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Dramatic Publishing

A Christmas Carol:

The Traditional Story
With Modern Music



Book by
Erica Lipez
Music and lyrics by
Matt Corriel

A Christmas Carol:

The Traditional Story With Modern Music

Book by Erica Lipez. Music and lyrics by Matt Corriel.

Cast: 10 to 20m., 8 to 13w., extras as needed. Dickens' beloved parable shines in this adaptation. With a beautiful new score, the characters come to life as never before, from a larger-than-life Ghost of Marley to a heart-breaking Tiny Tim. Laugh along with Scrooge's comical and bitter domestic servants and revel in Belle's poignant love song. Join Scrooge and his three spirit guides on a favorite holiday journey, and send the audience home singing! Flexible set. Optional accompaniment CD available. Approximate running time: 1 hour, 45 minutes. Code: CN3.

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Book by
ERICA LIPEZ

Music and lyrics by
MATT CORRIEL

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(A Christmas Carol: The Traditional Story With Modern Music)

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The Foothills Theatre Company, Worcester, Mass., premiered *A Christmas Carol* November to December 2005. The production featured the following artists:

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Narrator, Ghost of Christmas Present, Charity Man,	Eddie Mekka
Ebenezer Scrooge.....	John Davin
Bob Cratchit.....	Matt DeAngelis
Fred.....	Andrew Giordano
Marley's Ghost, Ensemble.....	Tony Lawson
Man in street, Teacher, DickWilkins, Domestic, Ensemble.....	Stephen Gagliastro
Woman in street, Mary Kate, Domestic, Ensemble.....	Sarah Corey
Beggar, Young Ebenezer, Ensemble.....	Mike Kazlaskas
Ghost of Christmas Past, Fred's Wife, Ensemble.....	Amanda Ferguson
Fan, Ensemble.....	Abby Rose
Belle, Ensemble.....	Mala Bhattacharya
Alexander, Topper, Ensemble, Ghost of Christmas Future.....	Nathan Colby
Mrs. Cratchit, Mrs. Fezziwig, Ensemble.....	Marianne Ryan
Drunk Man, Ensemble.....	Bill Taylor
Ensemble.....	Mary Mallen
Tiny Tim.....	Nicholas Strafer

(65 children who rotated through different performance dates)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Russel Garrett
Music Director.....	Fred Frabotta
Lighting Designer.....	Martin Vreeland
Sound Designer.....	Ed Thurber
Costume Designer.....	Kurt Hultgren
Associate Scenic Designer.....	Erik Diaz
Production Stage Manager.....	Steven R. Espach
Production Manager.....	C. Russ Fletcher

A Christmas Carol: The Traditional Story With Modern Music

Cast: 10 to 20m., 8 to 13w. extras as needed, play the following roles (in order of appearance).

NARRATOR
BOY
WOMAN 1 & 2
MAN 1 – 5
CHARITY MAN
SCROOGE
FRED
BOB CRATCHIT
TINY TIM
BELINDA CRATCHIT
BEGGAR
MARLEY
GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST
TEACHER
CHILD 1 – 4 (and others)
BOY SCROOGE
FANNY
FEZZIWIG
YOUNG SCROOGE
DICK WILKINS
MRS. FEZZIWIG
BELLE

PARTYGOERS
ALEXANDER
MARY KATE
GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT
MRS. CRATCHIT
PETER CRATCHIT
MARTHA CRATCHIT
FRED'S WIFE
TOPPER
IGNORANCE
WANT
GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE
SERVANT MAN
SERVANT WOMAN
PROCESSION

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A Christmas Carol: The Traditional Story With Modern Music

ACT I

SCENE 1

AT RISE: An empty street. Dusk. NARRATOR walks on-stage, taking in the shops around him, including SCROOGE's deserted storefront. He has a playful nature, excited to talk and entertain. NARRATOR finds his way toward the audience and seats himself on a bench, leans against a trashcan, or just sits on the street corner.

NARRATOR. Hello. I bet you came to see a play. I like plays, too. They're just like stories, but with alive people. And this one is fantastic. I bet you've heard it before. Am I right? But in case this is your first, you're in for a treat. Ghosts, time travel, mean old men, Christmas parties and plum pudding. It's magic. And everyone loves magic. Or they should. Now, Mr. Scrooge didn't have many friends. And by many, I mean any. Mr. Scrooge was ... what's the right word ... horrible, nasty, greedy, vicious, severe, stingy, miserly ... to sum up ... just plain mean. But the interesting part of this little tale is how he got that way. No one is born mean, you have to work to get there. We

are born with warmth in our hearts and magic in our souls. And somewhere along the way, old Scroogie lost the magic. Mr. Scrooge was a cold, cold man. From his toes to his heart to his head, he was freezing. But one night a little bit of magic knocked on his door and brought about a change of spirit. And that's what we're going to see tonight.

#1: "Opening"

(As the music starts, BOY, WOMAN 1 and 2, MAN 1 – 5 filter out as various street people—revelers, shoppers, street merchants and beggars—all bustling with the excitement of Christmas. Out of the throng appears CHARITY MAN walking along the street, a paper in hand, looking for a specific building. He is lost, but full of Christmas cheer.)

