KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

Characters

Chorus 1
Chorus 2
King Midas (MID-as)
Grape Picker 1
Grape Picker 2

Dionysus (dy-uh-NY-suhs)
Midas’s servant
Midas’s wife
Midas’s child

9 Parts

Once there was a king named Midas. Like most kings, he was very wealthy.

But Midas was not satisfied with his wealth. Like many kings, he wanted more wealth.

Gold, gold, wonderful gold!
Whenever I see it, I never feel old.
There’s one special thing that will make me feel glad—
That’s to have the most gold a mortal’s ever had!
CHORUS 1: One day some grape pickers found a satyr (SAY-tuhr) asleep in Midas's field.

CHORUS 2: A satyr is half man and half goat, and this one was lying in the king's favorite flower bed near a stream.

GRAPE PICKER 1: Be on your way, satyr!

GRAPE PICKER 2: He's sound asleep. He won't budge!

GRAPE PICKER 1: Well, we have to get him away from here, or Midas might be mad!

GRAPE PICKER 2: Hmm . . . there must be something we can do.

MIDAS: Do about what?

GRAPE PICKER 1: This satyr, your majesty.

GRAPE PICKER 2: He's in your favorite flower bed.

MIDAS: That's no matter. Let him be. The poor creature must need his rest if he's sleeping so soundly.

GRAPE PICKERS 1 & 2: Yes, your majesty.

CHORUS 1: So the grape pickers left as the satyr slept on.

CHORUS 2: Suddenly, Dionysus, the god of wine appeared.

DIONYSUS: Well done, Midas!

MIDAS: (Bow ing) Dionysus, what brings you to my vineyard?

DIONYSUS: I have seen the work of kindness you have bestowed upon my friend. For that you will be rewarded. What is your wish?

MIDAS: My wish? I wish for gold, gold, wonderful gold! Whenever I see it I never feel old. There's one special thing that will make me feel glad— That's to have the most gold a mortal's ever had!

I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold!
**CHORUS 1 & 2:** Be careful what you wish for, Midas!

**MIDAS:** Shush!

**DIONYSUS:** But you already have more gold than any mortal could ever need!

**MIDAS:** Ah, there can never be enough gold! May I have my wish?

**DIONYSUS:** If that is your wish, then it is granted. Now everything you touch will turn to gold.

**MIDAS:** Thank you, kind Dionysus!

**CHORUS 1:** After Dionysus and the satyr had left, Midas ran through his gardens, testing his wish.

**CHORUS 2:** As his feet ran on the grass, it turned to gold!

**CHORUS 1:** He touched the swaying branches of his trees. The trees turned to gold!

**CHORUS 2:** And each rosebush he touched turned to gold!

**MIDAS:** Hee, hee! Hah, hah! Hoo, hoo!

**CHORUS 1:** Midas was ecstatic.

**CHORUS 2:** Midas’s servant entered, carrying a glass.

**SERVANT:** Your majesty, I have brought you a cool drink.

**MIDAS:** Wonderful. Thank you so much.

**CHORUS 1:** As Midas put his hand on the servant’s shoulder, the servant froze and turned to gold!

**MIDAS:** Oh, my!

**CHORUS 2:** In came Midas’s dog, barking happily and nuzzling up to Midas. She, too, turned to gold!

**MIDAS:** Oh, dear!

**CHORUS 1:** Midas’s wife entered with her arms extended to embrace Midas.
**WIFE:** Darling, I've been looking all over for you!

**MIDAS:** Stay back! Do not touch me!

**WIFE:** What on earth is going on?

**MIDAS:** It's a long story. Just stay away.

**CHORUS 2:** Whew! That was close! Oh, no! Here comes his child!

**CHILD:** Daddy, daddy!

**MIDAS:** No, my child. No!

**CHORUS 1:** But it was too late. Midas’s child embraced Midas and instantly turned to gold.

**MIDAS:** *(To the sky)* Oh, Dionysus! Rid me of this terrible wish!

**DIONYSUS:** But you have more gold than any mortal. And you will have even more!

**MIDAS:** My child. My precious child. Nothing is more important!

**DIONYSUS:** *(Handing Midas a large jar)* Very well. Take this amphora. Bring it to the river and fill it with water. Pour it over everything that has turned to gold, and it will be undone.

**MIDAS:** *(Taking the jar)* Oh, thank you, kind god.

**DIONYSUS:** You’re welcome. And Midas?

**MIDAS:** Yes?

**DIONYSUS:** Next time, be careful what you wish for.

**CHORUS 1 & 2:** Told you so!

**MIDAS:** Oh, shush!

**CHORUS 2:** So Midas did as Dionysus said, and everything that had turned to gold was turned back.

**SERVANT:** I’ll get you some bread to go with your drink.
**CHILD:** Daddy, daddy! Come play with me!

**MIDAS:** *(Hugging his child)* Yes, my dear child. Yes!

*(To audience)*

Ladies and gentlemen, take it from me.
Some wishes are bad, as you can see.
I’ve learned my lesson and now I confess
All I need is what I already possess.

**CHORUS 1 & 2:** Told you so!

**MIDAS:** Oh, shush!

**THE END**