

Scrooge with a Twist

Martha McMillen



ArtAge
Publications



ArtAge supplies books, plays, and materials to older performers around the world. Directors and actors have come to rely on our 31 years of experience in the field to help them find useful materials and information that makes their productions stimulating, fun, and entertaining.

ArtAge's unique program has been featured in *Time Magazine*, *Modern Maturity*, on CNN, NBC, and in many other media sources.

ArtAge is more than a catalog. We also supply information, news, and trends on our top-rated website, www.seniortheatre.com. We stay in touch with the field with our very popular enewsletter, *Senior Theatre Online*. Our President, Bonnie Vorenberg, is asked to speak at conferences and present workshops that supplement her writing and consulting efforts. We're here to help you be successful in Senior Theatre!

We help older performers fulfill their theatrical dreams!

ArtAge Publications

Bonnie L. Vorenberg, President

PO Box 19955

Portland OR 97280

503-246-3000 or 800-858-4998

bonniev@seniortheatre.com

www.seniortheatre.com

NOTICE

Copyright: This play is fully protected under the Copyright Laws of the United States of America, the British Commonwealth of Nations, including Canada and all countries of the Berne and Universal Copyright Convention.

The printed text is offered for sale at the price quoted on the understanding that if any additional copies are needed for production, they will be purchased from the publisher.

The purchase of this play as an e-script entitles the purchaser the right to make photocopies for your cast. Sharing of the material with other organizations or persons is prohibited. This play may not be reproduced in any other form without the written permission of the publisher. Please include the copyright statement on each copy made. The laws of the United States are specific regarding the piracy of copyrighted materials.

Royalty: The writing of plays is a means of livelihood. Unlawful use of a playwright's work deprives the creator of his or her rightful income. The play is subject to royalty payment for professional and amateur performances. This includes readings, cuttings, scenes and excerpts, whether admission fee is charged or not.

The royalty for amateur productions of "Scrooge with a Twist" is payable two weeks prior to your production. Insert in your programs:

*"Performed with special permission from ArtAge Publications'
Senior Theatre Resource Center at www.seniorthatre.com, 800-858-4998."*

Contact ArtAge Publications for information about royalty for professional productions, permission to videotape, or additional questions. Royalty fees are subject to change.

Copyright 2009 Martha McMillen

Scrooge With A Twist **By**

Martha McMillen

The tale of a really nice guy, who auditioned for the part of a scoundrel.

The Characters

Narrator: male or female

Scrooge: Male

Widow Cratchitt/Spirit of Christmas Past: Female

Agatha (and Actor #1 or TBA) Female

Victoria (and Actor #2. or TBA) Female

Fredericka, the niece of Scrooge: Female

Mrs. Fezziwig: Female

Greek Chorus: Voices 1 through 9 or TBA: Males and/or females

Christmas Present: Male or female

Christmas Future: Male or female

Sound Person: Works backstage

Greek Chorus parts are distributed or numbered at director's discretion. They may sing, speak sing, or just speak the lines if singing is not comfortable, as the director sees fit. Parts may be doubled.

Pre show: Setting the Mood

Some carolers (in London dress) greet the audience in the anteroom.

They sing and pass out candy canes and programs prior to show time.

Optional upbeat carols might include:

- Deck the Hall
- Angels We Have Heard
- Jingle Bells
- Oh, Christmas Tree

Repeat the first carol to enter the stage area:

This is the cue for the singers to walk into the set. Narrator, singers and any other Greeks, enter past the audience, and go to their stage positions where there is a high stool and a podium for Narrator and chairs for the Greek chorus at SR or SL. Some Greek chorus members, who are carolers from the hallway, will want

to go backstage to change from London dress to Greek costume, in their sheet and head wreath.

The Seven Scenes of Scrooge:

The seven short scenes of the show should be done as continuously as possible without taking actual breaks and blending them together.

Scene I

A street in London. Several lampposts are lit and it is early evening.

Narrator: Greetings of the Season!

Welcome, welcome to the _____ (name of group) presentation of "Scrooge With a Twist." (*sits on high stool DC*)

Once upon a time, or should I say, "and this is how it all began,"

Charles Dickens wrote the story of Scrooge. A story of redemption, of family love, of...adaptation and change, well, everyone knows the story of Ebenezer Scrooge.

Right? At least I think you do, yes? Right?

Audience and Greeks: Yes! Sure do! Read it before, etc.

Narrator: Well, good. I'm glad that's settled because I'd hate to bring up this whole thing for the very first time in your life, and then have to do it all by myself!..(*shakes head and sighs*) So would you mind if I ask you to give me a hand now and then?

Audience and Greeks: (*respond by clapping, led by agreeable Greek chorus*) Ok.

Thank you, thank you so much. Now, as I was saying, (*sees actor #1. entering*) Oh, no!, (*looks up, flustered*) it's starting! I don't think I was quite ready. Here comes, Actor #1! You see, we couldn't think of a good name for her, so...maybe a number will have to do, ...unless of course, you can think of a name for us. What do you think?

Greek Chorus and Audience: Well, maybe, ...I like ... How about...? (*offer names*)

Narrator: What? That's good. Well, aha...so what shall we call her?

Hmmm...(stalls for time for audience to come up with more. Greek chorus make suggestions until Narrator hears one from the audience to use.) What's that you want to call her, George? I don't think so. Hortense? Oh, _____, _____ I really like that. From now on, (*looks at her*) you're _____.

Actor #1: (*Bows to audience*) Thank you ever so. (*ala Marilyn Monroe*) May I begin?
(*sits down on bench SR- Opens a large book*)

Narrator: Well, since you auditioned for the part, I suggest you start now.

Actor #1: (*slowly and with great dramatic enunciation*) Marley was dead to begin with. There was no doubt whatever about that, and...

Narrator: Yes, yes, yes, (*gets up and goes over to Actor #1.*) Can't we just skip that part? Everybody knows that Marley was dead.

Actor #1: Well, I was just reading the script and it says that....

Narrator: I know what it says, I have a copy right here, but it's so depressing. Couldn't we have a different beginning just for once? (*gets up and asks audience*) Don't you think so? (*Yes!*) How about it? How should we start this?

Audience response, Greek chorus if necessary, Greeks: "Yes! Ok ...etc.)

Greek #5: Yes, just skip the Marley was dead part and get on with it!

Actor #1: (*Miffed, huffs, and leaves the stage. Narrator watches him/her go.*)

Narrator: Oh, well, never mind, at least we still have that traditionally famous part of theater, the Greek Chorus, who will...hopefully remain to help us tell the story.

Greek Chorus: (*All stand, take a step forward and bow during the piano introduction*)

Music Cue: Piano Introduction

Greek chorus:

God rest ye merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
This miser that we sing about
Can't spoil your Christmas day!
We'll sing of joy and peace, good will,
So listen what we say,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh glad tidings to all this Christmas day.

