

A Wayne Scott • LifeHouse Production

Scrooge!

The title 'Scrooge!' is written in a large, black, gothic-style font. The letter 'S' is particularly large and ornate, with a long, curved tail. The rest of the word 'crooge!' is in a similar but smaller font. The letters are decorated with a garland of green holly leaves and clusters of red berries. The background is white with a faint, diagonal watermark that reads 'LIFEHOUSE T.H.E.A.T.R.' in a light pink and grey color.

An Original Adaptation with
Script, Music and Lyrics by
WAYNE ROBERT SCOTT

Based upon the Classic 1843 Novel, A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens

Revised Seventh Edition

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In Order of Appearance)

The Storyteller	
Bob Crachit	Scrooge's Clerk
Tiny Tim	Bob Crachit's Son
Ebenezer Scrooge	
Rev. Joseph Liddy	Solicitor for the Poor
Mr. Edward Rouge	Liddy's Assistant
Undertaker	
Gravediggers 1-3	
Fred Hollywell	Scrooge's Nephew
Child A	
Child B	
Broker 1	
Broker 2	
Jacob Marley	Scrooge's Late Partner
The Ghost of Christmas Past	
Fan	Scrooge's Sister
Scrooge as a Boy	
Student A	
Student B	
Scrooge's Father	
Fezziwig	Scrooge's First Employer
Mrs. Fezziwig	
Scrooge as a Young Man	
Dick Wilkins	Scrooge's Co-Apprentice
Belle	Scrooge's Lost Love
The Ghost of Christmas Present	
Villager 1	
Villager 2	
Mrs. Cratchit	
The Cratchit Children	
Mrs. Hollywell	Fred's Wife
Friends 1-8	
The Ghost of Christmas Yet-to-Come	
Villagers 3-6	
Renter's Wife	
Renter	
Vendor	

Carolers, Villagers, Party Guests

“SCROOGE!”

By Wayne R. Scott

SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

ACT I

Overture

1. “A Merry Christmas” Carolers, Bob, Tiny Tim
2. “Help us! Humbug!” Carolers, Liddy, Rouge, Scrooge
3. “Marley is Dead” Undertaker, Gravediggers
4. “I’m Not a Tuppence Richer” Scrooge, Bob
5. “Ebenezer Scrooge” Brokers 1 & 2, Carolers, Scrooge
6. “Scrooge at Home” Storyteller
7. “I Forged this Chain” Marley, Christmas Spirits
8. “I Am the Ghost of Christmas Past” Christmas Past, Scrooge
“A Merry Christmas” (Reprise) Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, Company
“God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman” (Traditional) Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, Company
9. “Belle’s Farewell” Belle
“Christmas Past” (Reprise) Christmas Past, Spirits
“I Forged this Chain” (Reprise) Christmas Spirits

ACT II

Entr’acte

- “Scrooge at Home” (Reprise) Storyteller
10. “I Am the Ghost of the Present” Christmas Present, Scrooge, Carolers
 11. “Mother’s Lullaby” Mrs. Crachit
 12. “A Game of Yes and No” Fred, Mrs. Hollywell, Friends 1-8
 13. “Ode to Scrooge” Brokers 1 & 2, Villagers 1-6
 14. “No Sad Goodbyes” Mrs. Crachit
 15. “Scrooge’s Prayer” Scrooge
“Scrooge at Home” (Reprise) Scrooge
 16. “I’m a New Man” Scrooge and Ensemble
- Finale: “Joy to the World” (Watts/Handle/Traditional) Entire Cast Ensemble
“Auld Lang Syne” (Traditional) Entire Cast Ensemble

"Scrooge!"

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ACT I

Overture

SCENE 1: LONDON TOWN SQUARE

(As overture leads to "No Sad Goodbyes," the storyteller enters with story book and begins reciting)

Storyteller The London fog began to loom, the streets were slick and wet—
The air was chilled and frosty— about as cold as England gets;
But not as cold and clammy as a Scrooge named Ebenezer!
He was heartless, mean and rude— a money-grabbing geezer;
But he's no match for Christmas Day in our tale by Charles Dickens
Gather 'round now one and all— the plot's about to thicken!

SONG: "A MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

Carolers We love this season! We find it pleasin'!
And here's the reason: A star is shining bright;
The baby born one Christmas morn
Has come to bring joy and light!
Cares of the past may be tossed away
Oh let's spread the wondrous good news!
Angels have come to announce His birth
Without a doubt it's true— !
(Shaking hands) Let's shake a hand with a happy heart
We welcome God's holy Son—
A blessed season! And here's the reason:
The Christ of Christmas has come!

A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!
A merry Christmas! We wish you joy and cheer!
A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!
And happy, happy New Year!

Bob *(with Tiny Tim)* Though we are poor it's our Savior's birth
Our debts are wondrously light.
Carolers We are rich in good cheer and mirth
The season is so bright— !
Bob Skies may be gray, but I'm here to say
(lifting Tim to his shoulders) That Christmas shines like the Son—
We're standing tall!
Tim God bless us all!
Carolers May God bless us, everyone!

A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!
A merry Christmas! We wish you joy and cheer!
A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!

And happy, happy New Year!
We wish you Godspeed and cheer— !
(Music pauses then turns ominous, transitioning to “Marley is Dead”)

(Scrooge emerges from crowd of Carolers and, as they scatter in fright, Bob sends Tiny Tim off to exit as he himself scurries away to Scrooge’s office)

Scrooge Must you screech and wail and shout?!
A pack of vagrants here no doubt!

Carolers (A) Oh, dear me, we’re in for trouble—
(B) Who else could burst our merry bubble?
(C) Wealthy Ebenezer Scrooge—
(D) His net worth is rather huge!
(E) As London’s foremost wholesale shipper,
(F) With finances rather chipper
(G) His portfolio’s appealing;

All Scrooge Stocks and bonds piled to the ceiling!
Must you break the solitude
Of London’s fog? How very rude!
This “Merry Christmas” on your breath
Is a humbug worse than death!

Liddy Please Mister Ebenezer Scrooge—
This is Mister Edward Rouge
I am Reverend Joseph Liddy—

Liddy & Rouge We’re chairmen of a fine committee
Rouge Dedicated to the poor.
Liddy Help us, sir— now don’t be skittish—
Rouge Help the weak and ailing British!
Hungry people fill our town—

Liddy How much from you may we write down?
Scrooge Gentlemen, you need not fuss.
Liddy You wish to be anonymous?

(Music becomes ominous, then transitions to “Help Us!” vamp introduction)

Scrooge I wish that you would write a note
Reminding you I’ll grab your throat
And soon commit a monstrous crime
If you should beg me one more time!

Carolers (A) Oh! It is Christmas, Mr. Scrooge!
(B) A time for peace, some warm refuge—
(C) Could you find it in your soul
(D) To spare some coins or lumps of coal?
(E) Please Mr. Scrooge—

SONG: “HELP US! – HUMBUG!”

