Staging: Projections on the left and right of the stage serve to suggest locations and special effects. Center upstage, there is an acoustic guitar on a stand.

SCENE 1

JOHN HENRY and PAUL BUNYAN take the stage. The stage is dark, except for a light on JOHN and PAUL.

#1: Listen Close

    PAUL BUNYAN
LISTEN GOOD

    JOHN HENRY & PAUL BUNYAN
LISTEN HARD!
WE’LL ONLY TELL THE GOOD WORD ONCE

    JOHN HENRY
LISTEN CLOSE!

    JOHN HENRY & PAUL BUNYAN
LISTEN CLEAR!
WE HAVE A STORY YOU SHOULD HEAR!

    PAUL BUNYAN
THE TALE WILL BE SHORT, BUT SEEM TALLER THAN MOST

    JOHN HENRY
WE MAY BE PLAYERS…

    JOHN HENRY & PAUL BUNYAN
...BUT MOSTLY YOUR HOSTS

The lights come up on the stage. THE WORKERS are revealed, axes raised, frozen in place. Their names are ALEX, SAM and CARMEN.

    JOHN HENRY
FRIENDLY SHADES AND FRIENDLY SPIRITS

    PAUL BUNYAN
FAIRYTALES FROM FORESTS MOONLIT
JOHN HENRY
ECHOING FROM AGE TO AGE

PAUL BUNYAN
TALES THAT MAKES YOU TURN A PAGE

JOHN HENRY
CHANGE YOUR WAYS…

PAUL BUNYAN
...OR MAKE A PLAY

JOHN HENRY & PAUL BUNYAN
SOME ANCIENT FOLKS WHO SAVED THE DAY
LISTEN CLOSE! LISTEN CLEAR!
WE HAVE A STORY YOU SHOULD HEAR

JOHN HENRY
Listen! Hush!

PAUL BUNYAN
NOT A WHIMPER

JOHN HENRY & PAUL BUNYAN
HERE ARE OUR WORKERS, THEY’RE YELLING:

ALEX, SAM & CARMEN
(one at a time) Timber!

Crash! JOHN and PAUL exit, and THE WORKERS unfreeze. They are in the act of chopping down trees. The projections flicker to life showing a thick wooded forest. It is daytime.

#2: Timber!

ALEX, SAM, CARMEN
TIMBER! TIMBER!
TIMBER! TIMBER!

ALEX
AN HONEST DAY’S SWEAT AND TOIL

SAM & CARMEN
AN HONEST DAY’S SWEAT AND TOIL

ALL
TIMBER! TIMBER!

SAM
CHOPPING DOWN TREES IN MUD AND SOIL

ALEX & CARMEN
CHOPPING DOWN TREES IN MUD AND SOIL

ALL
TIMBER! TIMBER!

CARMEN
THE HARDEST DAY’S WORK AND LABOR
ALL FOR THE LUMBER BOSSES FAVOR

ALEX & SAM
HARDEST DAY’S WORK AND LABOR

ALL
ALL FOR THE LUMBER BOSS’S FAVOR
TIMBER! TIMBER! TIMBER!

ALL FOR THE LUMBER BOSS’S FAVOR, TIMBER!