



## **Scrooge's Christmas Carol**

**Book adapted by Rebecca Ryland**

**Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur**

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**BAH, HUMBUG!**  
**Scrooge's Christmas Carol**

Based on the classic Dickens tale "A Christmas Carol"

Book adapted by REBECCA RYLAND  
Music and lyrics by BILL FRANCOEUR

CAST OF CHARACTERS

	<u># of lines</u>
EBENEZER SCROOGE .....as mean and miserly as ever	155
FRAN.....his niece	34
BETH CRATCHIT .....his employee	52
TINY TIM.....Beth's crippled son	13
BELINDA.....Beth's daughter	12
PETER.....Beth's older son	13
MARTHA.....Beth's oldest daughter, she lives away from home	16
MARY.....another daughter	8
VIRGINIA.....another	9
JOSIE MARLEY.....Ebenezer's deceased business partner	21
POLLY POYNTER.....a woman seeking donations for the poor	14
WINNIE WINSLOW.....another	10
VICTORIA VASSER.....another	14
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST.....the first of three spirits foretold by Marley	21
FANNY.....Ebenezer's sister, about fourteen	8
YOUNG EBENEZER.....a small boy of about six	5
MISS FEZZIWIG.....Ebenezer's first governess; kind and good	2
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.....the second of three spirits foretold by Marley	27
SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE.....the third of three spirits foretold by Marley	n/a
RACHEL.....a friend of Fran's	12
CAROLINE.....another friend	11

TIPPER .....	a third friend	12
PADDY .....	a street waif	15
LIZZIE.....	another	21
SAL .....	another	21
DILLY .....	another	24
DORIE .....	another	8
LITTLE GIRL .....	a Christmas morning stroller	8
EXTRAS as STREET WAIFS, GHOSTLY GOBLINS, CAROLERS, CITIZENS, and SHOPPERS as desired		

### SEQUENCE OF MUSICAL NUMBERS

MC 1	Prologue—That’s Him! .....	Street Waifs, Shoppers, Ebenezer
MC 2	Bah, Humbug!.....	Ebenezer
MC 2a	Greensleeves .....	Carolers
MC 2b	Here We Come A’Caroling .....	Carolers
MC 2c	Good King Wenceslas.....	Carolers
MC 2d	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen .....	Carolers
MC 2e	Marley’s Arrival .....	Underscore
MC 3	Chains .....	Josie Marley, Goblins
MC 3a	Marley’s Departure .....	Underscore
MC4	One Last Christmas .....	Fanny, Ebenezer, Spirit of Christmas Past
MC 4a	The Spirit of Christmas Present (Arrival) .....	Underscore
MC5	Life Was Meant to Live .....	Spirit Present, Ebenezer, Chorus
MC6	God Bless Us, Everyone! .....	Cratchit Family
MC 6a	We Wish You A Merry Christmas (Dance/Exit Music).....	Fran, Guests, Spirit Present, Ebenezer
MC 6b	The Spirit of Christmas Future (Arrival).....	Underscore
MC7	He’s Dead and Buried .....	Polly, Winnie, Victoria, Citizens One, Two and Three, Street Waifs, Chorus

MC7a	God Bless Us, Everyone! .....	Underscore
MC7b	The Death of Scrooge .....	Underscore
MC8	It's Christmas!.....	Ebenezer, Little Girl, Polly, Winnie, Victoria, Fran, Rachel, Caroline, Tipper, Chorus
MC8a	Life Was Meant to Live (Reprise) ....	Ebenezer, Beth, Chorus
MC 8b	Epilogue—God Bless Us, Everyone!.....	Tiny Tim, Company
MC9	Curtain Call—Life Was Meant to Live	
MC 10	Exit Music—One Last Christmas	

