



MERRY CHRISTMAS

MR SCROOGE!

Cast List:

PREVIEW

The main role of Scrooge is split between two actors of similar stature. Both of these actors will learn Scrooge's lines so an understudy is not needed. All the cast and singers will occupy benches near the stage, so that nobody needs supervision in a dressing room and the singing is boosted by the presence of all.

Scrooge 1 (in daytime clothes).....	Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come.....
Scrooge 2 (in nightwear with nightcap)	Spirit of Christmas Present
Scrooge 3 as a boy	
Scrooge 4 as a young man	
	Dick Wilkins (Scrooge's boyhood pal).....
Narrator	Fezziwig (Scrooge's first employer)
	Mrs Fezziwig
Bob Cratchit (Scrooge's clerk)	Fezziwig's employees
Mrs. Cratchit (Bob's wife).....	Girl in black dress
Martha Cratchit (eldest daughter)	
Belinda Cratchit (second daughter).....	Ragged Child 1 (a boy)
Peter Cratchit (eldest son).....	Ragged Child 2
Tiny Tim (youngest son on crutches).....	Other ragged children
Fred (Scrooge's nephew).....	Carol Singers.....
Fred's wife	Butcher
Fred's sister.....	Portly Gent 1
Topper (A bachelor)	Portly Gent 2
Ghost of Jacob Marley	
Spirit of Christmas Past	Debtor
Rag and Bone Man	Debtor's Wife
Ignorance (a poor boy).....	Charwoman
	Want (a poor girl).....

A performance licence is required before you use this play

The story: Based on Charles Dickens' classic tale "A Christmas Carol" about a selfish man who learns the true meaning of Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge is a miser without kindness and compassion. On Christmas Eve, he is visited by the ghost of Jacob Marley his former business partner, who arranges for Scrooge to be visited by three spirits to show him the error of his ways -the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come.

List of Props: snowballs, lanterns for carol singers, big turkey, bowl of gruel, fiddle, crutch for Tiny Tim, bottle and glasses, blindfold, old sheet, nightshirt, coins and banknotes, two tombstones (inscribed with RIP Timothy Cratchit and RIP Ebenezer Scrooge)

Narrator: Welcome to our show. This is the story of a very odd man who lived a long time ago. **(Enter Scrooge)** His name was Ebenezer Scrooge. He was a miserable, miserly, grasping, nasty old skinflint! He wasted his life because he only cared about making money. **(Pause. Enter ragged children with snowballs)** The ragged street children sometimes followed him and made fun of his bald head as they played in the snow.

***** CD TRACK 1: SONG: We Don't Like You! ***** Backing Track 15

(sung by ragged children who throw snowballs)

Mister Ebenezer! Bald headed geezer!

Lost his hair in a lemon squeezer!

Oh! You mean old creature! Ebenezer! We don't like you!

Mister Scrooge we don't like you!

Mister Scrooge we don't like you!

Mister Scrooge we don't like you at all! (Repeat all)

Narrator: Ebenezer Scrooge paid no attention to the children. **(Exit ragged children)** After all, there was no profit in turning around to complain. Instead, he made his way through his heavy red iron gate and disappeared into the dark cold void he called his office and waited for his clerk to arrive.

Bob Cratchit (entering): Good morning Mr Scrooge, sir.

Scrooge 1: Scoundrel! You are two minutes late!

Bob Cratchit: Yes, Mr Scrooge. Sorry sir. It won't happen again, sir!

Scrooge 1: I suppose you would think it most unfair if I stopped your wages for being late? And I suppose you expect full wages tomorrow – for no work at all!

Bob Cratchit: But Mr Scrooge! Tomorrow is Christmas Day!

Scrooge 1: I am well aware of that! Bah! Humbug! **(Knock on door Bob admits debtor and his wife,)**

Debtor: A very merry Christmas Mr. Scrooge.

Debtor's wife: Yes, Merry Christmas, my dear Mr Scrooge.