Carolers Help us! Help us! We’re the down and out of London
Help us! Help us! In other words, we’re poor!
We’ve not eaten in who knows how long
Won’t you help us? Feed and clothe our hungry throng—
Contemplate our song! –
Oh—
Help us! Help us! Look into our soulful eyes
And help us! Help us! Hear our plaintive cries—

Scrooge Humbug! Humbug! Do you think I’m made of money?
Humbug! Humbug! You’re clogging up the streets!
You’ve got your nerve, begging me for food—
I support the poor house, so don’t annoy and be so rude
Begging is so crude!

So—
Humbug! Humbug! I've no time for lazy loafers—
Humbug! Humbug! Get yourselves a job!
Carolers Jobs are scarce there is no work— or none that we can find—
There's no job that we should shirk— we are simply in a bind—
Would you be so kind?
To—
Help us! Help us! It's your solemn Christian duty—
Help us! Help us! It's Christmas, after all!
Scrooge Christmas, Halloween, who cares? It's all the same to me—
I've got bills and debts to pay and Christmas pays no fees!
Carolers But we will surely fre-e-e-z-z-z-ze! Uh!
Oh— Help us! Help us!
Scrooge The work house and the prison beckons!
Carolers Help us! Help us!
Scrooge Humbug, I reply!
Perhaps a few of you will starve, it's sad to think, but true—
But overcrowding will be solved, once there's less and less of you!
Carolers A sad, revolting view!
Oh—
Help us! Help us!
Scrooge Humbug! Humbug!
Carolers Help— us! Help— us!—
Show some Christian care and help us!
Scrooge Humbug! Humbug!
Go and help yourselves!
Carolers Help us! Help us!
Scrooge Humbug! Humbug!
Carolers Help us!
Scrooge Humbug!
Carolers Help us! Help!—
Scrooge *(Spoken)* No!

Scrooge I'll have no more of talk like that—
Now go! Be useful! Scram and scat! *(Exits)*

Carolers There's no doubt— he's cold and pensive,
Singularly apprehensive;
But behind this heartless man
There is a cause to understand—
Storyteller What made this man grow mean and pale?
Listen to our Christmas tale.
Carolers Heed our story— lend your ears—
You'll remember this for years... *(Carolers exit)*
(Musical introduction to "Marley is Dead" begins)
(Undertaker and Gravediggers enter with coffin and shovels)

Storyteller As we begin, we must impart
A fact apparent at the start:
It must be very clearly said
That Jacob Marley is quite dead.
To skeptics who may scoff about—
Be sure of this, there is no doubt—
Reflect upon what you are told:
Marley's dead and now stone cold!
(Music pauses and either resumes or remains tacit for "barbershop style" quartet)

SONG: "MARLEY IS DEAD"

**Undertaker and
Gravediggers**

The worth of the story that we shall relate
Depends upon how clearly it's known— (woe, woe, woe!)—
That poor Jacob Marley is dead at this date—
And he reaped all that he had sown— (also grown!)—

Marley is dead— (oh yes) — Marley is dead— (cold dead)—
What misery! What tragedy! (sigh)
Marley is dead— (I said)— Oh fear and dread— (we said)—
No rest in peace for he ... (Hee, hee, hee, hee!)
(Possible brief musical interlude)

Nothing is sadder than dying alone
'Tis an end that we all must avoid,— (oy, oy, oy!)—
And Marley had died before sins were atoned—
His chances for peace destroyed.— (he destroyed)—

Marley is dead— (oh boy)— Oh fear and dread!— (he's dead)—
Nary a friend— what a sad end—
Marley is dead— (so dead)— as we have said— (we said)
Too late to make amends... (with his friends)—

Marley is dead—
Though his spirit has fled—
He has left much unsaid—
But who knows what's ahead...?
Dead— Dead— (Spoken) — Dead!
(Music: "Marley Is Dead" continues as underscore)

Storyteller As partners for years, Scrooge was his sole friend
His sole confidant until Marley's sad end.
Gravedigger A Marley was buried to London's relief.
Gravedigger B And certified by the mourner-in-chief.
Undertaker The clerk, undertaker, and clergyman too
Gravedigger C All attested to Marley's sad death rendezvous.
Storyteller His life on this earth was divinely revoked—
Gravediggers Now everyone knows that poor Marley has croaked!... (Exit)
Storyteller Scrooge knew he was dead? How could he have not?
But even he was not so sad or distraught—
Scrooge Business is business and life must go on
There's money to make with every day's dawn—
Storyteller A callous response to his death, in my view—
Scrooge Well, if Marley were here, he'd agree with me, too!
Storyteller The sign hung above Scrooge's dim business shack
Showed Scrooge never took Marley's name off the plaque.
Repaint or remove Marley? Scrooge would do neither.
Scrooge And as for the names, I will answer to either.
Tim Merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge! God bless us every one!
Scrooge And who are you?
Tim I'm Tim, Bob Cratchit's son.
Scrooge Is that a fact? So you're the son of my abysmal clerk—
Then I suggest you limp along— he'll be a while at work!
Tim Well, "Merry Christmas" all the same; I'll watch the skaters skate!

SCENE 2: SCROOGE'S OFFICE

Storyteller And as Scrooge glared an icy stare, he vowed to keep Bob late.
He slunk into the dismal cell where he and Cratchit worked,
And peered upon his employee and entertained a smirk.

Bob Merry Christmas Eve to you, sir!
Storyteller Said Cratchit presently –
Scrooge Balderdash and humbug!
Storyteller Shot back Scrooge, unpleasantly.
To break the awkward, stony silence, Bob unwittingly said –
Bob This evening marks the seventh year that Marley has been dead.
Scrooge Thank you, Cratchit. Amazing news. Now won't you be quite civil?
And favor me with better work, instead of useless drive!
And coal is costly, Mr. Cratchit. No more shall burn today – Have I made myself quite clear?
Bob Oh yes. In every way.
(Music transitions to "A Merry Christmas!" as underscore, from up tempo to reflective)
Fred A Merry Christmas, Uncle! Merry Christmas and God save you!
Storyteller It was the jolly presence of Old Scrooge's happy nephew.
Scrooge Bah!
Storyteller Said Scrooge.
Scrooge Humbug to you!
Fred Oh, Uncle, you don't mean it.
Scrooge Indeed I do and nuts to you!
Fred We are not in agreement.
Scrooge We're not! And you're so very poor, how can you be so merry?
Fred And you're so very rich enough, why must you be contrary?
Scrooge Bah!
Storyteller Said Scrooge.
Scrooge Humbug to you!
Fred Now, Uncle keep your cool!
Scrooge How can I keep my temper in this dreary world of fools?...And what is Christmas time for you?
A time for unpaid bills – a time to find you're getting blind and old and deaf and ill –
Fatter, slower, grayer, balder, old and poorer still –
And at this wretched time of year, if I could work my will
Those who holler "Merry Christmas" much too loud and shrill –
Would be drowned and gagged and bound and boiled in pudding swill!
Fred Oh no – !
Scrooge Oh yes! And in every merry heart a stake of holly drill!
Fred Uncle!
Storyteller Cried Fred Hollywell,
Scrooge Nephew~
Storyteller Scrooge retorted –
Scrooge Keep Christmas as we each see fit –
Fred In your case, most distorted!
Scrooge Well, be that as it may, what good has Christmas done for you?
Fred Not all that's good brings cash in hand,
Storyteller Replied the wise nephew.
Fred Christmas brings to mind the Savior born on Christmas Day
Who beckons lovingly to us and guides us on our way;
Reminds me that my fellow man is needful of God's love
That I must more than ever represent the Lord above;
Like our Savior Christmas time prompts men especially
To acts of mercy, peace, and love, in Christian charity –
Though it's never brought me coins of gold, I must confess it –
I've seen it change the hearts of men, and so I say, God bless it!
(Cratchit applauds; Scrooge directs next two lines to Cratchit)
Scrooge If I should hear another of your impudent ovations –
You shall start the New Year off without your situation!
(To Fred) What a charming way with words your eloquence affords –
It is a wonder you're not seated in the House of Lords!
Fred Don't be angry, Uncle, on this joyous Christmas Eve;
Please come join my wife and I – you'd like it, I believe;
Dine with us and other festive gentleman and ladies.

