

PROLOGUE: CHERRY TREE LANE, PARLOR

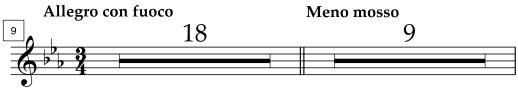
(#1-PROLOGUE.)

PROLOGUE

(London, 1910. It's autumn: a dark sky, scudding clouds. A landscape of early twentieth-century rooftops is spread out before us.)



(The entire CAST stands across the stage and addresses the audience.)







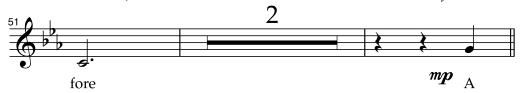


(The CAST splits center to reveal BERT, a chimney sweep.)





(The ENSEMBLE exits revealing the BANKS FAMILY posed as if taking a family portrait. However, GEORGE and WINIFRED are not focused on their children, JANE and MICHAEL, who have sour looks on their faces.)







(MICHAEL reveals a makeshift kite, tags JANE, and begins running around GEORGE and WINIFRED chased by JANE. GEORGE is upset by the children acting out; WINIFRED is overwhelmed.)







(BERT gestures, causing the BANKS FAMILY to freeze in tableau. MICHAEL and JANE are clearly acting up; WINIFRED and GEORGE are clearly frustrated.)



