

▶ 2004/2024 ERASMUS THEATRE
TWENTY YEARS WITH YOU! ◀

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

“I will live in the past,
present, and future.
The spirits of all three
shall strive within me”

▶ A NEW MUSICAL PRODUCTION
IN THEATRES
THROUGHOUT ITALY
THIS CHRISTMAS 2024 ◀

CHARACTERS

EBENEZER SCROOGE

SCROOGE SR

YOUNG SCROOGE

MARLEY

FRED

PENNY

FEZZIWIG

CHRISTMAS PAST

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

CHRISTMAS FUTURE

CRATCHIT

MRS CRATCHIT

TINY TIM

BELLE

NANCY

SCENE LIST

Scene 1: Welcome to London

Scene 2: Scrooge and the Carollers

Scene 3: Scrooge Meets the Ghost of Marley

Scene 4: The Ghost of Christmas Past

Scene 5: Fezziwig's Annual Christmas Ball

Scene 6: Scrooge's Downfall

Scene 7: The Ghost of Christmas Present

Scene 8: Scrooge's Niece Plays the Guessing Game

Scene 9: Christmas at the Cratchit's

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Scene 12: Scrooge's Future is Revealed

Scene 13: Scrooge Changes his Ways

Scene 14: Christmas at The Cratchit's 2 - The Finale

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens

SCENE 1: WELCOME TO LONDON

Lights up. First number begins, The Coventry Carol:

- Chorus: Lully, lullah, thou little tiny child
Bye bye, lully, lully
- O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day?
This poor youngling for whom we do sing
"Bye bye, lully, lully"?
- Herod the king, in his raging
Charged he hath this day
His men of might in his own sight
All young children to slay!
- Chorus: London. 1843.
- Chorus: A place like no other.
- Chorus: Of factories and mills.
- Chorus: Top hats and frills.
- Chorus: Horse drawn carriages...
- Chorus: Chimney sweeps!
- Chorus: Dusty old houses with crooked old rooms.
- Chorus: Candlelight illuminating the hallways.
- Chorus: No phones!
- Chorus: No internet...
- Chorus: No, none of that.
- Chorus: Just cold winter nights,
- Chorus: Huddling together by the fire,

Chorus: Trying to get by.

Chorus: Struggling to find their next meal,

Chorus: Their next moment of warmth,

Chorus: Of comfort.

Chorus: For most, in London, in 1843, life was difficult. Money was hard to come by.

Chorus: But for some...

We see the silhouette of a man in a long, black coat, and a hat.

Chorus: For some, money was easy.

We see the sign for - 'Scrooge and Marley's'.

Chorus: Now, before we start our story, there's something I need to make clear.

Chorus: Something very, very important.

Chorus: Marley was dead.

Chorus: There is no doubt about that.

Chorus: The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman,

Chorus: The clerk,

Chorus: The undertaker,

Chorus: And the chief mourner.

Chorus: He was dead.

Chorus: Dead as a doornail.

Chorus: Ebenezer Scrooge, on the other hand, was alive.

Chorus: Alive in...some ways.

Chorus: His body was alive.

Chorus: His heart beat,

Chorus: His lungs breathed,

Chorus: His skin wrinkled as he started to age.

Chorus: But his soul?

Scrooge: Bah!

Lights up on SCROOGE. He is counting his money, doing the book-keeping. We get a look at him - shrivelled face, crimson eyes, permanent scowl.

Chorus: Scrooge's soul was as cold as the winter's eve outside his door.

Chorus: He was a cruel man.

Chorus: Cold and bitter.

Chorus: And greedy. Scrooge was a greedy man.

Chorus: Scrooge was Marley's business partner - before Marley died – Did we mention that Marley was dead?

Chorus: (together) YES!

Chorus: It's just that...well...you *have* to understand that Marley was dead. If you don't understand that Marley was dead, then – well – well you won't understand what's going on, and nothing wonderful can come of this story I'm going to relate.

Chorus: Scrooge never painted out Marley's name, even after he died.

Chorus: Because paint costs money.

Chorus: And the paintbrushes cost more.

Chorus: And Scrooge was not a man that spent money unless he absolutely had to.

The chorus part.

SCENE 2: SCROOGE AND THE CAROLLERS

Scrooge: (*counting*) Twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven.

'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen' is played and sung by the carollers outside their door. Cratchit and Scrooge work at their desks in silence.

Chorus: *God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

Carolers: *God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

Scrooge: Will you please desist with that dreadful wailing! It is not lost on me that since you started singing about rest and merriment, I haven't had 5 minutes peace! (*Relenting, he storms to the door*) What?!

Fred: A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!

Scrooge: Bah! Humbug!

Fred: Christmas a Humbug Uncle? You don't mean that, I'm 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: What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be sad? You're rich enough.

Scrooge: Bah! Humbug!

Fred: Don't be cross, uncle! We are just trying to spread the Christmas cheer and perhaps collect a small donation from your generous self.

Scrooge: For whom?

Caroller 1: For the needy poor of London, Sir!

Scrooge: Why?

Caroller 2: To raise a fund to buy them some meat and drink and means of warmth.

Scrooge: Oh...Are there no prisons?

Caroller 1: Plenty of prisons Sir.

Scrooge: And the workhouses? Are they still in operation?

Caroller 2: They are. Still. Though I wish they weren't.

Scrooge: So the Treadmill's still open?

Caroller 1: Yes

Scrooge: And the Poor Law?

Caroller 2: Yes, Both very busy, sir!

Scrooge: Oh Good. From the way you idiots were talking I thought some terrible crisis had occurred and providing the mindless, unwashed masses of London with food and shelter was suddenly my responsibility. I will be giving nothing to this cause.

Caroller 1: As in, you would like to remain anonymous, Sir?

Scrooge: As in, I would like to be left alone. Good afternoon!

Fred: Uncle!

Scrooge: Nephew! Keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine. Now Good Afternoon!

The Carollers Leave, leaving Scrooge and his nephew on stage.

Fred: There are many things from which I might have found good, by which I have not profited, I dare say Christmas among the rest. But I am sure I have always thought of Christmas-time as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time of the year, when men and women agree to open their shut-up hearts together, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of people on other journeys. And so, uncle, though it 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: Oh, Well said Sir!

Scrooge: Quiet! Let me hear another sound from you and you'll be spending this Christmas Day at your desk! (*Turing back to his nephew*) You're quite a powerful speaker, Sir. I wonder if you don't go into Parliament?

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

Scrooge: I would rather be boiled with my own pudding!

Fred: I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so unchanged. But the offer remains should you have a change of heart. A Merry Christmas Uncle!

Scrooge: Bah...

Fred: And a Happy New Year!

