

Charles Dickens'
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
A New Musical

Book & Lyrics by Keith Ferguson
Music by Bruce Greer

CAST OF CHARACTERS
In order of appearance

CHORUS of Londoners

EBENEZER SCROOGE

GENTLEMAN 1

GENTLEMAN 2

NARRATOR 1 - can also play other roles

NARRATOR 2 - can also play other roles

BOB CRATCHIT

FRED

ORPHAN 1

ORPHAN 2

JACOB MARLEY

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

SCHOOLMASTER

BOY SCROOGE

FAN

MR. FEZZIWIG

MRS. FEZZIWIG

YOUNG SCROOGE

DICK WILKINS/BELLE'S HUSBAND

HOUSEMAID

COOK

BAKER

MILKMAN

YOUNG WOMAN

FEZZIWIG DAUGHTER 1

FEZZIWIG DAUGHTER 2

FEZZIWIG DAUGHTER 3

BELLE

SALLY WILKINS, *BELLE's child*

CHARLES WILKINS, *BELLE's child*

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

WOMAN 1

WOMAN 2

MINISTER

MRS. CRATCHIT

BELINDA CRATCHIT

PETER CRATCHIT

ELIZABETH CRATCHIT

MARTHA CRATCHIT

MATTHEW CRATCHIT

"TINY" TIM CRATCHIT

VIRGINIA

TOPPER

PARTY GUESTS:

GUEST 1

GUEST 2

GUEST 3

GUEST 4

GUEST 5

IGNORANCE

WANT

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE

WOMAN 3

CHARWOMAN

LAUNDRESS

GRAVEDIGGER

OLD JOE

CAROLINE

THOMAS

TURKEY BOY

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Synopsis of Scenes & Musical Numbers

PROLOGUE – Christmas Eve, 1843, 3:00 pm, Streets of London

Overture – Orchestra

Sing a Christmas Carol with God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
– Chorus, Scrooge

SCENE 1 – Christmas Eve, late afternoon, Scrooge's Office

God Bless Christmas / A Family Christmas
with Here We Come-a-Caroling
– Fred, Scrooge, Bob, Orphan Boy, Orphan Girl

SCENE 2 – Christmas Eve Night, Scrooge's Bedroom

This Chain – Jacob Marley

SCENE 3 – Christmas Past – A Schoolroom, Fezziwig's, Scrooge's Office,
Belle's Home

A Family Christmas – Reprise – Fan, Boy Scrooge

Christmas Eve at Fezziwig's with Deck the Halls–
Mr. Fezziwig, Mrs. Fezziwig, Chorus, Housemaid, Cook, Baker,
Milkman, Young Woman, Dick Wilkins, Young Scrooge

You Once Were – Belle

SCENE 4 – Christmas Present – Scrooge’s Bedroom, Streets of London, a Church,
Cratchit Home, Fred’s Home

Merry Christmas Morning – Ghost of Christmas Present, Chorus

*O Come, All Ye Faithful with The First Noel and
Good Christian Men, Rejoice* – Chorus, Scrooge

As We Remember – The Cratchit Family

On Christmas Night - Medley of English Carols –
Fred, Virginia, Party Guests

God Bless Christmas – Reprise – Fred, Virginia

SCENE 5 – Christmas Future – Streets of London, Cratchit Home, A Graveyard

Better Off Dead – Charwoman, Laundress, Gravedigger, Old Joe

As We Remember – Reprise – Bob

Ebenezer Scrooge – Orchestra Underscore

SCENE 6 – Christmas Day – Scrooge’s Bedroom, Streets of London, Fred’s House

On My Knees – Scrooge

Christmas Morning Medley –
Scrooge, Chorus, Fred, Virginia

EPILOGUE – December 26, 1843, Scrooge’s Office, Streets of London

God Bless Us, Everyone –
Tiny Tim, Bob, Scrooge, Fred, Virginia, Company

Curtain Call with Sing a Christmas Carol & Joy to the World! - Company

**PROLOGUE –
A London Street, December 24th, 1843, 3:00 pm**

#1 Overture (ORCHESTRA)

The end of the Overture takes us into darkness, and then, silence. We hear a large clock tower chime three o'clock in the afternoon. Then, festive Christmas music begins as the lights fade up, revealing a busy London Street, filled with people, and festooned with Christmas finery. There is much activity as people make final preparations for Christmas Day. The CHORUS sings with great merriment and excitement.

#2 Sing a Christmas Carol (CHORUS, SCROOGE)

CHORUS

SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL,
BEHOLD! THE DAY IS NEAR!
LIFT YOUR VOICE IN JOYFUL SONG,
WITH CHARITY AND CHEER!
THOUGH WINTER WINDS ARE BLOWING COLD,
WE WARM OUR HEARTS WITH SONGS OF OLD,
REJOICING IN THE SPIRIT WHILE WE MAY,
OH, SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL, TODAY!

SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL,
LET MUSIC FILL THE AIR!
SING WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND FIND
THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT THERE!
CATHEDRAL BELLS BEGIN TO CHIME
THEY BRING GLAD TIDINGS AT THIS TIME.
AND RINGING IN THE SEASON WHILE THEY PLAY,
OH, SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL, TODAY!

SATB QUARTET

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN.
LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY.
REMEMBER, CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR,
WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY.
TO SAVE US ALL FROM SATAN'S POWER
WHEN WE WERE GONE ASTRAY.

CHORUS

O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY,
COMFORT AND JOY,
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY.

Toward the end of the carol, SCROOGE attempts to cross the street, but is blocked by the singers, which irritates him to no end. GENTLEMAN 1 and GENTLEMAN 2 go to him.

GENTLEMAN 1

Mr. Scrooge! A Merry Christmas, sir! Won't you join us in a carol?

SCROOGE

SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL?
BAH! HUMBUG! DO YOU MIND?
I SIMPLY WON'T BE BOTHERED BY
THE FOOLISH OF YOUR KIND!
WHO TAKE ANOTHER HOLIDAY
TO MOUNT UP DEBTS YOU CANNOT PAY!
FRIVOLITY AND WASTE THAT MAKE ME GROAN;
NOW LET ME PASS AND LEAVE ME ALONE!

The GENTLEMEN shrug it off as the group continues to sing. SCROOGE pushes people out of his way and disappears into the crowd as the CHORUS sings again.

CHORUS

NOW TO THE LORD SING PRAISES,
ALL YOU WITHIN THIS PLACE,
AND WITH TRUE LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD
EACH OTHER NOW EMBRACE;
THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS
ALL OTHER DOTH DEFACE.
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY,
COMFORT AND JOY,
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY.

We see the GENTLEMEN trailing SCROOGE, following HIM to his office, where the large sign reads SCROOGE & MARLEY.

GENTLEMAN 2

Mr. Scrooge . . . if we could have just a moment of your time, sir . . .

SCROOGE

You may not!

The GENTLEMEN continue to follow SCROOGE. HE arrives at his office door just as the final chorus ends.

CHORUS

SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL,
REMEMBER CHRISTMAS PAST,
CELEBRATE THIS PRESENT TIME
WHILE FLEETING MOMENTS LAST.
AND AS FOR CHRISTMAS YET TO BE,
WE LIVE WITH HOPE SOMEDAY TO SEE
GOOD WILL AND PEACE ON EARTH HAVE COME TO STAY!
OH, SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL TODAY!
OH, SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL TODAY!

SCROOGE is now standing in the doorway, holding the door to his office open.

SCROOGE

BAH! HUMBUG!

On the final beat of the music, SCROOGE slams the door in the faces of the GENTLEMEN.

#2A Playoff - Sing a Christmas Carol (ORCHESTRA) - OPTIONAL

Two NARRATORS step forward as the lights fade, the CHORUS quietly disperses and the scene is changed to the interior of Scrooge's office.

NARRATOR 1 & 2 (in unison)

Marley was dead, to begin with.

NARRATOR 1

There is no doubt whatever about that.

NARRATOR 2

The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman,

NARRATOR 1

the clerk,

NARRATOR 2

the undertaker,

NARRATOR 1

and the chief mourner. Scrooge himself had signed it!

NARRATOR 1 & 2 (in unison)

Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail.

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge knew he was dead? Of course he did. Scrooge and Marley were partners for I don't know how many years. Scrooge was his sole executor,

NARRATOR 2

his sole administrator,

NARRATOR 1

his sole friend,

NARRATOR 2

and his sole mourner.

NARRATOR 1 & 2 (in unison)

There is no doubt that Marley was dead.

NARRATOR 2

This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story we are going to relate. Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door:

NARRATOR 1 & 2 (in unison)

Scrooge and Marley.

By this time, the scene has changed and we see SCROOGE, lit at his desk, counting, working, in his usual bitter disposition.

NARRATOR 1

He answered to both names. It was all the same to him. Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind-stone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.

NARRATOR 2

The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; and he didn't thaw one degree at Christmas. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say,

NARRATOR 1

“My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?”

NARRATOR 2

No beggars implored him to bestow a trifle, no children asked him what time it was, no man or woman ever once in all his life inquired the way to such and such a place, of Scrooge.

NARRATOR 1

But what did Scrooge care! It was the very thing he liked. To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance. Once upon a time--of all the good days in the year, on Christmas Eve--old Scrooge sat busy in his counting-house . . .

SCENE 1 – SCROOGE’S OFFICE, late afternoon

Lights fade up on the office. The TWO GENTLEMEN from the song before have made their way inside, and stand near Scrooge’s desk. BOB CRATCHIT, Scrooge’s clerk, is at his desk, listening to the conversation, but trying to look busy as well.

GENTLEMAN 1

(joyful)
Mr. Scrooge!
(to BOB)

And you must be Mr. Marley, I presume? It is Scrooge & Marley, is it not?

BOB shakes his head “No” quickly, seeking to warn the GENTLEMEN.

SCROOGE

Mr. Marley died seven years ago this very night. Any more foolish questions?

GENTLEMAN 1

Forgive me, sir. I am sorry.

SCROOGE

What is your business here? I have much work to do. Make haste.

GENTLEMAN 1

At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge, it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.

SCROOGE

(not looking up from his work)

Are there no prisons?

GENTLEMAN 1

Plenty of prisons.

SCROOGE

(still without looking at them)

And the Union workhouses? Are they still in operation?

GENTLEMAN 1

They are, still. I wish I could say they were not.

SCROOGE

(finally looking up, addresses them)

Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course. I'm very glad to hear it.

GENTLEMAN 2

Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer of mind or body to the multitude, a few of us are endeavoring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when want is keenly felt, and abundance rejoices.

GENTLEMAN 1

(taking a pen in hand)

What shall I put you down for?

SCROOGE

Nothing!

GENTLEMAN 2

You wish to be anonymous?

SCROOGE

I wish to be left alone. Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned - they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.

GENTLEMAN 1

Many can't go there . . . and many would rather die.

SCROOGE

If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides, excuse me . . . I don't know that.

GENTLEMAN 2

But you might know it.

SCROOGE

(Rises and goes to the door)

It's not my business! It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly.

(opens the door to them)

Good afternoon, gentlemen!

GENTLEMAN 1 & GENTLEMAN 2 exit out the door, but it remains open.

During this exchange, BOB has gone to the coal box and retrieved a piece of coal with a shovel. SCROOGE catches him in the act.

SCROOGE

Cratchit!

This stops BOB cold in his tracks.

SCROOGE

Shall I deduct that piece of coal from you salary or would you like to put it back, Sir?

BOB

I will put it back . . . of course. Forgive me, Sir.

SCROOGE

Just as I thought. It is astounding to me that a man of your meager salary would be so wasteful. But then, of course, it's not your coal, is it? It is mine. You were stealing from me. That is grounds for your dismissal, Sir!

BOB

I beg your forgiveness, Mr. Scrooge. It seemed to be getting so much colder in here, late in the day, and I thought perhaps –

SCROOGE

It is warm enough for me! Keep your hands off my property, Mr. Cratchit!

Suddenly, FRED, Scrooge's nephew, is standing in the doorway, which is still open.

FRED

Uncle Scrooge!

SCROOGE

(with disgust, going back to desk)
Another interruption. Does no one work anymore?

FRED

A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!

SCROOGE

Bah! Humbug!

FRED

Christmas a humbug, uncle! You don't mean that, I am sure?

SCROOGE

I do. Merry Christmas! What right or reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough.

FRED

What right have you to be so dismal? You're rich enough.

*BOB laughs at this retort and SCROOGE shoots him an angry look.
BOB acts as if it was a cough, and not a chuckle.*

SCROOGE

Bah! Humbug!

