

Informational Packet for
MUTTS AND MARIBEL WALK TO THE MOON
A chamber opera for the child in us all

Words and Music by Nancy Bachmann
nancybachmann@comcast.net, www.nancybachmann.com, (925)778-8837

Requirements - a piano and two singing actors: a light soprano (range: middle E flat to high A flat) and a mezzo (low A to high F sharp).

Performance time - about 25 minutes.

The roles are almost evenly divided with two short arias for Maribel, a longer aria for Mutts and several duets.

The only props needed are a lawn chair and some brightly colored stones.

Costumes should be simple: child-like dress or overalls for Maribel, and droopy dog ears and black painted nose for Mutts.

Maribel is a precocious girl about 8 to 10 years old; she has a lively imagination, enjoys drama and changes her focus quickly. She is adventurous, likes to read, and views the world from her own unique perspective. Maribel loves playing with her dog and “teaching” him the things she knows.

Mutts is a good dog! He loves and admires Maribel, guards her, plays with her and imitates her when he can.

There are nine musical numbers. Musical score excerpts of numbers 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 are included in this packet.

Synopsis:

- Maribel invites Mutts to go for a walk to the moon. Playful excitement ensues. (excerpt #1. Wanna go for a walk?)
- The moon is not up but Maribel assures Mutts that “The Moon is Always Somewhere” (excerpt #2.)
- While they wait for the moon to rise, Maribel falls asleep in the lawn chair (#3) and Mutts stands guard (excerpt #4)
- Mutts sees the moon rising and awakens Maribel (#5). They begin their walk, but as they reach the top of the hill the moon has “moved” out of reach. Maribel sees a cloud shaped like an angel, and tries to convince a hesitant Mutt to use it as a bridge to the moon. (excerpt #6) “You can Always Trust an Angel”
- Mutts is not quite convinced, but when Maribel runs, he follows. They reach the moon and are delighted by the view (excerpt #7) “Look at the Earth”
- Mutts notices the cloud is moving away so they hurry back down to earth (#8). Maribel grabs a moon rock before she goes.
- An exhausted Maribel falls asleep in the lawn chair as the two agree their adventure was “pretty as a dream” (#9) In her sleep Maribel drops the moon rock. Was it all a dream?