# **A KIDSMAS CAROL**

A Classic Musical

Book, music, and lyrics by

David Warrack

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### A KIDSMAS CAROL

### **CAST LIST**

(in order of appearance)

1. Scrooge Older, bitter, money hungry 2. Robert Cratchit Poor, loyal, caring (works for Scrooge) 3. Fred Scrooge's nephew Works for the Salvation Army 4. Lady 5. Marley Scrooge's dead partner 6. First Ghost Older man, walks with a cane 7. Fan Scrooge's little sister 8. Fezziwig Scrooge's mentor, pleasant to a fault 9. Mrs. Fezziwig Mr. Fezziwig's wife 10. Mrs. Pickwick A friend of Mrs. Fezziwig 11. Peter Mrs. Pickwick's son Scrooge's ex-wife 12. Belle 13. Second Ghost TV personality 14. Ghostettes Singers for the Second Ghost 15. Mrs. Cratchit Mr. Cratchit's wife 16. Tiny Tim Young boy, crippled, full of hope 17. Man Old man, poor 18. Woman Old woman, poor 19. Billy

Due to doubling in the roles, a cast of six is required.

20. Old Joe21. Toothless

# MUSICAL SCORE

- 1. Bah! Humbug!
- 2. The Ghosts are Gathering
- 3. Let's Take a Walk Through Your Past
- 4. Follow the Leader
- 5. The Fezziwig Waddle
- 6. Think of Me at Christmas
- 7. Please Welcome Ebenezer

#### A KIDSMAS CAROL

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Why? It's only three in the afternoon.

**CRATCHIT** 

Yes, Mr. Scrooge. But, as you may recall, it's Christmas Eve.

SCROOGE

Christmas, shmismas. What does that have to do with business?

The bell rings as Fred, a hearty soul, enters.

**FRED** 

A Merry Christmas, Uncle. God save you!

**SCROOGE** 

Bah! Humbug!

**FRED** 

Christmas a humbug, Uncle? Surely you don't mean that?

**SCROOGE** 

I do. Merry Christmas, what right do you have to be merry? You're poor enough.

**FRED** 

Come then. What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough.

SCROOGE

Bah! I live in a world of fools. People buying presents they can't afford so they can go into the New Year with even less money than they had before. Christmas should be cancelled. You hear me? Cancelled.

**FRED** 

Why? It's a sacred time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, and pleasant time. Look at the people out there on the street. They are full of joy. What's wrong with that? It doesn't all have to show in the bank book.

Cratchit applauds almost without knowing.

Thank you, Cratchit.
SCROOGE
( <i>To Cratchit</i> ) And, I'll thank you to not utter another sound, or you'll celebrate Christmas by losing your job.
FRED
Uncle! He's your most loyal employee.
SCROOGE
That's because he's my only employee. Now out with you. I have work to do.
FRED
Don't be angry, Uncle. Come done with us tomorrow.
SCROOGE
No.
FRED
Why? SCROOGE
You're married.
FRED
So?
SCROOGE
I don't approve of marriage any more than I approve of Christmas.
FRED
Uncle. I want nothing from you. I ask nothing from you. Why can we not be friends?
SCROOGE
Good afternoon.

FRED
All right. But, I will keep my humour to the last. Merry Christmas, Uncle.
SCROOGE
Good afternoon.
FRED
And, a Happy New Year.
SCROOGE
Good afternoon.
Fred exits as a Salvation Army lady enters.
LADY
Referring to list; speaks to Cratchit
Is this Scrooge and Marley's?
CRATCHIT
Yes. Could we help you?
SCROOGE
What does she want? If she wants money, she's come to the wrong place.
LADY
Merry Christmas, sir.
SCROOGE
Bah! Humbug!
LADY
Do I have the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge or Mr. Marley?
SCROOGE

Marley died seven years ago this very night.

LADY
Oh dear. I'm so sorry. But, the sign
SCROOGE
Signs are expensive. Why replace it? Now, what's your business?
LADY
The business of giving, sir.
SCROOGE
So, what are you giving me?
She tries a laugh. It doesn't work.
LADY
I am seeking contributions for the poor and destitute. Many are in great need.
SCROOGE
Are there no prisons?
LADY
Sir?
SCROOGE
And, the poorhouses are still in operation.
LADY
They are, though badly in need of assistance.
SCROOGE
Good.
LADY
But, sir, there is so much more that needs to be done. We raise money to buy the poor better food and clothing to raise their spirits. This is a time of year, if none other, to help each other.

Now, what might I put you down for?

