

# SCRIPT

*Stage directions are suggestions only.*

Owners of a valid performance licence for **Micromusicals | A Christmas Carol** may photocopy this script.

## SCENE 1

*optional incidental music  
(overture)*

1

12

23

*fade if required*



*forward to next track*

*There is a Christmas tree in the centre at the back of the stage. It has nothing on it but lights, and they are not lit. Downstage left is a coat stand, an armchair and a small side table. There is a housecoat on the coat stand.*

*As the NARRATORS speak, ENSEMBLE members move about the stage, braced against the cold. They are humming (or quietly singing) a Christmas carol. With waves and smiles, they exchange presents, handshakes, hugs, and Christmas greetings.*

**NARRATOR 1** It was Christmas Eve in Victorian London. A cold, biting chill embraced the city, as the streetlights struggled to pierce the thick, bleak fog. People dashed about, trying to keep warm whilst making their festive preparations.

*SCROOGE enters, dressed for the cold outdoors, with a accounts book under his arm. The ENSEMBLE freeze; they look at him, then drop their heads in fear and leave the stage. SCROOGE is left on stage, alone.*

*As the narrators continue, SCROOGE walks to the armchair. He takes off his coat, scarf and hat and places them on the coat rack. He takes off his shoes, puts on the housecoat, and sits in the armchair.*

**NARRATOR 2** Ebenezer Scrooge was a businessman, and over time had grown to become a miserable old man who hated everything and everyone. He never laughed, or even smiled!

**NARRATOR 1** It's almost impossible to imagine in our day and age just what a miserable old entrepreneur would look like. He'd probably want an apprentice.

**NARRATOR 2** Scrooge even hated Christmas! An invitation from his nephew's family to join them for Christmas dinner was turned down flat.

**SCROOGE** Knowing my nephew, he'd probably overcook the turkey.

**NARRATOR 1** Scrooge's one employee, Bob Cratchit, asked for a day off for Christmas Day, which Scrooge found really irritating.

**SCROOGE** Giving workers the day off is a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!

**NARRATORS 1 & 2** What a miserable man!

**SCROOGE** *[to the NARRATORS]* BAH!

*[The NARRATORS are scared; they run away and exit.]*

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## SONG 1 | I HATE CHRISTMAS!

(PAGE 16)

**SCROOGE**

**I hate Christmas;  
It's humbug, I hate it.  
I won't go out for dinner  
no matter who's catered.  
You can't have my money;  
it all belongs to me.  
And Cratchit has the day off  
with his stupid family!**

**I hate Christmas.  
Bah humbug!  
I hate Christmas.  
Bah humbug!**

*(Repeat all)*

*During the repeat members of the ENSEMBLE enter dressed as SCROOGE, wearing housecoats, counting money, and scowling. They sing the repeat together.*

**SCENE 2**

*optional incidental music  
for scene change*

3

14

25

*fade if required*



*forward to next track*

*SFX: rattling chains and heavy footsteps.*

*ENSEMBLE members exit stage left, behind the armchair. MARLEY appears stage right.*

**MARLEY**

Hello Scrooge. Remember me?

**SCROOGE**

Jacob Marley! My old business partner! I thought you were dead!

**MARLEY**

I am stone cold dead and have been for seven years.  
But after the selfish life I lived, I've been forced to wander about for eternity  
looking like this.

*[SCROOGE approaches MARLEY. He looks him up and down.]*

**SCROOGE**

I can't say you're looking great, Marley.

**MARLEY**

Quite - and this bandage is keeping my lower jaw from falling off.

*[MARLEY starts to take the bandage off. SCROOGE stops him.]*

**SCROOGE**

Yech!

**MARLEY**

Anyway, this isn't about me, it's about you.  
I'm here to tell you that three ghosts are going to visit you in your sleep.  
Listen to what they've got to say.

**SCROOGE**

And I suppose if I don't listen to what they have to say I'll end up like you?  
Not on your life!

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## SONG 2 | IF YOU DON'T CHANGE YOUR WAYS

(PAGE 18)

MARLEY sings this song of warning to SCROOGE as his (late) best friend.

**MARLEY**

If you don't change your ways  
you'll become like me,  
with a bandage round your head  
there for all to see.

If you hate everybody  
then you'll suffer more;  
you'll be wandering forever  
with a broken jaw.