Scrooge 1: If I had my way, every idiot who went about saying 'Merry Christmas' would be boiled with his own Christmas pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. What do you want?

Debtor: I beg your patience, sir and ask you to wait a little longer for the money I owe you.

Scrooge 1: Impossible.

Debtor's wife: But sir, have pity. My poor husband is injured and cannot work.

Scrooge: That is no concern of mine. Thrift and enterprise are what you need. Thrift and enterprise I say! Cratchit! Deal with this client.

Bob Cratchit (to Debtor): One pound, sixteen shillings and fourpence halfpenny if you please.

Debtor: My children will get no presents and no Christmas dinner if I pay this today!

Scrooge 1: Am I bothered? You must pay your debts on time.

Narrator: And so the poor man paid the money he owed, knowing he would not be able to afford a Christmas present for his children, and he would not be able to give them any Christmas dinner. **(Exit debtor and wife)** Presently, Mr Scrooge had another visitor. It was his nephew, Fred. **(Enter Fred)**

Fred: Merry Christmas, Uncle! Merry Christmas Mr. Bob!

Bob Cratchit: Merry Christmas, sir.

Scrooge 1: Bah! Away with you! Christmas is humbug!

Fred: Well, I disagree with you, uncle! Christmas is a time for remembering the good times and looking forward to the future. Will you join us for a merry Christmas dinner tomorrow Uncle Scrooge?

Scrooge 1: I will not sir! I do not welcome Christmas. I have work to do. Good day!

Fred: Then I bid you a Merry Christmas and wish you every possible happiness. **(exit)**

Narrator: And so on that Christmas Eve, Bob Cratchit and Ebenezer Scrooge toiled at their desks all day until the last streaks of sunset had left the sky. The poor clerk tried to keep warm by the candlelight because Scrooge was too mean to put another coal on the fire. Outside, some carol singers were singing in the snowy street. **(Enter Carol Singers. Scrooge and Bob Cratchit continue to work)**

***** **CD Track 2: In the Bleak Midwinter** ***** **Backing Track 16**

*In the bleak midwinter 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 midwinter, long ago.
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can give Him? I can give my heart. (Repeat verse 1)*

Scrooge 1: Beggars and vagabonds! Your noise is disturbing my business! Be off with you! You will not get a farthing from me! **(Exit Carol singers)**

Narrator: Just then, Scrooge had two more visitors **(Two portly gentlemen enter)**

Portly Gent 1: (to Bob Cratchit) It says "Scrooge and Marley" on the door. Which one are you?

Bob Cratchit: Neither, sir. Mr Marley was Mr Scrooge's business partner, but he's been dead for seven years. This is Mr Scrooge.

Portly Gent 2: We are collecting money for the poor people at Christmas time.

Scrooge: Humbug! Every Christmas you come to pick my pocket! I will not give you one penny!

Portly Gent 1: Surely you will help the poor people?

Scrooge 1: Help the poor people? Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

Portly Gent 2: Some people would rather die than go into the workhouse.

Scrooge 1: Well, let them die! There are far too many people in the world! **(Exit portly gents)**

Narrator: Scrooge did not care about Christmas. He shut up his counting house, dismissed his clerk **(Exit Bob Cratchit)** and made his way through the town ignoring the bright shops. He passed the butcher's shop, where a huge turkey was hanging.

Butcher: (entering) Can I interest you in this nice big turkey, sir?

Scrooge 1: No thank you! **(Enter ragged children)**

Ragged Child 1: There goes Mr Scrooge. He doesn't celebrate Christmas.