NARRATOR *(cont'd)*. I love this story, and I hope you do, too. It all began one cold Christmas Eve, on the doorstep of a man who hated Christmas.

CHARITY MAN *(to WOMAN 1, passing by)*.

GOOD DAY

CAN YOU

HELP ME FIND MISTER SCROOGE'S COUNTING
HOUSE?

WOMAN 1.

NO!

CHARITY MAN *(taken aback)*. Oh ... *(To MAN 1, passing by)*.

'SCUSE ME.

DO YOU

KNOW MISTERS MARLEY AND SCROOGE?

MAN 1.

HAVEN'T HEARD THE NAME!

CHARITY MAN.

THIS IS REALLY MOST PECULIAR.

HAVEN'T COME ACROSS AN UNRULIER BUNCH.

MAN 2. Pardon me, gov'nor—but, are you looking for someone?

CHARITY MAN. Yes. Mr. Marley and Mr. Scrooge.

MAN 2. Ebenezer Scrooge?

CHARITY MAN. That's the chap.

MAN 2. Never heard of him. Aw, I'm just teasing you! Sure, I know Old Scroogie.

BUT I'D HAVE TO GUESS

THAT YOU AIN'T HAD THE PLEASURE YET.

JUST A WORD BEFORE YOU GO.

HERE'S SOME THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.

NAVIGATING 'NEEZIE'S EASY IF YOU KNOW ALL THE RULES.

THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU

SIMPLY CANNOT DO.

AND A WHOLE SLEW OF WORDS THAT'LL

MAKE HIS BLOOD CURDLE,

LIKE ANYTHING TO DO WITH LOVE.

DON'T TRY TO MAKE SMALL TALK, 'GOV.

EBENEZER ONLY CARES ABOUT THE MONEY COMING HIS WAY.

SO ALWAYS PAY YOUR DEBTS ON TIME.

NEVER ASK HIM FOR A DIME.

TRY TO BE POLITE, BUT DON'T WISH HIM "GOOD DAY."

WOMAN 2. Who 'you talking about?

MAN 2. 'Neezie.

WOMAN 2. Oh ...

HASN'T BEEN TO CHURCH TO DATE.

MAN 2.

SCARED OF THE COLLECTION PLATE.

WOMAN 2.

CAN'T IMAGINE HE'S IN GOOD STANDING WITH
CHRIST. (ALT.: GOD.)

I HEAR THE PREACHER SPEAK
ALMOST EVERY WEEK.
SAYS THE MEEK WILL INHERIT.

WOMAN 2 & MAN 2 (*to each other joyfully*).

SO SCROOGIE BEWARE IT!

MAN 2.

TAKES MONEY FROM THE POOR.

WOMAN 2.

EACH YEAR MORE AND MORE.

MAN 2.

EVERY PENNY HE'S MADE IS A PENNY HE STOLE.

WOMAN 2.

STILL, NOT FOR ME TO JUDGE THE MAN.
ONLY GOD CAN.

MAN 2.

SCUM OF THE EARTH!

WOMAN 2.

BUT A SOUL IS A SOUL.
AND ON THE WHOLE,
EVERYONE CARES FOR HIS NEIGHBOR.

EVERY MOTHER'S SON.
AND EVERYONE'S WILLING TO GIVE. WELL,
ALMOST EVERYONE.

SCROOGE (*from offstage*). Bah!

(*SCROOGE comes onstage.*)

MAN 2 (*to CHARITY MAN*). This is him I was telling you about.

SCROOGE (*to BOY*). Scram!!

MAN 3. Good day, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE. Bah!!

MAN 4. Top of the morning to you, sir.

SCROOGE. Buzz off!!

(*SCROOGE goes to strike WOMAN 3, misses and knocks over the tall pile of packages MAN 5 is precariously balancing.*)

MAN 5. My daughter's Christmas presents!

SCROOGE. Christmas presents?! Humbug!

WRAP UP YOUR TRINKETS IN PAPER!

WASTE YOUR HARD-EARNED GOLD.

AND MAY ALL WHO PROFESS "MERRY CHRISTMAS"

CATCH THEIR DEATH OF COLD!

Hmph!

(*SCROOGE marches past CHARITY MAN into his counting house and slams the door. More Londoners gather around CHARITY MAN in SCROOGE's wake.*)

CHARITY MAN (*to MAN 2, as others gather around*). I see what you mean. Not a pleasant man ...

MAN 2. No, and especially not at Christmas.

IT'S A MYSTERY
HOW HE CAME TO BE
SUCH A NASTY OLD GENTY.

WOMAN 2.

THOUGH RUMORS ARE PLENTY.

MAN 3.

BEATEN DAILY AS A BOY.

WOMAN 1.

NEVER HAD A PROPER TOY.

MAN 4.

EVOLUTIONARY MISHAP: WAS MEANT TO LIVE LIFE
AS A BIRD!

WOMAN 3.

LONELY ON THE HOLIDAY?

MAN 5.

MAYBE HE WAS JUST BORN THAT WAY.