FRED

Don't be cross, uncle!

SCROOGE

What else can I be when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but not an hour richer? If I could work my will every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart!

FRED

Uncle!

SCROOGE

Nephew! Keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine.

FRED

But you don't keep it.

Music begins.

**#3 God Bless Christmas/A Family Christmas
(FRED, SCROOGE, BOB, BOY, GIRL)**

SCROOGE

Let me leave it alone, then. Much good may it do you! What good has it ever done you?

FRED

I CAN RECOUNT MANY BLESSINGS
THAT HAVE COME INTO MY LIFE,
AN EMPLOYER WHO IS GEN'ROUS,
MY GOOD REV'REND, MY GOOD WIFE.

SCROOGE

Wife! That's another thing! Whatever possessed you to take a wife in the first place?

FRED

I fell in love.

SCROOGE

Love! What a ridiculous reason to marry!

FRED

BUT I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF CHRISTMAS
AS THAT SINGLE TIME OF YEAR
WHEN KINDNESS AND FORGIVENESS AND GREAT CHARITY
APPEAR,
AND PEOPLE NOTICE PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY.
SO WITH AN OPEN-HEARTED SPIRIT, I MUST SAY:

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!
WE NEED IT, SO HEED IT!
GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!
TOMORROW IS THE DAY!
IT WON'T BRING ME A SCRAP OF GOLD,
STILL, I BELIEVE WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD:
THAT CHRISTMAS DOES ME GOOD AND SO I SAY-
GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS ANYWAY!

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!

SCROOGE

I HATE IT! BERATE IT!

FRED

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!

SCROOGE

WHY DON'T YOU GO AWAY!

FRED

I MAY NOT GAIN A SINGLE THING,
BUT IT GIVES ME A SONG TO SING,
'T WILL ALWAYS DO ME GOOD AND SO I SAY:

BOB gets caught up and joins on the last line.

FRED & BOB

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS ANYWAY!

BOB applauds FRED.

BOB

Here, here!

Music continues.

SCROOGE

(to BOB)

Let me hear another sound from you, and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation!

(to FRED)

You're quite a powerful speaker, sir. Why you don't go into Parliament?

FRED

Don't be angry, uncle. Come! Dine with us tomorrow.

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS,
AT HOME WITH ME.
WHEN EVERYONE'S TOGETHER,
I KNOW THAT YOU WILL SEE
HOW WONDERFUL, HOW BEAUTIFUL
A TRUE CHRISTMAS CAN BE.
UNCLE, LET'S MAKE A MEMORY!
CHRISTMAS DAY WITH OUR FAMILY.

Music continues.

SCROOGE

Of course not! Your sentimentality is sickening . . . and is also a great waste of my time. Good day, sir. That is all.

FRED

I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute.

(to BOB)

Goodbye, Bob Cratchit . . . and Merry Christmas.

BOB

(As FRED leaves)

Goodbye, Fred. Merry Christmas to you as well.

Standing at the door – two children, a boy and a girl, who will also portray BOY SCROOGE and FANNY – but now are street urchins, hoping for a small donation. They sing. BOB reaches into his pocket and gives them a coin as they sing. They react with appreciation.

BOY/GIRL
WE ARE NOT DAILY BEGGARS
THAT BEG FROM DOOR TO DOOR.
BUT WE ARE NEIGHBORS' CHILDREN
WHOM YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE.
LOVE AND JOY COME TO YOU.
AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS TOO—

SCROOGE cannot take this anymore. HE grabs a long ruler and whacks it hard against the doorframe, scaring the children away, and slamming the door shut.

SCROOGE
Leave me alone! That is all I ask!

The clock strikes six o'clock.

BOB
Well, Mr. Scrooge . . . there it is. Six o'clock . . .

SCROOGE
You'll want all day tomorrow, I suppose?

BOB
If quite convenient, sir.

SCROOGE
It's not convenient and it's not fair. If I was to stop half-a-crown for it, you'd think yourself ill-used, I'll be bound? And yet, you don't think me ill-used, when I pay a day's wages for no work.

BOB
It is only once a year, sir.

SCROOGE
A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December! But I suppose you must have the whole day. Be here all the earlier next morning.

BOB
Yes, sir! I will, sir! I promise . . . God bless you, sir, and . . . and . . .

SCROOGE gives BOB a withering look. Then BOB speaks suddenly-

BOB

Merry Christmas!

BOB runs out quickly.

SCROOGE

Humbug!!

Blackout on office.

The NARRATORS appear as the scene changes.

NARRATOR 1

Old Scrooge walked out with a growl. The office was closed in a twinkling, and Bob Cratchit, high with Christmas spirit, joyfully proceeded home. On the way, he went down a slide on Cornhill, joined by the neighborhood children, twenty times, in honor of it being Christmas Eve, and then ran home to Camden Town as hard as he could, to meet his family and play at Blindman's-Bluff; filled with that unique happiness that only comes on Christmas Eve.

#3A Underscore - "Darkness Is Cheap" (ORCHESTRA)

NARRATOR 2

As for Scrooge, he took his melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern; and having read all the newspapers, and beguiled the rest of the evening with his accounting book, he went home to bed. He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner, Jacob Marley. And yet, Scrooge had scarcely given him a single thought since his burial. The building was old enough now, and dreary enough, for nobody lived in it but Scrooge, the other rooms being all let out as offices. The yard was so dark that even Scrooge, who knew its' every stone, would grope with his hands to make his way. Darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it.

SCROOGE appears in his bedroom, preparing for bed as described by the NARRATORS. HE is carrying a candleholder and candle into the dimly lit bedroom. The room contains his bed, bedside table with an alarm clock, and his bowl of gruel, with spoon, as well. An old wing-backed armchair stands near the fireplace, in which glows a small fire. Underscore ends as NARRATOR 1 finishes.

NARRATOR 1

Once he reached his room, Scrooge took off his cravat; put on his dressing gown and slippers, and his nightcap; and sat down before the fire to take his gruel. It was a very low fire indeed; providing very little warmth for such a bitter night.

SCENE 2 – SCROOGE’S BEDROOM, later that night

The NARRATORS exit the scene leaving SCROOGE brooding over his gruel. HE is obviously sleepy, yawning, and appears weary. HE reaches into his pocket and discovers several bright silver coins there. This brightens his mood for just a moment. HE rises and goes to a cash box that he keeps under his bed. HE opens the cash box, and drops the money into the box, making a clanking sound. At that moment, the alarm clock on his bedside table begins to ring. This startles and confuses him as HE goes to it. HE picks it up and the sound of bells and chimes of all kind begin to ring all about the room, growing in loudness and intensity so that he covers his ears and screams out.

SCROOGE

Ahhhhh!

At once, there is silence. SCROOGE, breathing a bit heavily, is relieved. HE looks around the room, making sure all is well. HE waves his hand in a dismissive gesture.

Pooh. I won't believe it.

SCROOGE sits back down to his gruel.

#3B Underscore – Marley’s Entrance (ORCHESTRA)

Orchestra plays dramatic, intense music. Then, more noise – doors slamming, the sound of footsteps with heavy chains being dragged across the floor. More chimes, more bells –and MARLEY’s voice calling, “Scrooge! Scrooge!”- a cacophony of sound that builds and builds until SCROOGE is truly frightened. The lights begin to flash with strobe effects, and then, a flash pot goes off in the darkness.

MARLEY appears, standing before SCROOGE, and is dressed as Dickens describes: “in his pigtail, usual waistcoat, tights and boots; the tassels on the latter bristling, like his pigtail, and his coat-skirts, and the hair upon his head. The chain he drew was clasped about his middle. It was long, and wound about him like a tail; and it was made of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel.”

SCROOGE

(blurts out involuntarily, truly frightened)
How now! What do you want with me?

MARLEY

(his voice echoes through the room)
Much!

SCROOGE

Who are you?

MARLEY

In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley.

SCROOGE

Can you . . . sit down?

MARLEY

Yes.

SCROOGE

(gesturing to the chair)
Then do it.

Music has ended by this time. MARLEY sits, stares at SCROOGE, who is staring back, rubbing his eyes.

MARLEY

You don't believe in me.

SCROOGE

(summoning his courage)
I don't.

MARLEY

Why do you doubt your senses?

SCROOGE

Because . . . any little thing affects them . . . (*his courage building*) You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are! Humbug, I tell you! Humbug!

At once, MARLEY stands and lets out a mournful cry that reverberates through the room. SCROOGE falls to his knees in fear.

MARLEY

Ahhhh! Scrooooooooooge!!!

SCROOGE

Mercy! I beg for mercy! Why do you trouble me?

MARLEY

To warn you, Ebenezer! It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world--oh, woe is me!--and witness what it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness!

SCROOGE

(studying MARLEY)
You are bound by chains . . . tell me why?

Music begins.

#4 This Chain (MARLEY)

MARLEY

Why!? Why?! Because my spirit never walked beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole! I made this chain, link by link and yard by yard! And now, weary journeys lie before me! I cannot stop . . . I cannot rest!

(Holding up his lengthy chain)
Oh, captive-bound . . . and double-ironed!

I WEAR THIS HEAVY CHAIN OF MY OWN MAKING;
THERE'S NO MISTAKING
WHO IS TO BLAME.
BY MY OWN HAND I FASHIONED IT WITH CHOICES,
IGNORING VOICES
CALLING MY NAME.

THIS CHAIN OF ALL MY SINFULNESS AND SELFISH
PLEASURE
IS ALL THAT'S LEFT BEHIND OF ALL MY WORLDLY
TREASURE.
THIS CHAIN THAT BINDS MY SOUL IN OUTER DARKNESS
EVERMORE;
THIS CHAIN IS ALL YOU HAVE IN STORE!

SCROOGE

What chain? I have no chain!

MARLEY

(with a frightful cry)

Ahhhh!

(holding up the chain)

It was as long and as heavy as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!

DO YOU NOT FEEL THE WEIGHT THAT YOU ARE WEARING?
THE CHAIN YOU'RE BEARING
LONGER THAN MINE?

SCROOGE

Speak comfort to me, Jacob!

MARLEY

I have none to give.

PEACE MUST COME TO YOU FROM OTHER PLACES,
FROM OTHER FACES
A LIGHT WILL SHINE.

Music continues under dialogue.

MARLEY

Ebenezer, hear me . . . no man can feel enough regret to compensate for a life that has been misused! Yet, such was I . . . Oh, such was I!

SCROOGE

But you were always a good man of business, Jacob . . .

MARLEY

(crying out)

Business! Mankind was my business! The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, benevolence . . . they were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!

(HE flings his chain loudly on the floor)

At this holy time of year, I suffer most. Why did I walk through crowds of my fellowman with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode! Were there no poor before me? Could I not see them?

(singing)

THIS CHAIN OF ALL MY SINFULNESS AND SELFISH
PLEASURE;
IS ALL THAT'S LEFT BEHIND OF ALL MY WORLDLY
TREASURE.
THIS CHAIN THAT BINDS MY SOUL IN OUTER DARKNESS
EVERMORE;
THIS CHAIN IS ALL YOU HAVE IN STORE!

SCROOGE

No! Please, Jacob, leave me!

MARLEY

NOW I BEAR THE WEIGHT OF MY OWN BLINDNESS;
I SHOWED NO KINDNESS
TO THOSE IN NEED.
SELFISHNESS AND GREED; THEY BOTH CONSUMED ME,
AND NOW HAVE DOOMED ME!
O MAN, PAY HEED!

You will be haunted by Three Spirits.

Music continues.

SCROOGE

I think I'd rather not.

MARLEY

Without their visits, you cannot hope to shun the path I tread. Expect the first tomorrow when the bell tolls One.

The bells and clock chiming from before return and build in volume to the end of the scene.

SCROOGE

Couldn't I take 'em all at once, and have it over, Jacob?

MARLEY

Expect the second on the next night at the same hour. The third upon the next night when the last stroke of Twelve has ceased to vibrate. Look to see me no more; and look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us!

A loud crash of thunder and a flash of lightning overtake the room as MARLEY escapes and disappears. A desperately frightened SCROOGE is left standing alone, and is clutching the cash box from under his bed to his chest. HE suddenly realizes this, and drops the box to the floor with a scream.

Blackout.

SCENE 3 – SCROOGE'S BEDROOM, Christmas Past

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge closed the window, and examined the door by which Marley had entered. It was double-locked, as he had locked it with his own hands, and the bolts were undisturbed.

NARRATOR 2

He tried to say "Humbug!" but stopped at the first syllable. And being, from the emotion he had undergone, or the fatigues of the day . . .