Scrooge: HUMBUG! (*Scrooge turns to cratchit*) I suppose you'll want all day off tomorrow?
Cratchit: If it's quite convenient sir?
Scrooge: It's not convenient and it's not fair.
Cratchit: I'm sorry if you feel used sir...
Scrooge: I don't feel used, you idiot! Christmas! A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every 25th December. But I suppose if you must have the whole day...be here all the earlier the next!

Scrooge gets up from his desk and begins to walk home.

SCENE 3: SCROOGE MEETS THE GHOST OF MARLEY

Chorus: Scrooge ate his melancholy dinner,
Chorus: In his usual melancholy tavern,
Chorus: Read all the newspapers,
Chorus: All the newspapers?
Chorus: YES!
Chorus: (I'm just saying that's a lot of newspapers)
Chorus: And he headed home.
Chorus: No one stopped him in the street to greet him.
Chorus: No beggars implored him for spare change.
Chorus: Even blind men's dogs feared him, and when they saw him coming, tugged their owners to safety.
Chorus: But what did Scrooge care?
Chorus: It was the very thing he liked.
Chorus: To edge his way along the crowded paths of life, warning all human sympathy to keep its distance.
Chorus: Until...

Scrooge appears on stage and echoing down the street he hears Marley's voice.

Marley: SCROOOOOGE!

Scrooge looks around, trying to find the source of the sound. As Marley repeats his name his face appears on the doorknocker of Scrooge's front door.

Marley: SCROOOOOGE!

Scrooge rubs his eyes and looks around but the face is gone as quickly as it arrived.

Scrooge: Indigestion, that's all. Something I've eaten. Humbug, pure Humbug!

Chorus: Hang on!

Chorus: What?

Chorus: You said he was dead!

Chorus: Who?

Chorus: Marley!

Chorus: Yeah, he is.

Chorus: Then what on earth was that?!?!?

Chorus: Well keep watching and you'll find out.

Scrooge is settling in for the night and as he sits in his chair the clock strikes 12. As it does the rattle of chains can be heard and once again we hear the call of Marley.

Marley: Scrooooooge!

Scrooge: How now! What do you want with me?

Marley: Much!

Scrooge: Who are you?

Marley: Ask me who I *was*!

Scrooge: Who *were* you then? You're particular for a shade...

Marley: In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley.

Scrooge: Can you...Can you sit down?

Marley: I can.

Scrooge: Well, do it then!

Marley: You don't believe in me.

Scrooge: I don't.

Marley: Why do you doubt your senses?

Scrooge: Because...little things affect them. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a scrap of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a piece of uncooked potato. There's more of gravy than of the grave about you, whatever you are!

Marley is suddenly everywhere, Scrooge cannot escape.

Marley: Uncooked beef am I?

Scrooge: I'm sorry! I apologise!

Marley: A scrap of mustard!

Scrooge: I'll never say it again!

Marley: Uncooked potatoes!

Scrooge: I believe you! I believe you!

Marley: What am I?!

Scrooge: A ghost! You're a ghost!

Marley: And what's my name?!

Scrooge: Marley! You're Marley! Jacob Marley! Dreadful spirit, why do you trouble me?

Marley: Do you believe in me or not?

Scrooge: I do. I must. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?

Marley: It is required of every man, that through each of their lives, they share freely with those around them and bring joy to all that know them. If that does not happen in life, their spirit is damned in death. It is doomed to an eternity of wandering the earth gazing on what might have been but never was!

Scrooge: You wear a chain, tell me why?

Marley: I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I forged it of my own free will, and of my own free will I wear it. It is a mark of my ignorance, selfishness and greed. This is how long yours was 7 years ago this very night, Ebenezer. I wonder how much yours weighs now?

Scrooge: Speak comfort to me, Jacob.

Marley: I have no comfort to give. Only a word of warning. That you still have a chance of escaping the same fate as I.

Scrooge: Oh bless you Jacob, You were always a good friend to me.

Marley: You will be haunted.

Scrooge: Right...

Marley: By three spirits.

Scrooge: I'd rather not!

Marley: It is too late. Expect the first tomorrow when the clock strikes one.

Scrooge: Listen Jacob, are you sure there's no other...

Marley: Expect the second on the next night and the third will arrive after on the last stroke of twelve. Heed my warning Ebenezer, you will not receive another...

A flash and Marley's ghost disappears, and Scrooge collapses in his chair. The chorus enter, singing SILENT NIGHT and help Scrooge into bed.

Chorus: *Silent night, holy night
All is calm, and all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace*

SCENE 4: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Scrooge startles. He glares at the clock.

Scrooge: It cannot be possible? It was past two when I drifted off. Surely I have not slept for a whole day? I suppose all I can do now is wai-

The clock strikes the quarter hour.

Scrooge: Already? Was Marley's warning a dream or-

The clock strikes the half hour.

Scrooge: The clock must be broken, there is no way-

The clock strikes the final quarter hour chime.

Scrooge: My God. Is now the time? Is it time now Marley??

The clock strikes one and Scrooge waits for the first ghost to arrive.

Scrooge: The hour itself...and nothing else! Ha! I knew it was a hum-

A flash of light, a loud crash and Scrooge screams as the first ghost arrives.

Christmas Past: You were saying?

Scrooge: You startled me!

Christmas Past: Yeah, sorry about that. Comes with the territory, ghosts and all.

Scrooge: Are you the spirit that Marley warned me of?

Christmas Past: I am! Guilty as charged! Hellooooo!

Scrooge: Who and what are you?

Christmas Past: I'm so sorry. How rude of me not to introduce myself. I'm the ghost Christmas Past.

Scrooge: Who's past?

Christmas Past: Your Past.

Scrooge: Right...

Christmas Past: Rise, come with me.

Scrooge and Christmas Past exit his room and begin to travel.

Chorus: The Ghost of Christmas Past, Marley's first ghost, started by taking Scrooge home.

Chorus: But he's already home?

Chorus: No - his real home - way, way back, when Scrooge was just a boy.

Chorus: Scrooge recognised every path, gate and tree.

Chorus: Every house that littered the streets, children spilling out, playing games and singing songs.

Chorus: This quiet little village was a world away from the cramped and dark streets of London town.

Chorus: And as Scrooge walked with the ghost through the memories of his childhood, he felt something he had not felt in a long time...

Chorus: Peace.

Christmas Past: Do you remember this place?

Scrooge: Remember it? I could walk it blindfold. That's the river where we used to swim as boys each summer. And there, the square with the wishing fountain! And just over there, the fork in the road where my sister Fan used to pick me up from school each day.

Christmas Past: Do you miss her?

Scrooge: What do you mean?

Christmas Past: She died in childbirth, didn't she?

Scrooge: I...

Christmas Past: And left behind your nephew.

Scrooge: Fred.

Christmas Past: Keep that one close, Ebenezer. He's a good lad.