WOMAN 2.

GUESSING'S JUST GUESSING AND GUESSING'S
ABSURD.

MAN 2.

BUT I HAVE HEARD
WORD IS HE ONCE HAD A HEARTTHROB.

MAN 4.

WORD IS HE ONCE HAD A HEART.

MAN 1.

AYE, ONCE THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO LOVED HIM.

WOMAN 3.

SOMEONE LOVED 'NEEZIE?

WOMAN 1.

DON'T THAT MAKE YOU QUEASY?!

GROUP 1.

WICKED AS A WICKED WITCH.
'ATEFUL AS AN EIGHT YEAR
ITCH.
NEVER SEEN HIM DO A THING
THAT WEREN'T GONNA PROFIT
HIMSELF.

RAT!

CHEAT!

GROUP 2.

WHAT A MISER.

WHAT A MONSTER.

WHAT A ROBBER AND RAKE.
WHAT A SINISTER SNAKE.
HE'S A NE'ER-DO-WELL.
WISH HE'D GO TO HELL.
BUT IT'S SO HARD TO SHAKE
HIM,

GROUP 1 & GROUP 2.

BET HELL WOULDN'T TAKE HIM!

GROUP 1.

THE GREEDY LITTLE MONEY-
GRUB.
GETS IT ALL FROM BEELZEBUB.
MISANTHROPIC ROGUE,
AIN'T NO MORE THAN A KNAVE.

GROUP 2.

THE SWINDLER.
THE RASCAL.
HE'S A CROOK!
HE'S A REGULAR THUG

AND AN *INHUMAN HUMBUG!*

ALL.

BUT HE'LL GET HIS COMEUPPANCE.
'IM AND ALL THE OTHER RICH GENTS.
EACH MAN'S EQUAL WHEN LAID IN THE GRAVE.
MASTER AND SLAVE.
CAN'T BUY HIS WAY INTO HEAVEN,
SO MONEY'S NOT WORTH ALL THE FUSS.
BETTER TO LIGHTEN THE LOAD, FOR

GOD MIGHT FORGIVE
THE LIFE SCROOGE HAS LIVED
IF HE'D GIVE ALL THAT MONEY *TO US!*

MAN 5. Never happen.

WOMAN 1. Not in a million years.

MAN 2 (*to CHARITY MAN as the rest scatter and move offstage*). By the way, 'gov, what 'you want with Old Scroogie anyway?

CHARITY MAN. I am a charity collector, raising money for the poor at Christmastime. I mean to ask him for a donation.

(Grand pause in the music as MAN 2 contemplates what has been said. Suddenly, he decides it was a good joke.)

MAN 2 (*approvingly with laughter*). Good one.

(Musical button ends the song. ALL move offstage except CHARITY MAN, who enters SCROOGE's counting house.)

#1a. "To Counting House" (Reprise and Change)

(Scene change to the door of SCROOGE's counting house. There are two options in the score. A vocal version and a non-vocal version.)

ALL.

SCROOGIE IS AN AWFUL LOUSE
HIDING IN HIS COUNTING HOUSE.
LORDING OVER THE WORLD FROM HIS CHAIR.
PLEASE BEWARE,

OLD EBENZER IS FREEZING
FROM HEAD TO TOE.

SO IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH 'NEEZIE,
SOON AS HE'LL SPOT YOU
SAY WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO
THEN TURN YOUR BACK *AND GO*.

SCENE 2

(In the counting house. BOB CRATCHIT has a small fire. He rubs and blows his hands, trying to warm himself. SCROOGE has a larger fire and works tirelessly, his nose pressed over his books. CHARITY MAN enters.)

CHARITY MAN *(refers to list, nervously)*. Scrooge and Marley's, I believe?

SCROOGE. Mr. Marley has been dead these seven years. He died seven years ago, this very night.

CHARITY MAN. I am sorry to hear it. I have no doubt that his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner?

(CHARITY MAN passes information to SCROOGE, who frowns, shakes his head and passes the information back.)

CHARITY MAN *(cont'd)*. At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge, it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.

SCROOGE. Are there no prisons?

CHARITY MAN. Plenty of prisons, sir.

SCROOGE. And the union workhouses? Are they still in operation?

CHARITY MAN. Yes, they are. I wish I could say they were not.

SCROOGE. Oh! Good. I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course. I'm very glad to hear that all is in order.

CHARITY MAN. Under the impression that such institutions scarcely furnish cheer of the mind or body to the multitude, a few of us are trying to raise a fund to buy the poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth. We choose this time because it is a time, above all others, when want is keenly felt, and abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for?

SCROOGE. Nothing!

CHARITY MAN. You wish to be anonymous?

SCROOGE. I wish to be left alone. Since you ask me what I wish, sir, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned—they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.

CHARITY MAN. Many can't go there, and many would rather die.

SCROOGE. If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides, it's not my business. It's enough for man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, sir!

(Shocked, CHARITY MAN exits, just as SCROOGE's nephew, FRED, enters all smiles and good cheer.)

FRED. A merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you!

SCROOGE. Bah! Humbug!