Scrooge I most certainly will not – I would rather visit Hades!
Fred I want nothing. I ask nothing. May we please be friends?
Scrooge Good afternoon – our conversation now is at an end.
Fred I’m sad you are so resolute – you have been true to rumor –
But our encounter cannot quench my Merry Christmas humor –
So – a Merry Christmas, Uncle!
Scrooge Good afternoon!
Fred And my best to you, Bob Cratchit, may your Christmas be quite merry!
Bob The same to you, Fred Hollywell, I’m sure it will be very! *(Fred exits)*
Scrooge Humbug! –
(Music transitions to extended introduction of the following song)
You’ll want tomorrow off, I guess – that is my supposition.
Bob If it is convenient, sir, and not an imposition –
Scrooge Humph! It’s not convenient – and, indeed, there’s business on our docket! Christmas is a poor
excuse to pick a boss’ pocket! Hmph!...It isn’t fair!...

SONG: “I’M NOT A TUPPENCE RICHER”

Scrooge I’m not a tuppence richer
I don’t have a “Midas touch” –
I’m not a tuppence richer
And I won’t be inasmuch –
As fools like you insist on using Christmas as a crutch
To shirk the work you do – which isn’t much!
Bob I beg your pardon, Mr. Scrooge
It’s Christmas time, you see –
It cannot help but bring out
All the jolliness in me;
It is a special time of year – I hoped you might agree –
Scrooge I don’t! It should be banished by decree! –

Christmas is a time for fools,
And artificial social rules,
When people act like stupid mules
And don’t get any work done –
It’s a crime to pay for time
At wages far beyond the prime
To employees who “shoot the breeze” –
On holidays – it’s wrong!
I’m sure you’d think yourself ill used
If at this Christmas I refused
To pay you for not coming here –
You rob me every year!
It’s stupid and it’s most unfair –
Revolting, I declare!

Who will –
Balance books, attend to chores,
Wash the windows, sweep the floors –
Double-check my wholesale orders
Bill my renters and my boarders – ?
Do you think the work gets done
By magic or by some
Fat genie in a drum?

Bob I’m very sorry Mr. Scrooge
It’s custom I must say

To spend my time with family
On this blessed holiday
A time to pray – a time to play – a time to stow away –
Some mem'ries with my family if I may.
Christmas is a day homespun
For bosses and, yes, simpletons –
In short, a day for everyone
To put aside our cares –
Won't you join me in the mood
Of Merry Christmas gratitude;
Let's set aside our running feud –
And rid ourselves of cares!

(Tiny Tim is seen entering and he waits for Bob)
Who will –
Wrap the gifts with merry bows –
Hang the stockings, play in snow –
Who will tell the Christmas story –
Of our Savior's birth and glory –
Who will help my Tiny Tim
Sing every sort of Christmas hymn – ?
I beg you on my knees – *(Bob kneels)*
A holiday – Oh, please – Oh, please – – !
(Pause)

Scrooge
I'm not a tuppence richer
I don't have a "Midas touch"
I'm not a tuppence richer
And I'll thank you very much
To keep your talk of idle hours and holidays and such –
Confined to wishful thinking –
And not much!
(Vamp plays while Bob assumes begging hold on Scrooge)

Scrooge
Oh, very well then, I suppose
You'll have your selfish way;
For heaven knows the town will close for this foul holiday;
But mark me well, pay close attention to what I now say –
Report here all the earlier next day – ! Oh yes –
Report here all the earlier next day!!
(Music transitions to "Ebenezer Scrooge" as underscore)
(Bob exits office and enters town square)

Scrooge
These idle hours and holidays are evil and a joke –
It's a wonder London doesn't find itself flat broke! *(Scrooge exits)*

SCENE 3: LONDON TOWN SQUARE (EXTERIOR, SCROOGE'S OFFICE)

(Bob watches Tiny Tim walk with children who have approached Tim)
Child A Come on, Tim! Let's have some fun!
Child B Come watch us in the snow!
Child A We've made a lot of snowballs!
Child B And they're lots of fun to throw! *(These children run off)*
Tim *(Seeing Bob)* Father, I've been waiting! *(Tim hugs Bob)*
Bob Tiny Tim, you must be frozen! *(Bob gives Tim his own coat)*
I'm glad to see you, but it's not the place I would have chosen.
Tim *(Pointing off)* Father – may we watch them play – those children that I know?
They're having so much fun out there – and I sure love the snow!

Bob I also saw them skating, too! I wish that I could play....
Tim Let's have a look – and don't forget – you'll join them there one day!
Tim I'm sure I will, Dad – and I feel my body getting stronger –
Bob You bet, my lad, you'll have your day – it won't be too much longer.
(Bob picks Tim up. As Tim rides on Bob's shoulders, Bob runs off and Tim exits with a "Wheee!")
(The Brokers enter the scene and walk into Scrooge's office as Bob and Tim exit)

SCENE 4: SCROOGE'S OFFICE

Broker Mister Scrooge, we've come to check about our recent grain request.
Scrooge My price has doubled – I declare that surely you both jest.
 And if you want my corn and grain, you'll have to meet my price
 Plus a fee for your delay, in cash would be quite nice.
Broker 1 If we have to meet your price, our bread will cost much more.
Broker 2 Will consequently make this Christmas bleak for all the poor.
Scrooge Then take your business somewhere else, it matters not to me.
Broker 1 We're on the spot, we haven't got a choice – so here's your fee –
Broker 2 But I'll mention our contention this is most unfair!
Scrooge It's business friends, and on my end, I really do not care.
 Now I must dash – I'll take the cash – and bid you both good day.
(The Brokers, in shock, exit toward town square)
Broker 1 *(Aside)* That's easy for a wealthy miser to so glibly say!

SCENE 5: LONDON TOWN SQUARE

SONG: "EBENEZER SCROOGE"

Broker 2 Has he not a drop of Godly decency?
 Has he not a spot of Christian charity?
 Is he always greedy, hateful, and so terse – ?
Broker 1 No – frankly I have seen him even worse!
Both Ebenezer Scrooge! Ebenezer Scrooge!
 Self contained and secretive as stone!
 The cold within froze his pointed nose,
 Frosted him an icy blue from head to toes,
 A monument to cold no matter where he goes;
 If you need help, remember, he'll refuse –
 The solitary Ebenezer Scrooge!
Broker 1 What a wretched, wrenching, and a scraping sort –
 Covetous and clutching, he makes greed a sport –
 Handy with an insult or a tart retort –
Broker 2 Communicates with "humbugs" and a snort!

