*to find the why and find the how.  
The Romans retreated,  
But history is repeated  
as the Angles and the Saxons loom,  
the kingdom of Britain faces its doom.*

**GILDAS:** *(sighs heavily.)* The task of safeguarding humanity has become even greater these days.

**ANNA:** Yes. Indeed.

**GILDAS:** Had I known...

**ANNA:** *(bursts out laughing)* Like we had a choice. Like anyone has a choice. Your destiny is your destiny. And our destiny involves protecting certain key people, certain sacred objects, or even the ideals of certain kings.

**GILDAS:** Yes, but...

**ANNA:** It's pretty simple. I imagine like a stage hand in the theatre. They are the actors playing the main roles while we watch from the wings making sure the play progresses.

**GILDAS:** And in the right direction.

**ANNA:** Yes. That's the hard part.

**GILDAS:** Yes. Very hard. Some people seem unfit for their roles.

**ANNA:** Still, the great director never casts in error. I believe that all the right people are put in all the right places to create the best possible scenes. And that is where we come in to offer foreshadowing and guidance to make sure our subjects are understanding their purpose.

**GILDAS:** Yes. Twas so much easier guarding sacred objects.

**ANNA:** Until they got into the wrong hands.

**GILDAS:** True.

**ANNA:** I prefer it this way; the way our role has evolved so that we can interact with our subjects.

**GILDAS:** Yes, that's true. That Arthyr, though a bit misguided, seems to be becoming a wonderful young man.

**ANNA:** Yes. Indeed.

**GILDAS:** So, shall we get on to the topic of today?

**ANNA:** Yes.

**GILDAS:** It includes the subject of sorcery. Does it not?

**ANNA:** Yes.

**GILDAS:** Whether or not it should be eradicated from the kingdom. Correct?

**ANNA:** Yes.

**GILDAS:** Seems futile.

**ANNA:** It does.

**GILDAS:** The King doesn't think so.

**ANNA:** That's not our job.

**GILDAS:** Agreed. So how do we...

**ANNA:** I have invited Merlyn to join us today.

**GILDAS:** Wondrous idea!

**ANNA:** Thank you. Shall I call him to come now?

**GILDAS:** Yes.

*(With a sudden, swift wind MERLYN appears through a cloud of dust.)*

**MERLYN:** You requested my consul?

**ANNA:** Yes.

**GILDAS:** Yes.

**MERLYN:** May I quest why?

**ANNA:** Yes. We need to know our place. As a protector I have written stories of Arthyr and you, turning myth to truth and truth to myth to thwart those who would stand in the way of the Boy Who Would Be King.

**GILDAS:** And I, as your keeper, born of the magical beings from Atlantis, have kept our writings safe throughout more than 5000 years by using both truth and misdirection to lead and mislead, so that those vital to the story are protected and their identity obscured. Still I know the truth behind it all.

**ANNA:** Some say we are never to employ sorcery when protecting...

**GILDAS:** Whereas others say, we must use whatever means possible.

**MERLYN:** And what do you think?

**ANNA:** We ask for your consul...

**GILDAS:** We are unsure.

**MERLYN:** As keepers and protectors, you needn't doubt. Do you know why you were chosen?

**ANNA:** To keep the secrets safe.

**GILDAS:** And to protect those who defend the divine innocence and wisdom?

**MERLYN:** Well then, you know well your place. I sense the power of ancient Atlantis will work its own magic. As it has for me.

**ANNA:** So then, there is nothing more to fear.

**MERLYN:** No. Nothing. Fear is only misplaced faith.

**GILDAS:** We must trust?

**MERLYN:** Yes. We must. Trust.

*(MERLYN exits)*

**ANNA:** Thank you, sir.

**GILDAS:** Yes. Isn't it wonderful when the student becomes the teacher.

## **MUSICAL #5 — KEEPERS AND PROTECTORS**

**ANNA:**

WHEN DID THEY CHOOSE US,  
THOSE KEEPERS OF OLD?

**GILDAS:**

WHY DO THEY USE US?  
IT SEEMS TOO BOLD!

**ANNA:**

CHOSEN OUT OF TIME  
TO LIVE WITHOUT TIME.

**GILDAS:**

TO SEE WITH CLEARER EYE  
WHAT MIGHT GO AWRY.