(piano transition to We Three Kings)

All: Sing a song of gladness and cheer,
Never mind miserly Scrooge,

Greek # 9: Yes, he's here.

Greek # 4: We'll control him,

Greek # 6: We'll console him,

All: As his demise grows near.
Oh, - What a pity,
What a sight,
On this blessed Christmas night.
Sitting there by candle light,

Greek #1: in his miserable!,

Greek #2: miserable plight!

Piano Transition to "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Greek # 9: I doubt you can appreciate, appreciate at all,

Greek #8: If you have never been that mean, and never had a fall,

Greek #7: If you have never had a fall,

Greek # 6: a fall,

Greek # 5: a fall,

Greek # 4: at all!

All: Marley warned him that he would take a fall,

Greek #1: No pity at all!

All: There are things that old Scrooge must now recall!
(Verse 2. Piano continues from the beginning during the following dialogue. Speak in rhythm.)

Narrator: He says he lives in a world of fools, who babble all about,
Says Christmas Eve's a humbug!

Greek #1: Miserly unlovable lout!

Narrator: He finds himself just older, and not richer by a measure,
He's forgotten that love's a special treasure,
Yes, forgotten that love's a special treasure!

Music Cue

*Piano repeat from beginning again, play during following lines.
Each person steps out to deliver line then moves back into position.*

Greek #4: If you have never been down!

Greek #5: Oh, then you wouldn't know!

Greek # 6: How awful that his life will be!

Greek # 3: Especially, down below!

Greek # 8: To carry all the chains he forged will be his misery,

All:

They're heavy, so heavy, you'll see!
(all drag their bodies down stage)
You must agree,
That they're heavy,
oh, this is Marley's decree!

Narrator: *(clapping politely)* Well done! Well done!

Greeks: Thank you thank you! *(bowing while they move back)* And now with that gloomy foreshadowing opening, we can, without any sense of guilt, move on, but with the depressing thought that soon we shall have to bring out that ornery, scallywag. I think we can't delay it any longer...ah, ah, let's see...what was his name again...you know, the mean guy in this play? *(madly looking through his script seeking help from audience)*

Audience and Greeks: Scrooge! Yes, I think it's Scrooge, maybe Scrooge? etc.

Narrator: Oh, yes, yes, Scrooge. Well, we already know that Marley was Scrooge's "SOLE executor, SOLE administrator, SOLE legatee, SOLE friend,...etc. etc. and so forth," *(accent as the King in King and I)*

Greek #5: No, that's a different show!

Narrator: Oh, ...yes, and that he finally he lost his own soul...lost his soul! You know soul, not sole,...*(laughs at own joke)*...oh, ahem, well, he was almost moved down into a very bad place! Lost his soul! *(looks down and rolls eyes- cracks up laughing- pretends to fall forward laughing so hard.)*

Actor #1: Ok. Ok. *(comes forward to the Narrator)* If you fall backwards, you'll get a bigger laugh. Can't we just let the audience laugh at the jokes? *(shakes head, looks to audience)*

So much for page one. *(throws it away- gets up and leaves still shaking head)*

Narrator: Whew! *(still chuckling)* moving on. Here's actor Number 2. We'll call him/her Number 2. Ok?...No?Not number two? What then? Well, then, who's got a proper name we can use? *(Suggestions from audience/Greeks if necessary)* Oh, _____. Ok. _____ I like it!

(Enter character Number 2.)

Narrator: Enter _____! *(name chosen by audience)*

Actor #2: *(enters SL-stands with book- Bows)* Thank you, thank you. As my colleague has already stated, Scrooge, that old scoundrel, almost lost his own soul, and had it not been for the gracious concern of the three spirits of the past, present, and future, I'm certain that it would have been all over for Ebenezer Scrooge. To continue... *(Narration begins during song)*

Piano cue:

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

(Greek Chorus sings: We Wish You A Merry Christmas: sotto voce)

We wish you a Merry Christmas,

We wish you a Merry Christmas,

We wish you a Merry Christmas,

And a Happy New Year!

Actor #2: Yes, once upon a time, of all the good days in the year, and even on Christmas Eve, old Scrooge sat busy in his counting house, working. It was cold, bleak, biting, weather, *(looks at audience and steps forward)* No, I mean really cold, bleak,

Greek #9: How cold was it?

Actor #2: It was so cold that...

Narrator: Now cut that out! *(clears throat: looks at Greeks and singing stops)*
The city clocks had just gone three

Sound Person: *(from backstage says)* bong,...bong

Narrator: *(waits a beat)* bong, bong? Now what is that? I said, the city clocks had just gone THREE! *(looks back toward sound person backstage)*
Now might be a good time to introduce our sound person _____, who obviously needs a little help. Shall we? The city clocks had just gone THREE!
(Motions to audience)

Greeks and audience: Bong, bong, bong

Sound person from backstage: Soooooorry!

Narrator: Well, that certainly helps! Thank you, _____. We aren't going to tell anyone about this little problem he/she has with doing sound because what happens in _____ (city name) stays in _____. Ah, Yes,... it was a dark day already. Suddenly, into the already cold and gloomy office of Scrooge came...Fred, no,*(checks script)*sorry, thethe....niece, Fredericka. Well, yes, why not Fredericka?

Actor #2: Now here's the part where Scrooge insists that he thinks Christmas is a humbug!

Actor #1: A Humbug? Nobody says that anymore! A Humbug?

Actor #2: Yes! A Humbug!

Narrator: Is there an echo in here?

Music Cue: (piano gives pitches)

Greek Chorus: Sings: harmony: (c7 chord- 4 notes) c-Humbug!, e-Humbug!, g-Humbug, b flat-Humbug! *(They hold on until Narrator gives them the "cut" sign.)*

Narrator: *(directing Greek chorus: then cuts them off sharply with hand to throat cut motion)* Ok. cut! *(Stage Crew begins to change the set for Scene 2.)* Now they know that Scrooge hates spending money on the poor, on the orphans, on his poor assistant, the Widow Cratchitt, or on anything, even on himself. He was bad!

Greek Chorus #3: How bad was he?

Greek Chorus: Very Bad!!! Boo! Hiss! Boo! (*motions to bring in audience*)

Narrator: (*to Greek chorus who are hissing and booing*) Ok. Enough already! (*to audience*) Scrooge especially ignores the crime and the poverty, he hates orphans, little kids...and oh, ...and he hates big kids too! (*Singing music "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" cue begins here while crew changes set*)

End Scene I.

Scene 2.

The Office of Scrooge
(Crew brings on Scrooge's desk, chair and
Widow Cratchitt's desk, chair, etc. during song.)

Music:

Oh, Come All Ye Faithful
Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him,
(*Enter Scrooge.....on cue bowing overbearingly to audience*)

Narrator: Not you, you lout!