Brokers and Carolers Ebenezer Scrooge! Ebenezer Scrooge!
 Never seen him any other way
 A full day's work for a half day's pay,
 He seldom gives a bonus or a holiday,
 That's the way he is, perhaps the way he'll stay;
 If you are poor with nothing left to lose
 Don't expect a tuppence out of Mister Scrooge!
(Music repeats chorus as Brokers imitate Scrooge to the laughter of Carolers – Scrooge looks on from side with scowl)

A full day's work for a half day's pay
 He seldom gives a bonus or a holiday –
(Scrooge abruptly breaks into crowd)
Scrooge That's the way I am, perhaps the way I'll stay;
 Oh, I'm not a money-spending stooge – *(Crowd scatters and exits)*

(Spoken to storyteller) Just crafty, clever, business-like Ebenezer Scro-o-o-o-oge – !
Humbug!

Storyteller Behind this cruel and heartless man
There is a cause to understand...

(As Storyteller sings, Scrooge meanders through audience, scowling)

SONG: “SCROOGE AT HOME”

Storyteller A banner day for Mister Scrooge:
Chock full of his rude attitude –
A chance for greed to work its will –
A chance to slight the poor and ill;
It suited Scrooge down to a “T” –
His stingy personality
Was grateful for a chance to flex,
In short, what else could one expect
From Ebenezer Scrooge – ?

And on his way he kicked a stray,
Fro meanness was his prime forte’;
No need for you to hiss or boo –
He paid when he stepped in dog doo;
He scuffled out into the night,
Trudged through the snow and urban blight;
He could not know what was ahead;
A haunting visit from the dead –
How could he know what fear and dread
Awaited him that night instead
Awaited him that night – – ?

So Scrooge do beware – Marley’s face will glare!
Marley – Marley – Marley – –

SCENE 6: SCROOGE’S BEDROOM

Storyteller Now in place of the knocker on the door of his unhappy abode,
Old Scrooge observed a haunting face he knew once long ago –

Scrooge I do believe I saw the face of my dead partner, Marley
Indeed, it’s what the young folks say is something rather gnarly!
It must be something that I ate – surely won’t believe it
Perhaps a glass of warmed-up milk will help me to relieve it.

Storyteller Although quite startled Scrooge prepared to retire just the same –
And since darkness was so cheap, he lit a single flame.
Scrooge looked here, and Scrooge looked there, and gawked about the
Room,
And double-locked the door to gain some comfort in the gloom.
Did Scrooge hear perhaps a sigh – perhaps a cry or groan?
It must have been the wind that made the strangely haunting moan.
Convinced that every single thing was in its place that night,
He resolved to settle down – but then got quite a fright –
(A moan is heard)
Such a moan and bellowing Scrooge never heard before,
And if he had the means he would have crawled beneath the floor!

He was scared and frightened witless; appalled in every way!
And were he not already so, he would have grown quite gray!
(A loud moan is heard)

Then louder came the noise again, it sent through Scrooge a chill
And when he saw the cause of it, he grew more frightened still.

(Marley enters)

(Music begins: "I Forged This Chain" underscore)

Scrooge

Who are you?

Storyteller

Now ventured Scrooge, disguising he's afraid.

Marley

You should ask me who I was.

Storyteller

Replied the ghastly shade.

Scrooge

Who were you then?

Storyteller

Scrooge raised his voice –

Marley

In life, your partner, Marley.

You don't believe in me,

Storyteller

Observed the ghost in tones quite snarley.

Scrooge

I don't – you're simply something undigested – my stomach misbehaves.

Gravy would explain you more than something from the graves!

If I swallowed yonder toothpick, I would no doubt be host

To assorted shades and goblins and every sort of ghost!

(Marley drops bandage around his jaw, which gapes open as he screams frightfully)

Scrooge

Mercy! Dreadful apparition – why do you seek me?

Marley

I wear the chain I forged in life; I've come to make a plea –

SONG: "I FORGED THIS CHAIN"

Marley

I forged this chain! I forged this chain!

To my disdain – it will remain –

Link by link I forged this chain –

Forged it 'round my soul –

Link by link it strangled me,

Forged by greed,

There's no key,

From these locks I can't be freed –

Can never be made whole!

I forged this chain! I forged this chain!

To my disdain – it will remain –

Like wicked men before me –

I wanted selfish gain

We worked for wealth and power

But forged oppressive chains –

Unwittingly – unseen by me –

I forged this chain – it will remain –

*(Marley points to
fellow wandering
spirits entering)*

Marley & Spirits

Our restless souls are weary

We're doomed to endless night;

Your fate will be as dreary

If you ignore the Light –

You have chains too – surrounding you –

What you must do – is take our cue

Marley

Now Scrooge – take heed: Don't be like me;

Dissolve your chains – mine will remain!

Link by link I forged this chain –

Deep inside I knew –

Marley & Spirits

Link by link we sealed our fate –

A heavy weight,

Forged by hate,

Marley And now for me it is too late –
It's not too late for you!

Marley & Spirits It's not too late for you!
It's not too late for you!
It's not too late for you – – – – – !
(Marley shrieks last word of song as Spirits exit)

Marley To spare you trouble from the rubble of envy, greed, and strife,
Remember why I bear this chain which I had forged in life;
Your chain was just like mine upon the night I passed away –
And so in the intervening years it's grown much more, I'd say.

Scrooge I see no chain like yours 'round me –

Marley Save your breath –
It will be all too clear to see upon your very death!

Scrooge Oh please, my friend – do tell me more. Speak comfort unto me –

Marley I – have – none – to – give –

Storyteller He moaned, as Scrooge sank to his knees

Marley If I could I'd be more helpful – if I had my druthers,
What comfort that you may derive must now come from three others.
My spirit never walked beyond our counting house – a pity,
When countless others needed me within our very city!
What torture and oppression I now bear in weighty links...
Scrooge But you were a good man of business – prosperous, me thinks!
Marley Business! Business! Business! Business! – Mankind was my business;
So was mercy, charity, benevolence my business!
And at this precious time of year, I suffer most my friend:
I never used my wealth or means to help my fellow men –
And when I think of my neglect of those in need, I cower –
My eyes were fixed straight dead ahead on business and on power.
I never raised my eyes to see that blessed, wondrous Star –
The one that led the wise men to a lowly inn afar.
I offer now a chance, a hope, that you'll escape my fate.

Scrooge Thank'ee, Jacob.

Marley Heed well the three who visit you – for me, it is too late.
You will be haunted by three spirits –

Scrooge Are they the hope you said?
If they're ghosts I'd rather not,

Storyteller Said Scrooge with fear and dread.

