Hailey – Do you hear that beat?

Baylee – It’s the sound of people entering the theater on the most famous street in the world.

Brielle – Do you hear that beat? It’s the sound of dancing feet and orchestras tuning up.

Lorelei – Do you hear that beat? It’s the sound of Rogers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe, Webber and Rice.

Jacob – It’s the sound of Stephen Sondheim and Stephen Schwartz.

Kaden – It’s the sound of *Oklahoma*, *Cats*, *The King and I*.

Elysa – It’s the sound of *Wicked*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*!
Devin O. – Do you hear that beat? It’s the sound that dreams are made of.

Emerson – Do you hear that beat? It’s the sound of Broadway!

Amelia – And nobody can stop it!!

-YOU CAN’T STOP THE BEAT – Homant

Nathan – That’s right! You can’t stop the beat on Broadway!

Abby – Speaking of Broadway, do you know who was known as “the father of American musical comedy?”

Hayden – Why sure! That was George M. Cohan.
Abby – That’s right! Do you know what the “M” stands for?

Hayden – Umm. Maestro?

Jason – Nope!

Hayden – Mario?

Jason – Hardly!

Hayden – Marcello?

Blaine – Not even close. George M. Cohan was a playwright, composer, entertainer, lyricist, actor, singer, dancer and producer. (takes a big breath)

Hayden – Marcus?

Billy – His first big hit was Little Johnny Jones, a story about an American jockey who went to England to ride his horse Yankee Doodle in the Derby.
Hayden – Macaroni?

Lillian – So, here is our salute to Mr. George “Michael” Cohan.

Hayden – Michael! I knew that. I knew that!

GIVE MY REGARDS TO GEORGE M. COHAN – Day

John – In 1957, a new show hit the Broadway stage.

Owen – It was written by Meredith Willson. It was about a con man named Harold Hill who pretends to be a band director and sells expensive band uniforms and instruments to the people of river city Iowa.
Sidney – The show was a huge hit. It won five Tony awards, the highest honor for a Broadway show.

Sierra – Do you hear that beat? It’s the beat of marching feet and seventy-six trombones!

Jacob – It’s the sound of *The Music Man*.

SEVENTY-SIX TROMBONES – Raymond

RJ – Rodgers and Hammerstein were two of the greatest writers of Broadway shows ever.

Noah – They wrote such classics as *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *Carousel* and, of course, *The Sound of Music*. 
Lexi – In 1951, Rogers and Hammerstein wrote a musical based on the true story of an English woman named Anna who went to Siam to be the tutor for the king’s children.

Jacob – The show was called *The King and I*, and one of the most popular songs in it was this one called “I Whistle a Happy Tune.”

WHISTLE A HAPPY TUNE – McCarty

Nick – The hit musical *Wicked* was written by Stephen Schwartz and debuted on Broadway in 2003.

Ashley – But his success began long before that. He wrote *Godspell* shortly after graduating from college...
Kyleigh – And at the young age of twenty-three, Stephen Schwartz was an instant Broadway success.

Karra – Seeing a great Broadway show, singing a great Broadway song, or even performing in a Broadway show can change you.

Gage – Just like making a new friend can change you.

Damian – For the better?

Gage – Maybe.

Damian – For worse?

Gage – Perhaps.

Damian – Forever?

Gage – Well, maybe not forever, but certainly “For Good.”
Charlize – In 1996 the rock musical *Rent* hit Broadway. The show went on to win four Tony awards and ran on Broadway for 12 years!

Kaden – The Broadway beat is the rhythm of life that can take us on fantastic adventures, exploring feelings that sometimes only music can capture...

David - ...like a legion of honor, a belly of laughs, a bundle of courage, or a season of love.

SEASONS OF LOVE
Audrey – Since the first shows opened in the early 1800’s, the Broadway beat has been pounding steadily. And it doesn’t show signs of slowing down.

Zoe – It takes a lot of effort to put on a Broadway show. The most successful ones are the shows where all the pieces come perfectly together.

Luther – *(overly dramatic)* The singers singing...

Jaycei – *(striking a pose)* The actors acting...

Alyssa – *(encouraging the audience to clap)*...audiences applauding...

Hunter – *(interrupting and rolling eyes)*...and hams hamming it up!
Lexi – Let’s go together to Broadway, where every day and every night, the beat goes on!

WE GO TOGETHER