NARRATOR 1

Or his glimpse of the Invisible World,

NARRATOR 2

Or the dull conversation of the Ghost,

NARRATOR 1

Or the lateness of the hour, much in need of repose; went straight to bed, without undressing, and fell asleep upon the instant.

The lights fade up to reveal SCROOGE asleep on his bed, snoring loudly. We hear the chiming of a large clock, striking twelve. This awakens SCROOGE.

SCROOGE

Have I slept through a whole day and far into another night? It isn't possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is twelve at noon!

SCROOGE stumbles over to the window and looks outside.

Dark as midnight . . . it's all humbug, I tell you!

HE climbs back into the bed and sleeps again.

NARRATOR 2

Marley's Ghost bothered him exceedingly. Every time he resolved within himself that it was all a dream, his mind flew back again and presented the same problem to be worked all through, "Was it a dream or not?"

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge lay in this state until the chime had gone three quarters more, when he remembered, all of a sudden, that the Ghost had warned him of a visitation when the bell tolled one. He resolved to lie awake until the hour was passed; and, considering that he could no more go to sleep than go to Heaven, this was perhaps the wisest choice for him to make.

The clock chimes "Ding-Dong". SCROOGE sits up in the bed, facing downstage.

SCROOGE

A quarter past . . .

The clock chimes "Ding-Dong".

Half-past . . .

The clock chimes "Ding-Dong".

A quarter to it!

The clock chimes "Ding-Dong".

The hour itself . . . and nothing else!

The clock strikes a loud, long, melancholy 1:00, and suddenly the curtains on the opposite side of the bed are drawn back, revealing The Ghost of Christmas PAST.

Music begins.

PAST is rather child-like, yet not a child. She could be a beautiful young woman. She wears a tunic of purest white, and around its waist is bound a lustrous belt, the sheen of which is beautiful. PAST holds a branch of fresh green holly in its hand. The costume is bright and shiny – reflecting and symbolizing light that has come to illuminate Scrooge’s darkness.

Apprehensive, yet curious, SCROOGE jumps out of the bed and moves around it toward PAST, who comes closer to SCROOGE as well. As the scene continues, theatrical fog/smoke begins to fill the stage as the lights fade and we transition to the past.

SCROOGE

Are you the Spirit whose coming was foretold to me?

PAST

(warmly, gentle)

I am.

SCROOGE

Who, and what are you?

PAST

I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

SCROOGE

Long past?

PAST

No . . . Your past.

SCROOGE

Why have you come to me?

PAST

Your welfare!

SCROOGE

My welfare? Allowing me to sleep through the night would do more for my welfare!

PAST

Your redemption, then.

(taking SCROOGE’s arm)

Take heed! Rise! And walk with me!

Music ends.

They move downstage and begin to walk together as the fog envelopes the stage area. The lighting changes dramatically as well as the scene onstage changes to the schoolroom from Scrooge's past.

SCROOGE

My! What a strong grip you have!

PAST leads SCROOGE and they are suddenly, it seems, suspended in the air, either on a lift or a hidden platform. This, combined with the lighting and fog, makes it appear to the audience that they are "floating" above the scene.

SCROOGE

(as HE feels the move upward)

What in heaven! My feet have left the ground! Spirit, I am a mortal and liable to fall!

PAST

Hold my hand near your heart . . . and you shall be upheld in more than this!

SCROOGE takes Past's hand and does as instructed.

SCROOGE

I don't know where you plan to escort me . . . but I am in my nightgown!

PAST

No one will see you. You will only see them.

SCROOGE

See who?

PAST

Look . . .

Music begins immediately.

#5A Underscore (ORCHESTRA)

SCROOGE looks to another part of the stage where children are playing together.

SCROOGE

(emotional)

Good Heaven! I grew up in this place. I was a boy here! Oh, my . . . surely this is not—

PAST

Your lip is trembling . . . and what is that upon your cheek?

SCROOGE

(quickly wiping a tear away)

It is nothing . . . please, conduct me where you will.

PAST

Certainly you remember the way?

SCROOGE

Remember it! I could walk it blindfold! There is the bridge . . . and the church . . . and my school . . .

PAST

Strange to have forgotten it for so many years!

*The children in the scene begin to make noise, laughing and calling out
"Merry Christmas!" "Merry Christmas!"*

SCROOGE

I know these boys! That is Thomas . . . and Jonathan . . . and Joseph! They are so happy . . .

PAST

It's Christmas . . . a time for happiness . . . and family . . .

SCROOGE

And no school!

PAST

These are but shadows of the things that have been. The school is not quite deserted. A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.

SCROOGE

I know it, Spirit. I remember.

(beginning to weep)

I remember it all too well.

Musical underscore has ended. The lights now reveal the inside of a schoolroom. BOY SCROOGE is alone, reading a book. The stern SCHOOLMASTER enters.

SCHOOLMASTER

Well, Ebenezer . . . I should like to depart for the holiday, myself. It is growing late. Is no one coming for you? It is Christmas, after all.

BOY SCROOGE

I do not know. I have not received a letter in months, Sir.

SCHOOLMASTER

Perhaps your father is still locked up in debtor's prison. Let that be a lesson to you, young man. You don't want to end up like him.

BOY SCROOGE

Yes, sir.

SCROOGE

Oh . . . I wish . . . but it is too late now.

PAST

What is the matter?

SCROOGE

There were children singing a Christmas carol at my door last night. I should like to have given them something . . . that's all.

Suddenly, FAN, Scrooge's younger sister, enters the schoolroom excitedly.

FAN

Ebenezer! Ebenezer!

BOY SCROOGE

Fan . . . you're here!

SCHOOLMASTER

What is all of this?

(to FAN)

Who are you?

BOY SCROOGE

My sister! My sister, sir!

FAN and YOUNG SCROOGE embrace joyfully.

FAN

I have come to bring you home, dear brother! To bring you home, home, home!

SCHOOLMASTER

Splendid news . . . for all of us, I must say. I will go and get your trunk . . .

And good riddance!

(HE exits)

BOY SCROOGE

Are we really going home? What about Father? Is he home?

Music begins.

#6 A Family Christmas - Reprise (FAN & BOY SCROOGE)

FAN

Yes! Home, for good and all! Home, forever and ever. Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven! He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said, "Yes, you should!" And he sent me in a coach to bring you!

BOY SCROOGE

Oh, Fan! Is it true?

FAN

I promise! And you will never come back here again.

(SHE sings)

A FAM'LY CHRISTMAS,
AT HOME WITH ME.
WHEN EVERYONE'S TOGETHER,
I KNOW THAT YOU WILL SEE
HOW WONDERFUL,

BOY SCROOGE

HOW BEAUTIFUL,
A TRUE CHRISTMAS CAN BE.

FAN

GLORIA!

BOY SCROOGE

LET'S MAKE A MEMORY!

FAN & BOY SCROOGE

CHRISTMAS DAY WITH OUR FAMILY.

BOY SCROOGE & FAN embrace as the light fades out on them, and the memory.

PAST

She was always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered . . . but she had a large heart.

SCROOGE

Yes. She was . . . wonderful.

PAST

She died a young woman . . . and had, as I recall, children?

SCROOGE

One child.

PAST

Your nephew.

SCROOGE

Fred.

Music begins.

#7 Fezziwig – Scene Change (ORCHESTRA)

Activity begins behind them. CHORUS members and CAST enter to establish Fezziwig's warehouse. It is a busy atmosphere. This captures SCROOGE's attention.

SCROOGE

I can't believe it! I won't believe it! Spirit – do you see?

PAST

Do you know this place?

SCROOGE

Know it! I apprenticed here! Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again!

As described in the novel, MR. FEZZIWIG sits tall at a high desk, benevolently overseeing the workers just beneath him, happily at their tasks. FEZZIWIG calls out to YOUNG SCROOGE, now, a handsome young man.

Music ends.

MR. FEZZIWIG

Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!

YOUNG SCROOGE goes to FEZZIWIG, along with DICK WILKINS, his fellow apprentice, of the same age.

SCROOGE

That's Dick Wilkins, to be sure. He was my good friend – we apprenticed here together. A fine man, I tell you, a fine man!

MR. FEZZIWIG

Yo ho, my boys! No more work tonight! Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer!

(HE claps his hands together)

Everyone – put away your work and prepare the room!

A cheer goes up from all. YOUNG SCROOGE and DICK lead the way as everyone clears tables, chairs and equipment to make room for a dance floor, of sorts.

MRS. FEZZIWIG

(joyful, playful)

Oh, Mr. Fezziwig . . . don't forget the mistletoe!

Laughter from the CHORUS. MR. & MRS. FEZZIWIG share a playful moment as BELLE goes to YOUNG SCROOGE.

BELLE

Ebenezer, there will be a dance at the party tonight!

YOUNG SCROOGE

Then I shall have to find someone suitable to dance with . . . I wonder who it will be?

BELLE

(lightly)

I know who it had better be, Mr. Scrooge!

YOUNG SCROOGE

Of course, it's you! We've been looking forward to this all year – it's Christmas Eve at Fezziwig's!

BELLE

Yes . . . we have so much to look forward to, don't we?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Yes, we do, Belle. A great deal . . .

MRS. FEZZIWIG

Ladies, let's prepare the food – I believe we have enough for three Christmas parties!

BELLE goes to help. YOUNG SCROOGE goes to DICK. Activity continues as the room is set for the party.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I do believe Old Fezziwig is closing up an hour earlier than he even told us!

DICK

Why wait, Ebenezer?! It's only once a year, ya know!

YOUNG SCROOGE

Quite right . . . he's a generous man, he is.

DICK

Yes! And I believe that is the reason he's such a happy man, as well.

MR. FEZZIWIG

That's it, my boys . . . make way . . . let's have lots of room here! It's Christmas Eve! And, at Fezziwig's, we all know what that means! Fiddler! Let the music begin!

Music begins.

#8 Christmas Eve at Fezziwig's (MR. FEZZIWIG, MRS. FEZZIWIG, CHORUS, HOUSEMAID, COOK, BAKER, MILKMAN, YOUNG WOMAN, DICK, YOUNG SCROOGE)

MR. FEZZIWIG

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S:
DRIKIN' ALE AND DANCIN' JIGS.
NO BALLROOM IN OLD LONDON SHINES THIS BRIGHT!
GRAB YOUR PARTNER, 'ROUND YOU GO,
MEET BENEATH THE MISTLETOE.
NOW TAKE YOUR LOVER'S HAND AND HOLD ON TIGHT.
OH, CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S IS HERE, TONIGHT!

A brief musical interlude begins, allowing MR. & MRS. FEZZIWIG the chance to turn a circle and dance a few steps. They are joyous and obviously in love. We also see YOUNG SCROOGE and BELLE dancing together, also very much in love. MRS. FEZZIWIG spins out to center to sing her verse.

MRS. FEZZIWIG

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S:
ROASTED DUCK, TWO ROASTED PIGS!
WE HAVE THREE DOZEN CAKES AND MINCEMEAT PIE!
AFTER YOU HAVE HAD YOUR FILL,
TAKE SOME HOME AND SPREAD GOOD WILL,
AND NEVER LET THIS SEASON PASS YOU BY!
OH, CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S WILL SATISFY!

MR. & MRS. FEZZIWIG

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

HOUSEMAID

THE HOUSEMAID!

COOK

AND THE COOK!

BAKER

THE BAKER!

MILKMAN

AND THE MILKMAN!

DICK

(to the MEN standing near)

DEAR BROTHERS, TAKE A LOOK!
FEZZIWIG'S THREE DAUGHTERS!
THE GIRL FROM RIGHT NEXT DOOR!

YOUNG WOMAN

(to the WOMEN standing near)

THE BOY FROM OVER YONDER
WHOSE DIMPLES I ADORE!

MR. & MRS. FEZZIWIG

NOW EVERYONE COME JOIN US ON THE FLOOR!

The full CHORUS sings lustily as dancing couples are featured at center, all onstage enjoying their performance, particularly that of MR & MRS. FEZZIWIG! SCROOGE, watching at a distance, is caught up in the joy and excitement, clapping and singing along.

ALL

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY,
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA.
TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY,
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA.
DON WE NOW OUR GAY APPAREL,
FA LA LA, LA LA LA, LA LA LA.
TROLL THE ANCIENT YULETIDE CAROL,
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA.

MEN

MR. FEZZIWIG, OUR MASTER!

Instrumental break - MR. FEZZIWIG dances a solo.

WOMEN

MRS. F., SHE DANCES FASTER!

MRS. FEZZIWIG shows him up!

MR. FEZZIWIG

FIDDLER, KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING!