**BAH, HUMBUG!**  
**Scrooge's Christmas Carol**

**TIME:** About 1840.

**SETTING:** The front room and bedroom of EBENEZER SCROOGE'S house and the surrounding London streets. The stage is essentially in three sections. **STAGE RIGHT** is the front room of EBENEZER'S house consisting of a fireplace, a stool at a desk (with a candle, paper and a feather pen on it), a chair, a rug and a small hall tree with BETH'S hat hanging on it and EBENEZER'S slippers at the base. The front door faces **RIGHT**, situated so we can see people approaching from "outside." **STAGE LEFT** is the bedroom. A mirror stands in the **UP LEFT** corner. There is a fireplace, a hall tree, a bed and a dresser with a clock and a candle on top of it in the bedroom. **UP LEFT** there is a masked entrance through which the **SPIRITS** and **GOBLINS** will enter. The third section of the stage in the entire **DOWN STAGE** area, which primarily represents the street outside of EBENEZER'S house. This can be left plain or dressed up with street lamps, benches, etc. as desired. **FAR DOWN RIGHT** is a grave marker that should be hidden from view until needed. **DOWN LEFT** is an area that will be used for EBENEZER'S boyhood room, the **CRATCHIT** home and **FRAN'S** home. Representational props for these sets can be quickly moved in and out of the area as needed.

**AT RISE:** As soon as the **HOUSE LIGHTS** come **DOWN**, **MUSIC CUE 1:** "Prologue—That's Him!" begins. **STAGE LIGHTS UP** slowly reveal some **STREET WAIFS** to include **PADDY**, **LIZZIE** and **SAL** (and **EXTRAS**) playing on the street as **SHOPPERS** hurry by carrying packages. **BETH CRATCHIT** is working at a writing desk near a small fire in EBENEZER'S front room. She will silently remain there throughout the opening song, working diligently. EBENEZER **ENTERS** the street area **DOWN RIGHT**, presumably from the shop next door. He stands counting his change. The **WAIFS** take notice.

**LIZZY:** (*Sings.*) That's him!

**PADDY:** (*Speaks.*) Who?

**LIZZY:** (*Sings.*) The Scrooge!

**SAL:** (*Sings.*) Ebenezer Scrooge!

**LIZZY:** (*Sings.*) There goes Mr. Humbug!

**SAL:** (*Sings.*) There goes Mr. Grim!

**LIZZY:** (*Sings.*) That's him!

**DILLY/DORIE:** (*ENTER street DOWN RIGHT. Speak.*) Who?

**PADDY:** (*Sings.*) The Scrooge!

**DILLY/DORIE:** (*Speak.*) Scrooge?

**SAL:** (*Sings.*) Ebenezer Scrooge!

**LIZZY:** (*Sings.*) There goes Mr. Nasty!

**PADDY:** (*Sings.*) There goes Mr. Rude!

**WAIFS:** (*Sing.*) He's full o' vinegar,  
Full o' salt, clear up to the brim...  
That's him!

**DILLY:** (*Speaks over music.*) I heard about him... a might of terror, he is.  
Not a funny bone in his body.

**PADDY:** (*Speaks.*) Counting his old money, he is.

**DORIE:** (*Speaks.*) He should be rich like us and have our fancy doings.

**WAIFS:** (*Sing; to a SHOPPER.*) That's him!

**SHOPPER ONE:** (*Speaks.*) Who?

**WAIFS:** (*Sing.*) The Scrooge! Ebenezer Scrooge!  
There goes Mr. Humbug! There goes Mr. Grim!  
(*To another SHOPPER.*) That's him!