Marley You'll end up just like me Old Scrooge unless you heed them well –
You may expect the first upon the tolling of the bell –
The second at the stroke of two – the third in his good time.
(Music begins: "I Forged" transitions to bell and introduction of following song)

Storyteller Then Marley left and Scrooge, exhausted, waited for the chime.
Now folks, are these events all real or one old codger's dream?
Judge for yourself if these events are all that they would seem.
But wondrous is the hand of God and wondrous are His ways
And wondrous things are happening as God helps those who stray.
(The bell tolls)

Storyteller As Marley forecast, at the bell, a ghost appeared indeed.
(Music rises in intensity as Scrooge regards the arrival of Christmas Past)

Scrooge Are you the spirit my friend Marley just foretold to me?
(Christmas Past nods and twirls mysteriously to music)

SONG: "I AM THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST"

Past I am the ghost of Christmas past,
I bring you visions unsurpassed –
Do not fear my noble task:

I come days bygone to unmask.

Christmas Past! Yes, Christmas Past!
I bring you visions unsurpassed –
I hold knowledge rich and vast:
Forgotten secrets of your past.

Illumination soon will shine
As we'll look through the mists of time;
We'll see you back in your prime –
Days long gone, days more sublime.

Christmas Past! Yes, Christmas Past!
I bring you visions unsurpassed –
I hold knowledge rich and vast:
Forgotten secrets of your past.

It's my suspicion this timely vision is
God's provision for you –
But can cognition of past conditions
Cause vast revisions in you, Scrooge?

All I can do is show to you
Times forgotten you once knew;
A most enlightening rendezvous –
May result in a Scrooge brand new.

Scrooge

Old Marley's mission of premonition
Is some cognition of dread;
I have no question it's indigestion
So I'll be going to bed!
(Christmas Past "seizes" Scrooge with power of wand or wave of

Past

hand)

Whether you learn lessons well
All I know is time will tell
I trust my visit will compel
A change in heart and greed dispel.

Christmas Past! Yes, Christmas Past!
I bring you visions unsurpassed –
I hold knowledge rich and vast:
Forgotten secrets of your past –
Of your past –
Of your past –
Of – your – past – – – !

Scrooge

Oh gracious apparition, what do you want with me?
You're so dazzling bright, I scarce can look to see.

Past

Would you dim with worldly hands the precious light I give –
A symbol of our God above, the reason Christmas lives?
I come on your behalf, Old Scrooge, to view your former past
To see if we may draw conclusions from today's contrast.

Storyteller

Behind this cruel and heartless man
There is a cause to understand.

(All lights dim. Scrooge and Past are spotlighted as Past leads Scrooge to figures entering audience area)

SCENE 7: FORMER LONDON AREA (AUDIENCE ZONE)

Past Come now, Scrooge – please take my hand – we shall see another land.
Scrooge Oh good heavens!
Storyteller Scrooge exclaimed, in a long forgotten joy.
Scrooge This is the place where I grew up when I was just a boy!
Storyteller How Scrooge observed his very past he really did not know.
Past Why does Scrooge just now appear to have a Christmas glow?
Your lip is trembling,
Storyteller Said the Ghost,
Past And what’s that on your cheek?
Scrooge It is nothing. Just a pimple – show me where you seek.
Past Don’t you know the way?
Storyteller The Ghost asked, looking rather kindly.
Scrooge Indeed I do!
Storyteller Said giddy Scrooge,
Scrooge I could walk it blindly!
Storyteller And as they walked Scrooge saw the shadows of all that once had been
All at once he fought back tears, then burst into a grin:
(Scrooge observes other passersby, including two students)
Scrooge It’s as it was! Each gate, each post, each tree I used to know!
And what is more – I see old friends I knew once long ago.
They’re just the same – they have not changed – *(Calling)* – Hello! Hello my friends!
Past They’re merely shadows of the past. They do not comprehend.
Scrooge They don’t?...I wish they did...I wish just one of them
Could possibly remember me...I wish I had...a friend.
Student A The school master’s closed his books – we’ve got a holiday!
Student B What’s more sublime than Christmas time? Let’s be on our way!
Student A Merry Christmas!
Student B Merry Christmas!
Scrooge Yes!...Merry Christmas, boys...
Past But Christmas is a waste of time – not something to enjoy.
Storyteller And when he heard these haunting words, old Scrooge began to brood –
Then suddenly, in ecstasy, he quickly changed his mood:
Scrooge Oh look there Spirit – it’s my sister – darling, precious Fan!
Storyteller Yes, Scrooge observed the dearest member of his childhood clan.
Scrooge My dear, dear sister!...
Storyteller Scrooge lamented, rather disconcerted.
Past And you might observe the school house isn’t quite deserted....

SCENE 8: SCROOGE’S FORMER SCHOOL HOUSE

(Scrooge and Past approach the Boy Scrooge, seated with a book)
Scrooge He languished at the school house. The others all went home.
And so to fill the endless hours, he reads his books and poems.
Poor, poor boy....and every year the same...
Hoping, hoping to go home....But Father never came.
Past Indeed we see a lonely lad abandoned every Christmas –
Then, as now he cries because companionship he misses.
Storyteller Scrooge wept to see his former self forgotten as he could be
The sight of his sad, lonely frame brought Scrooge down to his knees.
Scrooge His mom has died. His father held a grudge because of this.
She died while giving birth to him – and now the blame is his.
Poor boy....I wish –
Storyteller Scrooge trailed off,
Scrooge But it is now too late.
Past What’s the matter?
Storyteller Asked the Spirit,
Past Why did you hesitate?

Scrooge I saw a boy like this today...I wish I had been kinder.
Past Compared to now, this afternoon you were a wee bit blinder.
Boy Scrooge Oh Fan – my sister! Dearest sister! Is it really you?
Fan Yes, dear brother. And this Christmas you’re coming home – it’s true!
 I asked father if you could – and guess what? – He said “yes!”
Boy Scrooge A fine surprise!
Fan Indeed it is!
Boy Scrooge A miracle, I guess!
Storyteller Then the elder Scrooge walked in – refused his son a hug.
Father They haven’t overfed you, boy,
Storyteller He said with just a shrug.
Boy Scrooge I do believe I’ve grown a bit.
Father That is what most boys do...
 Tomorrow you’ll meet Fezziwig – I’ve arranged a job for you.
 It’s time you learned a trade –
Storyteller He sounded rather gruff.
Fan I had hoped he’d be home longer –
Father Christmas is enough! *(They exit)*
(Music: Slow, reflective theme of “Christmas Past.”)
Scrooge My father was a rather stern, severe, and distant man –
 Nothing like my caring sister – noble, precious Fan.

SCENE 9: FORMER LONDON AREA – TOWN SQUARE

Past Your sister was quite delicate, but her heart was large indeed.
 Kind and caring to a fault –
Scrooge A saint, I must concede.
Past She married at a tender age – and died when very young.
Scrooge My heart was broken when she died.
Past But she had a caring son –
 Your nephew Fred – Fred Hollywell – resembles her in fact.
Scrooge *(Slowly)* My nephew Fred is much like Fan...I hadn’t thought of that.
Past There are many things you have not comprehended and, alas,
 I fear there’s much to contemplate before the night has passed.
Storyteller The Spirit led them ‘round a bend, then pointed to a door....

