

A Christmas Carol

Adapted by Pat Davis

Music by Dean Murdock

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STORY OF THE PLAY

A tremendous and faithful adaptation of the Dickens classic. A must for any theatre season! The entire story is there with Ghost of Marley, Tiny Tim and family, the Fezziwigs, and a most dramatic appearances by the Spirits of Christmas. A delightful score combines classic Christmas carols with exciting new music for a treat the entire family can enjoy. Performance time: 2 hours.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Large, flexible cast. Much doubling possible.)

Male roles:

1. FRED
2. EBENEZER SCROOGE
3. BOB CRATCHIT
4. MARLEY'S GHOST
5. FEZZIWIG
6. GENTLEMAN GUEST
7. TOPPER
8. OLD JOE
9. UNDERTAKER BERT

Female roles:

1. CHARITY LADIES: (Mrs. Dilber and Mrs. Gayley)
2. MRS. FEZZIWIG
3. BELLE
4. MRS. CRATCHIT
5. MARTHA CRATCHIT
6. BETSY
7. LADY GUEST
8. CHARWOMAN

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Flexible roles:

1. THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST
2. SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT
3. SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE
4. SCHOOLMASTER
5. COOK
6. CANDLEMAKER
7. BAKER
8. MERCHANT
9. BUTCHER
10. LAMPLIGHTER

Children's roles:

1. FANNY
2. YOUNG EBENEZER
3. BOY / POSTBOY
4. YOUNG SCROOGE
5. DICK WILKINS
6. PETER CRATCHIT
7. BELINDA CRATCHIT
8. TINY TIM
9. ELIZABETH CRATCHIT
10. ROBERT CRATCHIT
11. GEORGE

Small roles or extras:

BUSINESSMEN (6 including Morley, Redgrave,
Ryan, Rogers, Frizbee, Titus.)
SHOPPERS
CHILDREN
ORPHANS
PARTYGOERS
CAROLERS and OTHER ENSEMBLE

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

ACT I

#1 OVERTURE

Stave One, Scene One

#2 GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

#3 GOOD KING WENCESLAS

#4 BAH! HUMBUG!

Stave One, Scene Two

#5 Incidental Ghost Music

#6 Scene Change Music

Stave Two, Scene One

Stave Two, Scene Two

#7 Underscore (*All Because Of You*)

Stave Two, Scene Three

#8 HILLI-HI

Stave Two, Scene Four

#9 FIRST LOVE

#10 LOST LOVE

#11 Scene Change

Stave Three, Scene One

#12 ALL BECAUSE OF YOU

#13 ALL BECAUSE OF YOU (*Reprise #1*)

Stave Three, Scene Two

#14 TIS CHRISTMAS TIME

#14A Underscore

ACT II

#15 OVERTURE

#16 Incidental Ghost Music

Stave Four, Scene One

#17 EULOGY

Stave Four, Scene Two

#18 ALL BECAUSE OF YOU (*Reprise #2*)

Stave Four, Scene Three

#19 Scene Change

Stave Five, Scene One

#20 A SECOND CHANCE

Stave Five, Scene Two

#21 GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

#22 FINALE

#23 CURTAIN CALL

#24 EXIT MUSIC

ACT I

MUSICAL #1 - OVERTURE

Stave One, Scene One

(AT RISE: A street in London. On the street are several shops. Onstage left is the firm of Scrooge, Marley and Co., Accounting House. It is a cold, bleak evening and as the scene opens, the city clock had just struck three. Candles are at the windows of neighboring offices. At the conclusion of the OVERTURE a LAMPLIGHTER enters and proceeds about his business as ragged CHILDREN gather under lamp post and sing.)

MUSICAL #2 - GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

CHILDREN:

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN,
LET NOTHING YOU DISMAY,
FOR JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR
WAS BORN UPON THIS DAY
TO SAVE US ALL FROM SATAN'S POW'R
WHEN WE WERE GONE ASTRAY:
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY,
COMFORT AND JOY,
O TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY.

(SHOPPERS and BUSINESSMEN, hurrying home, gather to listen to the CAROLERS and at conclusion of the song go on about their business. One of these spectators is Scrooge's nephew, Fred. FRED is loaded down with gifts, a basket of fruit, vegetables and a large fowl tucked under his arm. He proceeds through the crowd and up to the counting house, revealing EBENEZER SCROOGE at his desk and his clerk, BOB CRATCHIT, seated a short distance away.)

FRED: A Merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you!

SCROOGE: Bah! Humbug!

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FRED: Christmas a humbug, Uncle? You don't mean that I am sure.

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

FRED: Come then! What rights have you to be dismal? What reason do you have to be morose? You're rich enough.

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! Out upon 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; a time for balancing your books and having every item in 'em through a round dozen of months presented dead against you? If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips should be boiled in his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.

FRED: (*Pleading.*) Uncle!

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

FRED: Keep it, but you don't keep it!

SCROOGE: Let me leave it alone then! Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!

FRED: Uncle, though Christmas has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say God Bless it!

(CRATCHIT involuntarily applauds and then becomes aware of SCROOGE'S eyes upon him.)

SCROOGE: Let me hear another sound from you, and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation. (*Turning back to Fred.*) You're quite a speaker, sir, I wonder you don't go into Parliament.

FRED: Don't be angry, Uncle! Come! Dine with us tomorrow.

End of Freeview

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