KITTY HAWK

The Story of the Wright Brothers

Book by Pattie Burch
Music and Lyrics by Steve Burch
Additional Lyrics by Kelly Schwartzkop

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

(All the action takes place from the late 1800s until 1903.)

ACT I

Scene 1: End of school day. Dayton, Ohio, winter.
Scene 2: That evening. Wright kitchen.
Scene 3: The next day. A nearby snowy hill.
Scene 4: Months later. A spring day, after school.
Scene 5: The Wright kitchen.
Scene 6: A windy hill.
Scene 7: Years later, the Wright home.
Scene 8: The local hockey rink.
Scene 9: The next day, Wilbur's bedroom.
Scene 10: Wright kitchen and walkway in front of home.
Scene 11: Bicycle shop exterior.
Scene 12: Susan Wright's bedroom.

ACT II

Scene 1: World's Fair, Chicago, 1893.
Scene 2: Bicycle shop interior.
Scene 3: Wright house exterior.
Scene 4: Kill Devil Hill, {Kitty Hawk} and Wright home.
Scene 5: Bicycle shop interior.
Scene 6: Kill Devil Hill.
Scene 7: Wright kitchen.
Scene 8: Kill Devil Hill.

Performance time: About 2 hours.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

14 m, 10 w, plus ensemble; much doubling possible
(In order of appearance.)

YOUNG WILBUR WRIGHT: future airplane inventor.
YOUNG ORVILLE WRIGHT: his younger brother, also a future airplane inventor.
YOUNG KATHARINE: younger sister of Wright brothers.
YOUNG CHAUNCY: friend of the Wright brothers.
PERCY: classmate of young Wright brothers.
TOADY AL: classmate of young Wright brothers.
SALLY: classmate of young Katharine.
RACHEL: classmate of young Katharine.
ALLISON: classmate of young Katharine.
SUSAN WRIGHT: mother of Wright brothers.
TEACHER: school teacher of Wright brothers.
MILTON WRIGHT: father of Wright brothers, minister.

ADULT WILBUR WRIGHT: airplane inventor.
ADULT ORVILLE WRIGHT: airplane inventor.
ADULT KATHARINE WRIGHT: sister of Wright brothers.
DR. SPITLER: Wright family doctor.
MRS. WELCH: town gossip.
MRS. DEAN: town busybody.
LESLIE: town busybody.
CHAUNCY: friend of Wright family.
CHARLIE TAYLOR: employee of Wright Cycle Company.
BARKER: showman at Chicago World's Fair.
OCTAVE CHANUTE: famous scientist/engineer.
BILL TATE: postmaster, Kitty Hawk.

Other parts
Dayton students, Kitty Hawk children
Dayton townsfolk
Dayton mailman
Hockey players
World's Fair vendors, demonstrators
Kitty Hawk lifeguards

SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

Act I

#1 Overture
#2 “School’s Out” Student Ensemble
#3 “Measure Twice, Cut Once” Susan, Wilbur, Orville
#4 “Sled Race” Wilbur, Orville, Students
#5 “School’s Out” (Reprise.) Student Ensemble
#6 “Measure Twice, Cut Once (Reprise) Wilbur, Orville
#7 “Kite Contest” (“Sled Race” Reprise) Wilbur, Orville, Students
#8 “Entrepreneurs” Wilbur, Orville
#9 “Hockey Game” Players, Spectators
#10 “What Would I Do Without You” Orville, Kate, Susan, Milton
#11 “What Will I Do With My Life” Wilbur
#12 “Entrepreneurs” Wilbur, Orville
#13 “Bicycles” Katharine, Chauncy, Townsfolk
#14 “Death of Susan” Milton, Katharine, Wilbur, Orville

Act II

#15 Entr’acte
#16 “World’s Fair” Barker, Cast Ensemble
#17 “Otto Lillienthal” Charlie Taylor
#18 “You Will Finally Fly” Milton
#19 “Quiet Obsession” Wilbur, Orville, Katharine, Milton
#20 “You Can’t Do That” Mrs. Welch, Townsfolk
#21 “Dreams of Flight” Wilbur, Orville, Octave
#22 “Return to Kitty Hawk” (“Dreams” Reprise) Wilbur, Orville
#23 “You Can’t Do That” (Reprise) Townsfolk Ensemble
#24 “Frustration” Wilbur, Orville
#25 “Love Has To Wait” Katharine
#26 “You Will Finally Fly” (Finale) Cast Ensemble

ACT I

MUSICAL #1 – OVERTURE

Scene 1

(CURTAIN opens as a school bell is heard. STUDENTS, dressed in winter clothes, excitedly run out of schoolhouse, cheering, as the music begins the opening song.)