Music Cue: segue into

Scrooge: A, I'm adorable,

Narrator: B, You're a beastly guy!

Scrooge: C, just a cheapskate full of charm, D, for duplicity, despicable, I say it's me!
E, for exasperating harm! (*laughs*)

Narrator: Good, but we'll have to cut that adorable part! F, is for fickle fate,

Scrooge: G, is for Scrooge I'm Grrrreat! (*ala the Tiger*). H, to the rest of you, tiz' true! I, I am the virtual victim of a musical

Narrator: And you're demise is overdue!

Scrooge: Untrue! M, N, O, P, I could go on all day!

Narrator: There's a limit! (*looks at watch*)

Scrooge: Q, R, S, T, Alphabetically speaking, U, you intrude it's true! (*trying to get angry*)

Narrator: V, means you've lost a screw!

Scrooge: W, X, Y, Z! It's vanity and misery, You are accusing me?

Narrator: Glad that this song is almost through!

Scrooge: Me too! (*out of rhythmic pattern*) I'm really a good guy and you're all ganging up on me. (*Takes out handkerchief and sniffs, wipes eyes*)

Narrator: Now cut that out! It's entirely out of character! Something's wrong here! You're not supposed to be a good guy! Will you get with it!? There's no whining in Scrooge!

Scrooge: (*puts away hanky, tries to pull himself together*)

Narrator: There he is, our supposed...(rolls eyes) miserly old cross patch! He has been heard to say that every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart!

Scrooge: Ouch! That sounds really awful! I said that? (*checks his script*) Oh, yes, yes I did say that, it says right here...never mind. It seems that I also added, "Bah Humbug" a few times. It's a much better line than "aw rats, ...I hate Christmas!"

Greek Chorus: (*encouraging audience*) Boo! Hiss! Boo!

Scrooge: I say there, (*taps his cane weakly at chorus*) must you be so harsh! If I don't want to keep Christmas, (*petulantly*) I don't have to! (*timidly, looks at Narrator*) Do I?

Narrator: Certainly not, and you don't have to be in this play at all, but let me tell you that you're going to have to get a lot more diabolical, despicable, dramatic, and downright humbugable to play this part or you're out! Now get with it! (*Scrooge sniffs, wilts, and sits down at his desk- offended*)

Narrator: So, in this next scene, Scrooge and his niece, Fredericka, begin to argue about keeping Christmas. Enter Fredericka, *(gestures to her)*

Fredericka: At least I have a name in this show. *(shakes head, tsk tsk then bows to audience and goes over to Scrooge)* And a Merry Christmas Uncle, and to you Widow Crachitt. God save you!

Widow Crachitt: Thank you, ma'am.

Scrooge: Yes, ... ah...save me from Christmas! *(Trying to be stern)(then, ...mimicking Fredericka)* Merry Christmas Uncle" ... Bah Humbug! Why don't you leave me alone to keep Christmas in my own way?!

Fredericka: But uncle, you don't keep it! There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, Christmas among the rest.
I have always thought of Christmas as a good time, a kind forgiving charitable...

Scrooge: Blah, blah, blah, and another Bah Humbug! *(Shows audience the page)*
Yes, it says that right here,...*(turns and walks away from Fredericka)(turns toward Fredericka)*
You're quite a powerful speaker Fredericka. You sound like a confident idiot! It's a wonder you didn't become a politician. Oh, that's redundant isn't it?

Greek #2: See, we told you so! He's bad! Go ahead, you're doing better.

Fredericka: Come now Uncle, don't be a grump. Come and dine with the family tomorrow and join in the merriment.

Scrooge: Merriment? Bah Humbug! Why must you bother me during my hours of business?

Fredericka: Hours of business? On Christmas Eve? That's not a time for business! It's a sad case for your own soul, *(turns)* and a drudgery for you dear Widow Crachitt! The children must be missing you terribly, and I say you should be allowed to celebrate Christmas Eve with your family!

Widow Crachitt: *(claps hands)*

Scrooge: *(stands, speaks to the widow)* Madam, do you hate your job? Want to leave now? Join the unemployed? Well, fine. Why didn't you tell me? There's a support group for that, and they meet on street corners! Oh, that was a good one! *(laughs) (pulls self together, shakes fist at her)* Another sound out of you and you'll

celebrate Christmas amongst them. Since your unreliable husband Bob had the bad taste to pass away and leave me with all this work, I'm bound to hold you to his duties. I just keep you on here out of common courtesy you know. I'm not running a charity! Bah...Bah... ah...er...(looks to audience)

Narrator : (leads audience in "Humbug!") Quite an improvement! Thank you!

Fredericka: Well, all the same, we'll expect you, and welcome you to dinner tomorrow.

We want nothing of you but your company, and we ask nothing of you but your friendship. Let that be enough for now, and a Merry Christmas Uncle!

Scrooge: Bah! Humbug!

Fredericka: Oh, and a Happy New Year to you both! (starts off)

Scrooge: More nonsense! Bah Humbug again! Goodbye! Just leave me to my work! Utter distraction she is...

Fredericka: Goodbye Uncle, and don't forget, tomorrow for dinner! And a Merry Christmas to all! (starts to leave again, but comes back and waits)

Narrator: Ok. Ok. That was pretty good, but we need to clarify things here. Let's see, we have the bad person, (Scrooge comes takes a bow) We have a good person, (Fredericka takes a bow and leaves) And we have, aha, we need to introduce the poor person... the everyman... the sacrificial figure...

Greek #3: We get it! We get it! (placating)

Widow Crachitt: (Comes down center, takes a bow, and goes back to seat scratching with quill pen, writing on paper.)

Narrator: Yes, it's Widow Crachitt one of the victims of the piece. Widow Crachitt, who works from dawn to dusk here in this cold dark office without a word of kindness or an extra scrap of coal on the hearth to warm her poor frozen fingers. Her hands are so cramped from the cold that she can barely write and...her children wait home alone for the meager Christmas celebration their mother will bring to their cold and stark little home and...

Scrooge: No, I can't take it...(takes out hanky and weeps) It's not my fault...I

Greek Chorus: AWWW! Come on! Buck up! It's not so bad. (sniffling and weeping sounds)

Greek #4: This is too sad. Mr. Scrooge, pull yourself together. You're supposed to be cruel, and mean and...well, you're just not. Let's just move on with the story! *(sniffles)*

Widow Crachitt: *(Widow Crachitt approaches Scrooge)* All I'm askin' sir is just one evenin' that I may leave early and...

Scrooge: *(to Widow Crachitt)* Bah Humbug! Then you'll want all day off tomorrow too I suppose! *(to audience...)* Yes, I'm supposed to be very very bad! Nasty even. *(amazed looks at audience)* OOO! I think I'm getting into it!

Widow Crachitt: Is it convenient sir? May I have the day...?