Chorus: The Ghost of Christmas Past led Scrooge through the town,

Chorus: Past the square,
Chorus: And the riverbank.
Chorus: They turned left at the fork in the road and continued to walk.
Chorus: Scrooge knew exactly where the Ghost was taking him.
Scrooge: My old house.
Christmas Past: You remember.
Scrooge: How could I forget? Summers spent in the garden with Fan. I used to chase her around pretending to be a monster. I remember one year, it was scorching hot, we spent all day under the oak reading, sometimes running into the sunshine for a moment before hiding again. Mother would sneak up on us sleeping and splash us with water to wake us.
Christmas Past: Happy memories?
Scrooge: They were.
Scrooge: My father's chair.
Christmas Past: Yes.
Scrooge: He would be working. He worked all the time. We hardly ever saw him. He would sometimes watch us from afar, calling to my mother to refill his glass, or to start on dinner. Mother did everything for us.
Christmas Past: You were lucky to have her.
Scrooge: When she died, everything changed. It was almost as though the world knew it and stopped the sun from shining.
Christmas Past: Your father became obsessed with his work.
Scrooge: Yes.
Christmas Past: And obsessed with you following in his footsteps.
Scrooge: Yes. He was a bitter man. And the bitterness grew after Mother died.
Christmas Past: And then he lost his job.
Scrooge: Yes. My father would drink. He would make outrageous claims like he invented the question mark. If he was ever a father to us, that died quickly after mother was gone.
Christmas Past: That must have been hard for you, Ebenezer.
We see Scrooge as a young man.
Scrooge: Yes, it – Wait – Is that..?
Christmas Past: Yes, Ebenezer - it's you - a young man of just 16.

Scrooge Sr: Ebenezer, this is simply not good enough! Your work must improve. We have spent all this money on your education and yet you seem to consistently find new ways to disappoint us.

Young Scrooge: Father I am trying –

Scrooge Sr: I do not need you to be *trying*, I need you to be *succeeding*. We have a reputation to uphold and –

Young Scrooge: I am performing to the best –

Scrooge Sr hits Young Scrooge.

Scrooge Sr: Do not speak over me, boy. Listen to me, Ebenezer. You are my son. My only son. You will not embarrass me by becoming a failure. Work harder. Or face the consequences.

Young Scrooge: I am sorry, father. It won't happen again.

Scrooge Sr: Make sure of it.

Scrooge: He was cruel. He never had a moment for us until it suited him. His only focus was himself, his work, everything but the people who needed him.

Christmas Past: Sounds like someone else I know.

Scrooge: That – that is different. I am different.

Christmas Past: It's okay, Ebenezer.

Scrooge: I had to succeed. To be better than him.

Christmas Past: And yet you turned out just the same.

Scrooge: I suppose.

Christmas Past: You're not blameless, Ebenezer. Things are always more complicated than they seem.

Scrooge: Nevertheless, I am glad that Fan never saw me follow his path.

Christmas Past: Phew, well I wasn't expecting you to be so introspective this early on. We might be able to save your soul just yet. Come on, I need a drink.

Scrooge: A drink? But you're a ghost?

Christmas Past: Mind your own. Come along, we're going to see another Christmas.

Scrooge: I'm not sure I want to.

Christmas Past: There were happier times, were there not, Ebenezer?

Scrooge: I don't know. I suppose...?

Christmas Past: Away from home?

Scrooge: Away from –?

Christmas Past: Here we go!

SCENE 5: FEZZIWIG'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BALL

The accordion begins a carol: I SAW THREE SHIPS. Words in Bold to be sang with the audience.

Christmas Past: *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.*

Chorus: *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?*

*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.*

*Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day, **on Christmas Day;**
Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

Fezziwig: Yo Ho, there! Ebenezer!

Scrooge: I remember this place - I was apprenticed here –

Fezziwig enters

Scrooge: Old Fezziwig! Bless his heart - Fezziwig - alive again!

Fezziwig: Ebenezer Scrooge - you boy - come over here a moment.

Young Scrooge goes over to Fezziwig gleefully.

Fezziwig: My boy, you have worked so well this year. I am proud of your achievements.

Young Scrooge: Thank you sir, I learnt from the best.

Fezziwig: One day, Ebenezer, this may all be yours. This business, this office,
perhaps even our families may be entwined...?

Fezziwig winks.

Young Scrooge: Well, sir, I –

Fezziwig: But we can worry about that later, Ebenezer. For now, I have an
announcement. No more work tonight. Christmas Eve! It's Christmas Eve,
Ebenezer. Let's have the shutters up, pour out the wine and clear away my
lads, let's have lots of room in here.

Young Scrooge: But, for what, sir?

Fezziwig: Why, a party of course!

Fezziwig stands up on a chair, and begins to sing, everyone joins in for the dance.

Fezziwig: *It's Christmas Eve babe
In the drunk tank
An old man said to me, won't see another one
And then he sang a song
A rare old mountain dew
I turned my face away
And dreamed about you

Got on a lucky one
Came in eighteen to one
I've got a feeling
This year's for me and you
So happy Christmas
I love you Lady
I can see a better time
When all our dreams come true*

ALL: *They've got carts big as bars
They've got rivers of gold
But the wind goes right through you
It's no place for the old
When you first took my hand
On a cold Christmas Eve
You promised the West End
Was waiting for me

You were handsome
You were pretty
Queen of all Piccadilly
When the band finished playing
They howled out for more
The fiddles were swinging
All the drunks they were singing*

*We kissed on a corner
Then danced through the night*

*The boys of the old Cathedral choir
Were singing Gaudete
And the bells were ringing out
For Christmas day*

Christmas Past: Do you remember?

Scrooge: Of course! Old Fezziwig hosted this incredible party for us all - we huddled together in his office. I helped him clear the whole room so we could all dance in the middle.

Christmas Past: And Fezziwig paid for it all out of his own pocket?

Scrooge: The money didn't matter to him - it was simply about bringing people together. He had the power to render us happy, to make our days a pleasure. The happiness he gave us all this night was quite as great as if it had cost him a fortune.

Christmas Past: You remember it well?

Scrooge: It was one of the best nights of my life.

Scrooge notices Belle.

Scrooge: Is that –

Christmas Past: It certainly is.

Scrooge: So this was -

Christmas Past: Your first Christmas together.

Young Scrooge and Belle are laughing together - they are being mischievous, sneaking another pour of wine.

Belle: Ebenezer, stop! What if my father sees?

Young Scrooge: He won't care – he's had enough himself I'm not even sure he'd notice.

Belle: He loves you, you know. He always says you're like the son he never had.

Young Scrooge: And to me he's the father I never had.

Fezziwig has caught their eye across the room and is winking.

Young Scrooge: Oh God, look - he's been doing that all night! Winking at me, making suggestions.

Belle: Suggestions?

Young Scrooge: Oh, it's nothing.