**SHOPPER TWO:** (*Speaks.*) Who?

**WAIFS:** (*Sing.*) The Scrooge!

**SHOPPER ONE/TWO:** (*Speak.*) Scrooge?

**WAIFS:** (*Sing.*) Ebenezer Scrooge!  
There goes Mr. Cranky! There goes Mr. Grouch!  
A disagreeable man is he, crusty limb to limb...  
That's him! (*The following dialogue is spoken over the music.*)

**LIZZY:** (*Speaks.*) I have an idea.

**PADDY:** (*Speaks.*) A shilling more than me.

**LIZZY:** (*Speaks.*) Let's sing him a carol and he'll give us a tuppence.

**SAL:** (*Speaks.*) Nah.

**PADDY:** (*Speaks.*) Not him.

**DORIE:** (*Speaks.*) In your dreams.



**DILLY:** (*Speaks.*) It's Christmas, ain't it? And if he don't, we'll have had a bit of fun.

**LIZZY:** (*Speaks.*) What have ye, then?

**PADDY:** (*Speaks.*) I'm in.

**SAL:** (*Speaks.*) Me, too.

**DILLY:** (*Speaks.*) Come on then.

**DORIE:** (*Speaks.*) Wait for me. (*The WAIFS slowly stalk EBENEZER as the SHOPPERS sing.*)

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) That's him!

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Speak.*) Who?

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) The Scrooge! Ebenezer Scrooge!  
There goes Mr. Humbug! There goes Mr. Grim!

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) That's him!

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) That's him!

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) The Scrooge!

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) The Scrooge!

**ALL SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*) Ebenezer Scrooge!  
There goes Mr. Angry! There goes Mr. Cross!  
He's full o' vinegar.  
Full o' salt, clear up to the brim...  
That's him!

**LIZZIE/SAL/DORIE:** (*The WAIFS have positioned themselves in front of EBENEZER. Sing.*)  
Deck the halls with boughs of holly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

**PADDY/DILLY:** (*Sing.*) 'Tis the season to be jolly,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

**ALL WAIFS:** (*Sing.*) Don we now our gay apparel,  
Fa la la, la la la, la la la,  
Troll the ancient yuletide carol,  
Fa la la la la, la la la la.

**EBENEZER:** (*Drops a coin and several WAIFS scramble to pick it up. Growls.*) Touch that and I'll have yer hand cut off! (*WAIFS quickly retreat in fear.*)

**LIZZIE:** (*Speaks.*) It's Christmas Eve, Scrooge. Perhaps you could spare a tuppence for a crumpet?

**SAL:** (*Speaks.*) A shilling for some tea?

**DORIE:** (*Speaks.*) Our toes are stiff with cold.

**EBENEZER:** (*Speaks.*) Your heads are stiff with nonsense.

**DILLY:** (*Speaks.*) An ounce of gold will be quite enough to tide us through the night.

**PADDY:** (*Speaks.*) A half ounce will do.

**LIZZIE:** (*Speaks.*) A tuppence will suffice.

**EBENEZER:** (*Speaks.*) A tuppence for a fool?

**DILLY:** (*Speaks.*) If fools we be, a tuppence we'll take! (*WAIFS nod in agreement and extend their hands.*)

**EBENEZER:** (*Speaks.*) Enough, I say! Be gone before I call the constable. You'll spend your night in jail. (*WAIFS look at one another and run away, OFF DOWN RIGHT. EBENEZER turns, picks up the gold coin and looks in the direction they ran.*) Bah, humbug! (*During the FINAL CHORUS, EBENEZER moves to the door of his house, goes into the front room and crosses into the bedroom. He hides his gold coins behind the clock on the dresser and looks about the room. Meanwhile the WAIFS have RE-ENTERED DOWN RIGHT and scowl at his house looking for EBENEZER.*)

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)  
That's him!

**STREET WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)  
Deck the...

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)  
That's him!

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)  
The Scrooge!

**STREET WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)  
halls with...

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)  
The Scrooge!

**ALL SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)  
Ebenezer Scrooge!  
There's goes Mr. Humbug!  
There goes Mr Grim!

**STREET WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)  
boughs of holly,  
Fa la la la la,  
la la la la.

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)  
That's him!

**STREET WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)  
Deck the...



**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)

That's him!

**WOMEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)

The Scrooge!

**STREET WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)

halls with...

**MEN SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)

The Scrooge!

**ALL SHOPPERS:** (*Sing.*)

Ebenezer Scrooge!

There's goes Mr. Tightwad!

There goes Mr. Cheap!

**STREET WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)

boughs of holly,

Fa la la la la,

la la la la.

**SHOPPERS/WAIFS:** (*Sing.*)

A disagreeable man is he, crusty limb to limb...

That's him! (*MUSIC OUT. SHOPPERS and WAIFS scatter and EXIT DOWN RIGHT and DOWN LEFT.*)

**EBENEZER:** (*Crosses back from the bedroom to the front room.*) Mrs. Cratchit!

**BETH:** (*Frightened, tosses her feather pen.*) Yes, Mr. Scrooge? (*Scrambles to pick up pen.*)

**EBENEZER:** You have been in my room.

**BETH:** Just for a moment, Mr. Scrooge.

**EBENEZER:** And just what were you doing in my room?

**BETH:** I... I... well, I...

**EBENEZER:** It feels wastefully warm in here.

**BETH:** My fingers were too cold to write.

**EBENEZER:** So you stole a chunk of coal.

**BETH:** I had only one before, and it went out.

**EBENEZER:** And how shall you repent your sin of stealing from your employer?

**BETH:** Pay for it?

**EBENEZER:** I'll deduct it myself... something you can ill afford. Now, get back to your work and in the future, wear warmer gloves. If you had your mind on what you're doing, you wouldn't have time to be imagining you're cold. Maybe I don't need your services here after all. (*BETH takes off her scarf and wraps it around her shoulders as she*

*shivers. She tries to warm her hands at the candle and then continues to work.)*

**FRAN:** (*ENTERS DOWN RIGHT and moves through front door into front room.*) Merry Christmas, Uncle!

**EBENEZER:** Bah, humbug! Don't you ever knock?

**FRAN:** The door was ajar.

**EBENEZER:** I shall take better care in the future.

**FRAN:** And so you should. Merry Christmas, Beth. I take it you are enjoying the holiday season here in the warmth of my uncle's house?

**BETH:** I do my best. Your merriment is a pleasant distraction.

**EBENEZER:** (*To BETH.*) What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough.

**FRAN:** What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough.

**EBENEZER:** What else can I be when I live in such a world of fools. Out upon Christmas! What's Christmas to you save paying bills without money and nary a penny richer. If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with a "Merry Christmas" on his lips would be boiled in his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.

**FRAN:** Uncle Ebenezer!

**BETH:** Mr. Scrooge!

**EBENEZER:** You keep Christmas in your way and let me keep it in mine.

**FRAN:** But you don't keep it at all!

**EBENEZER:** Then let me leave it alone. It's never done me any good. Nor you for that matter.

**FRAN:** There are many things that have done me good that haven't made me a profit, and Christmas is one of them. It's the only time I know of in the long calendar when people open their hearts and treat one another with gentleness and kindness. A forgiving, charitable time. Though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my purse, it has done me good and will do me good, and I say, God bless it! (*BETH applauds.*)

**EBENEZER:** (*To BETH.*) Let me hear another sound from you and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation.

**FRAN:** Don't be cross, Uncle. Come dine with me tomorrow.

**EBENEZER:** I'd rather dance with a ghost.

**FRAN:** Why, Uncle? I'd like you to meet my friends. You spend too many hours alone.

**EBENEZER:** I prefer my own company to that of fools.

**FRAN:** Come now, Uncle. 'Tis the season to be jolly." "Peace on Earth, good will toward men." (*MUSIC CUE 2: "Bah, Humbug!"*)

**EBENEZER:** (*Speaks, as if it hurts his ears.*) Please do not torture me with your infernal Christmas rantings. I said no, and that's final! (*Sings.*) I have no time for merriment,  
Good tidings or good cheer.  
Take your Christmas jabberings  
And keep them far from here.