If you spend all your life  
thinking of yourself,  
you may find you're all alone  
and in failing health.

Then you'll think  
how you could have joined society,  
but you'll find that it's too late  
to change your destiny.



forward  
to next track

MARLEY looks at SCROOGE and snaps his fingers. SCROOGE falls into the chair, snoring heavily. MARLEY turns to leave as GHOST 1 enters. They pass, bowing to one another in acknowledgement. GHOST 1 creeps up to the chair, and leans in towards SCROOGE.

**GHOST 1**

BOO!

[SCROOGE wakes with a start.]

**SCROOGE**

Who are you?

**GHOST 1**

Hello Scrooge. I'm the Ghost of Christmas Past.

**SCROOGE**

What do you want with me?

**GHOST 1**

I'm here to remind you that you were happy once.  
When you were a boy, you cared about other people,  
and other people cared for you.

MR FEZZIWIG enters, he does not see SCROOGE or GHOST 1. He walks to the tree. MRS FEZZIWIG enters, along with their two children, and a big box of decorations. They begin to decorate the tree.

**GHOST 1**

Do you remember your old boss, Mr Fezziwig  
and the Christmas parties he used to throw?

In silence, and using mimed gestures and actions, some of the ENSEMBLE members begin to arrive as party guests. They ignore SCROOGE and GHOST 1, and continue to decorate the tree as they speak:

**SCROOGE** I do remember old Mr Fezziwig.  
He used to let us finish work early on Christmas Eve  
and then gave us mountains of delicious food to enjoy...

**GHOST 1** There was dancing, too!  
What happened to that little boy, that young Ebenezer Scrooge?

**SCROOGE** I fear that you're about to show me...

*The party scene freezes in a tableau.*

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**SONG 3 | WHEN YOU WERE A BOY**

(PAGE 22)

*As the music begins, GHOST 1 leads SCROOGE to the tree. SCROOGE observes the FEZZIWIG family.*

**GHOST 1** When you were a boy, your life was good.  
You cared for others like you knew you should.  
You were happy and good-natured;  
what a world away...  
for now you hate the thought of Christmas Day!

*GHOST 1 hands SCROOGE a decoration.  
SCROOGE refuses to accept it, crossing his arms and turning his back.*

*During the second verse, GHOST 1 taps each of the ENSEMBLE members gently on the shoulder,  
they quietly, fade away, and exit the stage.*

When you were a boy, your life was good,  
but times have changed, it must be understood.  
All your joy has turned to loathing;  
you make people pay  
for not sharing your scorn of Christmas Day.



forward  
to next track

*SCROOGE and GHOST 1 move back to the chair. GHOST 1 snaps his/her fingers.  
SCROOGE falls into the chair in a deep sleep. The NARRATORS enter on tiptoe so as not to wake him.*

**NARRATOR 1** Scrooge falls asleep again, and when he wakes up,  
another, much larger and scarier ghost has appeared...

*[There is a pause.]*

**NARRATOR 2** *[In a louder voice]* When he wakes up, another,  
much larger and scarier ghost has appeared...

*[There is another pause.]*

**NARRATORS 1 & 2** *[Shouting in frustration:]* A SCARIER GHOST HAS... *[They are interrupted.]*

*GHOST 2 runs onto the stage, and looks at an invisible watch before mouthing the word 'sorry' to the NARRATORS.*

**NARRATOR 2** It's the Ghost of Christmas Present.

*[GHOST 2 makes a scary face and walks to armchair.]*

**GHOST 2** Wake up, Scrooge!

*[SCROOGE wakes up with a start.]*

I'm here to point out that not everyone is having a miserable time at Christmas.

*During the following narration the ENSEMBLE enter again in silence with mimed gestures and actions, ignoring GHOST 2 and SCROOGE. They carry presents and food. A table and some chairs are brought on stage. They put the presents under the tree and the food on the table, and begin to mime a feast.*

**NARRATOR 1** All around him, Scrooge saw a transformation taking place, as the ghost showed him a picture of plenty - people enjoying an amazing Christmas feast!