SCROOGE
Nothing.
LADY
You wish to be anonymous?
SCROOGE
I wish to be left alone. My taxes support the prisons and poorhouses.
LADY
Many would rather die than go there.
SCROOGE
Then let them do it and decrease the surplus population.
LADY
Sir, I beg you
SCROOGE
Go beg for the beggars elsewhere. Good afternoon.
LADY
Won't you reconsider? It <u>is</u> Christmas eve.
SCROOGE
Never. And, Christmas is your invention, not mine.
He's back at his desk.
CRATCHIT
(Giving her a coin) It's not much, but it's something.
LADY
Oh, thank you, sir. Merry Christmas.
The lady exits.

Song #1: "Bah! Humbug"	
After first half of song, chorus of singing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentler	
	SCROOGE
Begone, all of you. People are working her	e!
Cratchit is preparing to leave.	
Oh, that hour is it?	
	CRATCHIT
Yes, Mr. Scrooge.	
	SCROOGE
You'll want all day tomorrow, I suppose?	
	CRATCHIT
If quite convenient, sir.	
	SCROOGE
It's not convenient, and it's not fair. IF I wa you think?	s to pay you less this week because of it, what would
	CRATCHIT
But	
	SCROOGE
And yet, you don't think me ill used when I	pay a day's wages for no work!
	CRATCHIT

A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket. Take the day, but be early the day after.

SCROOGE

But, sir, it's only once a year.

**CRATCHIT** 

Yes, sir. Merry Christmas, sir.

**SCROOGE** 

Bah! Humbug!

He sings the second half of the song as he leaves the office and goes to his apartment.

Ah, home at last. I shall change and then relax with a good dinner. No one to bother me. Just as I like it.

He exits to change. Lights flash. Sound of chains. Scrooge returns, half undressed.

What was that? Who's there? Nothing.

He exits again. Lights flash, howling, louder chains. Scrooge returns in his night-clothes. He carries an umbrella like a weapon.

Declare yourself, I say! I am armed! If you're after money, I have none.

Laughter in an echo chamber.

MARLEY'S VOICE

Ebenezer. No money? Now, that's funny!

More laughter.

**SCROOGE** 

Who are you? Where are you?

**MARLEY** 

On your bed.

Lights stop flashing, and Marley's Ghost is found sitting on the bed. He is a sad sight, and yes, he is chained. Scrooge reacts by hiding behind the curtains covering his window.

Come on out. I know you're there. I won't hurt you.

Scrooge peeks around the corner of the curtain.

SCROOGE
Marley?
MARLEY
His ghost, actually.
SCROOGE
What is this? Some kind of a joke? How did you get in?
MARLEY
I more or less dragged myself through the wall. Nothing's easy with these chains, I tell you.
SCROOGE
Well, drag yourself back out. You are not welcome here.
MARLEY
Now, is that any way to talk to your partner after seven years?
SCROOGE
My partner is dead.
MARLEY
But, unfortunately, not at rest.
SCROOGE
Why have you come? What kind of humbug is this?
The lights flash again. Marley's voice is heard through the echo chamber effect.
MARLEY
This is not humbug!!
Scrooge falls down on his knees and covers his head.
SCROOGE
Stop!

The noise stops. Marley's voice is back to normal.
MARLEY
Sorry about that. It's just an attention-getting device. Effective, don't you think?
SCROOGE
Have mercy.
MARLEY
Oh, stand up. You look ridiculous down there.
SCROOGE
(Still on the floor) Why is your spirit walking the earth?
MARLEY
Oh, it's this whole penance thing. I wander the world and am condemned to witness what cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and turned to happiness.
SCROOGE
But, the chains?
MARLEY
I forged them in life, of my own free will. Now I must wear them in death.
SCROOGE
That's horrible.
MARLEY
It's no picnic. You should see the size of the chain waiting for you!

SCROOGE

MARLEY

Jacob! Jacob Marley. Help me. Is your fate to be mine? Can nothing be done?

It's not hopeless, but close.

1
SCROOGE
What can I do? Show me.
MARLEY
You could start by getting up. You keep this place so cold, your knees must be freezing.
Scrooge remains kneeling.
All right. Have it your way. But I cannot stay. My spirit cannot linger anywhere.
SCROOGE
Have you been travelling for seven years?
MARLEY
It never ends. It never will.
SCROOGE
But why? You were a good man of business.
MARLEY
Back in his echo chamber.
Noooo!!
Back to normal voice.
Sorry. I tend to do it without thinking. The point is, my business, my only business should have been the well-being of my fellow man. But, I hardly knew he existed. And now, I must suffer for that for eternity.
SCROOGE
Surely, there must be

SCROOGE

MARLEY

Do not argue. I am telling you how it is. And now, my time is nearly up. I cannot help you. But, I

What?

can give you a message.