Belle: Nothing?

Young Scrooge: Yes, nothing, Belle!

Belle: You're an awful liar you know. I can see right through you. Oh come on, Ebenezer, tell me! You think there's anything I enjoy more than teasing and laughing about my own father's oddness? What suggestions?

Scrooge (y:) Suggestions of... marriage.

Belle: Oh! Marriage?

Young Scrooge: See...

Belle: But... He's far too old for you, Ebenezer!

Young Scrooge: Belle, I –

Belle: Hmm... I'll have to assess my options...

Young Scrooge: Options?!

Belle: You know...a lifetime with you wouldn't be so bad...

Young Scrooge: I promise I'll look after you.

ALL: *The boys of the old Cathedral choir
Were singing Gaudete
And the bells were ringing out
For Christmas day*

Christmas Past: Something the matter?

Scrooge: Nothing particular.

Christmas Past: Oh come on, Ebenezer admit you miss this. The Joy, the merriment, the company!

Scrooge: No. Nothing of the sort...Though I should like to say a few words to my clerk Bob just now.

Christmas Past: Bob? Cratchit? Here I am showing you the happiest night of your life with the woman you love and you're thinking about Bob?

Scrooge: Seeing Fezziwig again... his kindness...the way he looked after us...perhaps I should have treated Bob the same.

Christmas Past: You're learning...

Scrooge: Hm.

Christmas Past: I think we must see another memory.

Scrooge: Can't we stay a while longer?

Christmas Past: No. We have another vision to see.

SCENE 6: SCROOGE'S DOWNFALL

Fezziwig: My dear Ebenezer, I am so happy for you and Belle. You make a wonderful couple. When is the wedding?

Young Scrooge: Next May, we hope. We're so pleased, sir.

Fezziwig: No more "sir" Ebenezer - we are to be family!

They laugh and embrace.

Fezziwig: I see great things for you Ebenezer, for both of you. I am so happy that my humble business will stay in the family after I am gone.

Young Scrooge: Oh, I –

Fezziwig: You do not wish to stay here?

Young Scrooge: I am so grateful for my time here, and –

Fezziwig: Is this line of work not good enough, Ebenezer?

Young Scrooge: It's not that, sir, and I value this job, but –

Fezziwig: But?

Young Scrooge: But...but I have my own am...ambitions, and I want to make something myself.

Fezziwig: And what about our family?

Young Scrooge: Belle will be my family, and I want to provide for –

Fezziwig: Is our family not important to you, Ebenezer?

Young Scrooge: Not as important as this!

Young Scrooge's politeness slips.

Young Scrooge: I want to build something bigger than this, Fezziwig. I want to become a great man. A truly great man. A businessman that will be known across London. And I want the wealth that comes with it. And when I have that wealth, I will be able to provide for you, and for Belle, and for our children, and their children and theirs too. And I will not be stopped by some notion of loyalty, or family or debt.

Fezziwig: Debt? There is no debt, Ebenezer. I just wanted to –

Young Scrooge: I am sorry, but those are my ambitions and that is what I will do.

Fezziwig: I understand, Ebenezer. I understand.

Christmas Past: Well, you achieved some of your ambitions. Was it worth it?
Scrooge: I don't remember acting so...
Christmas Past: Obtuse? Unkind? SHOUTY? You broke poor Fezziwig's heart.
Scrooge: I suppose I did.
Christmas Past: What happened to his business, in the end?
Scrooge: It closed after he died. But that is not my fault.
Christmas Past: Perhaps not. Perhaps not entirely. You were well within your rights to follow your own path Ebenezer, but look where it took you...

A click of the fingers and we see Young Scrooge and Belle, they are older.

Belle: I'm sorry, Ebenezer. I feel like I don't recognise you anymore. Your greed and love for money has replaced me; and if it can give you the cheer and comfort in time to come that I would have lovingly given I wish you no ill will.
Young Scrooge: Belle, please, I –
Belle: Don't try to explain yourself. There is nothing in this world as hard as poverty and nothing as pointless as the pursuit of wealth for its own sake!
Young Scrooge: For its own sake? But I'm doing this for you, for us, for our future! Wealth is the answer to all the world's woes and I can only protect you Belle by working to the bone for every penny that keeps us happy.
Belle: Listen to yourself Ebenezer. You fear the world too much. All your hopes have merged into something ugly and perverse. You are not the man I fell in love with.
Young Scrooge: Have I not grown wiser? Have I not risen in standing?
Belle: I do not care about you rising in standing, I care about –
Young Scrooge: I'm not a boy anymore Belle. You may see something ugly in my pursuits but when I look in the mirror each morning I see someone I can be proud of. A man who is worthy of being your husband.
Belle: That's the problem though Ebenezer, when I look at you now the last thing I feel is pride.
Young Scrooge: What?
Belle: Goodbye, my love. I hope you find your way to making someone happy.

Belle kisses Young Scrooge on the cheek, hands him her ring, and leaves.

Scrooge: Why are you showing me this?
Christmas Past: Sometimes we have to acknowledge the mistakes of our past to prevent the problems of our future.

Scrooge: The mistakes? I was waiting. I was trying to build something, something meaningful, of note, so that I could properly look after Belle, to provide for her –

Christmas Past: You worried so much about providing for her future that you didn't look at her present.

Scrooge: She could have waited –

Christmas Past: You have made an idol of gold.

Scrooge: Enough! Haunt me no longer.

Christmas Past: You're in luck. My time is nearly at its end.

Scrooge: Good! Leave me! Remove me from this place.

Christmas Past: The next will arrive tomorrow night.

Scrooge: Away!

Christmas Past: At One.

Lightning flashes. Scrooge in bed. 'IN THE BLEAK MID WINTER' is sung.

Chorus: *In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen, snow on snow
Snow on snow
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago*

SCENE 7: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Chorus: And like that, the Ghost of Christmas Past was gone.

Chorus: Tormented by the memories of his past – of the loss of his sister, Fan, and his one love, Belle,

Chorus: Scrooge fought back against these visions...

Chorus: And prayed he'd not be visited by another ghostly confessor.

The clock strikes one.

Scrooge: Oh no, no, NO! Not again I have had my fill of spectres, ghouls, wraiths and shades. Please I relent! Show me no more of my past misgivings.

A huge crack of thunder. Scrooge shakes with fear.

Scrooge: I beg you! No more!

The Ghost of Christmas Present arrives as 'JINGLE BELL ROCK' is sung.

Christmas Present: *Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells swing and jingle bells ring
Snowin' and blowin' up bushels of fun
Now the jingle hop has begun*

*Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle bell rock
Jingle bells chime in jingle bell time
Dancin' and prancin' in Jingle Bell Square
In the frosty air*

*What a bright time, it's the right time
To rock the night away
Jingle bell time is a swell time
To go glidin' in a one-horse sleigh*

*Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet
Jingle around the clock
Mix and a-mingle in the jinglin' feet
That's the jingle bell rock*

Christmas Present: Hi Scrooge!