I'm not at all the least amused,  
By all this merry rot.  
That caterwauling every night,  
It leaves me most distraught.

They sing of Christmas spirit.  
Well, I just refuse to hear it!  
Each year it makes me simply want to  
Crawl beneath my rug.

(*Speaks.*) Bah, humbug! You see, my dear niece, your Christmas blatherings mean nothing to me. Indeed, they make me nauseous. (*Recites the following with sarcasm.*)  
"Hark the Herald Angels sing."  
Not at my door they won't!

"O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree"  
Your blinding light offends me!  
"'Tis the season to be jolly?"  
Not in my life, by golly!

(*Sings.*) The orphans and the destitute,  
A good-for-nothing lot.  
Each day they beg outside my door,  
Their patron saint I'm not!

And there's the finer folk,  
With "Merry Christmas" on their lips.  
Self-righteous and pretentious  
With their merry little quips!

That time of year when people get all  
Dewy-eyed and smug,  
Their smiles and their handshakes,  
And their over-zealous hugs.  
(*Speaks.*) Bah, humbug!

(*Recites the following with sarcasm.*)  
"It came upon a midnight clear."  
I hope it storms, my niece, my dear!  
"Silent night, holy night."  
I'm not sympathetic to your plight!

And, of course, your favorite...  
"Peace on Earth, good will toward men."  
Show me where, tell me when?

(*Sings.*) I'd rather be alone than play this  
Tired Christmas game.  
Your invitation is not wanted,  
(*Sarcastic.*) Thank you just the same.

I'd sooner not associate  
With hypocrites and fools.  
Christmas is not welcome here...  
One of my many rules.

Don't push your luck and waste my time,  
Indeed I'll only shrug.  
As far as Christmas is concerned,  
I'm hardened as a thug.  
(*Speaks.*) Bah, humbug!  
Bah, humbug! Bah, humbug! Bah, humbug! (*MUSIC OUT.*)

**FRAN:** I am sorry with all my heart you feel that way. We have never had any quarrel between us to which I have been a party. I ask nothing of you save your company. So, I will return every Christmas with the same invitation. Perhaps someday you will change your mind. Merry Christmas, Uncle.

**EBENEZER:** Good afternoon.

**FRAN:** And a Happy New Year! Merry Christmas, Beth!

**BETH:** And to you, dear lady.

**EBENEZER:** Shut the door on your way out!

**FRAN:** And a Happy New Year to all! (*Goes out the front door and EXITS DOWN RIGHT.*)

**EBENEZER:** Good riddance! Beth, how much am I worth?

**BETH:** More than yesterday, I'm sure, Mr. Scrooge. But your shirts needed mending and your figures checked. I hadn't time to tally your affairs.

**EBENEZER:** My affairs are not your concern. I need only know what I'm worth.

**BETH:** Much.

**EBENEZER:** And you?

**BETH:** A full life, sir.

**EBENEZER:** Full of hardship, you fool.

**BETH:** If you say so, sir.

**EBENEZER:** I do. Bring the candle and read to me. "Robinson Crusoe." And be quick about it. (*POLLY, WINNIE and VICTORIA ENTER RIGHT, cross to EBENEZER'S door and knock on it.*) Now who?

**BETH:** I'll get it, sir.

**EBENEZER:** You should move so fast when I call. (*The WOMEN ENTER the house. They are respectfully dressed.*)

**VICTORIA:** Thank you, sweet lady.

**POLLY:** (*Curtseys.*) Polly Poynter here. And do we have the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge?

**BETH:** If it be your pleasure, address on.

**VICTORIA:** A joyous evening to you, sir. Victoria Vasser at your service.

**EBENEZER:** Joyous, no. Evening, for one minute more, then good night. And that, ladies, is the extent of my hospitality.