**NARRATOR 2** There was turkey, and goose, game, poultry and sausages, oysters and chestnuts...

**NARRATOR 1** ...mince pies, plum-puddings, brandy butter...

**NARRATOR 2** ...cakes, shiny apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, and steaming-hot bowls of punch.

**GHOST 2** Lots of people are out there enjoying themselves!  
Do you find that so hard to believe?

*[Pause.]*

**SCROOGE** Bah humbug!

*[SCROOGE turns his back.]*

*The ENSEMBLE all look at GHOST 2.*

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## SONG 4 | LOOK AT PEOPLE ENJOYING THEMSELVES

(PAGE 24)

*During the song GHOST 2 interacts with groups of the ENSEMBLE. GHOST 2 shows SCROOGE how to have fun at a party. SCROOGE looks away at first but by the end of the song is joining in with the festivities.*

**GHOST 2** Look at people enjoying themselves:  
food galore is piled high on their shelves.  
Dinner is ready;  
what joy to behold!  
Joining together,  
the young and the old!

**ALL**

**Even though we don't have very much,  
food is here, and it's hot to the touch!  
Dinner is ready;  
what joy to behold!  
Love for each other  
is greater than gold.**

**Look at people enjoying themselves:  
food galore is piled high on their shelves  
Dinner is ready;  
what joy to behold!  
Joining together,  
the young and the old!**

*At the end of the song the ENSEMBLE exit the stage laughing and dancing, and sharing passing greetings - 'Goodbye!', 'See you soon!' and 'Merry Christmas!'. SCROOGE tries to go with them but GHOST 2 stops him. All is quiet.*

**GHOST 2**

But sadly not everyone is having a good time this Christmas.

*As GHOST 2 continues to speak TINY TIM enters limping with his cane. He has a bag over his shoulder. He finds a place to sit at the centre of the stage, takes a book from his bag and begins to read. BOB CRATCHIT and MRS CRATCHIT enter. They look on at TINY TIM in sadness.*

**GHOST 2**

Let me show you the home of your employee, Bob Cratchit.  
Bob and his wife have a crippled son, Tiny Tim  
- and they can barely afford to feed themselves, let alone look after their sick child.  
Tiny Tim will die and it will be your fault.

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**SONG 5 | WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY BOY, TINY TIM?**

(PAGE 28)

*During the song TINY TIM coughs, curls up and falls asleep. MRS. CRATCHIT exits and returns with a ragged blanket. BOB CRATCHIT covers TINY TIM with the blanket and ends the song singing to his wife.*

**BOB CRATCHIT**

**What can I do for my boy, Tiny Tim?  
He's sick, and no treatment is offered to him.  
There's no money left  
and I know that he's ailing.  
I'm not paid enough -  
and my poor lad is failing.**

**Tears fill my eyes when I see his sweet smile.  
I'd just like to give him good health for a while.  
He bears it so bravely; it's breaking my heart.  
If we don't get help, it will tear us apart.**

*BOB CRATCHIT gently wakes up TINY TIM, and the family slowly and sadly leave the stage.*



*GHOST 2 takes SCROOGE back to his armchair as they speak:*

- SCROOGE** This is all my fault? How can that be?
- GHOST 2** The Cratchit family needs practical help and you're Bob Cratchit's employer. You pay Bob a measly wage. Think about it man!
- SCROOGE** I am thinking about it, but I'm old and set in my ways and I can't change...
- GHOST 2** What will happen if you don't?

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## SONG 6 | WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

(PAGE 32)

**GHOST 2** What will happen  
if you don't change your ways?  
Tiny Tim will die and the end of your days  
will come soon.  
You'll be dead!  
Your money will go to your cleaner instead!

*(Repeat)*

*During the repeat, the four GOSSIPS enter upstage. They investigate the Christmas tree and greedily poke around the presents, continuing to do so after the song ends and the scene continues. GHOST 2 exits the stage.*



**NARRATOR 1** And suddenly a third Ghost appeared.

*GHOST 3 pops up from behind the arm chair.*

The Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come.

**NARRATOR 2** This ghost was dressed all in black...

**NARRATOR 1** ...like an undertaker.

*SCROOGE tries to run away. GHOST 3 puts a hand on his shoulder and holds him in the chair.*

**GHOST 3** Scrooge, let me paint you a little scene - somebody has recently died and people are talking about that person now they've gone.

*GOSSIPS 1, 2, 3 and 4 walk downstage and stand around the armchair. They ignore SCROOGE and GHOST 3.*

**GOSSIP 1** I hear the old man's dead.

**GOSSIP 2** Good. He was SO mean...

**GOSSIP 3** ...and so miserable!

**GOSSIP 4** I hear he had no friends and had even stopped having any contact with his own family, so his money will go...