Ragged Child 2: That's very sad! I pity him, because I love Christmas. **(Exit Scrooge)**

***** **CD Track 3 We Pity You** ***** **Backing Track 17**
(Sung by Ragged children)

*Every day you waste your life counting all your money!
You don't like to go outside even when it's sunny!
You hide away! Your lonely face! You hide away! From the human race!
You do not care about anyone else and no-one cares for you.*

*You are so selfish and you are so mean in everything you do!
Oh Mister Scrooge we pity you! You do not welcome Christmas!
Oh Mister Scrooge we pity you! You do not welcome Christmas! (Repeat all)*

Ragged Child 1: (calling to Scrooge) Goodnight, Mr Scrooge! Sweet dreams! We will rejoice on your behalf, Mr Scrooge! And wish you a Merry Christmas Mr Scrooge!

******* CD Track 4: I Saw Three Ships ***** Backing Track 18
(Sung by ragged children)**

*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.*

*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.*

*Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?*

*O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;*

*O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
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.*

PREVIEW

Narrator: *(Exit ragged children)* Bob Cratchit went home to his wife and family. *(Enter Mrs Cratchit, Peter, Belinda, Marsha)* They had a young son called Tiny Tim. Tiny Tim was small for his age. He was becoming weaker and weaker because he was ill and disabled.

Mrs Cratchit: Tiny Tim is getting worse. He needs special medicine.

Peter Cratchit: Why can't we give him some special medicine, mother?

Belinda Cratchit: Does it cost a lot of money, mother?

Mrs Cratchit: Yes. It's too expensive. We can't afford to buy medicine. Mr Scrooge doesn't pay your father enough wages.

Belinda Cratchit: Then Mr Scrooge is a mean old skinflint!

Marsha Cratchit: Indeed he is! What a miserable selfish man he must be!

Mrs Cratchit: I fear poor Tiny Tim may not live to see another Christmas. But shush! Ah! Here he comes with your father now. *(Enter Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit)*

Bob Cratchit: Tim and I have bought a goose for Christmas dinner! It's only a small goose but tomorrow it will make a wonderful Christmas dinner for my merry family! And today we shall celebrate Christmas Eve with a fine sausage from the butcher!

Tiny Tim: God bless us all. Every one!

*****CD Track 5 Song: I had a sausage! *****Backing track

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*(All Cratchits except Mrs Cratchit) I had a sausage, a yummy little sausage
I put it in the oven for my tea!
I went down the cellar to get my umbrella! And the sausage ran after me!*

*(All) He had a sausage, a yummy little sausage
He put it in the oven for his tea!
He went down the cellar to get his umbrella! And the sausage ran after him!*

*(Mrs Cratchit) Oh, no! Stop playing with your food!
Let's have some manners please!
Oh, no! Stop playing with your food! Sit still and eat your tea!*

*(All Cratchits except Mrs Cratchit) I had a burger a yummy little burger
I put in the oven with some cheese
I went down the cellar to get some salt and pepper! And the burger began to sneeze!*

*(All) He had a burger a yummy little burger
He put it in the oven with some cheese
He went down the cellar to get some salt and pepper And the burger began to sneeze!*

*(All Cratchits except Mrs Cratchit) I had a pizza! A yummy little pizza!
I put in the oven to go brown!
I went down the cellar to get some mozzarella! And the pizza jumped up and down!*

*(All) He had a pizza! A yummy little pizza!
He put in the oven to go brown!
He went down the cellar to get some mozzarella! And the pizza jumped up and down!*

*(Mrs Cratchit) Oh, no! Stop playing with your food!
Let's have some manners please!
Oh, no! Stop playing with your food! Sit still and eat your tea!*

(Exit all)

Narrator: Meanwhile, Ebenezer Scrooge made his way to his gloomy apartment

which had once belonged to his deceased partner Jacob Marley. As he unlocked his door, the face of Jacob Marley seemed to appear in the large brass doorknocker. Scrooge thought he was just imagining things and went to get ready for bed. **(Scrooge 2 enters in nightwear and nightcap with bowl of gruel)** When he returned, Scrooge sat to eat a bowl of gruel, when suddenly he heard a strange clanking noise.

***** **CD Track 6 –Sound effect- Marley appears in chains** *******Also on track 20**

Scrooge 2: Dreadful apparition! Who are you!