SCENE 10: FEZZIWIG’S STOREHOUSE

Past Have you ever seen this place?
Scrooge I’ve been here once before.
 Is this not the very spot where my first sales were made?
 Oh, yes! I was apprenticed here – and here I learned my trade!
(Fezziwig appears from audience area; subsequent characters appear in order)
(Music transitions to sprightly violin/string rendition of “A Merry Christmas.”)
Past And do you recognize the gent? - A man you so admired...
Scrooge Old Fezziwig! My jolly boss! He truly was inspired –
Fezziwig Yo ho! Yo ho! I’m back at last to spread some Christmas cheer!
 It’s time to bring some joy and sing and have some dancing here!
Scrooge Old Fezziwig! Old Fezziwig! Why, bless his heart! It’s him!
Fezziwig It’s time to shirk our endless work – so let the fun begin!
Scrooge It’s me! My former self!...And Mrs. Fezziwig is here!
 They were such a kindly couple – and they launched my own career.
Fezziwig Yo ho there, Ebenezer! Dick Wilkins, let’s be quick!
 It’s Christmas Eve and I believe more work will make us sick!
Scrooge Why, bless me, yes! My dear young friend! Dick Wilkins, to be sure.
Fezziwig There’s more to life than all this work and I’ve got just the cure!
Mrs. Fezziwig Come one, come all! Let’s eat and laugh, relax, and be at ease!
Fezziwig *(To young men)* And here’s your bonus for the year. You’ve made me very pleased.

Past A fair and generous man indeed...

Scrooge And how we loved him so...

Past And what a special place for young apprentices to grow.

Mrs. Fezziwig Music! Music! Song and dance!

Fezziwig *(Picking up fiddle)* Let the Christmas joy advance! *(Fezziwig fiddles)*
(Music: Single violin rendition of the following song begins the main song. Additional instrumentation progressively embellishes song)
(All begin dancing merrily as others enter and join in. Young Scrooge stands around awkwardly. Fezziwig eventually passes off fiddle to join dancing)

Storyteller In came the maid and her cousin, the baker;
 In came the cook with the candlestick maker;
 In came apprentices from here and from there –
 For some dancing and singing with gusto to spare!....

SONG: “A MERRY CHRISTMAS!” (Reprise)

Fezziwig A merry Christmas!

Mrs. Fezziwig A merry Christmas!

Fezziwig A merry Christmas!

Mrs. Fezziwig We wish you joy and cheer!

All A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!
 And happy, happy New Year!

Fezziwig Though we work hard it’s our Savior’s birth

Mrs. Fezziwig So let’s all be merry tonight!

Fezziwig We are rich in good cheer and mirth,

Mrs. Fezziwig The season is so bright – !

Fezziwig Dance, one and all, and let’s have a ball

Mrs. Fezziwig For Christmas is just once a year

Fezziwig So grab some punch and –

Mrs. Fezziwig Some food to munch and –

Both We thank God Christmas is here!

All A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!
 A merry Christmas! We wish you joy and cheer!
 A merry Christmas! A merry Christmas!
 And happy, happy New Year! *(Interlude)*

(Music continues in grand fashion as underscore, transitioning to next traditional tune)

Scrooge Fezziwig could make us laugh and make our work a pleasure –
 The happiness that he dispensed was greater than a treasure....

Past Is something on your mind, old Scrooge?

Storyteller ...The Spirit had to ask...

Scrooge Instead of being kindly...I took my clerk to task...

Storyteller And on and on the music played – and on and on they danced –
 A night of jolly celebration, and also of romance...

Scrooge Oh, dear, dear Spirit...Can it be? My sweet and lovely Belle –
 I loved her once...or thought I did...I really could not tell...

Past But how she loved you, Ebenezer. How she loved you so –
 She was yours to have and hold – if only you could know....

Fezziwig *(To young Scrooge)* There’s lot’s of time to stand around when you get hitched like me!
 With such a lovely girl as Belle – get on a dancing spree!
(Fezziwig pushes Young Scrooge and Belle into the dance as all sing)

SONG: “GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN” (Traditional)

Fezziwig God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay

Mrs. Fezziwig
Both
All

Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray –
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

'Twas in the town of Bethlehem this blessed infant lay;
They found him in a manger where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did pray –
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

Fezziwig
Mrs. Fezziwig
All

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place;
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
God bless your friends and kindred that live both far and near,
And God send you a happy New Year! Happy new Year!
And God send you a happy New Year!
(Music becomes reflective; segue to next song)

(During latter part of song, Young Scrooge stops dancing with Belle and offers her a glass of punch. As she drinks, Scrooge begins counting money from his bonus and entering figures in a log. At the song's conclusion, the assembly disperses cheerily, leaving Young Scrooge counting and Belle sadly observing)

Past

And now we see this younger Scrooge preoccupied with stature
Wealth and riches are on his list of things that really matter...
And observe a saddened lady, beautiful despite
The tears that crown her cheeks – see how they glisten in my light.
How you kept her waiting on that fateful Christmas Eve! –
How you broke a caring heart – wounded, and aggrieved...

Young Scrooge

Oh...Belle. I'm sorry to have kept you waiting over there.
I thought I'd better tally up my Christmas bonus share.

Belle

You're so busy working at your business, Ebenezer –

Young Scrooge

We'll need the money when we marry –

Scrooge

Surely, that would please her.

Past

Money is irrelevant in matters of the heart –
Placing gain ahead of her was not what I'd call smart.

Belle

Financial status is the only thing that now concerns you.
You once had other goals...

Past

No wonder that she spurned you.

SONG: "BELLE'S FAREWELL"

Belle

Ebenezer, you foolish youth,
Worldly wealth will not bring you truth –
Greed within you burns like a flame
But there's no future in earthly gain;
Lifelong peace money never buys
Where your heart is, your treasure lies –
Search your heart for a still, small voice:
God is whispering you have a choice;
Won't you think tonight?
Won't you see the Light?
There is more to life than gold and silver;

Ebenezer that once I knew,
Tell me, dear what's become of you?
You once laughed in a carefree way,
Where's the man I loved yesterday?
What can I do and what can I say?

I suspect you'll still go your way –
 But you'll walk on that path alone,
 I want you and I want a home,
 But if you love wealth more than you love me,
 We will never share a life together;
 Ebenezer, despite my pleas,
 May you prosper, your wealth increase –
 But as I leave, I pray that you'll find peace,
 Oh yes, I shall pray that one day you'll find peace.
(Music transitions to following song in ominous fashion)

Belle May you be happy in the life that you alone have chosen. *(She exits)*
Scrooge I almost went on after her – but somehow I was frozen.
(Young Scrooge exits in opposite direction as Belle)
Scrooge Spirit, why do you delight in showing me these scenes?
 I question if there is purpose – it is, in fact, quite mean.
Past That these things are what they are is not a fault of mine.
(Lights begin dimming)
Scrooge *(Sobbing)* Is there any hope beyond my tragic, sad decline?....
 Spirit! Please help me!....I cannot bear this pain!
Past Woe to the tragic, tortured soul wrapped up in weighty chains....
(Past waves on the Christmas Spirits who menacingly surround Scrooge, wrapping him in a giant chain)

SONG: “I AM THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST” (Reprise)

Past *(Slow, ominous)* The chain you carry is necessary
 And due to what you pursue;
 Can recognition of past conditions
 Cause vast revisions in you?
 All I can do is show to you
 Time forgotten you once knew
 A fateful, fateful rendezvous
 What comes next is up to you!
Past & Spirits Up to you – up to you –
(Past exits) Up to you – – !
(Lights dim further) *(Segue to)*

