

I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

- a very short comic opera -

Music by Jeremy Beck

Libretto by Joel Gelpe

CAST

Cathy, a six-year-old (performed by an adult)

Light lyric soprano

Miss Romano, a kindergarten teacher

Lyric mezzo-soprano

SYNOPSIS

It is the end of summer vacation and Cathy is excited about the prospect of going to kindergarten. Miss Romano feels differently about returning to the classroom.

Running time: ca. 3:00.

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(Lights up bright on CATHY with the music. She is playing some game – her excitement is palpable.)

Cathy

I get ta go to kindergarten next week!

Gonna have juice and cookies!

Gonna take a nap on a blanket!

Gonna play with clay and Play-doh!

Gonna go potty!

Gonna make a lotta friends, gonna have fun!

(Lights fade up on MISS ROMANO, talking to herself in a separate space from CATHY.)

Miss Romano

(shaking head) “Next week...”

I really gotta take it easy.

Put teaching into perspective.

Get off the valium now and meditate.

Cathy and Miss Romano

Oh, I can hardly wait -

Cathy

- for my very first day -

Miss Romano

- for another first day –

Cathy and Miss Romano

- of school!

Cathy

Play duck, duck, goose.

Miss Romano

Play frozen tag.

Cathy

Change dolly’s diaper.

Miss Romano

(whistles) Play pied piper.

Cathy

Gonna learn lotsa new stuff.

Miss Romano

Nagging brats.

Cathy

Gonna get to find out things like...

Miss Romano

They're always crying:

"I gotta boo-boo!"

Cathy

... like...

Miss Romano

"I want my Mommy!"

Cathy

... like

Why are marshmallows sticky?

Miss Romano

"Ricky is a retard!"

Cathy

Why does tunafish smell?

Miss Romano

"Miss Romano tell me why!"

Cathy

Why is butter yellow?

Miss Romano

"Why!"

Cathy

Why is water wet?

Miss Romano

Why?...

Cathy

I can hardly wait to go...

Cathy and Miss Romano

I remember summer –

We (I) didn't do anything.

Didn't go anywhere.

Cathy

So boring, boring and slow.

Miss Romano

And how I loved it so...

Cathy

(speaks) "Thank God it's over, 'cause my Mom says:"

(sings) If I do what I'm supposed ta.

Ask a lotta questions

And listen to Miss Romano.

Maybe then someday

I can be a real good teacher just like her!

Miss Romano

I really gotta take it easy

Or I'm gonna have a nervous breakdown.

Just like my cousin Vicki
Who was also a kindergarten teacher.

They put her in a sanitarium.
They gave her juice and cookies.
And they let her take a nap on a blanket.
And they let her play with clay and Play-doh.
And then she went potty!

Cathy
Gonna listen to Miss Romano,
Miss Romano
She sure had fun!

Cathy
So I can be a real good teacher -
Miss Romano
'Cause she made a lot of friends -

Cathy and Miss Romano
- just like her!

Miss Romano
It sounds like heaven!
Cathy
Don't wanna be late!

Cathy and Miss Romano
Oh, I can hardly wait -

Cathy
- for my very first day -
Miss Romano
- 'til they take me away -

Cathy
- of -
Miss Romano
- from -

Cathy and Miss Romano
- school!

(BLACKOUT)

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