Scrooge: No, it's not convenient. *(gets up)* No! Not at all! I should pay you for picking my pocket every twenty-fifth of December? No! it's not convenient and it's not fair...

(to Narrator) Is there another "Bah Humbug" here?"

Narrator: No, not yet! That's on page...

Widow Crachitt: *(interrupting)* But sir, it is only once a year sir... and...the children, Tiny Tim and...and... and...is something...? *(obviously waiting for Scrooge to find the page)*

Greek #4: He's lost it again!

Scrooge: *(finds his page)* Ah, here we are, ah...Bah Humbug! *(very growly)* If you must have the whole day, then be here all the earlier the next morning! Aha! I'm getting it now!

Greek #5: Well, he is making an effort!

Narrator: At this point, you may have surmised that in casting this production we had a great deal of trouble finding someone truly bad enough to play the part of Scrooge.

Greek #7: Oh, hes a bad n' all right, but auditions may be held again next week! *(shakes head at the hopeless Scrooge we have here)*

Narrator: *(to Greek Chorus)* Ok. Ok. Enough of that! *(to audience)* But this is what we came up with and we're hoping that his tremendous acting skills will make up for what badness he truly lacks in character. Should we go on?

Greeks and Audience: (!) Oh Yes! Let's try it...etc.

Sound Cue: (a real doorbell rings or one could use chimes, if available)

Narrator: Now what's that? A doorbell? There were no door bells (*chimes*) in the time of Scrooge!

Sound cue person: (from back stage) Sor---ry

Narrator: Sound cue please! (*Bell rings*)(*Ladies enter*)

Agatha: Mr. Scrooge! How lovely to see you, and Merry Christmas to you, and to you Widow Crachitt!

Scrooge: Bah Humbug! (*bored, tired- somewhat hesitantly*)

Narrator: (*to Scrooge*) A somewhat less than convincing performance if I do say so myself. You can do better than that! You're supposed to be ...Oh, well.

Scrooge: I know, I know...(vehemently) Bah, ...and another Humbug!

Narrator: Well done!

Victoria: My dear Mr. Scrooge, we have come to collect for the orphans and poor box annual fund. Can you find it in your heart to give us a donation...however small... or large... it may be... to...

Greek #6: (*to audience*) Oh, Oh, she's asking for trouble!

Music Cue: Angels We Have Heard On High

Agatha and Victoria: Come and sing a song of joy, Add a miracle or three,

Scrooge: Swindlers, looking for a foil! After what belongs to me!

Trio: All three sing together

Scrooge sings: No ooo..., go away
Scavengers corrupting see!
No, No, I say
After what belongs to me!

Agatha and Victoria sings:

Glo...ria

Love thy brother man, we say

Glo...ria

Celebrate this glorious day!

Scrooge: Donation?! You want a donation? Forget it! You must be daft!

Agatha: (*sympathetic*) Yes, my dear man, at this season of the year, it is desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute, who are in need.

Music Cue (continued): “Angels We Have Heard On High”- Verse 2. (This may need a short intro to get back into it. Agatha and Victoria cross to Widow Cratchitt during intro and bring her DC with them.)

Victoria and Agatha: (*sung*) See this mother’s love so true!

Scrooge: (*spoken*) They just want my cash, what’s new?!

Victoria and Agatha: (*sung*) She’s so lonely help we plead! Tiny Tim needs you indeed! (*all Greeks turn to look at Scrooge*)

Music Cue: Repeat song as in first trio from chorus “Gloria”

Scrooge: I say! You don’t need to tell me all that... it just makes me too...(*sniffs*) too sad..and

Victoria: (*as an aside*) There, there now. Buck up Mr. Scrooge! You can do this! (*she goes back into character*) A few of us are endeavoring to furnish Christian cheer of mind and body to the multitude and we...

Scrooge: (*back into gruff character*) Well, (*harumph!*) ...are there no food stamps, no subsidized housing? No psychologists to council these people? (*Sniffs*) eeeooo! (*slips out again*) I just hate to hear about...

Agatha: Well, of course Mr. Scrooge, if you can’t help us out, just say so and we’ll be on our way!

Scrooge: Well, I didn’t say that... did I? (*looks at Narrator*) (*Narrator wags finger at Scrooge*) (*Scrooge pulls himself together and gets back into “mean” character*)...

Oh, and I just wish to be left alone. I don’t make merry at Christmas and I can’t afford to...to make other people merry either...yes, ...(obviously reading/recalling

script)

**Music Cue: Piano only: Money Makes the World Go Around",
minor key...**

Music Cue: Scrooge sings: *(or not)* Money makes the world go around, the world go around the world go around. Money makes the world go around...*(music fades as dressers enter with his dressing gown and others bring on the set during this music)*

End Scene 2.

Scene 3.

The Bedroom of Scrooge

(Crew sets up Scrooges' room during playing/singing of "Money Makes the World Go Round". Scrooge puts on dressing gown which two dressers bring out in front of audience and "dress" him. Crew put bankers book on night table with quill pen, and bag of coins.

Scrooge: Yes, I just wish to be left alone...I'll just go and get ready for bed and...*(to dressers,)* Oh, Thank you, thank you.

Narrator: *(during the scene change)* So Scrooge took his melancholy dinner to his melancholy room and spent the rest of the evening looking over his banker's books, which meant everything to him, and for a time, he was even content to see the figures adding up to a tidy sum of money.

Music Cue: (continued)

Scrooge:

Money makes the world go around
The world go around
The world go around,
Money makes the world go around
It makes the world go round,
Money, money, money money,
Money, money , money, money
Money, money, money, money, etc.

Sound Cue: *(Loud Crash from backstage. Chains dropping into tub or bucket)*

Scrooge: What was that? Who's there? I say, this is distracting from my solo and heaven knows I don't get that many chances to sing ...a ...

Sound Cue: (Crash again only louder. Chains dropping on floor or into tub again.)

Scrooge: *(turns to backstage noise)* Come on now! Is this necessary? Is something wrong back there? *(to audience)* I thought we had this all worked out.

Greek #7: It's just your imagination! Never mind! Pay no attention to that man behind the screen!

Greek #8: Now wait a minute. Isn't that the wrong ...never mind!

Greek # 7: Oh, sorry.

Narrator: Now we all know that Scrooge's partner, Marley had made a visit and foretold, ...whoa! , don't you love that word? Ah....Foretold, that three ghosts were destined to visit Scrooge that very night. So Marley came in all his ghastly ghostliness and ...then...*(looks backstage in vain for Marley)* and he... ah... *(walks over and looks out SR for Marley)* Well, Marley is obviously having some difficulty getting out here, so we'll just pass over the part where Marley tells Scrooge that the chains he forged in life are now being prepared for Scrooge himself, and if he doesn't change his ways...well... you know what happens next.

Sound Cue: Bell begins to toll- slowly, then faster and louder.