SONG: “I FORGED THIS CHAIN” (Reprise)

Spirits Our restless souls are weary
 We're doomed to endless night,
 Your fate will be as dreary
 If you ignore the Light –
 You have chains, too – surrounding you –
 What will you do? – What will you do?
 Link by link you forged this chain –
 Deep inside, you knew!
 Link by link you sealed your fate
 A heavy weight – forged by hate
 And now it's time to contemplate:
 The sorry state of Scrooge –
 Old Ebenezer Scrooge –
 Old Ebenezer Scrooge –
 Old Ebenezer Scroo – oo – oo – ge – !
(Scrooge screams in terror as song crescendos to climax)

(Black out)

End of ACT I

Entr'acte

ACT II

SCENE 1: SCROOGE'S BEDROOM

(As lights rise, Scrooge is discovered trembling in his bedroom chair)

SONG: "SCROOGE AT HOME" (Reprise)

Storyteller

Old Scrooge was overwhelmed with awe,
Amazed and shocked by what he saw
He sat there in a frightened heap –
And though he tried, he could not sleep;
His visions nearly did him in
But now he thought how they fit in
And as he tried to recollect
He sat there, feeling circumspect
And doubted his own intellect –
He wondered what was coming next
And sat there, quite perplexed...
(Segue to)

(Bell tolls twice)

Storyteller

Now suddenly the time arrived for Scrooge to meet the Spirit
Of Christmas Present – a jolly giant – Scrooge could see and hear it!

SONG: "I AM THE GHOST OF THE PRESENT"

Present

*(The spirit
Leads Scrooge
To the Town
Square)*

I am the Ghost of the Present
My spirit is pleasant,
I'm quite effervescent –
At this time of year!
What could be more pleasin'
Than this jolly season?
Our Lord is the reason!

So be of good cheer!

SCENE 2: LONDON TOWN SQUARE

Carolers He's the Ghost of the Present,
A spirit most pleasant,
He's quite effervescent –
So be of good cheer!

Scrooge You're pleasant, I agree –
But what do you want with me?

Present There are places to go,
Situations to know,
So prepare to accompany me!

Scrooge I hope that I like what I see!

Present Wherever I'm roaming
You'll see Christmas morning;
There can be no scorning
On this happy day!
Just look all around us –
A day to astound us –
The folk's joy is boundless –
A Christmas bouquet!

Carolers What could be more pleasin'
Than this jolly season?
Our Lord is the reason!
On this happy day!

Scrooge Indeed, I must agree –
There are lessons now working in me!
I want what you'll teach
I will stay in your reach,
Lead on, I am your counselee!

Present Carolers And that is just how it should be!
And that is just how it should be!

Wherever we're roaming
You'll see Christmas morning
There can be no scorning
On this happy day!
Just look all around us –
A day to astound us –
The folks' joy is boundless –
A Christmas bouquet!
On this happy day! (*Carolers exit*)
(*Music continues as underscore*)

(*Two Villagers accidentally bump into each other*)

Villager 1 Why don't you watch where you are going?
Villager 2 I might say the same!
Villager 1 Would you now? Well you are careless!
Villager 2 And I suspect you're lame!
(*Present sprinkles Villagers with special glitter*)
Villager 1 There, there now – look at us!
Villager 2 Creating such a silly fuss!
Villager 1 Today is Christmas, after all –
Villager 2 It's no time to have a brawl!
(*They exit, shaking hands*)

Scrooge Present My, your spirit does work wonders!
It comes in handy for these blunders.
Scrooge Present Too bad you're not here all year through –
That is up to men like you.
Storyteller The hearty, gracious spirit now transported them away.

SCENE 3: THE CRACHIT'S HOME

Present Storyteller Do you recognize this place?
Scrooge really could not say.
Although the home was rather dingy, laughter filled the air –
And though the occupants were poor, you could see that love was there.

Scrooge Storyteller It's the Cratchit's!
Scrooge Said Scrooge, surprised.
Scrooge How can they be so cheerful?
When the poverty around them is so dismal, drab, and fearful?!

Mrs. Cratchit Now where's your dad and Tiny Tim? I must confess it's not like them!
(Music ends)

Bob Merry Christmas everyone!
Mrs. Cratchit Bob Cratchit, you are late!
Bob Could I resist our Tiny Tim some time to watch kids skate?
Mrs. Cratchit Oh, no!
Bob And do you know what our dear lad said as we journeyed here?
He told me he was glad to be a cripple –

Mrs. Cratchit Oh, the dear –
Bob Because, he said, that when he hobbles, those who stare and gawk –
Might remember Christ of Christmas made lame beggars walk.
(Tim enters)

All Hooray! Merry Christmas! Etc...
Scrooge Look how they support the lad – their precious Tiny Tim –
How can they be so joyous when their dwelling is so grim?
How can this be? I cannot see how they can be so light
When they live in such a hovel – this tenement of blight!
They seem to be the poorest of the poor in all the land...
Present In truth, they are much richer than a certain business man!
Bob I do believe our Tim is growing stronger yet...
Next Christmas he'll be skating around us, you can bet!
And now, before our Christmas meal, I surely want to hear
The story that we like to read on this day every year!
(Music begins)

Mrs. Cratchit *(Opening Bible)* "It came to pass that Caesar Augustus gave a proclamation
Ordering all citizens to report for registration;
So Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem, with Mary,
To be counted for taxation, as was customary;
While they were there, young Mary soon gave birth unto their son
And placed Him in a manger... The Son of God had come."
Tiny Tim Mother... Do you think that baby Jesus ever cried?
Mrs. Cratchit I'm sure He did – but, even so – His mom was at His side.
Perhaps she even sang to Him whenever nights were long...
(She takes Tiny Tim and holds him)

Mrs. Cratchit Perhaps she held Him in her arms... and sang a gentle song...
(As Mrs. Cratchit sings, the lights dim and a special light illuminates a simple wooden cross on the wall of the Cratchit home. Bob takes up Tiny Tim's crutch and reflects on the double meaning of the lyrics and the implications for his own son, Tim)

SONG: "MOTHER'S LULLABY"

Mrs. Cratchit Go to sleep, my precious baby

And I'll be your solace
From all that soon awaits You,
Oh child of God's promise;
Go to sleep, my precious baby,
For time is relentless
Gently rest as I give thanks for
The Child God sent us;

My baby Lamb, my tender child, my pride and joy –
What does the future hold for You, my precious boy?
Righteous One, Suffering Servant,
And young Man of Sorrows
Be at peace and leave to God
All your weary tomorrows;
You are my son for just a time and that is all
Until the day when You will hear Your Father's call –
Lord, be with my precious baby
God surely is with Him –
The peace He gives is ours now
If only we'll listen;

Present

Mrs. Cratchit

I love my son, and deep within
I hear God's voice –
My son is His – I'll trust in Him –
I have no choice;
Lord, be with my precious baby –
I give you my teardrops;
Sleep well, my precious baby –
God is near – do not fear – He's here –
God is near – do not fear – He's here –
God is near – do not fear – He's here – –
(Music continues as underscore)

Present

Both

Mrs. Cratchit

(The family exchange hugs and help Tiny Tim to their table; Mrs. Cratchit ceremoniously uncovers an obviously simple main dish)

Tim

Bob

Oh, my word – what a joyous feast – we'll stuff ourselves, I know!
And let us give our Father thanks for all that He bestows....
Our gracious Father, loving Lord to us so very dear,
Thank you for the bounty you impart throughout the year –
Thank you for providing and for meeting all our needs;
Forgive us our trespasses, unkind thoughts, and our misdeeds.
And most of all we thank you for your precious, Holy Son –
In Jesus precious name, Amen.

