

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by Craig Sodaro
From the story by Charles Dickens

Music and Lyrics by Scott Keys

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

12 M, 15 W, 3 Flexible, Extras

MRS. CANDLEWICK: A storyteller
MRS. PEARTREE: Another storyteller
EBENEZER SCROOGE: A bitter man who is redeemed
BOB CRATCHIT: Scrooge's clerk, a family man
FRED: Scrooge's nephew
MRS. PORTER: Seeks a donation
MRS. WINSLOW: Another donation seeker
TINY TIM: Bob's crippled son
JACOB MARLEY: Scrooge's dead partner
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST: Shows Scrooge his youth
EBENEZER: Young Scrooge, a hard worker
FANNY: Scrooge's sister
MR. FEZZIWIG: Scrooge's first boss; kind, jolly
DICK WILKINS: Young Scrooge's fellow apprentice
MRS. FEZZIWIG: Boss' wife
BELLE: Might have wed young Scrooge
SPIRIT TWO (GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT): Shows
Cratchit's and Fred's parties
MRS. CRATCHIT: Bob's devoted wife
BELINDA CRATCHIT: Their daughter
PETER CRATCHIT: Their son
MARTHA CRATCHIT: Their older daughter
RACHEL: Fred's wife
TOPPER: Fred's fun-loving bachelor friend
PHANTOM (GHOST OF CHRISTMASSES YET TO COME):
Dramatic, non-speaking
MRS. DILBER: A thief
MRS. ENDICOTT: Another
NATE: A poor man in debt to Scrooge
CAROLINE: Nate's wife
YOUNG GIRL: Walking past Scrooge's house
POULTERER: Supplies turkey to Fred

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ADDITIONAL PARTS:

CAROLER 1-5; GOBLINS 1-3; GUESTS 1-4.

(NOTE: Many parts can be doubled. Also, part gender may be changed to suit available cast. For example, GIRL at the end can certainly be changed to BOY. GOBLINS and GUESTS and CAROLERS can be added or subtracted, as desired.)

Scenes, Acts, and Intermission: This musical is designed to flow seamlessly, therefore there are no specific scene breaks. While there is an intermission between Acts I and II, you can easily eliminate it if you face any time constraints.

The Setting

In and around London, 1840s. In the playwright's original production, various houses and buildings, cut and painted, decorated a black curtain along with a lamppost. Other elements of the set were brought out as needed. A single small truck served as Scrooge's house, another served for Spirit Two. Otherwise the cast brought out the necessary bits of furniture.

See additional Production Notes at the end.

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SONG LIST

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ACT I

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS - Mrs. Candlewick, Mrs. Peartree,
Carolers.

A FIFTEEN SHILLING CHRISTMAS - Bob, Mrs. Cratchit,
Children, All.

LINK BY LINK - Marley, Goblins.

SPIRIT PAST - Spirit of the Past.

FEZZIWIG'S BALL - Fezziwig and All.

COUNTING THE DAYS - Ebenezer, Belle, Scrooge.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS (Reprise) - Mrs. Candlewick,
Mrs. Peartree, Carolers.

ACT II

SPIRIT PRESENT - Spirit of the Present.

GOD BLESS US EVERYONE - Tiny Tim, Cratchit family.

GOBLINS' ROUND - Marley, Goblins.

MAKE EACH DAY COUNT - Scrooge.

FINALE - All.

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ACT I

(AT RISE: MRS. CANDLEWICK enters SL with book. She stands CS, opens it, and reads.)

MRS. CANDLEWICK: *A Christmas Carol* by Mr. Charles Dickens, published in the year of our Lord, 1843.

SONG: THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

MRS. CANDLEWICK & CAROLERS: *(Sing.)*

HERE'S A CHRISTMAS ALLEGORY,
A HOLIDAY GHOST STORY;
NOT TOO FRIGHT'NING, SLIGHTLY GORY;
BUT THE END IS BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS.

NOT A TALE TO CHILL YOUR BONES,
NOT ONE OF THOSE DREARY TOMES;
BUT A TALE TO FILL YOUR HOMES
WITH WARMTH AND LOVE SINCERE
AND INSTILL YOU WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

CAROLERS: *(Sing.)*

OO, NEVER FEAR IT,
COME AND HEAR IT, IF YOU WILL.

MRS. CANDLE WICK / MRS. PEARTREE: *(In harmony, sing.)*

HERE UPON THIS MIDNIGHT CLEAR,
'TIS THE SEASON THEY APPEAR,
BUT DON'T BE DISMAYED OR DAUNTED.
THESE SPECTERS
WILL DECK YOUR HALLWAYS,
JUST THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

ALL: *(Sing.)*

THEN YULETIDE CHEER, YOU'LL WIDELY FLAUNT IT,
AND YOUR HOUSE, ALL YEAR IT WILL BE HAUNTED,

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MERRILY HAUNTED,
VERILY HAUNTED
WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

(CAROLERS drift off stage.)

OO, NEVER FEAR IT,
COME AND HEAR IT IF YOU WILL,
AND LET IT FILL YOU
WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

(MRS. PEARTREE opens her book and reads.)

MRS. PEARTREE: Stave One, Marley's Ghost. Marley was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt, whatever, about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge signed it. And Scrooge's name was good upon change for anything he chose to put his hand to. Old Marley was dead as a doornail. This must be distinctly understood or nothing wonderful can come of the story we are about to relate.

MRS. CANDLEWICK: It began on Christmas Eve, seven years later at the offices of Scrooge and Marley in the business district of London.

(The curtain opens to reveal a London scene. USR BOB CRATCHIT sits at table working with feather quill pen. A small fire burns behind him. SCROOGE stands USL as if entering. Both characters are frozen.)

MRS. CANDLEWICK: *(Continues.)* It was cold, bleak, biting weather; foggy withal. One could hear the people in the court outside go wheezing up and down, beating their hands upon their breasts, and stamping their feet upon the pavement stones to warm them.

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(MRS. PEARTREE moves to BOB.)

MRS. PEARTREE: Within, we find Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk. A hardworking husband and father who, though he possesses an excellent head for figures, found it difficult to secure a good position during these rough times in London.

(MRS. CANDLEWICK moves to SCROOGE.)

MRS. CANDLEWICK: And then there is Mr. Scrooge. A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire. He carried his own low temperature always about him; he iced his office in the dog-days of summer, and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas!

(BOB and SCROOGE come to life as MRS. PEARTREE and MRS. CANDLEWICK sit DSR and DSL.)

SCROOGE: Mr. Cratchit!

BOB: *(Terrified, tossing HIS pen.)* Yes, Mr. Scrooge! *(BOB scurries to pick up pen.)*

SCROOGE: You have been in my office!

BOB: Just for a moment, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE: And just what were you doing in my office?

BOB: I ... I ... well, I ...

SCROOGE: It feels wastefully warm in here.

BOB: My fingers were getting too cold to write numbers correctly in the books, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE: So you stole a chunk of coal!

BOB: I'm afraid so, sir.

SCROOGE: And how shall you repent your sin of theft?

BOB: Pay for it?

SCROOGE: Something you can ill-afford to do! *(BOB sits back at his desk.)* Now, return to your work and in the future, wear warmer gloves!

End of Freeview

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