Scrooge: Who on earth are you?

Christmas Present: Why I'm the ghost of Christmas Present you silly goose!

Scrooge: Riiiiiiight...

Christmas Present: And I'm here to show you the Christmas...

Scrooge: Present?

Christmas Present: You got it. Wow, they told me you were quick! So, ready for the off?

Scrooge: As I see no way around it, yes.

Christmas Present: Super! Hold on to my robe and we'll jump out the window.

Scrooge: Wait, WHAT?!

Christmas Present: (*Grabs Scrooge*) WEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!

They Jump.

Chorus: Scrooge,

Chorus: The Ghost,

Chorus: And all his worldly possessions,

Chorus: Vanished instantly.

Chorus: So did the room,

Chorus: The fire,

Chorus: The warm glow,

Chorus: The hour of night,

Chorus: And before they knew it, they were stood in the city streets of London on Christmas morning.

Scrooge: So this is Christmas Day in London...

Christmas Present: You've never seen a London Christmas?

Scrooge: Well, not for a long time at least. It's busier than I imagined.

Christmas Present: Why of course! You've spent so many years burying yourself in books and coin you've never actually taken the chance to look up. To see the world and your fellowman around you. And on Christmas Day - My Heavens Ebenezer! - On Christmas Day the whole world awakens! Come my friend, look for yourself! What do you see?

Scrooge: People. Tons of them. Men and women, girls and boys. Hurrying and scurrying and tumbling over one another. Laughing. Singing. Calling out to one another. Bright, smiling faces. Happiness. Togetherness. There – an old man shovelling away the snow. A woman carrying an armful of presents!

Christmas Present: Someone at home will be happy. Speaking of which...

SCENE 8: SCROOGE'S NIECE PLAYS THE GUESSING GAME

Two young, well-to-do women appear on stage.

Penny: Oh Nancy, this is going to be such fun.

Nancy: I know. I can hardly bear the excitement. I just love Christmas!

Scrooge: I know her, don't I?

Christmas Present: You tell me. She's your niece! You know these visions are completely pointless if you don't even know who I'm showing you!

Scrooge: Right, Frank's wife!

Christmas Present: Fred! Your nephew's name is Fred!!! Marley, Spare me!

Scrooge: Right, yes of course...

Penny: I just hope Fred's feeling better after the unpleasantness of yesterday.

Nancy: I'm shocked! Fred unhappy at Christmas? I'd hate to meet the person who could wipe the smile from such a person as Fred.

Penny: Well lets play a game and see if you can guess.

Nancy: Ooooh a game! What are the rules?

Penny: Oh, it's a very simple game. You ask me any question you like and I can only answer yes or no.

Nancy: Alright, let's see. Is it a person?

Penny: No.

Nancy: An animal then? And a most disagreeable animal at that.

Penny: Yes.

Nancy: I see...Is this animal local to London?

Penny: Yes.

Nancy: A savage beast I assume, to scare Fred off Christmas?

Penny: Yes.

Nancy: Would I find it in a market?

Penny: No.

Nancy: A zoo?

Penny: No.

Nancy: A Counting House?

Penny: Yes

Nancy: Ah! I believe I have the measure of him. This is an animal that has much in common with other beasts of its kind with the personality of an Ass, the ferocity of a Tiger and the face of a Pig!

Scrooge: God, it sounds like a most fearsome beast. I wonder who it is?

Christmas Present: I worry about you...

Nancy: I deduce that this terrifying beast was none other than Fred's dear Uncle Scrooge!

Penny: Yes! You pass with flying colours my dear! I knew you would get it eventually.

Nancy: I feel for you brave heart I really do. I can barely stand the thought of bumping into him on the street let alone being related to the man!

Penny: Not by blood, I must add, that's Fred's problem, not mine. Though it breaks my heart to see him so affected by a man so vile.

Nancy: Then we must raise his spirits!

Penny: And so we shall. Now, onwards to Christmas!

Christmas Present: So...that was a little awkward.

Scrooge: I can't believe it.

Christmas Present: I know, I thought the pig face bit was a little harsh, but can you blame them?

Scrooge: Of course I can! How can two people who have never even met me feel free to pass judgement on my life? Talk about me, as if I am nothing more than some piece of gossip!

Christmas Present: And who's fault is it if they don't know you? You've never even given them the chance! Your own flesh and blood Ebenezer!

Scrooge: She is not my blood, she is but a quirk of coincidence, a scribble on a certificate and nothing more! She is no more related to me than I am to you.

Christmas Present: But what of Fred?

Scrooge: What about him?

Christmas Present: My word Ebenezer! You heard it yourself. You broke the most positive man in London's spirit and on Christmas Day no less!

Scrooge: Someone had to eventually. There's always been too much of Fan in him.

Christmas Present: Is that such a bad thing?

Cratchit: Come Along Tim!

Scrooge: Is that – ?

Cratchit: Mum will be sending out a search party if we're not home soon.

Scrooge: Cratchit?

Christmas Present: Yes, I thought it would be better to tackle two birds with one stone. I've seen how you treat *your* family, I think it's time I showed you how it should be done.

SCENE 9: CHRISTMAS AT THE CRATCHIT'S

Cratchit and Tiny Tim walk onto stage.

Tiny Tim: Shouldn't we wait for Big Jim?

Cratchit: He can find his own way home I'm sure. You on the other hand little one, I'm not letting out of my sight! Now let's head in and get warm. I'm sure your mother will be dying to see what we've got for her!

They exit.

Scrooge: Cratchit has children?

Christmas Present: You never thought to ask? After all these years of working side by side in your damp and dark offices, you never once thought to ask after his family?

Scrooge: I never needed to. I mean...I never thought to...Oh what is this? Why am I here? As long as he comes into work when I tell him and do it for the money I pay him, what does it matter to me if he has a family? Or friends? Or even a cat! It makes not one bit of difference to me!

Christmas Present: Let's see if we can do something about that.

Scrooge: What?

Christmas Present: Come with me. We're going to the Cratchit's for Christmas.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM is played as we set up the Cratchit's.

Chorus: *O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight*

We see Mrs Cratchit setting the table for dinner, Scrooge and Christmas Present enter.

Scrooge: Who's this? I thought we were going to the Cratchit's?

Christmas Present: I'm starting to think you are genuinely dense. Use your senses Scrooge, such as they are, this is Mrs Cratchit! Bob's long suffering wife of 14 years!

Scrooge: Ah, I see...then where is Bob?

Cratchit and Tiny Tim enter singing THE HOLLY AND THE IVY. Mrs Cratchit hides.

Tiny Tim: Mum? Muuum? Where is she dad?