**WINNIE:** (*To VICTORIA.*) Perhaps we should speak with his partner, Mrs. Marley.

**VICTORIA:** Yes, Winnie, it might be best. We have met with greater generosity in the past.

**EBENEZER:** Mrs. Marley died three years ago this very night, leaving me very much abandoned.

**WINNIE:** And very much endowed, yes?

**EBENEZER:** What's that to you?

**POLLY:** During this festive time of year, Mr. Scrooge, we are taking up a collection for the poor and destitute who suffer so greatly.

**EBENEZER:** And what's that to me? *(During this scene CAROLERS ENTER DOWN RIGHT and begin to sing softly outside on the street. MUSIC CUE 2a: "Greensleeves.")*

**CAROLERS:** *(Sing softly under following dialogue.)* Ooo. Ooo. Ooo.  
Ahh. Ahh. Ooo. Ooo.

**VICTORIA:** Many thousands are in want of common necessities.

**WINNIE:** Hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.

**EBENEZER:** Are there no prisons?

**POLLY:** Plenty of prisons.

**EBENEZER:** And the workhouses? Are they still in operation?

**VICTORIA:** They are. Still I wish they were not.

**EBENEZER:** The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigor?

**WINNIE:** Both very busy, sir.

**EBENEZER:** Glad to hear it.

**POLLY:** But these institutions scarcely furnish Christmas cheer of mind or body to the downtrodden, sir.

**WINNIE:** This is the season when want is keenly felt by many.

**POLLY:** So a few of us endeavor to raise funds for the poor.

**VICTORIA:** To buy meat and clothing and other means of warmth.

**POLLY:** How much should we put you down for?

**EBENEZER:** Nothing!

**POLLY:** You wish to remain anonymous?

**EBENEZER:** I wish to remain alone. I don't celebrate Christmas, and I

can't afford to make riff-raff merry. Let them go to the poorhouse!

**VICTORIA:** Many can't go there, and many would rather die.

**EBENEZER:** If they had rather die, they had better do it and decrease the surplus population. (*Crosses toward door and gestures for the WOMEN to leave.*) Good night!

**VICTORIA:** Well!

**WINNIE:** Bless your poor, lost soul. (*As the door opens and the WOMEN move DOWN STAGE RIGHT, the CAROLERS are heard more loudly outside the house.*)

**POLLY:** (*To CAROLERS as the WOMEN EXIT DOWN RIGHT.*) You're wasting your breath on that one!

**EBENEZER:** (*Still standing at the front door.*) Now what? Will I ever have any peace? (*MUSIC OUT.*)

**ALL CAROLERS:** Merry Christmas, friend.

**CAROLER #1:** Peace and good cheer.

**CAROLER#2:** A season to rejoice.

**CAROLER #3:** And joy to last throughout the year.

**CAROLERS:** (*MUSIC CUE 2b: "Here We Come A-Caroling." BETH moves to door and peers around corner of door to look out at street. EBENEZER covers his ears as they sing.*)

Here we come a-caroling among the leaves so green,

Here we come a-wand'ring so fair to be seen.

(*At last EBENEZER can stand it no more and scurries outside.*)

Love and joy come to you,

And to you, your family, too.

And God bless you and send you a—

**EBENEZER:** (*Shouts.*) Stop it! Stop it, I say!

**CAROLERS:** (*Sing.*) Happy New Year.

**EBENEZER:** (*Shouts.*) Stop all that infernal thundering!

**CAROLERS:** (*Sing.*) And God send you a Happy New Year! (*MUSIC OUT.*)

**CAROLER #4:** But it's Christmas Eve, my friend!

**EBENEZER:** I have no time for such nonsense!

**CAROLER #1:** Perhaps he would prefer a different tune. (*MUSIC CUE*

2c: "Good King Wenceslas." Sings.)

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen,

**CAROLERS:** (Sing.)

When the snow lay 'round about, deep and crisp and even.