Tim

All

Scrooge

Present

Scrooge

Present

God bless us every one!
Merry Christmas! *(Etc....)*
Amen.
Did I hear from you, old Scrooge, perhaps a small "amen?"
Tell me, Spirit, what will happen to poor Tiny Tim?
I see next Christmas that the chair that was for Tim reserved –
Is vacant and the crutch he has by then will be preserved.
Preserved because the owner is no longer with his kin....
But – "overcrowding will be eased – once there's less of them!"

Storyteller

Scrooge hung his head to hear his words now issued by the Spirit –
And sadder yet was news of Tim, a tragedy to hear it.
Trembling now from his rebuke, Scrooge cowered before the ghost –
And was startled to hear his name now offered in a toast.

Bob

Mrs. Cratchit

To Ebenezer Scrooge, who is the founder of our feast
How can you toast a man like Scrooge – that money-grabbing beast!?

Bob My dear – the children...Christmas Day –
Mrs. Cratchit Oh, here's to Scrooge, then, anyway.

SCENE 4: LONDON TOWN SQUARE

Scrooge Present Bob Cratchit has made a valid point – I gave him his career.
You have more that you must learn – I've more to teach, I fear.
In your large, magnanimous heart, so bent on prosperity
Have you never, ever thought of Christian charity?
Have you never thought of those beyond your world of wealth?
Of those who live in poverty, in poor and broken health?
Of all the world's humanity, my friend I do suspect
You may be nothing more than one inconsequential speck.
(Music: Introduction to "A Game of Yes and No")

Storyteller There was more in store for Scrooge that night, oh yes indeed.
The spirit knew that stubborn Scrooge was very much in need.
Life is more than vanity and pride and wealth and greed.

SCENE 5: THE FRED HOLLYWELL HOME (Or Audience Zone)

(Fred, Mrs. Hollywell and Friends 1-8 are gathered, drinking punch and laughing merrily)

Storyteller They came to Scrooge's nephew, Fred, and saw a lively party.
The laughter in his nephew's home was obviously hearty!

SONG: "A GAME OF YES AND NO"

Fred Welcome one and all, we're glad that you have come –
And now let's take some time to have some Christmas fun!
I would like to play a parlor game or two –
Mrs. Hollywell That sounds like fun – tell us what to do;
Fred Let us play a guessing game called "Yes and No" –
Guess what I am thinking and then tell me so;
And if you guess correctly, I will let you know
And I'll award you my mistletoe!
Mrs. Hollywell *(Blows kiss to Fred)* Yes, the best of it all is that the one who wins
Can steal a kiss – so, now, let's begin!
Fred I have thought of something that you all should know
Tell me what it is and have a go!
Friend 1 *(Fred shakes head "no")* Oh, are you thinking of a person, place or thing?
Friend 2 Is it someone here with us this evening?
Friend 3 Could it be a season like the fall or spring?
Fred You're wrong so far!
All Could be anything!
Friend 1 *(Fred nods)* I think Fred is thinking of an animal.
Friend 2 *(Fred shakes head "no")* A cat?
Friend 3 A mouse?
Friend 4 An elephant?
Friends 5& 6 Perhaps a bull!
Fred Every guess I've heard so far is pitiful
And, in fact, your guesses are rather dull
Yes, the answers I've heard are simply quite absurd
But I'll try to help, you may be assured...
I'm thinking of an animal you all should know –
A creature who is colder than the snow!
Oh! It's an ugly beast – a rather savage brute,
The sort of dreadful creature you might hunt or shoot;
In short, it is cantankerous – a big galoot!

Friend 7 A rabid dog?
Friend 8 Or a giant frog?
Fred It's not the kind of creature that you find in zoos;
It's lurking here in London and it's on the loose!
And if it's after you – then you had – best – vamoose! – –
(Slight suspenseful hold)

Mrs. Hollywell It's gotta be Fred's Old Uncle Scrooge! *(All laugh)*
Fred I have to confess that the answer's "yes!"
You were right to choose Ebenezer Scrooge!
All You were right to choose Ebenezer Scrooge!
(Brief musical interlude; music becomes slow and reflective)
(All laugh as Mrs. Hollywell grabs mistletoe, hangs it over Fred and herself, and plants a kiss on Fred. Scrooge clearly enjoys what he sees)

Storyteller And even Scrooge enjoyed the mirth – he hadn't laughed in years –
But his joy was bittersweet... and mingled with some tears.

Scrooge Although the joke's at my expense, they fill my heart with joy....
I haven't known the sound of laughter since I was a boy....
(Song resumes – slower tempo)

Fred *(Contrite)* Frankly, I'm ashamed to make a sport of he,
After all – he's family.

Mrs. Hollywell *(Cringing)* Eeeeh!
Fred *(Seriously)* I asked my uncle if he'd join us here today;
He was cross with me, and yet, I have to say:
My mother was quite fond of him in every way –
But you can't deny only God knows why!
Mrs. Hollywell *(Irreverently)* Still, the Christmas spirit of the day implies
Fred *(Ignoring her)* A little pity for my uncle would be wise
I wish he'd spend a Christmas here before – he – dies –
The years are fleeting – and how – time – flies –
So, a toast to my uncle Ebenezer Scrooge – –
Thank God that we're not in his shoes!
Mrs. Hollywell *(Lifting glass)*
Mrs. Hollywell *(Breaking glass)* Yes, a toast to Fred's uncle Ebenezer Scrooge – –
All *(Quite irreverent)* Thank God we're not standing in his shoes –
Thank God we're not Ebenezer Scrooge!
Hey!
(Music continues, reflectively and sober, utilizing previous themes)
(The Hollywell party friends laugh raucously, receding to exits)

SCENE 6: LONDON TOWN SQUARE – SEEDY SECTION

(The sound of thunder is heard)

Scrooge Must we leave them, Spirit? They're in such a merry mood –
Present There is one lesson left to learn – it's that of gratitude.

Scrooge It's gotten rather cold and wet – is there someplace drier?
Present Perhaps there yonder we may warm ourselves up by that fire.
(Several huddled poor folk are gathered around a barrel, warming to a fire inside)

Scrooge Why are these people here like this – in rags and eating scraps?
Why aren't they in the workhouse?
Present That filthy fire trap?
Some prefer death and some choose this despite how very rough –
Scrooge I've never seen the workhouse, but help support it – that's enough.
Present No, my friend, it's not enough – active care cures woe.
Contemplate that as I leave you – for now I must go.

Scrooge And leave me here amidst the cold and filth of this sad city?!
I beseech you Spirit – take me home and show some pity!
Storyteller And Scrooge began to sob, quite unaccustomed to these sights....