MUSICAL #2 -- SCHOOL'S OUT

SCHOOL KIDS:

SCHOOL'S OUT AND I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT,
SCHOOL'S OUT, OH WHY CAN'T IT STAY FOREVER?
SCHOOL'S OUT, NO MORE HASSLES AND HOMEWORK.
LOUD AND CLEAR - SHOUT IT OUT.
SCHOOL'S OUT EVEN IF IT'S FOR ONLY
TWO WEEKS FOR CHRISTMAS AND SNOW AND NEW YEAR'S,
SCHOOL'S OUT, NO MORE TEACHERS AND HEADACHES.
LOUD AND CLEAR, SHOUT IT OUT.
FREEDOM, OH FREEDOM. NOW FOR GOOD TIMES EVERYONE.
NOW THAT WE'RE STARTING OUR BREAK I KNOW THAT
WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN
(WE'RE GONNA HAVE SOME FUN.)
WINTER'S THE TIME FOR SNOWFALL
SO WE HEAD TO THE HILL EVERYONE.
SCHOOL'S OUT AND I'M GONNA GO SLEDDING.
LAST ONE TO THE BOTTOM'S AN OLD ROTTEN EGG.
LET'S GO TO THE TOP OF THE SLED RUN,
RACE DOWN FAST, HERE WE GO.
THIS SNOW IS THE BEST IN A LONG TIME.
I THINK THAT MY SLED IS FASTER THAN YOURS.
WE'LL SEE BUT NOBODY CARES BECAUSE
SCHOOL IS OUT, SHOUT IT OUT.
LOUD AND CLEAR, SHOUT IT OUT.
LOUD AND CLEAR, SCHOOL IS OUT.

PERCY: Well, there's the Wright boys. The gang and I were just talking about starting this winter break with a friendly sled competition. So how about it, Orville, Wilbur? Meet you at Parson's Hill in 15 minutes. You can see me take the big slope on the new sled my Pop just bought me.

SALLY: Brand new?

PERCY: Of course ... the best money can buy!

ORVILLE: *(Mocking.)* "The best money can buy!" Oh come on, Percy, don't you ever get tired of saying that?
PERCY: *(Sniffing the air.)* Hey fellas, you smell that?
TOADY AL: Smell what?
PERCY: Sour grapes! *(HE guffaws.)* Come on, boys, let's get some fresh air!
TOADY AL: Yeah, fresh air. Ya comin', Chauncy?
CHAUNCY: *(Uncomfortably.)* Well ... uh ... meet you guys there. Don't mind him, Orville.
ORVILLE: Aw ... he thinks his father's so rich!
WILBUR: Because he is! Chauncy's right, you shouldn't let Percy get to you.
CHAUNCY: So ... you guys coming then?
WILBUR: Well ... we ought to get Katharine home. *(Calling to Katharine.)* Kate! Hey, come on, quit dawdling!
KATHARINE: *(Perturbed.)* I'm not dawdling. I'm waiting for Allison Flannery. We girls are going to her house and her mother is going to teach us how to bake.
ORVILLE: Bake? Ha, that's a laugh! Mother has to hog-tie you to get you to cook at home.
CHAUNCY: *(Dimly.)* How can she cook if she's hog-tied?
WILBUR: *(Laughing.)* All right, Kate, but make sure someone walks you home.
CHAUNCY: So you can come then ... great! Wait here while I go get my sled, will ya, fellas!
ALLISON: *(Entering with RACHEL.)* ... so then she said to me "You'll never believe what she said!" and I said "Try me."
RACHEL: So what did she say she said?
ALLISON: I can't say. Oh ... there you are, Katharine. Did your mother say you could come?
KATHARINE: Um hummm! Are you coming too Rachel?
RACHEL: *(Prissily.)* No. I have to go ask Mrs. Richardson to Sunday dinner, then I'm hurrying right home to study. As Mother always says: "Smart young ladies always say that homework comes before they play."
KATHARINE: *(Excitedly.)* What do we get to make, Allison, cookies?

End of Freeview

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