YOUNG SCROOGE

LONG AS FEZZIWIG IS PAYING!

MR. FEZZIWIG pays the FIDDLER more!

The music builds to the finish and the room seems to erupt with dancing and celebration. There is an instrumental dance break before the final chorus. SCROOGE watches with joy and amazement.

MR. & MRS. FEZZIWIG & CHORUS

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S:
DRIKIN' ALE AND DANCIN' JIGS.
NO BALLROOM IN OLD LONDON SHINES THIS BRIGHT!
GRAB YOUR PARTNER, 'ROUND YOU GO,
MEET BENEATH THE MISTLETOE.
NOW TAKE YOUR LOVER'S HAND AND HOLD ON TIGHT.
OH, CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S IS HERE, TONIGHT!

MR. FEZZIWIG

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S -

MRS. FEZZIWIG

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S -

CHORUS

CHRISTMAS EVE AT FEZZIWIG'S

ALL

IS HERE, TONIGHT!

The COMPANY freezes in their final pose, except for SCROOGE who is clapping, hopping on his toes with joy.

Music for Playoff begins during the applause.

#9 Christmas Eve at Fezziwig's - Playoff (ORCHESTRA)

The group begins to disperse with MR. & MRS. FEZZIWIG wishing individuals "Merry Christmas!" as the music plays and the lights fade out on Fezziwig's Warehouse.

SCROOGE and PAST are downstage, allowing the next scene to be set upstage.

SCROOGE

Oh, Spirit! It was glorious, as I remember . . . Belle and I would dance until we were too tired to walk! Fezziwig was a dear, dear, man! I wish I could see him now and tell him how happy he made me . . . how happy he made all of us!

PAST

He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money: three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?

SCROOGE

It isn't that, Spirit. It has nothing to do with money! He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome. The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune . . . he was like a father to me.

SCROOGE has become emotional and wipes tears from his eyes. PAST notices and questions him.

PAST

What is the matter?

SCROOGE

Nothing, in particular.

PAST

Something, I think?

SCROOGE

I should like to be able to say a word or two to Bob Cratchit just now. That's all.

PAST

Quickly, now - my time grows short. Look!

SCROOGE looks upstage to see himself, YOUNG SCROOGE, now a bit older. HE is sitting at his desk, the same desk from the beginning of the play, in his same office. His demeanor is very different than it was at Fezziwig's.

YOUNG SCROOGE is very focused on his work as BELLE enters through the office door.

SCROOGE

Oh . . . my Belle . . . no, Spirit, I beg you . . . I cannot bear it.

BELLE

(apprehensive)

Ebenezer . . . I pray you will forgive this intrusion. I need desperately to speak with you.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I should hope it is a matter of grave importance – since, once again, you are interrupting my workday.

BELLE

This is the last time.

(a beat)

I promise.

YOUNG SCROOGE

(with a sigh; irritated)

Well. Let's have it.

BELLE

In the past, we agreed – many times – that our marriage should occur only after you were able to establish your own office and place of business.

(SHE waits; HE is silent)

Your office with Mr. Marley has been open for well past a year, and yet we have never discussed our plans . . . for a wedding.

YOUNG SCROOGE

(angry and defensive)

Do you believe that this is the proper time or place to bring this matter before me? Do you?

BELLE

Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so, until, in good season, we could improve our worldly fortune by our patient industry. You are changed. When it was made, you were another man.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I was a boy.

BELLE

You see - your own feeling tells you that you are not, now, who you once were.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Humbug! This is foolishness.

BELLE

Is it? I am the same woman. That which once promised us happiness when we were one in heart, is fraught with misery now that we are two. How often and how keenly I have thought of this, I will not say. It is enough that I have thought of it, and can release you.

Music begins.

#10 You Once Were (BELLE)

YOUNG SCROOGE

What . . . What are you saying?

BELLE

I release you. And I do so with a heart full of love . . . for the man you once were.
(*SHE sings*)

YOU ONCE WERE JOYFUL,
YOU ONCE WERE KIND.
YOUR DREAMS WERE NOBLE,
IN HEART AND MIND.
NOW ONLY ONE GOAL
YOU MUST OBTAIN;
THIS GOLDEN IDOL
OF WORLDLY GAIN.

YOUNG SCROOGE

This is the way of the world! Nothing is harder than poverty, or more frowned upon than the pursuit of wealth. How shall a man choose?

BELLE

YOU ONCE WERE HOPEFUL,
YOU ONCE WERE FREE.
BUT NOW HELD CAPTIVE,
YOU CANNOT SEE
THE LONELY PRISON
YOU LIVE INSIDE,
WHERE ALL AFFECTION
FOR ME HAS DIED.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Have I ever, even once, sought release from you?

BELLE

I KNOW IF YOU COULD ALTER PAST DECISIONS YOU HAVE
MADE,
A POOR GIRL WITHOUT A DOWRY HAS NO CHANCE.
I SEE IT ALL TOO CLEARLY IN YOUR COUNTENANCE,
DISPLAYED.
ALL WE HAVE IS AN AGREEMENT, NOT ROMANCE.

YOU ONCE WERE PROMISED,
YOU ONCE WERE MINE.
NOW, I RELEASE YOU,
AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU MAY HAVE MOMENTS
OF SMALL REGRET,
BUT ONLY MOMENTS,
YOU'LL SOON FORGET.

YOUNG SCROOGE

This is your choice, Belle. This is not on my account. I owe you nothing.

BELLE

GOODBYE, EBENEZER.
YOU LEFT ME LONG AGO.
I GRIEVE FOR WHO YOU ONCE WERE,
HOW I LOVED HIM SO.

SHE exits.

SCROOGE

No! Belle!

HE goes to YOUNG SCROOGE, back at his work, and pleads with his younger self - who works away and does not hear or see him.

SCROOGE

Go after her, you fool! She is the only light, the only love . . .

HE breaks down, weeping. Lights fade on office.

SCROOGE

Spirit . . . show me no more, I beg of you. Why do you delight to torture me?

PAST

One shadow more . . .

PAST takes SCROOGE by the arm and walks to another part of the stage.

SCROOGE

No more I tell you! I don't want to see it!

PAST

But you must!

BELLE, along with her two children, SALLY and CHARLES, are singing, "Deck the Halls." If possible, they are seated in the parlor of a simple, small, but tasteful home, decorated for Christmas. Or – if played as an exterior, the children are playing in front of the house, awaiting the arrival of DICK WILKINS, now BELLE's husband, who enters, carrying Christmas packages.

SALLY

Merry Christmas, Father! You are home at last!

CHARLES

Is Father Christmas really coming tomorrow, is he?

DICK

Yes, indeed! I am sure he will arrive just as he promised!

SALLY

Father, Mother says we will have Christmas pudding tonight!

DICK

Christmas pudding? Is that what she said?

CHARLES

Yes! And I helped with the pudding!

BELLE

Oh, he was a great help. I do believe it may be the finest pudding I have ever made.

DICK

It smells delightful . . . I can almost taste it.

BELLE

Children, run along and prepare for dinner.

The children leave excitedly. DICK and BELLE share a warm embrace.

DICK

(teasingly)

Belle, I saw an old friend of yours this afternoon.

BELLE

Who was it?

DICK

Guess!

BELLE

How can I?

(with a laugh – this has happened before)

Mr. Scrooge, perhaps?

DICK

Ebenezer himself! Imagine – on Christmas Eve – banks already closed, the Exchange closed . . . but Scrooge & Marley remains open. I passed by, and I could scarcely help seeing him, working at the window. His partner lies upon the point of death, I hear, and there he sat alone . . . quite alone in the world, I do believe . . . quite alone.

SCROOGE

Spirit! Remove me from this place!

The lights fade out on BELLE & DICK. PAST takes SCROOGE by the arm and walks him back to the main stage area, where the bedroom has returned.

Music begins.

#11 Christmas Past – Exit (ORCHESTRA)

PAST

I told you these were shadows of the things that have been. That they are what they are, do not blame me . . .

SCROOGE

Remove me! I cannot bear it!

In a mix of fear and anger, HE turns on the Spirit, taking her by the arms in an aggressive manner, but PAST is unfazed by this.

Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!

Suddenly, there is a brilliant flash of light that causes SCROOGE to withdraw and cover his face and eyes. PAST exits quickly, and by the time SCROOGE looks again, SHE is gone. Breathing heavily, HE falls into his bed. Blackout as the musical underscore ends.

SCENE 4 – SCROOGE’S BEDROOM, Christmas Present

In the darkness, we hear SCROOGE snoring a long, comical snore. The NARRATORS appear downstage. As they begin, SCROOGE is lit in his bed – but we can only see him – not the room. The room is being set for the next scene during this sequence. SCROOGE awakens to perform the actions described by the NARRATORS. The lighting stays focused only on the bed.

NARRATOR 1

Awaking in the middle of a ridiculously long snore, and sitting up in bed to get his thoughts together, Scrooge had no occasion to be told that the bell was again upon the stroke of One. He felt that he was restored to consciousness in the right nick of time, for the purpose of a visit from the second messenger promised to him by Jacob Marley.

NARRATOR 2

But finding that he turned uncomfortably cold when he began to wonder which of his curtains this new visitor would draw back, he opened every one of them with his own hands; and lying down again, established a sharp look-out all round the bed. For he wished to challenge the Spirit on the moment of its appearance, and did not wish to be taken by surprise, and made nervous.

NARRATOR 1

I don’t mind calling on you to believe that he was ready for any number of strange appearances, and that nothing between a baby and rhinoceros would have surprised him! Now, being prepared for almost anything, he was not by any means prepared for nothing; and, consequently, when the bell struck One,
(*Clock strikes One*)
and no shape appeared, he was taken with a violent fit of trembling.

A bright green light begins to shine on the bed.

Music begins.

#12 Christmas Present (ORCHESTRA)

SCROOGE moves out of the bed and stands beside it, trembling. Then, from the dark, we hear a big, booming voice.

PRESENT

Ebenezer Scrooge!

SCROOGE

(frightened, looking around the room)
I am here. Who are you? Where are you?

The lights on the bedroom fade up as PRESENT speaks.

PRESENT

I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Come and know me better, man!

The bedroom has been transformed into a Christmas display case! Holly, ivy, mistletoe – the works! Seated on a chair, like a throne, is CHRISTMAS PRESENT. PRESENT is dressed in the traditional costume of a rich, green velvet robe, lined with fur, and a holly wreath around the head. PRESENT also carries with him a torch of “peace and good-will” that will be used during the scene. PRESENT is surrounded by food – turkey, game, breads, and luscious fruits – as befitting a grand holiday celebration.

Music ends.

PRESENT

Look upon me! You have never seen the like of me before!

SCROOGE

Never!

PRESENT

Have you never met the younger members of my family?

SCROOGE

I don't think I have. Have you had many brothers, Spirit?

PRESENT

More than eighteen hundred!

SCROOGE

So many mouths to feed! I don't like large families.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT rises and steps toward SCROOGE.

PRESENT

They aren't so fond of you, either. Touch my robe!

SCROOGE does, and, immediately, music begins.

#13 Merry Christmas Morning (PRESENT, CHORUS)

As PRESENT sings, the entire stage becomes, again, the city of London, on a bright, snowy Christmas morning. We see a few people milling about town – the full CHORUS will not enter until the end of the song. A few children are playing in the snow, throwing snowballs, all in a happy, joyous mood.

PRESENT

TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION!
NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME
FOR THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OF PEACE AND GOOD WILL, SUBLIME!

IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING
IN A CITY MADE OF SNOW;
FILLED WITH MANY MERRY PEOPLE
SHARING GREETINGS AS THEY GO.
ONCE A YEAR, DARK, GLOOMY LONDON
HAS A WARM AND WONDROUS GLOW!
IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING!
EBENEZER, DON'T CHA KNOW!

IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING!
SMELL THE FRAGRANCE IN THE AIR?
TEA AND COFFEE, SWEETLY BLENDING;
BLAZING CHIMNEYS, EV'RYWHERE!
AND THE GROCERS, OH, THE GROCERS!
CANDIED FRUITS AND RAISINS RARE!
IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
AND A BLESSING MEANT TO SHARE!

SCROOGE

Delightful!

PRESENT

EV'RYONE IS GLEEFUL,
THEY HURRY ON THEIR WAY.
SO EAGER AND SO HOPEFUL,
WITH THE PROMISE OF THIS DAY.

As PRESENT sings the next lines, WOMAN 1 & WOMAN 2 have bumped into each other, children and packages in tow, as they hurry through the street.