**EBENEZER:** (Covering his ears once again. Speaks.) Enough, I say! I'll have none of it!

**CAROLERS:** (Sing.)

Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel.

**EBENEZER:** (Speaks.) Get away from my house and leave me in peace!

**CAROLERS:** (Sings.)

When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel. (MUSIC OUT.)

**EBENEZER:** Enough I say! I'll have none of it! Get away from my house and leave me in peace!

**CAROLER #2:** And peace we shall.

**CAROLER #4:** Peace.

**CAROLER #3:** Joy.

**CAROLER #1:** Love.

**CAROLER #2:** And prosperity.

**CAROLER #3:** We bring you great cheer.

**ALL CAROLERS:** Merry Christmas!

**EBENEZER:** Christmas! Bah, humbug! I'll cheer when it's over, and you're gone from my sight.

**CAROLER#2:** We'll not keep you from your merriment, nor you from ours.

**EBENEZER:** Then go. Get! What stands in your way? Be gone and off with the lot of you.

**CAROLER #1:** What's got into him?

**CAROLER #3:** Nothing good, that's for sure.

**CAROLER #4:** You mustn't let it bother you.

**CAROLER #2:** Yes! Let's sing and make merry so that all men might hear the joy in our hearts.

**CAROLER #4:** Peace on Earth. Good will to all men. (MUSIC CUE 2d:



*“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.” CAROLERS begin to EXIT DOWN RIGHT as they sing. EBENEZER covers his ears and goes back into his house. BETH is still watching.)*

**CAROLERS:** *(Sing as they EXIT RIGHT.)*

God rest ye merry gentlemen

Let nothing you dismay.

Ooo. Ooo. Ooo.

Ooo. Ooo. *(They're OUT. MUSIC continues faintly from OFFSTAGE RIGHT.)*

**EBENEZER:** *(Speaks.)* Mrs. Cratchit!

**BETH:** *(Speaks. Startled.)* Yes, Mr. Scrooge?

**EBENEZER:** *(Speaks.)* If you've gotten an ear full come away from that door and bring me my slippers.

**BETH:** *(Speaks. As she moves to hall tree to get slippers.)* Sorry, sir, of course. *(MUSIC OUT.)*

**EBENEZER:** *(Sits in his chair as BETH pulls off his shoes and slips the slippers on his feet. The CLOCK in the bedroom CHIMES. EBENEZER checks the time against his pocket watch.)* I regret to admit the work day is done. *(BETH immediately rises, blows out the candle at her writing desk and puts on her hat and scarf.)* I suppose you'll want the whole day off tomorrow.

**BETH:** If convenient, sir.

**EBENEZER:** It's not convenient. It's not fair. If I deducted a half-crown for it, you would think yourself ill-used. And yet you don't think me ill-used when I pay a day's wage for no work.

**BETH:** It's only once a year. *(EXITS UP RIGHT as if going into the kitchen.)*

**EBENEZER:** *(Calls after her.)* Poor excuse for picking a gent's pocket every 25th of December.

**BETH:** *(RE-ENTERS carrying tray with EBENEZER'S supper.)* Your tray, sir.

**EBENEZER:** Be here early the next day.

**BETH:** *(Rushes out the front door.)* I will, sir! *(As BETH rushes outside, EBENEZER sits nibbling on cheese and bread.)*

**TINY TIM:** *(ENTERS DOWN RIGHT and approaches BETH on the street.)*  
Mother! Mother!

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### PROPERTIES

ON STAGE, EBENEZER'S front room: Desk with paper, a feather pen and a candle, baskets, stool, chair, fireplace, bench, rug, small hall tree with BETH'S hat hanging on it and EBENEZER'S slippers at base.

ON STAGE, EBENEZER'S bedroom: Book, hall tree, bed, dresser with clock and candle on it, standing oval mirror.

ON STAGE, the CRATCHIT home: Large table, benches, dinner plates.