**GOSSIP 1** ...to his cleaner, if there's any justice!

**GOSSIP 2** Poor old guy.

**GOSSIP 3** Poor old guy? Good riddance, I say!

*GOSSIPS 1, 2, 3, and 4 exit the stage laughing.*

**GHOST 3** You know who they're talking about don't you, Scrooge?

**SCROOGE** I'm afraid I do...

*GHOST 3 snaps their fingers. SCROOGE falls asleep, snoring heavily. GHOST 3 snaps their fingers again. SFX: A clock begins to strike 6 o'clock. GHOST 3 and the NARRATORS all exit the stage quickly. At the end of the chime, SCROOGE wakes up with a start. He looks around him. The stage is empty.*

**SCROOGE** It's Christmas morning. What a dreadful night's sleep I've had. I feel like I've seen a ghost.

*[He pauses, and then the truth dawns on him...]*

I did see a ghost! Not just one, but three! And they've given me a second chance!

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**SONG 7 | IF I CAN CHANGE**

(PAGE 34)

*During the first verse of the song SCROOGE puts on his shoes and throws his housecoat on to the armchair.*

**SCROOGE** If I can change,  
I should live life a different way:  
spend Christmas Day  
with my nephew - my family!  
Kindness is better than meanness and greed.  
The gift of this turkey begins  
a new me!

*During the second verse of the song the ENSEMBLE, NARRATORS, GHOST 1, 2 and 3, MR & MRS FEZZIWIG, THE CRACHITS, TINY TIM all enter and move towards the tree. They exchange presents, handshakes and hugs, and sit at the table. Meanwhile, a few ENSEMBLE members discreetly remove the side table, armchair, and coat rack from the stage.*

If I can change,  
I can do good for everyone:  
help Tiny Tim  
as if he were my own dear son.  
Charity's better than charging a fee,  
and Tiny Tim's life saved will mean  
a new me!



forward  
to next track



*SCROOGE* stands centre stage surrounded by *BOB CRACHIT*, *MRS CRACHIT* and *FRED*.  
The *ENSEMBLE* watch what is going on and cheer.

**NARRATOR 1** So Scrooge sends a large turkey to the Cratchits...

*[NARRATOR 1 passes SCROOGE a turkey,  
which SCROOGE gives to BOB CRACHIT.]*

**NARRATOR 2** ...he accepts his nephew's invitation to Christmas Dinner...

*[SCROOGE shakes FRED's hand.]*

**NARRATOR 1** ...and gives a decent-sized donation to charity.

*[The NARRATORS hold out their hands to SCROOGE.  
SCROOGE reaches in his pockets and them both some money.]*

**NARRATOR 2** Eventually he becomes like a second father to Tiny Tim,  
and a true friend of the Cratchits.

*[TINY TIM runs up to SCROOGE with no cane, and they hug.]*

**NARRATOR 1** And Tiny Tim doesn't die.

**TINY TIM** God bless us, every one!

*[TINY TIM jumps for joy. The ENSEMBLE cheers.]*

**NARRATOR 2** Scrooge never sees the Ghosts again,  
but the spirit of Christmas definitely stays with him.

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**SONG 8 | BE KIND TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR**

(PAGE 37)

*During the song the ENSEMBLE moves to the edges of the stage. SCROOGE and TINY TIM go to the tree.  
MR.FEZZIWIG brings a chair forward, and hands SCROOGE the star.  
SCROOGE helps TINY TIM onto the chair and TINY TIM places the star on top of the tree.  
SCROOGE switches on the lights and the tree is complete.*

**ALL**

**Be kind to your neighbour,  
give money to the poor.  
Give time off to your workers -  
that's what Christmas is for.  
Eat turkey with your family,  
with a smile, not a frown!  
You'll lead a happy life  
and the ghosts won't drag you down...**

*ALL move back to the table and tree and make a picture of a happy Christmas Party with friends and family.*



forward  
to next track

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## SONG 9 | WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

(PAGE 38)

ALL

We wish you a merry Christmas,  
we wish you a merry Christmas,  
we wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year!

Good tidings we bring  
to your and your kin.  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year!  
We wish you a merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year!



THE END