PRESENT

JUST IN CASE THEY NEED IT,
I SPRINKLE PEACE, GOOD WILL!
RECEIVE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT;
WHY, IT WARMS THE BITTER CHILL!

Just WOMAN 1 & WOMAN 2 are engaging in an angry confrontation, PRESENT takes his torch and "sprinkles" them. Colorful "magic dust" flies out from the torch. WOMAN 1 & WOMAN 2 are suddenly friendly.

WOMAN 1

After you, Ma'am!

WOMAN 2

Thank you! That's very kind of you!

WOMAN 1

Seems a shame to quarrel on Christmas Day, now doesn't it?

WOMAN 2

It surely does! Merry Christmas!

PRESENT

(with joyful laughter)
Merry Christmas, indeed! Merry Christmas to everyone!

CHORUS/PRESENT

IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING!/DING, DONG,
MERRILY ON HIGH
WHAT A GLORIOUS DISPLAY!/THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS
MORNING
THERE'S A JOLLY, JOYOUS FEELING/DING, DONG, VERILY

THE SKY
IN THE THINGS WE DO AND SAY./IS BRIGHT WITH
HEAV'NS' ADORNING
IT IS OVER ALL TOO QUICKLY,/GLORIA
SO EMBRACE IT, WHILE YOU MAY;/GLORIA
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS BLESS-ED CHRISTMAS DAY!

After the applause, we immediately hear church bells ringing.

Music begins.

#14 O Come, All Ye Faithful - Medley (CHORUS, SCROOGE)

Selected CHORUS members immediately begin to move toward a church service. It is not necessary that all CHORUS members are there – only a small representation, with the rest singing in the dark from other parts of the stage. The church represented is small and simple – a Wesleyan, separatist congregation.

As music continues:

SCROOGE

What is happening? Where are they all going?

PRESENT

To worship, of course! Christmas is not only a holiday, Mr. Scrooge. It is a holy day! Perhaps you forgot?

CHORUS

(Singing as they make their way)

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL,
JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT.
O COME YE, O COME YE TO BETHLEHEM.
COME AND BEHOLD HIM,
BORN THE KING OF ANGELS.
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
O COME LET US ADORE HIM,
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST, THE LORD.

(Arriving into their places as the "service" begins)

THE FIRST NOWELL
THE ANGEL DID SAY
WAS TO CERTAIN POOR SHEPHERDS
IN FIELDS WHERE THEY LAY.
IN FIELDS WHERE THEY LAY KEEPING THEIR SHEEP
ON A COLD WINTER'S NIGHT THAT WAS SO DEEP.
NOWELL, NOWELL, NOWELL, NOWELL.
BORN IS THE KING OF ISRAEL

Music continues underneath. A MINISTER stands before them, dressed simply, with an open Bible, miming reading aloud to the congregation. Seated last, toward the back, is BOB CRATCHIT and TINY TIM.

SCROOGE

Spirit? Look, there! Is that my clerk, Bob Cratchit?

PRESENT

Yes. So glad that you noticed him.

SCROOGE

And the boy . . . the crippled one . . . is that his son?

PRESENT

Yes. Tiny Tim.

MINISTER

And the angel said unto them, Fear not! For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you, is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you, Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

CHORUS

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE
WITH HEART AND SOUL AND VOICE!
GIVE YE HEED TO WHAT WE SAY:
JESUS CHRIST IS BORN TODAY.
OX AND ASS BEFORE HIM BOW,
AND HE IS IN THE MANGER NOW:
CHRIST IS BORN TODAY, CHRIST IS BORN TODAY!

The people stand and begin to leave, singing as they go. SCROOGE gets caught up in the moment and blends his voice with theirs.

SCROOGE & CHORUS

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE
WITH HEART AND SOUL AND VOICE!
NOW YE NEED NOT FEAR THE GRAVE:
JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN TO SAVE;
CALLS YOU ONE AND CALLS YOU ALL
TO GAIN HIS EVERLASTING HALL.
CHRIST WAS BORN TO SAVE, CHRIST WAS BORN TO SAVE!

Orchestral ending as the scene continues.

PRESENT

Mr. Scrooge?! So you do know the carols of Christmas?

SCROOGE

I learned them as a boy.

PRESENT

Yet you never sing them!

SCROOGE

(submissively)

Spirit, conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion and I learned a lesson that is working now. Tonight, if you have something to teach me, let me profit by it.

PRESENT

Walk with me . . . and see a Christmas dinner, delightful to behold!

Music begins.

#14 Cratchit - Underscore 1 (ORCHESTRA)

They move to another area of the stage as the lights fade up on the home of Bob Cratchit. MRS. CRATCHIT, and the Cratchit children are preparing for Christmas dinner. The Cratchit home is certainly one that belongs to a poor family. Yet, it is clean and warm. It has been decorated, albeit cheaply, but joyfully, for Christmas.

PRESENT, unseen by the Cratchit's, moves toward them and "sprinkles" the house with his torch.

SCROOGE

Is there a peculiar flavor in what you sprinkle from your torch?

PRESENT

There is. My own.

SCROOGE

Would it apply to any kind of dinner on this day?

PRESENT

To any kindly given, but to a poor one most of all.

SCROOGE

Why to a poor one most?

PRESENT

Because it needs it the most.

SCROOGE

This is a poor one, indeed. Where are we, Spirit?

PRESENT

Bob Cratchit's.

SCROOGE

The house is so small - and all these children? How do they live?

PRESENT

Excellent question! How do they live on just fifteen shilling a week, Mr. Scrooge?

The lights fade up more fully on the Cratchit house.

Music ends.

MRS. CRATCHIT

What could be keeping your Father and Tiny Tim? And Martha wasn't as late last Christmas Day by half-an-hour!

ELIZABETH

Oh, I hope they will be home soon! Mother, are there presents?

MRS. CRATCHIT

There are a few. But – dinner comes first, dear.

BELINDA

(looking out the door, or window)

Here's Martha, mother!

MARTHA enters.

MRS. CRATCHIT

(cheerfully, kissing her on the cheek.)

Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are! Come in from the cold!

MARTHA

We had a great deal of work to finish up last night, and had to clear away this morning, mother!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Well! Never mind so long as you are here!

PETER

(looking out the door, or window)

I see Father . . . and Tiny Tim. Martha, hide, and we will surprise them!

MARTHA finds a space to hide, perhaps behind the door as BOB and TINY TIM enter.

BELINDA

Father, you are home! Merry Christmas!

*The children run to BOB and TINY TIM, along with MRS. CRATCHIT.
All share a warm embrace and greetings of "Merry Christmas!" After a moment,
BOB looks around and says:*

BOB

Why, where's our Martha?

MRS. CRATCHIT

Not coming.

BOB

Not coming! Not coming upon Christmas Day!

MARTHA comes out from hiding.

MARTHA

Here I am, Father. Merry Christmas!

They embrace.

BOB

Oh, a merry Christmas to you, daughter! It would not be Christmas Day if my Martha were not here!

MATTHEW

It was Peter's idea to surprise you, Father. Did it work?

BOB

It was brilliant! I was very surprised, and very happy to see that we are all here!

MRS. CRATCHIT

And how did our Tiny Tim behave in church? Good as gold, I suppose?

BOB

As good as gold and even better! He is so thoughtful, and he listened so carefully to the Christmas story. Tim, tell everyone what you told me on the way home - about the church service.

Music begins. The family gathers around BOB and TIM to listen.

**#16 As We Remember (BOB, PETER, MRS. CRATCHIT,
CRATCHIT FAMILY)**

TINY TIM

I said that I hoped the people saw me in the church, because I am a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.

BOB

AS WE REMEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY,
EV'RY DECEMBER LET US PRAY
AND LOOK TO THE SAVIOR BORN TODAY
IN BETHLEHEM.

PETER

HE TOUCHED THE BLIND AND MADE THEM SEE;

TINY TIM

HE TOUCHED THE LAME, WHO WALK LIKE ME.

MRS. CRATCHIT

AND HE SETS THE POOR AND CAPTIVE FREE
BY LOVING THEM.

CRATCHIT FAMILY

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, REMEMBER
THAT THIS IS A TIME FOR LOVE.
THIS IS A TIME TO OPEN YOUR HEART
AND LOOK ABOVE.
LOOK UNTO GENTLE JESUS,
WHO CAME TO US MEEK AND MILD
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, REMEMBER
THE GIFT OF THE HOLY CHILD.

BOB

(almost overcome with emotion)

Oh, my precious Tiny Tim! I do believe that God is granting you more strength every day!

MRS. CRATCHIT

(quietly)

I pray so, Bob.

(to MARTHA)

Martha, I believe the goose should be done! Go and bring it. Belinda, you may go help her – it may take two to bring such a bird! Peter, you and Matthew may bring the pudding – but be careful, it is piping hot! Elizabeth, help me finish the table. Father, you and Tim find your seats. I know you must be tired after the long walk home from church.

The children exit offstage to kitchen.

BOB

I say, that goose smells absolutely scrumptious! I can almost taste it!

MRS. CRATCHIT

It has been cooking all day, along with the pudding. I say, the whole house smells like Christmas, as it should.

BOB

Indeed. I know it will be a wonderful meal, dear.

The children return, and all make their way to their seats.

MARTHA

What a glorious goose!

BOB

I have never seen such a goose! I daresay, Mrs. Cratchit, that this meal looks to be your greatest success of our entire marriage!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Careful, now, Bob Cratchit . . . flattery is a sin!

BOB

Not when it is sincere! Let us give thanks to the Lord for His gracious provision. A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!

The family echoes "God Bless Us" . . ., then TIM speaks-

TINY TIM

God bless us everyone!

The family kneels their heads in prayer, as the lights dim on the Cratchit's, and up again on SCROOGE and PRESENT.

SCROOGE

Spirit . . . tell me if Tiny Tim will live.

PRESENT

I see a vacant seat in the corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.

SCROOGE

No, no! Oh, no, kind Spirit! Say he will be spared!

PRESENT

Why? If he is likely to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.

SCROOGE

(head bowed in shame)

Oh, Spirit . . . you condemn me with my own words! I grieve at the sound of them!

PRESENT

Will you decide what men shall live, what men shall die? It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child!

SCROOGE, in recognition of the truth of what he has heard, falls to his knees before PRESENT, weeping.

After a moment, the Cratchit area brightens again, and SCROOGE rises at the sound of his own name.

BOB

(lifting his glass, or goblet)

Mr. Scrooge! I'll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!

MRS. CRATCHIT

(suddenly angry)

The Founder of the Feast indeed! I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope he'd have a good appetite for it.

BOB

My dear . . . the children! Christmas Day . . .

MRS. CRATCHIT

It should be Christmas Day, I am sure on which one drinks to the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is, Robert! Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow!

BOB

(mildly)

My dear . . . Christmas Day.

MRS. CRATCHIT

I'll drink to his health for your sake and the Day's . . . not for his. Long life to him! A merry Christmas and a happy new year! He'll be very merry and very happy, counting his money, I have no doubt!

TINY TIM

(lifting his glass, or goblet)
Merry Christmas, Mr. Scrooge!

This causes all the family to laugh and breaks the tension. Soon, their laughter is broken by Fred's singing from another part of the stage. The lights fade out on the Cratchit's and up on the parlor of Fred's home – much more beautifully appointed than the Cratchit's. Gathered there, are FRED, his wife VIRGINIA, TOPPER, Fred's good friend, and other young couples and guests. They are singing and having a grand time. An SATB "double quartet," which includes FRED, VIRGINIA, and TOPPER is recommended – four couples in all, with additional musicians as needed.

#17 On Christmas Night - Medley (FRED, VIRGINIA, PARTY GUESTS)

FRED

(a cappella)
FOUR CALLING BIRDS,

VIRGINIA

THREE FRENCH HENS,

FRED & VIRGINIA

TWO TURTLE DOVES,

FRED, VIRGINIA, & PARTY GUESTS

(with great bravura!)
AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PAIR TREE!

Everyone erupts into boisterous laughter. A violinist, flutist, and VIRGINIA on the harp, immediately begin playing "Good King Wenceslas" under the dialogue.

SCROOGE

That obnoxious laugh! Fred!

PRESENT

Yes, come with me and see your own family's Christmas on this day.

SCROOGE

My own family! Humbug . . . I have no family.

PRESENT

You most certainly do . . . more than you know.

Violin changes keys and begins playing "I Saw Three Ships". Upon recognition, FRED speaks:

FRED

Oh, yes! One of my favorites...gentlemen, shall we?

MEN

I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING IN
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, ON CHRISTMAS DAY;
I SAW THREE SHIPS COME SAILING IN
ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING.