**ANNA:**

WATCHING MORTALS IN THEIR FOLLY  
WE MUST STEP IN,

**GILDAS:**

DEFLECTING EVERY VOLLEY  
FROM KITH OR KIN.

**BOTH:**

THESE KEEPERS AND PROTECTORS,  
THEY HAVE NO FEAR!  
WE ONLY HOPE THAT SOMEDAY  
IT WILL ALL BE CLEAR:  
WHY WE ARE WHO WE ARE,  
WHY WE LIVE HOW WE LIVE,  
WHY WE THINK HOW WE THINK  
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT TO SEE ALL THINGS!  
WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT TO BE ALL THINGS!  
TIME AND PLACE ARE NOTHING TO US.  
LIVING OUTSIDE, THEY RENEW US.  
AS KEEPERS AND PROTECTORS,  
WITH MANY PLANS UNFOLDING,  
THEY SPEAK TO US.  
AND THROUGH US  
THEN WE CHANGE THE WORLD.

*(BLACKOUT.)*

***SCENE FOUR*** — *A forest in southwest Britain, a day later MERLYN and ARTHYR are discovered in conversation.*

**ARTHYR:** Have you ever met with the dragon?

**MERLYN:** You know I have...

**ARTHYR:** But he's not real.

**MERLYN:** Define real.

**ARTHYR:** This world. These bodies.

*(Slaps his back playfully.)*

This slap!

**MERLYN:** You are quite jovial today. Shall I call out the dragon so you can play with him a little?

**ARTHYR:** He would eat me alive!

**MERLYN:** So you're afraid of the little imaginary pussycat.

**ARTHYR:** Everyone fears the dragon.

**MERLYN:** Not I.

**ARTHYR:** Everyone but you!

**MERLYN:** And why do you think that is so?

**ARTHYR:** I don't know, but I know you're going to tell me.

**MERLYN:** Man can only fear what he doesn't understand. You do not understand how an imaginary dragon has the power to become real... Could it not be that the power of creation begins within you? It all depends on what you choose to see.

**ARTHYR:** Who was your teacher?

**MERLYN:** Teachers.

*(Extended pause)*

**ARTHYR:** Where do you come from?

**MERLYN:** Many places. Some say Atlantis, others say Wales.

**ARTHYR:** But what do you say?

**MERLYN:** The lowlands of Scotland, but the bigger question is time... I come from a time and place that, for you, has not happened yet. I have lived backwards from it, and am now living forward into it again.

**ARTHYR:** *(transfixed)* A magical time and place?

**MERLYN:** Yes, very magical.

## **MUSICAL #6 — TO BE BELIEVED**

**MERLYN:**

WHERE CARTS DON'T NEED A HORSE.

AND PEOPLE FLY, OF COURSE,

BUT NOT WITHOUT THE AID OF A MACHINE!

AND SWORDS HAVE CHANGED TO GUNS;

WITH BULLETS BY THE TONS.

EXPLOSIONS FROM A BARREL MUST BE SEEN... TO BE BELIEVED.

SEND IMAGES AND SOUND

THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD AROUND.  
COMMUNICATE WITH EVERY HILL AND GLEN.  
SOON COUNTRIES WILL BE FREE  
BECAUSE OF YOU, YOU SEE!  
YOUR WISDOM WILL BE SPREAD BY INK AND PEN.

TO BE BELIEVED,  
THERE IS A MYSTERY,  
FULL OF HIST'RY,  
AND TALL TALES.  
EACH ONE TALL ENOUGH JUST TO BE BELIEVED.

THESE THOUGHTS, UNKNOWN TO YOU,  
I NOW WILL TELL YOU TRUE:  
YOUR LIFE? — PREPARED IN FUTURE AND IN PAST.  
FOR I AM CHARGED TO KEEP,  
PROTECT AND HELP YOU REAP  
A HARVEST TIME OF SUMMER THAT WILL LAST!  
AND BE BELIEVED!

TO BE BELIEVED,  
YOU ARE THE MYSTERY,  
FULL OF HIST'RY,  
AND TALL TALES.  
EACH ONE TALL ENOUGH,  
WISE ENOUGH,  
JUST TO BE BELIEVED.

