(The stage is set with a music stand or lectern downstage left, separated from the main playing area. When the play begins, the CAST wait offstage as the NARRATOR enters and moves to center stage.)

NARRATOR:

(to audience) Before we begin our presentation, we have a brief announcement: At one point in the story that follows, we'll invite you to participate by playing the role of the crowd at the feeding of the five thousand. (stepping to the music stand, to the CAST) O. K., everybody, get in your places.

(A few members of the CAST enter tentatively, glancing nervously at the audience. They stop at the edges of the playing area, obviously too frightened to enter further. The NARRATOR looks back and sees their hesitation.)

NARRATOR: (encouragingly) Come on... it's O.K. (CAST'), 2, 3, and 4 edge out

further but turn away from audience, scared.) What's the problem?

(The rest of the CAST begin drifting on to the stage.)

CAST 1: Look at all those people.

CAST 2: They're watching us.

CAST 3: Yeah.

CAST 4: What if they don't like us?

CAST 5: I can't see my Mom.

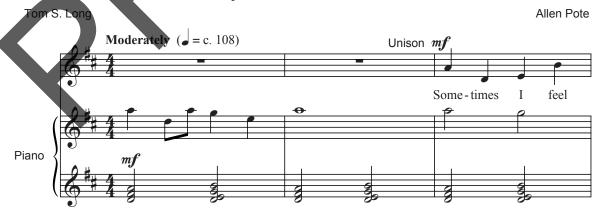
CAST 6: What if I do something stupid?
CAST 7: What if I forget my lines?
CAST 8: I got a sinking feeling

CAST 9: Yeah - like I'm in a leaky boat.

CAST 10: Without a paddle.

ALL: Yeah!

My Boat Is Small



A part for optional flute or oboe is printed on page 67.

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