FRED

AND WHAT WAS IN THOSE SHIPS ALL THREE,
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, ON CHRISTMAS DAY?
AND WHAT WAS IN THOSE SHIPS ALL THREE,
ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING?

MEN

THE VIRGIN MARY AND CHRIST WERE THERE,
ON CHRISTMAS DAY, ON CHRISTMAS DAY;
THE VIRGIN MARY AND CHRIST WERE THERE,
ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING.

Music continues.

VIRGINIA

Ladies...step up! We must not allow the gentlemen such reveling!

WOMEN

ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING
TO HEAR THE NEWS THE ANGELS BRING.
ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING
TO HEAR THE NEWS THE ANGELS BRING.
NEWS OF GREAT JOY, NEWS OF GREAT MIRTH,
NEWS OF OUR MERCIFUL KING'S BIRTH.

FRED

THEN WHY SHOULD MEN ON EARTH BE SAD,
SINCE OUR REDEEMER MADE US GLAD?

FRED & VIRGINIA

THEN WHY SHOULD MEN ON EARTH BE SAD,
SINCE OUR REDEEMER MADE US GLAD,

WHEN FROM OUR SIN HE SET US FREE,
ALL FOR TO GAIN OUR LIBERTY?

FRED encourages all to join in.

FRED, VIRGINIA, & PARTY GUESTS
ALL OUT OF DARKNESS WE HAVE LIGHT,
WHICH MADE THE ANGELS SING THIS NIGHT.
ALL OUT OF DARKNESS WE HAVE LIGHT,
WHICH MADE THE ANGELS SING THIS NIGHT:
“GLORY TO GOD AND PEACE TO MEN,
NOW AND FOR EVERMORE, AMEN!”

FRED

My dear Virginia, it would give me great honor if you would sing a little something for us all!

VIRGINIA

(humbly hesitant)
Oh, Fred...really?

FRED

You must!

GUESTS join in agreement. Music continues. VIRGINIA retrieves her harp while FRED turns a chair downstage and holds for her. SHE sits and begins to play and sing.

VIRGINIA

LULLAY, THOU LITTLE TINY CHILD,
BY, BY, LULLY, LULLAY.
LULLAY, THOU LITTLE TINY CHILD.
BY, BY, LULLY, LULLAY.

THEN WOE IS ME, POOR CHILD, FOR THEE,
AND EVER MOURN AND SAY;

FOR THY PARTING, NOR SAY NOR SING,
BY, BY, LULLY, LULLAY.

Music ends. GUESTS applaud and voice their approval.

TOPPER

Virginia, your voice is as lovely as you are! How did Fred ever convince a beautiful woman like you to ever marry a toad like him?

SCROOGE

My thoughts exactly!

VIRGINIA

It was the toad's charm and good looks, of course . . . along with his kind and good nature.

FRED & VIRGINIA share an embrace and kiss on the cheek as SCROOGE interjects.

SCROOGE

She should have married for money – been much better off.

FRED

(to VIRGINIA)

Topper is right. I certainly don't deserve you.

VIRGINIA

Nonsense. Enough of this foolish talk . . . It's time to play a game!

FRED

Capital idea! What shall we play?

TOPPER

I know – let's play "Yes and No"

The GUESTS all respond positively.

SCROOGE

Oh, Spirit . . . I love this game! I used to be quite good at it!

TOPPER

And, please, permit me to begin, for I have a most delicious idea!

FRED

Very well. Off you go.

TOPPER

I am thinking of something which is neither vegetable or mineral, but, rather, animal.

GUEST 1

Ooo, I know! It's the big fat goose that Virginia prepared for Christmas dinner!

TOPPER

Oh, no . . . it has nothing whatsoever to do with Christmas!

VIRGINIA

Now, Topper. No clues. We must follow the rules - only yes or no - that's all.

TOPPER

Sorry. Ask, and I shall answer only yes or no.

The following exchanges go quickly - a "brisk fire," as Dickens wrote.

GUEST 1

Is it a live animal?

TOPPER

Yes.

GUEST 2

Is it savage?

TOPPER

Oh, yes.

GUEST 3

Is this animal ever killed in a market?

TOPPER

No.

GUEST 4

Is it a disagreeable animal?

TOPPER

Yes!

GUEST 5

Does it grunt and growl?

TOPPER

Yes, yes!

Does it walk about the streets?	GUEST 1
Yes.	TOPPER
Of London?	VIRGINIA
Yes!	TOPPER
It's a bear!	GUEST 2
Um, no.	TOPPER
Is it a cat?	GUEST 3
No.	TOPPER
A dog?	GUEST 4
No.	TOPPER
A pig?	GUEST 5
No.	TOPPER
Does it talk?	VIRGINIA
Yes!	TOPPER

VIRGINIA

I know it! I have it!

FRED

Tell us!

VIRGINIA

(to FRED)

It's your Uncle Scrooge!

TOPPER

Yes! Ebenezer Scrooge!

EVERYONE reacts with laughter. SCROOGE becomes sad and despondent as HE listens and observes.

FRED

But Topper said it wasn't a bear! And he certainly is. Or, I should say, he was yesterday, when I saw him last. I asked him to join us for Christmas dinner, and he was so disagreeable. He said that Christmas is a humbug! Imagine!

VIRGINIA

I have no patience whatsoever with the man, Fred. You ask him every year to join us, and every year he insults you. Why bother?

FRED

Whatever he is, dear, he will always be my mother's brother. He is my family.

VIRGINIA

Of course, you are right, as usual. Do not permit my attitude towards the man to change your generous and loving spirit.

TOPPER

If he is so wealthy, how can he be so cross? They say he has vast amounts of money.

FRED

So he does, but what of it? His wealth is of no use to him. He won't do any good with it. He won't make himself comfortable with it. He hasn't the satisfaction of thinking that he is ever going to benefit us with it. But . . . all the same, I feel sorry for him.

TOPPER

Sorry for him? Why?

FRED

Because his offenses bring upon him his own punishment; he suffers the most from the way he is and he always will. So, he takes it into his head to dislike us, and he won't come and dine with us, what's the consequence? He misses out on a wonderful dinner, and we still have a delightful time without him.

(The GUESTS all agree. "Here, here", etc)

He may rail at Christmas until he dies, but he can't help thinking better of it - I defy him - if he finds me going there, in good temper, year after year, and saying Uncle Scrooge, how are you? I shook him a little yesterday, I could tell.

Music begins.

#18 God Bless Christmas - Reprise (FRED, VIRGINIA)

FRED

He told me to keep Christmas in my own way, and so I shall, Uncle Scrooge, so I shall . . .

(singing)

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!
WE NEED IT, SO HEED IT!

VIRGINIA

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!
THIS IS THE VERY DAY!

FRED & VIRGINIA

IT WON'T BRING US A SCRAP OF GOLD,
STILL, WE BELIEVE WHAT WE'VE BEEN TOLD:
THAT CHRISTMAS DOES US GOOD AND SO WE SAY-

FRED, VIRGINIA, PARTY GUESTS

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS ANYWAY!

Lights fade on Fred's house. During this last musical sequence, PRESENT has moved out of the light to another part of the stage, where he has also hidden the two children - IGNORANCE and WANT - inside his robe.

SCROOGE

Spirit . . . must we leave now?

(looking around)

Spirit, where are you? You can't leave me here in the middle of the street without a word! Spirit! Is your life so short?

PRESENT

(from across the stage)

My life upon this globe, is very brief. It ends tonight.

SCROOGE

Tonight!

PRESENT

Tonight at midnight. Hark! The time is drawing near.

Clock chimes ring out. SCROOGE walks toward PRESENT.

SCROOGE

Forgive me if I am mistaken . . . but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts.

PRESENT

(opening his robe)

Look here! Oh, man! Look here, look down here!

Two children, IGNORANCE and WANT, step out, from inside PRESENT's robe. They are sickly, poor and dirty, and, most of all, sad. SCROOGE is repulsed by them and begins to unconsciously walk backwards, away from them.

SCROOGE

Spirit! Are they yours?

PRESENT

They are Man's . . . and they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom, unless the writing be erased.

SCROOGE

Have they no refuge or resource?

PRESENT

(in a dramatic cry)

Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

The clock chimes twelve, loudly. PRESENT exits quickly.

Music begins.

#19 Christmas Future (ORCHESTRA)

SCROOGE, alone onstage, staggers about. Smoke, as before, begins to flood the stage.

SCROOGE

Spirit! Where are you going?! Will you not answer me? Spirit!

SCENE 5 – STREETS OF LONDON, Christmas Future

SCROOGE stops cold as he looks up and sees, standing before him, The Ghost of Christmas Future (FUTURE), a silent figure completely robed in black, with a cowl hiding his face. FUTURE raises his arm, his hand visible under the voluminous sleeve. FUTURE moves slowly, silently and ominously toward SCROOGE. SCROOGE falls to his knees before FUTURE, truly frightened.

SCROOGE

I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?

No response from FUTURE; only points forward with his arm.

SCROOGE

You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us, is that so, Spirit?

(after a moment)

Ghost of the Future! I fear you the most! But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to go with you, and to do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?

Again, FUTURE points the way with his arm.

Lead on! Lead on! The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit!

Music ends.

Merchants, shoppers and businessmen begin to fill the stage around SCROOGE and FUTURE. SCROOGE moves toward a group of men HE seems to recognize. It is GENTLEMAN 1 and GENTLEMAN 2 from the opening of the play; joined now by WOMAN 3.

GENTLEMAN 1

I don't know much about it, either way. I only know he's dead.

GENTLEMAN 2

When did he die?

GENTLEMAN 1

Last night, I believe.

WOMAN 3

Why, what was the matter with him? I thought he'd never die. What has he done with his money?

GENTLEMAN 1

I haven't heard. Left it to his company, perhaps. He hasn't left it to me. That's all I know.

THEY all laugh.

WOMAN 3

It's likely to be a very cheap funeral, for upon my life I don't know of anyone who will go to it. Suppose we make up a party and go together?

GENTLEMAN 2

I don't mind going if a lunch is provided! But if I go, I must be fed!

THEY laugh again, and then move along, going on their way.

FUTURE walks and points his hand toward another area of the stage where, suddenly, the CHARWOMAN enters, who is almost at once followed by the LAUNDRESS, and then a man in faded black, the GRAVEDIGGER. All three have a bundle of goods – the CHARWOMAN's being the largest.

Right behind them, an older man, OLD JOE, with a pipe in his mouth, pushes a cart full of old clothes, small pieces of furniture – all things he has bought from others with plans to sell on the street. Once they all see each other, they burst into laughter.

SCROOGE watches this scene, from the side, with growing disgust.

CHARWOMAN

Look here, old Joe, what's the chance of this!
(*indicating the LAUNDRESS and GRAVEDIGGER*)
If we haven't all three met here without meaning it!

OLD JOE

You couldn't have met in a better place! We're all suitable to our calling, and we're well matched.

LAUNDRESS

Every person has a right to take care of themselves. He always did.

GRAVEDIGGER

That's true, indeed! No man more so.

OLD JOE

(*looking over their bundles*)
Who's the worse for the loss of a few things like these? Not a dead man, I suppose.

CHARWOMAN

I say, if he wanted to keep 'em after he was dead, why wasn't he more natural in his lifetime? If he had been, he'd have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.

LAUNDRESS

It's the truest word that ever was spoke.

GRAVEDIGGER

It's a judgment on him, that's what it is.

Music begins.

**#20 Better Off Dead (CHARWOMAN, LAUNDRESS,
GRAVEDIGGER, OLD JOE)**

CHARWOMAN

If you ask me, he's better off . . . and so are we.

(SHE sings)

THERE ARE THOSE WHO LEAD SUCH SAD LIVES
FILLED WITH MIS'RY, PAIN AND WOE;
AND THERE'S THOSE WHO LEAD SUCH BAD LIVES,
SPREADING MIS'RY AS THEY GO.
FOR THE FORMER, AT THE FUN'RAL,
WE FEEL HEARTACHE, PAIN AND GRIEF.
BUT THE LATTER'S ANOTHER MATTER;
ONLY GIDDY, SWEET RELIEF!

BETTER OFF DEAD,
BETTER OFF GONE
BETTER OFF DONE
AND MOVIN' ON!

BETTER OFF STIFF,
BETTER OFF COLD,
BETTER OFF DEAD
AND GROWIN' MOLD.
THERE AIN'T TOO MANY PEOPLE
ABOUT WHOM THIS IS SAID;
IN A CLASS ALL BY HIMSELF -
BETTER OFF DEAD!