ON STAGE, FRAN'S home: Several plush chairs, a small table.

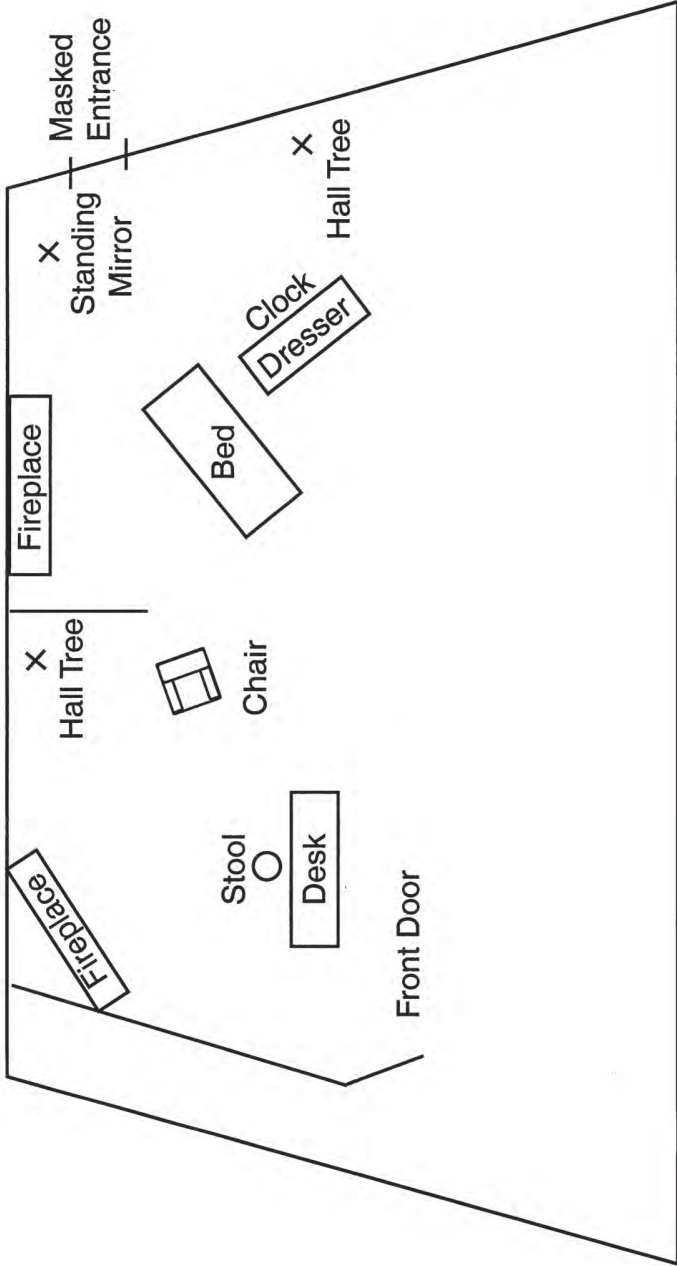
ON STAGE, graveyard: Grave marker.

BROUGHT ON: Packages (SHOPPERS); bag of gold coins, pocket watch, loose coins (EBENEZER); scarf, tray with bread and cheese (BETH); chains (MARLEY, GOBLINS); book (YOUNG EBENEZER); small Christmas tree, small box of decorations (MISS FEZZIWIG); bag of "goodies" (SPIRIT PRESENT); ribbon, chair, knitting (MARTHA); chair, book (PETER); large jug of cider, tray with mugs and a stick of butter (VIRGINIA, MARY); blindfold (CAROLINE); cart with coffin (CITIZENS); sack containing several shirts, a pair of shoes and a ring (DILLY).

### CASTING

If you have enough male actors and wish to present the play more traditionally, of course Beth Crachit can become Bob Crachit and Josie Marley can become Jacob Marley with very few line changes.

SET DESIGN



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