*(BLACKOUT.)*

***SCENE FIVE*** — A few days later, *Glastonbury in Devon, Town Center, Jousting Arena, Cathedral and Square. TOWNESPEOPLE and KNIGHTS are present as MERLYN and ARTHYR enter. KAY, LIONEL's son passes by them with a strong air of arrogance. ARTHYR is aghast.*

**ARTHYR:** Am I to be a squire to that boy?

**MERLYN:** No! Bless the heavens no! That is Sir Lionel's son, Kay.

**KAY:** (*approaching*) Yes, stupid boy, you must be my father's lackey.

**MERLYN:** Not yet.

**ARTHYR:** When?

**MERLYN:** You will see as your chosen destiny unfolds. I am sure you will find it most amusing.

**ARTHYR:** I hope so.

**SIR LIONEL:** *(enters)* Well, Merlyn! And you are Arthyr, is it? Yes?

**ARTHYR:** *(Bows)* Yes, Sir Lionel. It is I, Arthyr, at your service. I am honored.

**MERLYN:** Thank you, Sir Lionel. We are certain you will find the young Arthyr to be a fine apprentice.

**ARTHYR:** *(under his breath)* If you can keep his son out of my sight.

**SIR LIONEL:** What was that?

**MERLYN:** Arthyr said that he will try to be the best, with all his might.

**SIR LIONEL:** *(smiles, nods as he exits.)* Very well then. I will have my son Kay show you about my castle.

There's an adjoining cathedral, filled with rich myth and grand architecture... feel free to explore.

**MERLYN:** Thank you, Sire.

**ARTHYR:** Yes, thank you.

**MERLYN:** *(wandering about, looking)* This is where the sorcerer's stone—the one I told you about on our journey here. It is indeed enchanted.

**ARTHYR:** That? Why is there a sword stuck in it?

**MERLYN:** That's not just a sword, it's Excalibur. It embodies great power and divine kingship.

**ARTHYR:** And how so?

**MERLYN:** Legend has it that whoever can pull this sword from that stone proves his place in lineage to be King. Excalibur is said to grant invincibility to its true master; but will destroy anyone who tries to use it without being destined for it.

**ARTHYR:** Let me try.

**MERLYN:** Be careful, Arthyr.

**ARTHYR:** *(pulls at it, and it seems to pull it out easily)* Perhaps it is destined to be mine.

**MERLYN:** Sssshh! Leave it be for now.

*(KAY approaches in full battle regalia. Looks at ARTHYR and laughs.)*

**KAY:** Ha! No one can pull that sword from the stone. Let alone you. That's Excalibur...

**MERLYN:** *(aside)* Arthyr, I know what you're thinking... Don't!

**ARTHYR:** *(puts the sword back, then pulls it out with ease and grace.)* You mean this sword?

**MERLYN:** Arthyr!

**KAY:** Give me that sword, Arthyr!

**ARTHYR:** It has taken a liking to me, Kay. But I don't think it likes you, it's drawing me away from you...

*(Toying at KAY with the sword.)*

Oh, perhaps it doesn't like the evil in your heart. I think it's asking me to put it back.

*(ARTHYR puts the sword back.)*

**KAY:** It actually belongs to me!

I have the right to it, thus I deserve its might.

*(Stops pulling.)*

**ARTHYR:** *(toying)* I don't see what's so difficult.

**KAY:** Pull it out Arthyr and give it to me!

*(ARTHYR pulls it out. KAY grabs it.)*

Meet at the joust. I will unveil the sword as mine. I will be king for all eternity!

*(Exits frantically with the sword.)*

**ARTHYR:** *(calling after him.)* Kay, no! Wait!

*(ARTHYR tries to catch up with him but can't. Defeated, he turns to MERLYN.)*

What will happen now?

**MERLYN:** You can't challenge Destiny! Kay knows he didn't pull it from the stone, Arthyr... only bad omens can come from this deceit.

## **MUSICAL #7 — FOLLOW YOUR HEART**

### **MERLYN:**

WHEN A MAN SEEKS MORE THAN DESTINY  
HUNGERS FOR MORE THAN WHAT SETS HIM FREE;  
WHEN GREED AND JEALOUSY RILE HIS LUST,  
HIS DESTINY WILL CRUMBLE INTO DUST.

WHEN A MAN CRAVES MORE FOR THE POW'R,  
RISKS ALL 'TIL HE CAN RULE IN THE HOUR,  
A HEART OF DARKNESS WILL TURN TO BLACK;  
FATE INTERRUPTS, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.