Marley: In life, I was your partner Jacob Marley. In death, I am his spirit, and I must roam the earth in chains.

Scrooge 2: Why do you wear those chains?

Marley: In life I was selfish and I was only interested in making money. Just like you! My punishment is to wear these chains. And they are so heavy, they weigh me down.

Scrooge 2: Why have you come to haunt me, you awful ghost of the night?

Marley: I have come to warn you, Ebenezer Scrooge! You will end up like me unless you change your ways. You will be visited by three spirits. Listen to what they have to say and study what they show you.

Farewell Ebenezer! Farewell. **(Marley exits)**

Scrooge 2: I've been working too hard. My imagination is making me see things. I must go to sleep.

Spirit of Christmas Past: **(Appearing. Play track 6 again if desired.)** Awake! Ebenezer Scrooge! Awake! And follow me!

Scrooge 2: **(following)** Who are you?

Spirit of Christmas Past: I am the ghost of Christmas past! I am taking you through the city to a warehouse long ago! **(Enter Fezziwig and Mrs Fezziwig)**

Scrooge 2: Well I never! It's old Fezziwig, my first employer, and his wife both alive again. Hello Mr Fezziwig! Hello Mrs Fezziwig!

Spirit of Christmas Past: They cannot hear you or see you. You are an invisible spirit of the night.

Fezziwig: **(calling)** Ebenezer! Dick! **(Enter Scrooge as a boy and Dick Wilkins)**

Scrooge 3 as a boy: Here we are, Mr Fezziwig, sir!

Fezziwig: No more work today, boys! Let's have a party! After all, it's Christmas Eve!

Scrooge 2: That's me! What a fine looking fellow I was! And that's Dick Wilkins! We were the best of friends all those years ago! Oh, happy days!

Dick Wilkins: **(to Scrooge as a boy)** My dear friend Ebenezer, we are so lucky. Mr Fezziwig is such a good kind employer. When you are an employer, I hope you will be good to your workers!

Scrooge 3: Yes I will! And I count myself lucky to have a fine friend like you! **(Enter fiddler and other employees. All dance)**

***** **CD Track 7: Fiddle Dance** *****

*Oh take your partner for a dance on this Christmas Day.
Oh take your partner for a dance and dance the night away!*

*Oh now's the time to twirl and spin and hear the music play
Oh now's the time to laugh and grin on Christmas Day! On Christmas Day!*

*Oh swing your partner round and round on this Christmas Day!
Oh swing your partner round and round and dance the night away!
Oh now's the time to twirl and spin and hear the music play!
Oh now's the time to laugh and grin on Christmas Day! On Christmas Day!*

*Oh change your partner if you can on this Christmas Day!
Oh change your partner if you can and dance the night away!
Oh now's the time to twirl and spin and hear the music play!
Oh now's the time to laugh and grin on Christmas Day! On Christmas Day!*

Narrator: Old Scrooge watched as there were more dances, games and heaps of food and drink. Then, the vision of the party faded (**Exit all except Scrooge 2 and Spirit of Christmas Past**) Scrooge remembered how he had treated Bob Cratchit and felt guilty.

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

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PREVIEW

MERRY CHRISTMAS MR SCROOGE!

CD LISTING

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TRACKS 1-14 with vocals. TRACKS 15-28: without vocals)

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|---|--|
| 01 & 15 We Don't Like You! | 08 & 22 Sound effect- Spirit of Christmas Present |
| 02 & 16 In the bleak midwinter | 09 & 23 Silent Night |
| 03 & 17 We Pity You | 10 & 24 Change Your Ways |
| 04 & 18 I Saw 3 Ships | 11 & 25 Sound effect -Spirit of Christmas yet to Come |
| 05 & 19 I had a sausage! | 12 & 26 Graveyard Music |
| 06 & 20 Sound effect: Marley's Ghost | 13 & 27 Get Ready |
| 07 & 21 Fiddle Dance | 14 & 28 Twelve Days of Christmas |