OLD JOE

THERE ARE THOSE WHO LOVE THEIR BROTHER;
AND AS WELL, THEIR FELLOW MAN.

LAUNDRESS

AND THERE'S THOSE WHO'D ROB THEIR MOTHER,
TAKING ANYTHING THEY CAN.

GRAVEDIGGER

FOR THE FORMER, WE BUY FLOWERS,
PAY A VISIT TO THE GRAVE.

CHARWOMAN

BUT THE LATTER'S ANOTHER MATTER;
JUST "GOOD RIDDANCE!" AS WE WAVE!

ALL

BETTER OFF DEAD,
BETTER OFF GONE
BETTER OFF DONE
AND MOVIN' ON!
BETTER OFF STIFF,
BETTER OFF COLD,
BETTER OFF DEAD
AND GROWIN' MOLD.

CHARWOMAN

I HOPE HE FINDS A HARD PLACE
TO LAY HIS UGLY HEAD.
PLAYING FOOTSIES WITH THE WORMS!
BETTER OFF DEAD!

Music continues under dialogue.

CHARWOMAN

(tossing her bundle on the ground)
Open that bundle, old Joe, and let me know the value of it.

OLD JOE

I want to see the Gravedigger's first - he was the last one to see the old man.

GRAVEDIGGER

It's not much. These two had robbed him blind by the time he got to me.
(Taking items out of his bag)
Some seals, a pencil case, buttons off his sleeve,
(trying to sell it)
and this beautiful broach.

OLD JOE

It's not very valuable, I'm afraid.

GRAVEDIGGER

How much?

OLD JOE

Ten and six and not a sixpence more!

GRAVEDIGGER

You're in a stingy mood today!

OLD JOE

Just be quiet. You robbed his grave, and now you're robbing me!
(*OLD JOE grabs the bundle and puts it away on his cart before the
UNDERTAKER'S MAN can protest further.*)

Who's next?

LAUNDRESS

Me!

(*Reaching inside bundle*)

I've got sheets, towels, silver spoons, silver sugar-tongs, and look!
(*holds up boots*)

Boots!

GRAVEDIGGER

Off his own feet?

LAUNDRESS

Who else's? How much, Joe?

OLD JOE

I always give too much to the ladies . . . Two pounds!

LAUNDRESS

Is that all?!

OLD JOE

That's your account, take it or leave it.

LAUNDRESS takes money.

CHARWOMAN

Now my bundle, Joe!

*CHARWOMAN places the large bundle in front of JOE. HE goes down on his
knees to make it easier to survey. JOE drags out some dark material.*

JOE

What do you call this? Bed curtains! You don't mean to say you took 'em down,
rings and all, with him lying there?

CHARWOMAN

Yes, I do! And why not? Now, look here!

(holds up a white dress shirt)

His shirt! It's the best he had, and I took it right off him. They were about to waste it by buryin' him in it!

JOE

I'm losing my own shirt here tonight. You were born to make your fortune, and you'll certainly do it!

(offering CHARWOMAN money)

Three pounds!

CHARWOMAN

(grabbing the money from JOE)

This is the end of it, you see! He frightened every one away from him when he was alive, to profit us when he was dead!

ALL

I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D EVER BE A FRIEND

CHARWOMAN

BUT I HAVE TO SAY,

LAUNDRESS, GRAVEDIGGER, OLD JOE

BUT I HAVE TO SAY,

CHARWOMAN

IN HIS OWN SMALL WAY

LAUNDRESS, GRAVEDIGGER, OLD JOE

IN HIS OWN SMALL WAY

ALL

HE CAME THROUGH IN THE END!

BETTER OFF DEAD,
BETTER OFF GONE
BETTER OFF DONE
AND MOVIN' ON!
BETTER OFF STIFF,
BETTER OFF COLD,
BETTER OFF DEAD
AND GROWIN' MOLD.

CHARWOMAN

I FIND IT RATHER FUNNY
WHERE HIS CRUEL WAYS HAVE LED,
I SURE LIKE HIM MORE THIS WAY:

ALL

BETTER OFF DEAD!

GRAVEDIGGER

BETTER OFF DEAD!

OLD JOE

BETTER OFF DEAD!

ALL

BETTER OFF DEAD!

GRAVEDIGGER

BETTER OFF DEAD!

OLD JOE

BETTER OFF DEAD!

ALL

BETTER OFF DEAD!

GRAVEDIGGER

BETTER OFF DEAD!

OLD JOE

BETTER OFF DEAD!

ALL

BETTER OFF DEAD!

They join in a final pose, then break up laughing during the applause and exit hurriedly from the stage.

SCROOGE

This is appalling! Do they have no respect for the man! Any noble feelings at all – even at his death?

(looking to FUTURE, who indicates no response)

Spirit! I see, I see . . . the case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now.

FUTURE then raises his arm in another direction, indicating another part of the stage. The lights in that spot fade up to reveal a coffin, carried through the street by two men, dressed in black. They stop in front of SCROOGE. SCROOGE looks and gasps at the sight. FUTURE indicates that SCROOGE should go to the coffin. SCROOGE at first, recoils, then, hesitantly moves toward it. SCROOGE gets almost there and stops.

SCROOGE

Spirit! This is a fearful place. In leaving it, I shall not leave its lesson, trust me. Let us go!

FUTURE moves to coffin and slowly raises the lid, inviting SCROOGE to look inside.

SCROOGE

I understand that you want me to look inside, but I cannot. I have not the power, Spirit. I have not the power! If there is any person in the town, who feels emotion caused by this man's death, show that person to me, Spirit, I beg you!

FUTURE turns again toward another part of the stage and points. There, we see a woman, - CAROLINE, who is pacing, obviously waiting, and looking for someone to come to her. In walks her husband, THOMAS. They are dressed simply.

CAROLINE

Is it good? Or bad?

THOMAS

Bad.

CAROLINE

We are quite ruined?

THOMAS

No. There is hope yet, Caroline.

CAROLINE

If he relents, there is! Nothing is past hope, if such a miracle has happened.

THOMAS

He is past relenting . . .
(*suppressing his joy*)
He is . . . dead.

CAROLINE reacts with a gasp, and is obviously relieved, and pleased – but somewhat embarrassed to find herself reacting so happily.

THOMAS

Last night, when I tried to see him to seek a week's delay, I told you about the half-drunken woman, who told me he was sick . . .

CAROLINE

Yes.

THOMAS

I thought it was an excuse to avoid me, but turns out it was quite true – he wasn't only sick – but dying right at that very moment!

CAROLINE

To whom will our debt be transferred?

THOMAS

I don't know. But before that time we shall be ready with the money; and even though we were not, it surely won't be anyone as merciless a creditor as he was. We may sleep tonight with light hearts, Caroline!

THEY embrace, joyfully.

CAROLINE

Oh, Thomas! Heaven forgive me, but . . . it seems like a miracle!

The lights fade out quickly on them and they exit. SCROOGE wearily looks to FUTURE.

SCROOGE

Let me see some tenderness connected with a death, or these dark shadows, Spirit, which I have seen just now, will be forever present to me.

FUTURE turns and points his arm toward the Cratchit home.

#21 Cratchit – Underscore 2 (ORCHESTRA)

MRS. CRATCHIT, and all the Cratchit children, except TINY TIM, are gathered around the table, listening to PETER, who is reading from the Bible. We see Tiny Tim's crutch, carefully stored, in the corner, or hung on the wall.

PETER

And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms . . .

PETER, thinking of Tiny Tim, cannot go on. He weeps softly and stops reading.

Music fades out.

MRS. CRATCHIT

That is enough for tonight, Peter. You better rest your eyes, dear. Your father will be home soon. It seems time for him to be here.

MARTHA

Yes – or past it, Mother. But I think he has walked a little slower than he used to, these few last evenings, mother.

MRS. CRATCHIT

I have known him walk with--

(composing herself)

I have known him walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed.

BELINDA

So have I, so many times, mother.

MRS. CRATCHIT

But he was very light to carry, . . . and his father loved him so, that it was no trouble: no trouble.

BOB enters at the door.

ELIZABETH

Father!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Oh, there he is! Come, and sit, darling. Here – I have your tea ready.

The children go to BOB and embrace him. HE embraces them all fully, kissing them on the cheek, obviously moved.

PETER

(trying to be brave)

Oh, Father . . . don't mind it . . . Don't be grieved! Tim is in heaven – walking and running!

MRS. CRATCHIT

You went today, then, Robert?

BOB

Yes, my dear. I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you'll see it often. I promised him that we would walk there on a Sunday.

(weeping)

My little, little child! My little child!

The family gathers in close to BOB, until he has recovered and continues.

BOB

I must tell you who I saw today . . . Mr. Scrooge's nephew, Fred. I met him on the street and he said that I looked – um – just a little down you know, and when I told him about Tim – why – he is the most pleasantly-spoken gentleman, he said that he was heartily sorry for me – and heartily sorry for my good wife, Mrs. Cratchit. How he knew that, I will never know.

MRS. CRATCHIT

Knew what, my dear?

BOB

That you were a good wife, of course!

MATTHEW

Everybody knows that!

BOB

Very well observed, my boy! I hope they do. "Heartily sorry," he said, "for your good wife. If I can be of service to you in any way," he said, giving me his card, "that's where I live. Pray come to me." Now, it wasn't for the sake of anything he might be able to do for us, so much as for his kind way, that this was quite delightful. It really seemed as if he had known our Tiny Tim, and felt with us.

MRS. CRATCHIT

I'm sure he's a good soul!

BOB

Oh, he is! If you could see him and speak to him, as I did, you would be sure of it. I shouldn't be at all surprised . . . if he got Peter a better situation.

MARTHA

And then, Peter will be keeping company with someone, and setting up for himself!

PETER

Get along with you!

BOB

It's just as likely as not, one of these days; though there's plenty of time for that, my dear.

Music Begins.

#22 As We Remember - Reprise (BOB)

BOB

But however and whenever we do part from one another, I am sure that none of us shall forget poor Tiny Tim--shall we--or this first parting that there was among us?

(HE sings)

AS WE REMEMBER TINY TIM,
EV'RY DECEMBER, THINK OF HIM;
AND LET NOT HIS MEM'RY EVER DIM
OR FADE AWAY.

HE WAS SO PATIENT, GOOD AND KIND.
HE LED THE WAY, BUT WALKED BEHIND;
THE LIGHT IN OUR LIFE THAT ALWAYS SHINED
SO BRIGHT EACH DAY.

SO LET US NEVER QUARREL,
REMEMBER THE HAPPY BOY.
HE TAUGHT US HOW TO LOVE AND FORGIVE
AND LIVE WITH JOY.
HE WAS A GIFT FROM HEAVEN,

WHO CAME TO US MEEK AND MILD.
SO EV'RY DAY, REMEMBER
OUR TIM, PRECIOUS, TINY CHILD.

As the family gathers in for one more embrace, BOB speaks:

I am very happy . . . I am very happy!

Music ends. Lights fade out on Cratchit home.

SCROOGE

No . . . no! Not Tiny Tim! Why? Why that sweet little boy?! What is the meaning of all this?

SCROOGE weeps. He is clearly humbled now, and broken.

Spirit . . . I can sense that our parting moment is at hand. Let me behold what I shall be, in days to come . . .

FUTURE points in another direction. Fog begins to flow on the floor of the stage, as the lights fade up and reveal a graveyard. Music Begins.

#23 Ebenezer Scrooge - Underscore (ORCHESTRA)

FUTURE stands in the center of the graveyard and beckons, with his arm, for SCROOGE to join him.

SCROOGE

Before I draw near to where you are, answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that will be, or are they shadows of things that may be, only?

There is no response or movement from FUTURE.

Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead . . . But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me!

The music builds in the orchestra as SCROOGE walks where FUTURE stands. At the climactic moment in the music, a large tombstone rises, with the name EBENEZER SCROOGE written on it. There is a lightening crash, and thunder sound F/X as SCROOGE falls on his knees in front of the stone.

Music continues throughout the end of the scene and into the next. Follow the timing as indicated in the score.

SCROOGE

(with a cry)

Am I the man who lay inside that coffin?

FUTURE points from the grave to him, and back again.

No, Spirit! Oh no, no! Spirit! Hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been! Why show me this, if I am past all hope? Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!

There is another thunder crash, and we begin to hear a cacophony of sounds from the entire story – clock chimes, church bells, and Marley’s chains dragging, all building in an ominous and eerie reminder of the entire dream. We could see MARLEY onstage, FEZZIWIG, BELLE, FRED, PAST, PRESENT and others – lit in specials around the stage as the nightmare reaches its climax.