Cratchit: You know what I genuinely don't know...maybe check behind that door over there?

Mrs Cratchit: RAAARGH! I've got you now you little monster!

Cratchit: We're under attack!

Cratchit: A Merry Christmas my love! Your two daring adventurers are home and in need of wine and merriment.

Mrs Cratchit: And a merry christmas to you my loves. But I'm afraid you'll have to settle for Ale, unless you finally asked Scrooge for that raise. In which case I'll run to the nearest Tavern and bus a barre!!

Scrooge: He wishes!

Cratchit: I wish! But there are other days in the year where I can ask and there is nothing more important to me right now than Christmas with you.

Mrs Cratchit: How did Tiny Tim behave?

Tiny Tim: I was as good as gold - I promise!

Cratchit: Well if you say it, my boy, it must be so.

Cratchit: To us. To my gorgeous wife. And my wonderful little boy.

Tiny Tim: Little!

Cratchit: My strapping young lad. My Tim. The life we have may be simple, but sharing it with you makes me richer than the Queen! And to Mr Scrooge, the founder of the feast!

Mrs Cratchit: We toast that old fool? The Founder of the Feast indeed! After everything he's done to this family? Or more like hasn't done! 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!

Cratchit: My love! Without him we wouldn't have the little we do. Besides, we shouldn't argue on Christmas Day!

Tiny Tim: Dad –

Mrs Cratchit: But he could give us so much more! You work like a slave for that man but for what? A half day off every year?

Tiny Tim: Mum –

Cratchit: Just be grateful that I had Christmas Day off at all! If he had it his way I'd never see you or the kids. I'd be stuck in that office working my fingers bloody just the same as him!

Tiny Tim: You said you wouldn't -

Mrs Cratchit: For goodness sake Bob, you're even starting to sound like him! The fact that you expect me to drink to the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr Scrooge is simply -

Tiny Tim: Please Stop! -

Tiny Tim erupts into coughs and wheezes, struggles and sits back.

Scrooge: What's wrong with him?

Christmas Present: The poor lad is very ill. And the Cratchit's don't have the money to pay for any medicine for the boy. Next year may be a quieter Christmas in this house.

Scrooge: A quieter Christmas? What do you mean?

Tiny Tim: We shouldn't be fighting, it's Christmas Day after all!

Cratchit: You're quite right son. We're sorry for yelling. Aren't we Mrs?

Mrs Cratchit: Of course we are my love. We just want what's best for you and this family and if Scrooge is the answer, then I agree with your father. I'll drink his health for your sake and Tim's but not for his. Long life to him! A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tiny Tim: And God bless us! Everyone!

*The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown*

All Three: *Of all trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown*

*O, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing in the choir*

All: *The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our dear Saviour*

*O, the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ
Sweet singing in the choir*

Scrooge: What a lovely family. I wish I had asked Cratchit about them before.

Christmas Present: No time like the present.

Scrooge: Spirit, please. Tell me the boy lives.

Christmas Present: I see a vacant seat. In the poor chimney corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, the child will die.

Scrooge: No, kind spirit! Say he will be spared!

Christmas Present: I can't.

Scrooge: Why do you torture me like this?

Christmas Present: Sometimes we have to acknowledge the mistakes of our past to prevent the problems of our future.

Scrooge: I've heard...

Christmas Present: There are many more like Tiny Tim, you know. Loved by those around them. Those that live day by day, struggling with less than the bare minimum.

Scrooge: Have they have no hope or salvation?

Christmas Present: Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

Scrooge: I –

Christmas Present: If you bothered to look up once in a while you may have learnt to see the humanity behind the people you condemn.

Scrooge: There must be another way.

Christmas Present: All is not lost for Tiny Tim, Ebenezer. But you must learn from your mistakes. My time is nearly past.

Scrooge: Tell me how I can fix this.

Christmas Present: You must look towards your future.

Scrooge: My –?

Christmas Present: Tomorrow night. On the stroke of Midnight. One last visit.

The intro to Jingle Bell rock begins once more.

Christmas Present: Ah! There it is. My cue. Goodbye, Ebenezer! And good luck! You know I genuinely do believe in you...

Christmas Present: Da da da, da da da, da da da da!

Chorus: Scrooge took a long walk through the dirty streets of London on his way home.

Chorus: He passed the poor,

Chorus: And the needy,

Chorus: And stared at their faces as they slumped in the alleyways.
Chorus: Those even poorer than the Cratchit's.
Chorus: Even more destitute.
Chorus: But they did not see him.
Chorus: And for the first time in a long time,
Chorus: Ebenezer Scrooge felt truly alone.
Chorus: Upon getting home, Scrooge wished to see Marley's face on the door,
Chorus: A sign of comfort.
Chorus: But it never appeared.

SCENE 10: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME

THE CAROL OF THE BELLS begins.

Chorus: *Hark how the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say
Throw cares away

Christmas is here
Bringing good cheer
To young and old
Meek and the bold

Ding, dong, ding, dong
That is their song
With joyful ring
All carolling
One seems to hear
Words of good cheer
From ev'rywhere
Filling the air
Ding dong ding dong ding

Oh how they pound
Raising the sound
O'er hill and dale
Telling their tale*

*Gaily they ring
While people sing
Songs of good cheer
Christmas is here
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas*

*Hark how the bells
Sweet silver bells
All seem to say
Throw cares away*

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come appears.

Scrooge: Are you the final phantom? The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come? You are showing me shadows of my future, are you not?

Chorus: Scrooge stared at the Ghost of Christmas Future, terrified.

Chorus: Why would they not respond?

Scrooge: Spirit?

Chorus: The Ghost did nothing but raise up one crooked hand...

Chorus: And point.

Scrooge: I fear you more than any other spirit I have seen. But I know your purpose is to help me, and I hope to live to be a new man. I will listen to you, spirit. Will you not speak to me?

The ghost continues to point forward.

Scrooge: Lead on. The night is closing fast. Show me what you desire me to see.

SCENE 11: THE FIRST OF THE VISIONS

We see two paperboys.

Boys: Get your papers! Half a sixpence for a paper! Papers here!

Boy 1: Did you hear the old grouch finally kicked the bucket?

Boy 2: He died?

Boy 1: Just last night.

Boy 2: About time too!

Boy 1: I heard his poor clerk found him in the morning, slumped in his chair. He'd been there all night. Wasting away.

Boy 2: I thought he'd never die. What did him in?

Boy 1: No idea. I suppose the faintest bit of light he had left in him just went out.

Boy 2: Not really much of a life to live. Feels like he's been dead for years! Certainly looked it...

Boy 1: And smelled it!

Boy 2: What about all his money?

Boy 1: Who knows? Probably just locked away somewhere in his house. The old fudge was much too selfish to have left it to anyone else. He's most likely gonna be buried with it.