Scrooge: Now cut that out! Marley is that you? You're ruining my lines!

Greek Chorus #3: Obviously an improvement.

Narrator: *(to Scrooge)* I'll translate. Marley says that your spirit will never rest until you learn charity, forbearance, mercy, and s/he has come to warn you.

Scrooge:

Warn me? Warn me? Warn me of what? I'm just auditioning for...Oh yes *(falls to knees and sits on floor)* Oh, mercy! Mercy! ...*(overacting!)*

Narrator: *(claps a little, then, to audience)* Wasn't that great? Now, it's time for the three spirits to show up. Hopefully. *(looks around)*

Spirit of Christmas Past: *(enters carrying long "school" pointer stick)*

So, there you are Ebenezer. As usual, resting on your,...mmm, laurels.

Scrooge: Who? Who is it? Who's there? (*gets up*) (*turns and looks at her*) Good grief! It's my old school principal Madam Defarge!

Spirit of Christmas Past: (*placating him*) No, no, no, no, no, no. I'm supposed to be the spirit of Christmas past.

Scrooge: But you look like Madam Defarge. You sound like Madam Defarge, and you...

Spirit of Christmas Past: Quiet! As usual, Ebenezer, you are there, counting all your pennies when you should be making a merry Christmas for your family and friends. I suppose you haven't done your homework again either! If I told you once I told you a thousand times... (*smacks pointer on furniture*) oh, well, Now just get out that paper and pen and start writing one hundred times. I have been a bad boy. I didn't buy gifts for my family. I didn't give to the poor. I shunned my friends, I...

Scrooge: Hold it! (*Sniffs*) That sounds really really awful. Besides, I don't have any friends, (*to audience*) I knew that this was going to be a hard part to play, but they didn't tell me I wouldn't have friends and would have to be so mean and ...

Spirit of Christmas Past: Take heed Ebenezer! I'm talking about your reclamation here! Look yonder...

Scrooge: (*to audience: hand to forehead as if looking in the distance*) Yonder? Yonder? Which way is yonder? Does anybody actually say that anymore?

Spirit of Christmas Past: Over there you lout! At the party! (*points out to audience*) Don't you remember when you had friends, family and once enjoyed them? (*points to UC*) See the shadows of what has been!

End Scene 3.

Scene 4.

The Party Scene:

Music Cue: Deck the Hall (softly)

(All cast enter: Mrs. Fezziwig, Actors 1 and 2, etc. and Greek Chorus joins them at the party, chatting, "talking," and moving about.

Creating a party atmosphere, greeting each other, "talking", etc.)

Stage Crew Enters: *(Changes set, removing all the furniture greeting, and become part of the "party" for a minute before leaving. Piano music continues.)*

Scrooge: What is it? Who's there? What's happening? Why, it's Fezziwig, my old employer... I was his apprentice and...and,... it's Mrs. Fezziwig... like a mother to me she was...Why, it's our annual Christmas party! *(goes forward and tries to join them-shakes hands in greeting but they pass right by him/through him)* Ho! there! It's me, Ebenezer... I say... there... It's Ebenezer back again...

Past: They can't see you Ebenezer.

Mrs. Fezziwig: Come now! The cake is served, the punch is poured, and we are all here together again! Another happy year has gone by and we are ready to celebrate, so raise your glasses and a Merry Christmas to us all! *(Raises her glass)*

Music Cue: (volume up) Deck the Hall

Mrs. Fezziwig: Come my friends with joy and laughter

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Mrs. Fezziwig: Good times follow ever after,

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Mrs. Fezziwig: Christmas joy, we toast it now,

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Mrs. Fezziwig: We shall give, our solemn vow

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Music Cue: Verse 2

(Perhaps a change of key to move up a step will provide variety. All stop dance: then bow during transition if there is a key change.)

Mrs. Fezziwig: Fast away the old year passes

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Mrs. Fezziwig: Let us raise our wassail glasses.

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Mrs. Fezziwig: What we wish to all this year,

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Mrs. Fezziwig: Hearts just full of Christmas Cheer

Greek chorus and audience: Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Music Cue: Piano: Auld Lange Syne

Greek chorus and audience:

Should auld acquaintance be forgot

And never brought to mind

Should auld acquaintance be forgot

In days of auld lange syne

For auld lange syne my dear

For auld lange syne,

We'll take a cup of kindness yet

For auld lange syne.

(End of song: fade music and voices get softer.

Party characters freeze in place.)

Scrooge: How well I remember...*(Scrooge wanders among them)* Remember what?

(Greek Chorus et al: remain frozen during dialogue)

Scrooge: Why that they were the best friends I ever had!

Past: Best you ever had?!! Nonsense! You have hardly shown it in this play! You

have discarded them like old, well, old ghosts you barely and rarely remember... You have conveniently forgotten all they did for you when you were getting your start in life.

When you needed a job, they were there for you, they gave you their love, support, and friendship. These are your kith and kin, to be valued in a way that has nothing to do with money. And the script says that you have treated them with scorn and ignored even the memory of those happy days. And how have you repaid them?

Scrooge: Stop! I know, I know it...but I had forgotten how happy they made me, and then life happened, and money became my best friend, and I had forgotten the past. I thought I was happy without them.

Past: Yes, it's easy to forget the past. How well I know you had forgotten about me!

But the past held much good, as well as pain for you. When your love left you, as your desire for money exceeded even your desire for her, she said, I am not enough for you, and I release you, not as the man you once were, but the man you wished to be, without love, without feeling, without mercy!" And you had changed. You were a man without a...a

Greek #6: OOO! OOO! (*raising hand*) I know... a man without a country!

Narrator: No, no... (*disgusted*) ...a man without a conscience! A conscience is what connects us to behaving with love and concern like...well, not like Scrooge! He dismissed his love, his family, his friends, as unprofitable dreams!

Narrator: (*agreeing*) Pithy! Pithy! ...but let's get on with it. ("*frozen chorus*" moves back slowly into places ignoring Scrooge)

Scrooge: Oh, I don't think I'm ready for a conscience yet. I have never seen myself in this way before! Yes, I think I remember. Perhaps, perhaps they were good old days.

(*Raises his imaginary glass*) Yes, a Merry Christmas to... (*looks sadly as they finally disappear*) (*to the party goers: starts to follow them out*) Wait! Don't go! It's me, Remember me, it's Ebenezer...Don't...Oh, please, remember me... It's Ebenezer, don't ...don't go! (*all leave*)

End scene 4.

Scene 5.

Back to the Bedroom

(Stage Crew brings on bedroom set)

And so they must, but they will remember you!

My time grows short Ebenezer.

You see, it's all about friends, the years you spent together,
the joys and triumphs you shared and the disappointments you endured.

The loves you lost, and the opportunities you missed.

Regretfully, yours will be with you always until you change your ways.