YOU MUST NOT WALK THE PATH MEANT FOR ANOTHER!  
THE GUIDANCE OF A MOTHER,  
TURNS YOUR THOUGHTS TO TRUTH AND GOOD,  
YOUR PATH APPEARS, YOU'LL BE JUST WHERE YOU SHOULD.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART,  
LET IT LIGHT YOUR WAY AND GUIDE YOU.  
FOLLOW YOUR HEART,  
LET THE TRUTH INSIDE YOU WALK BESIDE YOU.

WHEN A MAN GLOWS DEEP IN HIS SOUL  
POWER'S FLAME LIGHTS UP JUST LIKE A COAL,  
AND THERE THE DARKNESS CAN'T ENTER IN;  
DESTINY IS SEALED, NO FEARS OF MORTAL SIN.

### **MERLYN & ARTHYR:**

FOLLOW YOUR HEART,  
LET IT TO LIGHT YOUR WAY AND GUIDE YOU.

FOLLOW YOUR HEART,  
LET THE TRUTH INSIDE YOU WALK BESIDE YOU.  
(**BLACKOUT.**)

**SCENE SIX** — Moments later, in front of the Cathedral, **TOWNESPEOPLE** and **KNIGHTS** are gathered around the stone.

**KAY:** 'Tis your king! That's the prophecy of Excalibur, is it not? For I, alone, have pulled the sword from the stone.

**MERLYN:** Don't say that, Kay. You have no idea what grave powers you are unleashing.

**ARTHYR:** They will be your doom.

**MERLYN:** Arthyr, don't interfere. This is not your destiny.

(Orating to the **CROWD.**)

A Prophecy attends this stone.

(Prophecy<sup>3</sup> — RISE OF EXCALIBUR)

Prepared of old as Caesar's friend,

Excalibur was born.

Magicians and Protectors placed it in a stone

All alone

to watch, to wait

until the date,

by one true king, from the rock it's torn!

**KAY:** Non-believers and nimble minds — watch! I shall pull the sword from the stone again to prove to all that it can be done, and that it can be done by me and me alone!

**ARTHYR:** Kay, don't do this!

**KAY:** Be off boy!

**MERLYN:** Let him set his own demise.

**CROWD:** (*variously arranged*) Yes!

We need proof!

We can't believe it has happened by your hand.

**GAHERIS:** (*simultaneously*) You are not to be our King.

**GAWAIN:** (*simultaneously*) You are not a King of any kind!

**KAY:** I am king! I alone am King!

(*Swaggering, KAY puts the sword back in the stone and tries to pull it out but can't. He struggles. KAY stops, bows pompously, then tries furiously, but cannot pull it out. Laughter and jeering from the CROWD, who turns into an angry mob. KAY slowly releases his hand from the*

*sword, stands back and sinks to the ground, looking to ARTHYR and MERLYN for help.)*

**MERLYN:** *(guides ARTHYR to the stone)* This is your moment!

*(ARTHYR moves hesitantly, humbly, wraps his fingers around the hilt and gently lifts the sword from the stone, as he did before. MERLYN, sweeps forward to ARTHYR's side and adjusts the sword in ARTHYR's hand so that it points upward. The CROWD cheers, then goes silent.)*

## **MUSICAL #8 —ONE TRUE KING**

**TOWNESPEOPLE:**

ONE TRUE KING!

**CROWD 3:**

BUT HE'S JUST A CHILD!

**TOWNESPEOPLE:**

ONE TRUE KING?

**CROWD 4:**

WE HAVE BEEN BEGUILED!

**TOWNESPEOPLE:**

ONE TRUE KING!

**GARETH:**

THE PROPHECY'S COME TRUE!

**TOWNESPEOPLE:**

ONE TRUE KING!

THERE'S NOTHING MORE TO DO!

**MERLYN:**

THE TRUTH REVEALED BEFORE OUR EYES!

EXCALIBUR CLAIMS IT'S RIGHTFUL HEIR.

THOSE WHO FAILED, THERE'S NO SURPRISE,

FOR ONLY PROPHECY FULFILLED SETS EVERYTHING AS RIGHT AND FAIR!

**MARC:**

WHO IS THIS BOY WHO NOW IS KING?

**MERLYN:** His name is Arthyr!

THE BOY WHO WOULD BE KING!

**TOWNESPEOPLE:**

ONE TRUE KING!

**ALL:**

ONE TRUE KING!

ARTHYR!

ONE TRUE KING!

*(BLACKOUT. End Act One)*

**27 pages in Act Two**