Boy 2: We should go!

Boy 1: To where?

Boy 2: The Funeral!

Boy 1: What do you care about his funeral?

Boy 2: Well, you met the guy! There's not likely to be anyone there, is there? We could pretend we were distant relatives or something, make a claim for the money?

Boy 1: I get ya... Sure, I'll go... but only if there's lunch.

They exit.

Scrooge: Who are these rude boys? You two, come back here! Rotten lads. What an way to speak of the dead. Who is this man that has died, spirit?

The spirit does nothing.

Scrooge: Well I hope to show this man more kindness than these ungrateful wretches. Do I know him, spirit?

Scrooge: Well if I don't know him, why do you show me this?

The spirit points for them to move on. They see a woman auctioning off items.

Woman: Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, do we have a thrilling lot for you today! Our most recently deceased friend has left us with a host of wonderful items for you to enjoy. One pair of boots - half a sixpence - SOLD!

Scrooge: This is awful! Who are these people?

Woman: One long nightshirt - what, don't look at me like that - he doesn't need it! It's not likely he'll be cold where he's going!

She laughs hysterically.

Scrooge: Are these the items of the same man who died?
Woman: SOLD! To the lovely Italian gentleman from?...Well nevermind then!
Scrooge: Why does everyone feel the need to be so unkind to this man?
Woman: Now we have some fine suit trousers – oh! *(she realises there is a bag of money in the pocket and takes it out)* Nevermind! This one I'll keep all for myself.

She runs off laughing.

Scrooge: Spirit? Why do you show me these horrible scenes? Who are these people that steal from this poor man who has passed and laugh at his misfortune?

The spirit points once more.

Scrooge: I need answers! Show me the way.

SCENE 12: SCROOGE'S FUTURE IS REVEALED

Scrooge: Where are we? A graveyard? I see. Is this the grave of the –
Bob Cratchit enters, holding Tiny Tim's crutch and flowers. He lays them by the grave.

Scrooge: Bob, my clerk. Why is he – no...

Cratchit: Hello, Tim. Your mother and I miss you so much.

Scrooge: Not Tiny Tim!

Cratchit: Merry Christmas my darling, Mum sends her love. We all do. Although you'll just have to make do with me today. Mum's hard at work at home making a delicious dinner and Jim's gone out to fetch some fresh coal...the only thing missing is your singing...

Cratchit: *The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown
Of all trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown*

*O, the rising of the sun
And the running of –*

Scrooge: Stop this! It's not fair. This can't be allowed to happen. How can I stop this? Tell me how to stop this? Bob, Bob. Tell me what to do. Tell me what you need to save Tim. I'll double your salary, triple it! I'll pay for the treatment, the hospital, lord he can stay with me if he needs to! Why can't he hear – Do something! All these ghostly powers and you can't save him?

Fred enters, carrying his own flowers.

Fred: Bob, I'm sorry, I –

Cratchit: No dear boy, it's okay. Stay.

Scrooge: Fred! Do something!

Fred: Your wife?

Cratchit: She prefers to be alone at the moment. She barely leaves the house. But I promised Tim that I'd come every Sunday...

Fred: I'm so sorry, Bob.

Cratchit: Ah, you brought flowers, thank you my boy –

Fred: Oh, they are for –

Cratchit: Oh, I –

Fred: I didn't know –

Cratchit: No, no, it's fine –

Fred: But I suppose I can –

Fred splits the flowers in two, and puts one down on Tim's grave.

Cratchit: It's good of you to come. We both appreciate it.

Fred: Mm.

Cratchit: How are *you*, my boy?

Fred: I'm well. I can't feel too upset. But nobody else wants to visit, and I can't bare leaving the graveside so neglected. The funeral was so empty, Bob. He kept friendships at a distance and lost anyone who came close.

Scrooge: Who's he talking about, spirit?

Scrooge: I don't understand. Is this the future? Is this how things are going to be? Can nothing be changed? To save Tiny Tim and the other man. The past and present I understood. I learned from what I saw, I vowed to be different. But this ... what am I supposed to take from it all? Who was the dead man they spoke of and where am I in these visions of the future? Speak to me! Explain!

Fred: He was cruel, uncharitable and pushed all joy away, but he was still my uncle.

Cratchit: Take care, Fred.

The Ghost points their hand towards Scrooge, and then back to another gravestone, the writing now uncovered to reveal the engraving 'HERE LIES EBENEZER SCROOGE'.

Scrooge: No, Spirit! I mustn't be the man - hated by all, mourned by none?

Scrooge: Spirit! Please hear me! I'm not the man I was. You and your ghostly brothers have shown me another way. I will not be the man I was - not be the man who causes these deathly apparitions to occur. I am changed. Believe me, spirit.

Scrooge: Why show me this, if I am past all hope?

Scrooge: I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will keep it with me all year. I will live in the past, present and future.

Scrooge: I can change!

SCENE 13: SCROOGE CHANGES HIS WAYS

We hear 'GOOD KING WENCESLAS' being sung.

Chorus: *Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about
Deep and crisp and even
Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gath'ring winter fuel*

*"Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know'st it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes' fountain."*

*In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing*

Scrooge: I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will keep it with me all year. I will live in the past, present and future. I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will keep it with me all year. I will live in the past, present and future. I will honour Chr –

Scrooge: That music? Could it be? Yes! Yes! The same tune that I heard just last night. And my bedsheets – not torn down at all. I'm here – alive! Not buried in that poor, lonely grave. Oh bless you Jacob Marley and my ghostly midnight companions! I'm as free as a bird, as light as a feather, as gleeful as a drunk!

Scrooge: You boy, what day is this?

Boy: It's Christmas Day, Sir!

Scrooge: Oh yes! Christmas Day! I haven't missed it! The spirits have done it all in a single night - why they can do whatever they like!

Scrooge: You boy!

Chorus: Me?

Scrooge: And you!

Scrooge: Go together to the butcher's around the corner - do you know it?

Chorus: Yes sir.

Scrooge: Intelligent boys! I want you to go to the butcher's and buy the prize turkey - you listen to me straight boys - you find the largest turkey in the whole shop and you buy it straight-away!

Chorus: But sir! We don't have any money sir!

Scrooge: No money... no money, eh? Then you'll be needing this!

Scrooge takes a gold coin and tosses it to the boys.

Scrooge: In fact, whilst we're here –

Scrooge begins to toss coins into the street.

Scrooge: You take a penny - and you – and to you sir!

Chorus: Thank You sir, oh thank you!

Chorus: They rushed to grab the largest turkey imaginable.