Scrooge: Change? Me? It's way too late for that. Besides, I'm not sure I even want to change! I hate people and they hate me!

Narrator: What? People are your business. Friends are your treasure. All your nobler dreams have died off, and only your desire for gain remains.

Greek Chorus: OOOOOOOOO! Shame! Shame! (*off the cuff remarks, miser, skinflint, cheapskate, etc.*)

Scrooge: Is it true? No, no, I can't be that person. This is only... yes, it's only a bad dream,...This isn't real...It's just an audition...

Past: But you are real, Scrooge, Scrooge, the miser, and you will remain so unless...

Scrooge: Unless what... tell me spirit...tell me ...Unless you realize that this is not a dream. This is who you really are in this show, and though you have pain in all of it, you may awaken and dismiss it only as a dream. That will be your mistake Ebenezer!

This is no dream. It is what is is... your past...And now... my time with you ... is over...

(*backs up to exit*) and don't forget to write 100 times... I have been a bad...actor, I didn't give to the poor, ... I didn't ... (*voice continues and fades as she leaves up center*)

Scrooge: No! No! This is too scary! (*Crawls under bedclothes*) I never bargained for this.

Come back and tell me this is not really true! I'm not into spirits... of any kind!

Narrator: Listen, when you audition for a part, you have to expect some drama! Honestly, did you think this story didn't have a moral?

Scrooge: *(our of character)* Well no, I just came to audition...ah ...ok. *(back into Scrooge)*

Ah...Pity! Pity me! Please, no more!! *(under the bedclothes : moans and groans, whines, and whimpers in self pity)*

Narrator: Wow! He is getting better isn't he? What do you think?

Greeks and Audience: Well, he's ok. , Could be better, This guy stinks!, Give him a chance!

Narrator: Ok. Ok! So now here's the part where the spirit of...

Sound Cue: Bell rings four times

Narrator: Yes, right on cue. Thank you _____. As I was saying, here's the part where the spirit of Christmas Present enters the story.

Scrooge: *(pokes his head out from under the covers)* What?! Well, I guess there's nothing to be afraid of, really, it could still have been a dream, or a bit of spoiled beef, or a touch of mustard that didn't agree with me, or...

Spirit of Christmas Present: *(Spirit is dressed in a box, wrapped as a "present.")*
Scrooge! Ebenezer Scr..oo....ge! *(Jovial- from backstage)*

Scrooge: There see! That doesn't sound so scary does it? Who is it? *(coily, still under the covers with head out)*

Present: *(enters)* Here Scrooge. It's Christmas Present. *(Mimicking)* I've been waiting for you for a very long time.

Scrooge: Who me? *(innocently)*

Present: Of course you! Don't you recognize me? *(comes out onto stage.)* Maybe not. You have passed me right by again this year, and I don't take too kindly to that.

Ignoring me, humbugging at me, rejecting me? It's not going to work. *(Laughing and jovial)*

Scrooge: *(from under covers, not looking at spirit)* Hello? *(placating)* To what do I owe the honor of this visit, if indeed this is a visit and not some part of a nightmare! Did we have an appointment? Now you're scaring me!

Present: You are a silly creature! A creature, who just can't face the truth.
A selfish, unfeeling,...miserly, ...

Scrooge: (*gets up from bed in indignation and out of character*) I thought we did that part already! You mean there's more? (*Back into Scrooge*) Unfeeling? Miserly? Sir, I assure you that I am a man of the highest principles and with a hugely generous spirit.

(*turns and sees the box spirit*) A huge spirit! ??? Yes, a huge spirit, right there, why...

(*makes shape of box with hands*) while you...you are only a...a box?

Present: A box? Look upon me. I am the present. That is, the spirit of Christmas Present,
a metaphor, a symbol for gift giving and love...You have never thought of the likes of me before! But let's get back to you my dear Scrooge!

Scrooge:

Present : You, Sir,...You think yourself generous? Principled? You must be thinking of someone else! The creature I see before me has never done one humane thing to help his fellow men, given one cent to help the destitute, shown any crumb of kindness to his family, to the poor, nor to Widow Cratchitt. You sir, are a villain and a scoundrel of the highest order. That's your only claim to fame! But see, I, Christmas present brought you ...a gift...

Scrooge: (*hops around*) Oh, goody! A gift... a gift for me? (*rubs hands together*)

Present: No, you miserly lout! Not that kind of a gift. A much more important gift...the gift of life, the gift of happiness, the gift of knowing how to truly live and love life!

Scrooge: Life? But I hate life!... And life hates me!

Present: (*laughing*) What? What utter nonsense!

Scrooge: (*whining*) But life does hate me! Always has!..Bah..Hum...ah...(gives up)
Never mind.

Present: (*laughing*) If you think that life hates you, it's because you've never learned to live it! You are truly the fool my brothers past and future said you were. You've had more than sixty Christmases in which to learn to live, and have not done one thing to provide laughter, love, nor happiness for anyone around you, and most obviously, for yourself!

Narrator: (Applauds Present) You go girl! (dude) Ok. Scrooge, let's get into it here! You can really be bad! This is the part of the audition I just love!

Narrator continues
And now, (dissonant piano chords) ...
getting into character,
(same piano chords again)
presenting our really really bad guy!
(bows to Scrooge)

Music Cue: Good King Wenceslas (AKA Life's So Bad!)

Scrooge (verse 1.):

I hate life and life hates me!
Yuletide! Hate the season!
I hate life, life's misery,
You don't need my reason.
I hate people large and small
Children in partic-u-lar
Fate's the fickle master here,
Cheats you out both near and far!

Scrooge (verse 2.):

Once I had a family too,
People used to greet me,
Love was lost, and fate is who
Set out to unseat me! *Speaks: (Unfair! I say, unfair!)*

Christmas Present: Not true!

Scrooge: I'm a man who's worth his salt, Worked to build my treasure, Don't blame me, it's all their fault, Cheat me in full measure!

End of Scene 5

Scene 6

Widow Cratchitt's Kitchen

(Set Change Begins Here: Bring on Widow Cratchitt's Kitchen with just a table and some chairs and some dishes and glasses, etc. Widow enters and listens.)

(Piano and dialogue continue through set change until "and there she is, etc.")

Christmas Present: Nonsense! I don't see how you can blame fate or other people for your own decisions! How ridiculous! *(Widow Cratchitt places items on table and stands beside table setting places for the imaginary children.)*

Narrator: And there she is, our own Widow Cratchitt, someone whose life could have been infinitely changed, whose children might have had their chance to be healthy and happy, had Scrooge only been the friend and support he might have been, and should have been!

Widow Cratchitt: Ah well, it's a poor offering I have for these children this Christmas Eve, but ...*(remembering)* How different it would have been had my poor Bob lived ...
Well, it's all in the past now and we must make the best of it...