MARLEY
Take heed!
Song #2: The Ghosts are Gathering
(dialogue insert after fourth system on page 4)
MARLEY
You will be haunted, Ebenezer by three spirits.
SCROOGE
Will they help me, or hurt me?
MARLEY
Without their visits, my fate will be your fate. Expect the firstone tomorrow when the bell rings for one o'clock.
SCROOGE
Couldn't I take them all at once, and have it over with, Jacob?
MARLEY
Expect the second on the next night at the same hour. The third, upon the next night when the last stroke of twelve has ceased to vibrate.
(Song continues wit scrooges's no no no)
MARLEY
Back in echo chamber.
Prepare, Ebenezer. Prepare.
Marley disappears.
SCROOGE
Come back. Jacob!

The lights return to normal.

Jacob?

(To the audience) Have I been dreaming?

They will respond.

No, I didn't think so. Oh, dear -- this is terrible.

He checks the lock on the door.

I don't suppose locks will keep them out. But, it's worth a try.

He gets in bed.

What do I do while I'm waiting?

He yawns.

I certainly can't sleep.

He yawns again.

I'll just wait here. And, watch. And, listen.

He falls asleep. Lights dim to show passage of time. Scrooge stirs and wakes. He jumps out of bed, looks out the window, runs and checks the door, jumps into bed and hides under the covers, all but his eyes peeking out.

The time, I wonder what time it is.

He checks his watch on the bedstand.

Almost one? How is that possible? I can't have slept that long.

Realization.

Almost one! Marley said ... the first spirit..

He looks around.

What if he's invisible?

FIRST GHOST

What good would that do?

**SCROOGE** 

Who said that?
The first ghost emerges, a dapper gentleman. He has a hat and a cane.
FIRST GHOST
I did, sir.
SCROOGE
Get out, whoever you are. I'm waiting for a ghost.
FIRST GHOST
And, here I am. Well, what did you expect? A mobile bedsheet?
SCROOGE
How do I know you're who you say you are?
FIRST GHOST
You don't. But, for once in your life, Mr. Scrooge, I suggestion you might try believing in something.
SCROOGE
Who exactly are you?
FIRST GHOST
I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.
SCROOGE
Long past?
FIRST GHOST
No, your past.
SCROOGE
Why have you come?
FIRST GHOST

To take you for a walk.

**SCROOGE** 

It's freezing cold out there. And, I'm not dressed for it.

FIRST GHOST

Believe me, Mr. Scrooge. This walk will do your soul a world of good.

Song #3: Let's Take a Walk Through Your Past

During the song, Scrooge's chamber disappears.

Does this look familiar?

**SCROOGE** 

Good heaven! I was bred in this place. I was a boy here.

FIRST GHOST

Do you recognize that house?

**SCROOGE** 

Recognize it? I know every room, every hall, every corner.

FIRST GHOST

And, the girl?

A young girl appears.

**SCROOGE** 

Hardly able to get a word out.

Fan. Dear little Fan. My sister. Can she see us?

FIRST GHOST

These are shadows of things that have been. But, if you want her to see you, she will. Only know that she will not see the wicked old man you have become. She will see the loving young brother she knew you to be.

brother she knew you to be.
Scrooge approaches her.
SCROOGE
Fan?
She sees him, runs over and throws her arms around him. He is taken aback and cannot respond at first.
FAN
Eb! There you are. We haven't long to ourselves. Mother says Father is in a good mood, and wants us to go with them to some friends for Christmas dinner.
SCROOGE
Father? In a good mood? You must be kidding.
FAN
Truly. I just passed him in the hall, and he spoke to me ever so gently.
SCROOGE
A miracle.
FAN
A Christmas miracle!
SCROOGE
Hardly.
FAN
Oh, cheer up, big brother. Where's that smile I love?
She starts to tickle him.

