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GRETEL - AMY SMITHWICK soprano HANSEL - JESSICA WAX mezzo-soprano FATHER/SANDMAN - SAMUEL FERREIRA baritone, AUGUST BAIR baritone GINGERBREAD WITCH - ROBERT BANKS tenor PIANIST - CHOO CHOO HU <u>GINGERBREAD CHILDREN -</u> Roswell North Elementary School Chorus



Once upon a time in a land not too far away, there was a very poor broom maker, his wife and their children --- a boy named Hansel and a girl called Gretel. One day Hansel and Gretel were left at home as their Father had gone to town to find food for the starving family.



Hansel and Gretel tried very hard to do their chores, but they were so hungry!





Gretel warned Hansel to stop complaining and showed him the secret jug of milk for dinner!



Hansel was thrilled by the thought of this tasty treat for dinner, and the children danced and celebrated!



Then as their Father walked in, Hansel knocked over the milk jug, spilling it everywhere! Father was furious and sent the children to the woods to pick strawberries for dinner. Once the children had left, Father got very upset. He realized that he had sent the children into the forest where the scary Gingerbread Witch of Ilsenstein lived. Knowing the danger he had put his children in, he ran off into the woods to search for them!





In the forest of Ilsenstein, Hansel collected berries and chased squirrels.



## Gretel made a beautiful flower crown.



The animals watched them play, including a cuckoo bird who appeared in the tree. The children decided to pretend to be cuckoos. The cuckoo, of course, is an animal which is known for eating the eggs out of other bird's nests. So they gobbled up all of the strawberries pretending they were eggs. Suddenly, Hansel and Gretel realized that night had fallen and it was too dark to see. They were lost in the magical forest and a creature was approaching them.





It was the Sandman, a creature known for keeping children safe when they sleep and bringing them good dreams. The Sandman sprinkled sleep dust in their eyes. The children dozed off to sleep, dreaming of kind forest animals.





The next morning after Hansel and Gretel awoke, they stumbled upon a house made of gingerbread and began to eat it.



The children thought they heard a voice from inside the house, but dismissed it as the wind. They danced with joy as they continued to munch on the house!



Suddenly, out of the house came an old scary woman! She tried to grab the children but they moved quickly out of the way.



She introduced herself as Rosina Sugartooth, a kind humanitarian. The children were not convinced and tried to escape back into the woods.



At that moment, the old woman became a witch and summoned her magical powers to cast a spell on the children that would only allow them to move if she commanded it.



With the help of her gingerbread cookies, the witch locked Hansel near her outside oven. She then released Gretel from the spell and ordered her to prepare the ingredients -- for soon they would be feasting on her brother. Gretel ran inside to do as she commanded.



When Gretel returned, the witch asked her to check the oven to see if the cookies were done. Gretel pretended not to understand. The witch, exasperated, got close to the fire to demonstrate what she wanted. As she did so, the children tried to push her into the fire so that they could run away!



However, when they looked back they saw her lying on the ground, terribly sad and upset. The witch asked the children why they were picking on her -- explaining that she was a good witch who only wanted to have friends. She never hurt anyone -- she just kept the children there as gingerbread so they would be safe.



Hansel and Gretel explained to her that friends should never be treated that way. The witch, realizing her mistake, released all the other children from the spell.



At that moment, Hansel and Gretel's Father appeared to take them home! Having now made friends with the witch, the children promised to return to visit their new friend soon! WHEN THE WORLD IS DARK AND GRAY, LOVE IS SENT TO GUIDE OUR WAY!