Narrator: Now here's the part where the children all chimed in to restore the usual good spirits of the widow, and little Tiny Tim was heard to say that though they've had bad times before, the family has always come through together.

Greek #4: How true! I remember it well, but it doesn't fill their tummies!

Greek #5: Is this the part where the big goose arrives and we all get?...

Narrator: Well, no, not quite yet. First Scrooge is going to knock on the door.

Greek #3: What? No doorbells?

Narrator: Of course not, we've been through that bit already.

Greek #3: Ok. ken-ock, ken, ock

Narrator: *(stares at #3)* Ken-ock, ken-ock? That's terrible! The audience can do a far better job. *(to audience)* Let's bring Scrooge in, but remember this is all in Scrooge's dream. Widow Cratchitt can't see Scrooge nor anyone else. Well, except

us, of course. Now, for the knocking part, let's be really loud!!! Ready?

Narrator and Audience: ken-ock - ken-ock (*all knock, ask them to say it loudly, if not the first time "that was more like tappy tap!"*) then do it again.

Audience and Narrator: Ken-ock, Ken-ock!

Narrator: Thank you! That's more like it.

Widow Crachitt: What's that? Must be the wind, and roaring so loudly it makes my soul shiver! (*Scrooge enters with Christmas Present: She doesn't see them but continues to pantomime talking to the children, filling their plates, and begins her song.*)

Music Cue: Good King Wenceslas

Widow Crachitt: His litany of villainy Deceit, despair and pain, Poor dear Scrooge, I do think now He should just refrain. Life is good, what's past is done Move along my friend,

Scrooge: Friend?

Widow: You can make a brand new start, Before a tragic bitter end.

Scrooge: End? End? What end? Who's end? (*Piano intro again-keep playing until cue: "Where would they get a goose anyway?"*)

Narrator: There! See that's the ticket! Even she feels sorry for him! Can you believe it? (*Narrator nudges Scrooge over toward widow: Widow doesn't notice Scrooge looks at her as if for first time.*)

Music Cue: Piano: Key change up a step. Keep playing softly

Narrator: Now here's where the children all are seated around the table, and not having any children here today, you will just have to imagine their little mouths watering and their hungry tummies growling as they anticipate the Christmas goose.

Scrooge: Bah Humbug! A goose? Where would they get a goose anyway? (*Piano stops: All freeze: slowly staring in Scrooge's direction.*) He does a "who me?" then, piano continues)

Music Cue: Good King Wenceslas

Greek Chorus:

Chances are he'll come around.
Let's give him a reason,
Hearts are light and love abounds,
Tiz the Christmas season.

Scrooge: Oh, Bah....Hum..

Narrator: ah, ah, ah!!! Wait for the cue! (*shakes finger at Scrooge*)

Widow Crachitt: (*end of song- comes forward- raises glass*) To the founder of the feast! Mr. Scrooge!

Scrooge: (*"smiles and looks proud for the toast is to him"*)

Greek #9: Wait! Wait! Wait! What! What just happened here? Did I just see Scrooge smile?

Greek Chorus responds No way!

Greek#9: (*All Greeks stand and do a "high five," gracefully. Then sit.*)

Present: And so you see, my dear Scrooge, life can be beautiful! Life can be entirely a different thing for you, for Widow Crachitt, for her children, for Fredericka, and your family... but it's you who must change... you, who can make the difference, and now... (*bell rings*) ... my time is almost finished...

End Scene 6.

Scene 7

Another Bedroom Scene!

(Set Change: Crew brings on the bed. Scrooge sits down on it and looks disconsolately around him.)

(Sound effect: Bell begins to toll loudly: Widow Crachitt leaves stage during tolling of the bell but Greek Chorus stays on.)

Greek Chorus: Turns their back on audience (slowly, one at a time, and bow heads during tolling of the bell.)

Narrator: Ah, now we come to the difficult, sad, and sometimes scary part. Anyone feeling that they can't handle this scary portion of the program may certainly leave, and no questions asked. *(looks around)* No? Well then, let us proceed.

Greek #1: Wait a minute! How scary is it?

Greek #2: Now cut that out! This is the serious part. Aren't you listening?

Narrator: And indeed it is serious! For Scrooge was told by Christmas Future that Tiny Tim lies on his cot in the last hours of his life. The Widow Crachitt sits beside him in the cold darkness of the humble room with all the children weeping beside her and waiting...

Scrooge: Waiting? Waiting for what? What's wrong with him?

Narrator: Nothing is wrong with himthat YOU couldn't have helped!

Scrooge: Oh, ...Is he...Is he very sick?

Narrator: Yes, it's...it's almost over. Behold...the Future... *(cues to UL and goes to sit on stool UR)* *(Scrooge bows his head in shame as Christmas Future is heard.)*

Christmas Future: *(from backstage with sounds of chains slowly dropping)*
Scrooooooge! Scrooge! I have come for you now. *(Sound cue: Chains dropping)*

Scrooge: Me? No, that's not what happens. What do you mean it's almost over? The play? or Tiny Tim? Yes, I thought it was Tiny Tim who was ill and me, I'm just...

Future: *(wearing black cloak w/head covered-enters UL carrying gravestone with "Scrooge" written in large letters.)* Look hence! It is I, the spirit of Christmas yet to come.

Scrooge: Wait! Are you the shadow of things that will be, or are you to foretell the things that may be? Wow! I'm really mixed up! This is definitely the cold reading. If I could have seen the script...I wouldn't have tried this! Wait...!

Future: *(points to grave stone he places DC with Scrooge name on it)*

Scrooge: *(sees the stone and Screams)* That name! No! Oh, no! Not now, not yet! Not for me! I could still help the tiny boy! Won't you listen? Why I could get the best of doctors and change everything! How about it? I could arrange anything he needs if you just erase that headstone... take it away! well, ... Deal or no deal?

Future: No deal.

Scrooge: Wait! I beg you! Tell me spirit. Are you indeed here to show me the errors of my past ways so that I might redeem myself? Tell me now!

Future: We've been waiting for you Scrooge. *(ghostly voice)*

Sound Cue: chains dropping, bells rise to crescendo and then stillness *(Greek Chorus moves into semi circle around Scrooge moving arms up and down slowly during chains dropping and bells ringing.)*

Scrooge: Screaming...No! No!! Wait! *(goes DC)* What's happening here. Where are we? Auditions over already?

Future: No, get serious! We are here to say goodbye to you Mr. Scrooge and good riddance to bad... *(Greek Chorus: Each goes back to place down right after delivering the following lines.)*

Greek #1: Will you let the boy die!

Greek #2: Poor little Tiny Tim!

Greek #3: You let your friends down!

Greek #4: They needed your help!

Greek #5: You refused those in need!

Greek #6: And so they will do as you suggested and they will decrease the surplus population.

Greek #7: Forbear your wicked cant until you have discovered what surplus is!