SCROOGE

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.

(with a desperate cry)

Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!

SCROOGE is frightened and desperate. HE reaches up and finally grabs hold of FUTURE with a scream. There is an immediate blackout as the music continues to build and keeps going, in the darkness, giving SCROOGE time to get back to the bedroom, unseen by the audience.

SCENE 6– SCROOGE’S BEDROOM, Christmas Morning

Music continues. The lights fade up on Scrooge’s bedroom – it still night – barely. SCROOGE is grasping the bedpost as if it were FUTURE. He is calling out, prayer-like, as the lights come up.

SCROOGE

I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future! The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me!

(noticing the bed, and realizing – HE is back! HE falls down on the floor, to his knees, facing the audience)

Oh, my . . . I am . . . alive! . . . Oh, Jacob, dear Jacob . . . Oh, God in heaven be praised!

Music begins/segues from #23.

#24 On My Knees (SCROOGE)

SCROOGE

I will honor Christmas in my heart! I say this on my knees . . .

(singing)

ON MY KNEES,
O GOD, MY HEART IS BROKEN
I'VE SEEN THE EVIL DARKNESS OF MY SOUL.

ON MY KNEES,
I'VE HEARD THE TRUTH YOU'VE SPOKEN;
FORGIVE MY SINFUL WAYS AND MAKE ME WHOLE.

ON MY KNEES,
REPENTING, LET ME NEVER
RETURN AGAIN TO SELFISHNESS AND PRIDE.
ON MY KNEES,
I PROMISE TO ENDEAVOR
TO LET THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT LIVE INSIDE!

HEAVEN AND THE CHRISTMAS TIME BE PRAISED!
NO LONGER DEAD, MY SPIRIT HAS BEEN RAISED!

A shaft of early morning sunlight begins to shine into the bedroom, and the lights intensify, taking us into the full light of morning by the end of the song.

ON MY KNEES,
MY NEW LIFE IS BEGINNING!
AND I WILL MAKE AMENDS FOR ALL MY PAST.

ON MY KNEES,
DEAR ME, I CAN'T STOP GRINNING!
FOR I BELIEVE THIS JOY WILL ALWAYS LAST!

SCROOGE rises from his knees, singing with a sense of joy and triumph, almost overcome with emotion.

JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY!
LOVE HAS COME AND CHANGED MY WHOLE LIFE STORY!
LET THE HOLY LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS SHINE FOR ALL TO
SEE -
THERE'S A BRAND NEW ME!

SCROOGE

(in a giddy state)

I don't know what to do! I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel,
I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry
Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world!

(running around the room)

There's the saucepan that the gruel was in! There's the door, by which the Ghost
of Jacob Marley entered! There's the corner where the Ghost of Christmas
Present, sat! I don't know what day of the month it is! I don't know anything.
I'm quite a baby. Never mind. I don't care. I'd rather be a baby!

Church bells begin to ring out – just as they had in Christmas Present.

Music begins.

**#25 Christmas Morning - Medley
(SCROOGE & CHORUS, FRED, VIRGINIA)**

*SCROOGE looks outside and sees a BOY, as well as other CHORUS members
milling about on Christmas morning and calls out to him.*

SCROOGE

What's today?!

BOY

What's that?

SCROOGE

I say, what's today, my fine fellow?

BOY

Today! Why, Christmas Day!

SCROOGE

(to himself)

It's Christmas Day! I haven't missed it. The Spirits have done it all in one night.
They can do anything they like. Of course they can. Of course they can!

(to the BOY)

Hallo, my fine fellow! Do you know the Poulterer's, at the corner?

BOY

I should hope I did!

SCROOGE

An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy! Do you know whether they've sold the prize Turkey that was hanging up there?--Not the little prize Turkey: the big one?

BOY

What, the one as big as me?

SCROOGE

(to himself)

What a delightful boy! It's a pleasure to talk to him.

(to the BOY)

Yes, my buck!

BOY

It's hanging there now.

SCROOGE

Is it? Go and buy it.

BOY

Blimey!

SCROOGE

No - I am in earnest! Go and buy it, and tell 'em to bring it here, that I may give them the direction where to take it. Come back with the man, and I'll give you a shilling. Come back with him in less than five minutes and I'll give you half-a-crown!

BOY

Yes Sir!

The BOY runs off in an excited hurry!

SCROOGE

I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's! He won't know who sent it! It's twice the size of Tiny Tim!

SCROOGE goes to find his clothes and begins to dress to go outside, singing joyfully as he dresses.

IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
THERE'S A LIFE I'VE YET TO LIVE!
THERE ARE PEOPLE I MUST GO TO!
THERE ARE GIFTS THAT I MUST GIVE!
I HAVE NEVER FELT SO HAPPY!
I HAVE NEVER FELT SO FREE!
IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
THAT I CANNOT WAIT TO SEE!

SCROOGE continues to dress and move from the bedroom to the streets as the CHORUS sings. By now, the city is bustling with people all about. During this chorus, we see the huge turkey delivered to the Cratchit's door. They receive it with wonder.

CHORUS

DING, DONG, MERRILY ON HIGH!
THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING!
DING, DONG, VERILY THE SKY
IS BRIGHT WITH HEAV'NS' ADORNING!
GLORIA,
HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS!
GLORIA,
HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS!

SCROOGE is now on the street, dressed in his finest, joining the people happily. HE calls out to those around him. They are at first shocked, then overcome with a joyful surprise.

SCROOGE

Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!
(to a MAN passing by)
Hello, my good man! Merry Christmas to you!

The MAN reacts in amazement!

SCROOGE approaches GENTLEMAN 1, from the opening of the play.

SCROOGE

My dear sir, how do you do? I hope you succeeded yesterday. It was very kind of you. A merry Christmas to you, sir!

GENTLEMAN 1

Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Yes. That is my name, and I fear it may not be pleasant to you. Allow me to ask your pardon. And will you have the goodness to—

SCROOGE whispers in GENTLEMAN 1's ear.

GENTLEMAN 1

(as if his breath has been taken away)

Lord, bless me! My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?

SCROOGE

If you please . . . not a farthing less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you.

GENTLEMAN 1

My dear sir . . . I don't know what to say.

SCROOGE

Don't say anything, please. Come and see me. Will you come and see me?

GENTLEMAN 1

I will!

The orchestra swells, and the CHORUS sings once again, with SCROOGE joining in. During this section, SCROOGE makes his way towards the door to Fred's home.

CHORUS/SCROOGE

IT'S A MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING!/DING, DONG,
MERRILY ON HIGH
WHAT A GLORIOUS DISPLAY!/THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS
MORNING
THERE'S A JOLLY, JOYOUS FEELING/DING, DONG, VERILY
THE SKY

IN THE THINGS WE DO AND SAY./IS BRIGHT WITH
HEAV'NS' ADORNING
IT IS OVER ALL TOO QUICKLY,/GLORIA
SO EMBRACE IT, WHILE YOU MAY;/GLORIA
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,/GLORIA

ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,/GLORIA
ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS BLESSED CHRISTMAS DAY!

SCROOGE stands at the door of Fred's house, seeking to work up the courage to knock as he sings . . .

SCROOGE

ON THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS MORNING,
ON THIS BLESS-ED CHRISTMAS DAY . . .

Music continues underneath. SCROOGE knocks on the door. Soon, FRED opens the door and is amazed – so happily amazed!

FRED

Why bless my soul! Who's that?

SCROOGE

It's me . . . your uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in, Fred?
(*HE sings*)

GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!
I NEED IT, I HEED IT!
GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS!
THIS IS THE VERY DAY!
IT WON'T BRING ME A SCRAP OF GOLD,
NOW I BELIEVE WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD;
THAT CHRISTMAS DOES ME GOOD AND SO I SAY:
GOD BLESS CHRISTMAS, ANYWAY!

FRED sings. VIRGINIA has now joined him at the door.

FRED

A FAM'LY CHRISTMAS,
AT HOME WITH ME.

FRED & VIRGINIA go to SCROOGE, welcoming him, on each arm.

FRED & VIRGINIA

NOW THAT WE'RE TOGETHER,
I KNOW THAT YOU WILL SEE
HOW WONDERFUL, HOW BEAUTIFUL
A TRUE CHRISTMAS CAN BE.

FRED, VIRGINIA, SCROOGE
LET'S MAKE A MEMORY,
CHRISTMAS DAY WITH OUR FAMILY.

As the music ends, they all three go through the door into Fred's house as the lights fade out on them and fade up on the NARRATORS.

NARRATOR 2

Scrooge felt at home in five minutes. Nothing could be heartier. His niece was beautiful, just as he had seen in his dream. Topper looked the same when he came. So did everyone when they came. Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful feeling, wonderful happiness!

Lights fade up on office. SCROOGE is waiting watching the clock, or his pocket watch.

SCENE 7 – SCROOGE'S OFFICE, December 26, 1843, 9:00 am

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was early there. If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon. And he did it; yes, he did! The clock struck nine. No Bob. A quarter past. No Bob. He was full eighteen minutes and a half behind his time.

BOB runs in hurriedly, out of breath, going immediately to his desk. SCROOGE feigns his "old self" once again.

SCROOGE

Cratchit! What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?

BOB

I am very sorry, sir, . . . I am behind my time.

SCROOGE

Yes, you are! Step this way, sir, if you please.

BOB

It's only once a year, sir . . . It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir. It was the strangest thing – from out of nowhere, we were delivered this enormous turkey! I still have no idea who sent it. Maybe I never will.

SCROOGE

Enough with your stories! I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore . . . and therefore . . . I am about to raise your salary!

BOB

Please, Mr. Scrooge, I beg you . . . I . . . what did you say? Raise my –

Music begins – fermata in strings.

#27 Epilogue – Underscore (ORCHESTRA)

SCROOGE

A merry Christmas, Bob! A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you, for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and endeavor to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob! Make up the fires, and buy another coal scuttle before you dot another i, Bob Cratchit!

Musical underscore goes on. The lights begin to fade on this office and focus on the NARRATORS once again. During this transition, the stage is filling, quietly, with the entire COMPANY in a beautiful, storybook, stage picture that we will see in the final number.

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father.

Lights fade up on the Cratchit family.

NARRATOR 2

He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.

NARRATOR 1

It was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge.

Underscore segues into . . .

**#27 God Bless Us, Everyone
(TINY TIM, BOB, SCROOGE, FRED, VIRGINIA, COMPANY)**

NARRATOR 1

May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed,

TINY TIM

GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE.

BOB

BRIGHT SHINES THE MORNING SUN.

SCROOGE

THE LONG, DARK NIGHT HAS PASSED,
HOPE HAS COME TO US AT LAST.

FRED & VIRGINIA

JOY TO THE WORLD! WE SING,

FRED, VIRGINIA, & SCROOGE

LOVE CHANGES EV'RYTHING!

TINY TIM, BOB, FRED, VIRGINIA, SCROOGE

CHRISTMAS HAS NOW BEGUN,
GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE!

FRED, VIRGINIA

GOD BLESS US EV'RY ONE.

FRED

LET LOVING DEEDS BE DONE

TINY TIM, BOB

UNTO THE LEAST OF THEM;

TINY TIM, BOB, & SCROOGE

SHINE THE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM.

SCROOGE

REPLACE OUR HEARTS OF STONE,
WITH HEARTS OF LOVE ALONE.

TINY TIM, BOB, FRED, VIRGINIA, SCROOGE

CHRISTMAS HAS NOW BEGUN,
GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE!

COMPANY

GOD BLESS US, EV'RYONE.
GOD SENT HIS ONLY SON
TO SHOW US HOW TO LIVE,
HOW TO LOVE AND HOW TO GIVE.
HE CAME TO ALL OF US,
BOTH GREAT AND SMALL OF US.
CHRISTMAS HAS NOW BEGUN,
GOD BLESS US, EV'RYONE!

Blackout.

THE END.

#28 Curtain Call (COMPANY)

COMPANY

SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL,
REMEMBER CHRISTMAS PAST,
CELEBRATE THIS PRESENT TIME
WHILE FLEETING MOMENTS LAST.
AND AS FOR CHRISTMAS YET TO BE,
WE LIVE WITH HOPE SOMEDAY TO SEE
GOOD WILL AND PEACE ON EARTH HAVE COME TO STAY
OH, SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL TODAY! OH,

JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME;
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING;
LET EV'RY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM,
AND HEAV'N AND NATURE SING,
AND HEAV'N AND NATURE SING,
AND HEAV'N AND NATURE
SING A CHRISTMAS CAROL TODAY!