Chorus: And under Scrooge's orders, carried it all the way,

Chorus: Past the factories and mills,
Chorus: Along the cobbled streets,
Chorus: Past horse drawn carriages and crooked houses,
Chorus: All the way to the house...
Chorus: Of his loyal clerk,
Chorus: Bob Cratchitt.
Chorus: For Scrooge's night had changed him.
Chorus: Gone were his days of selfishness.
Chorus: Of greed.
Chorus: Of only looking after himself.
Chorus: Scrooge finally realised that he had the chance to make a difference to people.
Chorus: That he could improve the lives of those around him.
Chorus: And he hoped...
Chorus: He could save some lives too.

Scrooge re-enters.

Scrooge: Merry Christmas to all!
Chorus: And to you sir – Mr Scrooge sir –
Chorus: Spare any change, Sir?
Scrooge: Change? Change?! You can have more than change my dear girl - here's a whole crown - go, go - get yourself a warm meal and a room for the night, go.
Chorus: Thank You sir!
Scrooge: Don't thank me - Merry Christmas.

One of two children playing tag bump into him.

Chorus: ...oh...s-s-sorry sir.

Scrooge: Tag! You're it!

He plays with the children for a while, before seeing a caroller from the previous day.

Scrooge: Sir! Sir! Excuse me.

Caroller: Yes..?

Scrooge: Were you not at my office yesterday? I hope you succeeded in raising the money. It was awfully kind of you.

Caroller: Ah, yes. Mr Scrooge. I'm afraid we came a little short of our goal, but we managed to gain enough to help –

Scrooge: How much do you need?

Caroller: I'm not sure I...

Scrooge: *(taking out money)* Here – for you and for all who need it!

Caroller: Mr Scrooge, thankyou –

Scrooge: Ebenezer. Call me Ebenezer.

Caroller: Well then, thank you Ebenezer!

Scrooge: Ha ha! And a thousand thanks to you sir, Merry Christmas!

Chorus: And so, Scrooge continued his merry rampage across London.

Chorus: Shaking the hand of every man he saw.

Chorus: *(Rubbing his arm in slight discomfort)* And damn near tearing their arms off as he did.

Chorus: Such was his enthusiasm. Until he found his way to the Cratchit's cramped front door.

SCENE 14: CHRISTMAS AT THE CRATCHIT'S 2 - THE FINALE

Scrooge prepares himself to enter the Cratchit house.

Scrooge: CRATCHIT!

Cratchit: Mr Scrooge...what are you doing here?

Scrooge: A good question Cratchit. I should be at my desk, as should you. So imagine my surprise when I turned up to work this morning and you. Weren't. THERE!

Cratchit: But you said I could have the day off sir.

Scrooge: How dare you speak back to me! Are you doubting my faculties Cratchit? Think I'm going senile do you Cratchit?

Cratchit: No Sir, not at all Sir. I was merely saying -

Scrooge: Think very hard about what you say next Cratchit. Because I am very close to giving you...A RAISE!

Cratchit: I'm sorry Sir I promise I won't ever - What did you say?

Scrooge: A raise Bob! I'm increasing your salary by 10 shillings an hour!

Cratchit: I don't know what's going on Sir, are you quite well?

Scrooge: Just filled with the joys of the season! A Merry Christmas Bob! God save you!

Cratchit: Mr Scrooge! What are you - How are you - You said Merry Christmas!

Scrooge: Indeed I did Bob! And long overdue it was too! Now would it be too much of an inconvenience to your charming family if I stayed for a while?

Mrs Cratchit: Now hold on just a minute!

Cratchit: I think sir, what my wife means is that there may not be much to go around. We only cooked for the four of us you see sir. Though where my other son's got to I have no idea...

Scrooge: Have no fear. My first boss taught me to *never* turn up to a party empty handed. Bring her in boys!

Mr & Mrs Cratchit: BIG JIM!

Cratchit: So you've been out with Scrooge have you son? We were starting to worry. You know you shouldn't be wandering off by yourself Jimmy my lad. Any random person could have taken ya! Now let's take that turkey off your hands and get ready for the best Christmas ever.

Scrooge joins the Cratchitt family in a Christmas dance.

Chorus: For the first time in many years, Scrooge enjoyed the joys of Christmas.

Chorus: He danced,

Chorus: He ate,

Chorus: He drank,

Chorus: And he was incredibly merry.

Chorus: Some say the merriest man in London.

Chorus: Some say the world!

Chorus: Even Mrs Cratchit couldn't resist the sheer joy of the man.

Fred enters.

Fred: Uncle?

Scrooge: Fred! Fred my dear boy! You were right – right all along! Christmas is about friendship, and family. It's about looking after one another, being thankful for the ones we love. I was wrong. I've changed my dear boy. I see it now.

Fred: Merry Christmas, uncle.

Scrooge: Merry Christmas, Fred.

Chorus: And so Scrooge kept his promise to Marley and the ghosts. In fact, he was better than his word.

Chorus: And he lived out the rest of his days a changed man.

Chorus: Some took a while to get used to it.

Chorus: Others laughed at the change in him.

Chorus: But Ebenezer Scrooge didn't mind.

Chorus: He became as good a friend to any person across the entire city, or indeed in any other city, in any other country, in any other world.

Chorus: Fred and his family would have Scrooge over for dinner every Sunday.

Chorus: Bob got a promotion, and a hefty raise too - the Cratchit's never had to worry about money again.

Chorus: And Tiny Tim?

Chorus: Did not die.

Chorus: Oh thank goodness.

Chorus: And Scrooge became like a second father to him.

Chorus: All together, they found family.

Chorus: And every Christmas,

Chorus: From this year to Scrooge's last,

Chorus: They gathered together, rejoiced and thankful.

Chorus: And Ebenezer Scrooge made his yearly Christmas toast.

Scrooge: An old friend of mine once told me "It is required of every man, that through each of their lives, they share freely with those around them and bring joy to all that know them.." Now I may not have travelled far in my life, in fact I don't think I've ever been further south than Clapham, but I think today, more than any other day, we should remember the memories we've shared and those we have lost. To friends, both here and departed. We remember your love, your guidance and the lessons you taught us along the way. To my dear old friend Jacob Marley, who changed me in ways no one will ever be able to understand. I thank you, I remember you and I wish you were here today. To Marley, and our friends who showed the way. Merry Christmas!

ALL: Merry Christmas!

Tiny Tim: *God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray*

ALL: *O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy*

Scrooge: *Fear not then, said the Angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might*

ALL: *Oh tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy*

*God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray*

*O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy*

Chorus: *OH TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY!*

ALL INCLUDING AUDIENCE SING:

*We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy new year*

*Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year*

*Now bring us a figgy pudding
Now bring us a figgy pudding
Now bring us a figgy pudding
And bring some out here*

*Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year*

*For we all like figgy pudding
For we all like figgy pudding
For we all like figgy pudding
So bring some out here*

*And we won't go until we got some
And we won't go until we got some
And we won't go until we got some
So bring some out here*

*Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year*

*Good tidings for Christmas
And a happy new year*

THE END