Greek #8: It may be that you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like Tiny Tim, and those like him who needed you!

Future: Is this what you wanted to see old Scrooge? Then here is your future!

(points to gravestone) Sound Cue and Greek Chorus: Chains sounds: Piano discordant sounds:

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! *(all arms rise and fall with voices)*

Greek #9: If these shadows remain unaltered, none of my race will remember anything of the heartless cheapskate Ebenezer Scrooge!

Scrooge: No! This isn't me. I'm just an actor here. I'm even scaring myself!

Future: Well, then, act! Let's get with it! Some humans can be recycled, renewed, regenerated, reconditioned, or rejuvenated,...but you,...you...*(walks off stage shaking head)*

Narrator: Well, you can certainly see that Scrooge has been found out! And what is worse, there's a huge part we left out about what plans Christmas Future had for him.

In fact, his future was, well, lets just say that the climate down there was generally more than hot, but the plan was for Scrooge to end up to be the only man in hell, who was forced to work in the special freezing dark room, wrapped in the heavy chains he forged in life, and scratching away thousands of times with one scraggly quill pen for principal Defarge, "I have been a worthless human being, I let down my friends, I let the poor down, I didn't care for the Widow Cratchitt, I let Tiny Tim die, ...People forgot I ever lived, and...well, you get the picture.

Scrooge: People forgot me? Oh, no! Let them forget the man I was, not the man I will be! I let Tiny Tim Die! No!! ...Tell me it's not true! Oh, spirit hear me! Come back! I am not the man I was! I will not be the man I must have been! Am I past all hope? It's not out of my control to change. I can do it! In fact, when the show is over, you'll see that I'm really such a nice...

Future: *(to audience)* Do you believe this? I mean...really believe?

Narrator: *(to the audience)* I'll tell you what, if you believe that Scrooge can truly change, then clap your hands and Tiny Tim will live...

Greek #1: Clap if you believe? No, no, I think that's a different story too...

Narrator: So?... Works for me. Clap your hands, yes, clap if you believe he can change...

(leads audience) Yes! There you go!

Greeks and Audience: *(all Clap)*

Future: Good! Yes, that's true. He can change! See? That single fact can spoil a good argument. *(to Scrooge)* You can change. But show us. The time is now before you to make amends. *(starts to leave)*

Scrooge: Oh, spirit, *(tries to follow spirit out on knees)* I say this on my knees, I vow to keep Christmas, not only in my heart but in my life! I swear it! *(a little more knee crawling here, if possible.)*

Greek Chorus: Bah Humbug!

Scrooge: *(gets up and goes to them)* No, its not another humbug! Is this not the season of miracles? You will see a change in me. As of right now! If I have time, I'll begin again! *(looks around for spirit, who is almost off the stage)* Don't go! Sweet spirit! Wait!

Widow Crachitt (Spirit of the Future):*(turns back and comes to him)* Sweet? Sweet spirit? You knew me all the time? *(throws off the cloak and hood and is dressed in the Widow Crachitt costume)* How perceptive of you my dear Mr. Scrooge!

Scrooge: Ahem, ah, *(obviously taken by surprise)* Why yes,... of course. I knew all the time that it was you my dear! And you may call me Ebenezer ... if you wish...I'm a pretty sharp fellow when all is said and...

Narrator: Pretty sharp fellow? Now, don't go and spoil it, you were doing so well!

Widow/Future: Let's not be too hasty here. You knew me all the time? I would truly like to believe that sir! *(flirtatiously)*

Scrooge: Ah, yes, of course, you can take that to the bank! Oh, no...ah This truly must be the season of miracles. *(crosses over close to her)* As I gazed upon you there, an overpowering wish came upon me...yes. The wish to live and to begin

again, and well, maybe it was that charming headstone with my name upon it...how thoughtful of you my dear.

Narrator: And true to his word, Scrooge did begin again. He changed many things, in his life and the lives of many others. The Widow Cratchitt was more than a little glad to have a proper sized goose for the children, and more than a little attention from Scrooge. (*Scrooge bows to the widow, kisses her hand, brings her DC*)

Narrator: I refer to the new man now, the man who arranged a proper rise in salary for the widow to care for her children and for Tiny Tim, who did not die. It was truly a miracle. He gave to the poor, he

Scrooge: Yes, yes, (*breaks in and comes DC*) I did all that and more! Look at me! Am I not a changed man in your eyes? I'm merry as a drunken feather! I'm potted...as a ...petunia...? I'm...I'm... I'm an actor who has lost his place again!

Narrator: Ok. Ok. We know the ending. Don't we? He welcomed his family into his life, and his niece Fredericka, oh she was delighted! (*Fredericka comes out to join Scrooge*) and he took joy in his newly found friends (*past, present, Agatha, Victoria, etc. all come out*) and they became a part of the life of this now...recycled miser who...

Scrooge: Yes, I'm not going to live forever, But I will definitely not be using that headstone, for say, another fifty years or so...No regrets for what was or what could have been. I'm spending my life upon what will be! I'll eat dessert first, and count every day as a miracle! I have been wrong. Eeeuuuuu! That hurts!

Greek #9: Yes, more than you know!

Narrator: And so, Scrooge even gave up his famous...Bah Humbug! Am I right?

Scrooge: Right! And gladly! But did I get the part?...Was I...

Narrator: Well, audience, Greeks, what do you think? What's the verdict on this ham?

Greek Chorus and Audience: We say, keep him! And bless us everyone!

Greek #4: Yes, he'll do, but maybe we can recast him next time as Daddy Warbucks! Warbucks!! Money? (*laughs*) get it? Oh, well, is it over yet? (*checks watch*) I do have a dinner date you know!

Greek #5: No, we have to sing again!

Greek #4: Of course, I should have known.

Music Cue for Finale

(bows are taking place during the singing of these two carols at the discretion of the director. Otherwise, the actors may do a "Virginia Reel" type dance movement during the singing and go into the bows on cue.)

Music Cue: all sing

God Rest Yes Merry Gentlemen
Congratulate this gentleman,
Let him not be diswayed.
This story of his turnabout
Has too long been delayed.
We wait to see his promises are kept and change is made,
Oh, tidings of gladness and cheer,
Gladness and cheer,
Oh, tiding of gladness and cheer.

Music Cue: all sing

Here we Come A Caroling
Here we come with joyous hearts
Recycled miser he,
(Scrooge- That's me!)
And here we stand to welcome him,
All kith and kin agree.
Love and joy come to all,
And to all who do recall,
Second chance is here for all,
in this warm assembly hall
Second chance has been granted for us all.
CONTINUE THE BOWS DURING THE SINGING
(During bows, Widow Crachitt pulls out daisy and does the "He loves me, he loves me not" bit in pantomime. Audience carol singing may be added here.)

End scene 7 and End of Play