SCROOGE

Stop it, Fan!				
FAN				
Oh, you are getting too old and sophisticated. No more fun? Come on, let's go.				
SCROOGE				
Where?				
FAN				
Into the garden, of course.				
SCROOGE				
Why?				
FAN				
FAN				
To play!				
Song #4: Follow the Leader				
At the end of the energy of a ways officers				
At the end of the song she runs offstage.				
SCROOGE				
Fan! Come back!				
FIRST GHOST				
Always a delicate creature. But, she had a large heart.				
SCROOGE				
She died so young.				
FIRST GHOST				
She died a woman, and had, I think, children, did she not?				
SCROOGE				

One child. A boy.
FIRST GHOST
Your nephew?
SCROOGE
My nephew. I wish
FIRST GHOST
Yes?
SCROOGE
He invited me for Christmas dinner. I wish I had said yes.
FIRST GHOST
Walk with me some more.
SCROOGE
Where is this? I know this place. I was apprenticed in this warehouse.
An older man enters full of good cheer.
Look! It's old Fezziwig Bless his heart. It's Fezziwig, alive again.
FEZZIWIG
Here. Ebenezer. Help me clear the middle of the room.
Scrooge looks to the ghost, who nods.
SCROOGE
is the shop closing so early?
FEZZIWIG
Of course! It's Christmas, lad. This is no time to work. This is a time to celebrate. Mother where are you? get everyone in here.
Mrs. Fezziwig enters with a friend and her young son.

### MRS. FEZZIWIG

It's early, dear. Don't' be in su	ich a rush. The par	ty will begin soon	enough. (	Oh, hello, I	Ebenezer.
How good of you to join us.					

SCROOGE

How good of you to include me.

MRS. FEZZIWIG

Don't be silly. You're like family. Have you met Mrs. Pickwick?

SCROOGE

Of course. Merry Christmas.

MRS. PICKWICK

Merry Christmas.

MRS. FEZZIWIG

And, her son, Peter.

SCROOGE

Hello, Peter.

**PETER** 

Are you the one who dances so well?

SCROOGE

(Laughing) Oh, no. There's your man.

Points to Mr. Fezziwig.

**FEZZIWIG** 

Always having to live up to my reputation. Well, the floor's clear. What are we waiting for?

Song #5: The Fezziwig Waddle

At the end of the song, the others dance off and Scrooge is left alone, perhaps still dancing himself.

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Mr. Scrooge? Dancing?

Scrooge stops, embarrassed.

SCROOGE

We used to dance all the time. Fezziwig was the father I never had. He was so wonderful to work for. I...

FIRST GHOST

What is it?

SCROOGE

Bob Cratchit. I wish I could speak to Bob Cratchit in the way Fezziwig spoke to me.

FIRST GHOST

We have one more path to walk.

SCROOGE

Where?

FIRST GHOST

To the time when the dancing stopped.

A young girl in her early twenties is revealed. Scrooge looks at the ghost.

FIRST GHOST

Go ahead. She too sees you as you were.

Scrooge enters the scene.

SCROOGE

Belle?

BELLE
I have been replaced.
SCROOGE
Never.
BELLE
Oh, I have. Your need to be rich is greater than your need for me.
SCROOGE
You should want us to be poor?
BELLE
I would want us to be happy. We were happy. But you've changed.
SCROOGE
I've grown. I am no longer a boy.
BELLE
No, but the man you are becoming is a stranger to me.
SCROOGE
I have learned how to succeed. What is wrong with that?
BELLE
You measure your success in a ledger book. You hardly look up from it to see if I am still here. And, next time you bother to look, I won't be.
SCROOGE
You're not being fair.
BELLE
I'm doing what I must do so I can remember the young man I fell in love with. If I stay, I will

gradually forget him.

## SCROOGE

He will not forget you.

**BELLE** 

Perhaps, now and then, he might remember.

Song #6: Think of Me at Christmas

Insert dialogue after first time through

### **BELLE**

You may feel some sadness for a brief period, but soon you will dismiss that sadness as an unprofitable dream, and you will be glad you awoke from it. I wish you well, Ebenezer. May you be happy in the life you have chosen.

Song resumes and concludes. Lights fade on Belle

## SCROOGE

Spirit! Show me no more. Conduct me home. Why do you delight in torturing me this way?

## FIRST GHOST

These are shadows of things which have been. They are what they are. Do not blame me. You are home.

Lights rise on Scrooge's chamber.

## **SCROOGE**

Home. Home. What is happening to me? Why am I so tired?

He lies down and immediately falls asleep. Lights dim for passage of time. Clock chimes one o'clock. Scrooge sits up.
Applause is heard as lights come on brightly, and the second ghost strides onstage, applauding his audience and playing the TV personality to the hilt.

## SECOND GHOST

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls, please...

Song #7: Please Welcome Ebenezer

After first chorus, dialogue insert

#### SECOND GHOST

Okay, kids, have you got any questions for our guess? Go ahead -- ask him anything you like. Ask him how he got to be such a loser. Ask him why he hates Christmas. Here's your chance. Who's first?

Ghost goes into the audience. Adlib section.

After three or four questions, the Ghostettes come onstage and join the song through it's conclusion.

Song conclusion

SCROOGE

What's going on? Who are you?

