

A KIDSMAS CAROL

A Classic Musical

Book, music, and lyrics by

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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 |
| 4. Lady | Works for the Salvation Army |
| 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 |
| 12. Belle | Scrooge's ex-wife |
| 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 | |
| 20. Old Joe | |
| 21. Toothless | |

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

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

SCROOGE

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

(To Cratchit) 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 is 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 singers heard outside the window,
singing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"*

SCROOGE

Begone, all of you. People are working here!

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 was to pay you less this week because of it, what would you think?

CRATCHIT

But...

SCROOGE

And yet, you don't think me ill used when I pay a day's wages for no work!

CRATCHIT

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

SCROOGE

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

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 I 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

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

MARLEY

It's not hopeless, but close.

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...

MARLEY

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

SCROOGE

What?

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 first one 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 with Scrooge'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.

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

To play!

Song #4: Follow the Leader

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 such a rush. The party will begin soon enough. Oh, hello, 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.*

FIRST GHOST

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,