**GHOSTETTES** 

He's the ghost of Christmas present!

SECOND GHOST

You got it.

SCROOGE

Are you always this ... obnoxious? It's one o'clock in the morning.

SECOND GHOST

Don't knock it. You should see the audience numbers.

**GHOSTETTES** 

The world is watching.

SECOND GHOST

Okay, kids. Take a powder.

They flit away.

So, are you ready for another trip?

	SCROOGE
Me?	
	SECOND GHOST
Bingo!	
	SCROOGE
Where to?	
	SECOND GHOST
And, spoil the surprise? Get serious.	
	SCROOGE
(Resigned) I'm ready.	
	SECOND GHOST

We're off.

They go into the audience.

Grrrr...

I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE
THEES WAY, I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE
DON'T BE SHY.
I CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE
FOLLOW ME.

CHA CHA CHA

OLD JOE, BILLY, TOOTHLESS, MRS. DILBER

GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH HE'S GONE, BUT HE'LL NEVER BE MISSED. WE'D LIST ALL HIS BAD QUALITIES, BUT, IT'S TOO LONG OF A LIST.

WE KNOW THAT WE SHOULD SPEAK WELL OF THE DEAD WELL ... HE'S DEAD.
GOOD RIDDANCE TO RUBBISH, WE SAY.

BAG IT AND TAKE IT AWAY.

MRS. DILBER

NOW THAT HE'S GONE, WE SHOULD REALLY TAKE STOCK OF THE TREASURES AND GOODIES INSIDE OF HIS TOMBS.

**OLD JOE** 

WHY LET THEM GO OUT ON THE OLD AUCTION BLOCK? LET'S SAVE EV'RYONE TROUBLE AND CLEAN OUT HIS ROOMS.

**BILLY** 

WE'LL START WITH THE STUFF WE CAN CARRY WITH EASE, 'CUZ WHO KNOWS JUST HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE?

**TOOTHLESS** 

WE'LL SAVE 'EM THE COST OF THE AUCTIONEER'S FEES, OUR BACKS THEY WILL PAT OUR HANDS THEY WILL SHAKE, 'CUZ IT'S...

OLD JOE, BILLY, TOOTHLESS, MRS. DILBER GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH HE'S GONE BUT HE'LL NEVER BE MISSED. WE'D LIST ALL HIS BAD QUALITIES, BUT, IT'S TOO LONG OF A LIST.

WE KNOW THAT WE SHOULD SPEAK WELL OF THE DEAD, WELL .. HE'S DEAD.
GOOD RIDDANCE TO RUBBISH, WE SAY
BAG IT AND TAKE IT AWAY.

**BILLY** 

LOOK AT THIS BAUBLE I FOUND IN HIS DESK!

TOOTHLESS

IT'S A PAPERWEIGHT WORTH A KING'S RANSOM IN GOLD!

BILLY

AND, LOOK AT THIS CARVING, IT'S RATHER GROTESQUE!

**TOOTHLESS** 

AH, TOSS IT! IT MUST BE A THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

MRS. DILBER

JUST LOOK AT THIS TABLECLOTH, EMBROIDERED AND ALL. SO LACY ONE WOULD HATE TO EAT ON IT.

OLD JOE

AND, LOOK AT THIS CARPET I FOUND IN HIS HALL, I'LL THANK HIM EACH TIME THAT I GO WIPE MY FEET ON IT.

OLD JOE, BILLY, TOOTHLESS, MRS. DILBER GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH, HE'S GONE BUT HE'LL NEVER BE MISSED. WE'D LIST ALL HIS BAD QUALITIES, BUT, IT'S TOO LONG OF A LIST.

WE KNOW THAT WE SHOULD SPEAK WELL FO THE DEAD, WELL ... HE'S DEAD.
GOOD RIDDANCE TO RUBBISH, WE SAY
BAG IT, AND TAKE IT AWAY.

DON'T LET IT DROP, YOU'LL FOUL UP THE SIDEWALK. JUST WAIT 'TIL YOU GET TO THE BAY, THEN ONE, TWO, THREE, HEAVE IT AWAY.

(Need help with this one...)

TINY TIM

GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE, AND HELP US CELEBRATE THE SEASON MAY WE GIVE EACH OTHER HOPE AND JOY GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE.

FAN

GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE AND HELP US CELEBRATE THE SEASON MAYBE GIVE EACH OTHER HOPE AND JOY GOD BLESS US EV'RYONE.

**FEZZIWIG** 

SING A SONG OF JOY.
SING A SONG OF PRAISE.
LIFT YOUR HEAD AND SING IT TO THE SKY,