

# Summary Of Audition Pieces

## Scrooge

- Two sections of dialogue (p2-4)

## Narrator/Ghosts

- General dialogue & Song (P5)
- Two sections of Ghost dialogue (P6-8)

## Tiny Tim

- Song (P5)
- Dialogue (12)

## Males (except Ghost/Narrator, Scrooge or Tiny Tim)

- General dialogue & Song (P5)
- Dialogue (P9)

## Females (except Ghost/Narrator)

- General dialogue & Song (P5)
- Dialogue (p10-11)

# Scrooge Piece 1

CAROL SINGER : Pardon me Mr Scrooge, but we only seek....

SCROOGE: Then seek it elsewhere sir

CAROL SINGER : But sir, there are thousands of people who are in want. And at such a charitable time of the year, what better time is there than to spare a little for less fortunate than oneself ?

SCROOGE: Many thousands ?

CAROL SINGER: Yes sir.

SCROOGE: Are there still prisons ? Are there still workhouses in operation ?

CAROL SINGER : Well yes sir, but ,

SCROOGE : So the Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour then ?

CAROL SINGER: Well yes, and both are very busy

SCROOGE: You see, I was afraid from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course, I am however very glad that you have confirmed that they are indeed operational.

CAROL SINGER : But sir, we are simply trying to gather enough money to ensure that we can provide just a little meat and drink, and just a modicum of warmth to .....

SCROOGE: .I cannot afford to made idle people merry. I pay my rates and my taxes, and if people have no other course, then they should go to the establishments that those rates and taxes pay for.. Good day Sir.

*Scrooge goes to shut the door but is interrupted*

CAROL SINGER : Many cannot go there, and many would rather die.

SCROOGE: If they would rather die, then they better do it, and decrease the surplus population

CAROL SINGER: But sir, you can't mean.....

SCROOGE: Its enough for a man to understand his own business and not to interfere with other people.

Mine occupies me constantly. Good evening Sir . *Scrooge shuts the door and returns to his desk. The Carol singers remain outside, and start-up singing again. Scrooge looks up, scowls and then looks at Bob.* Bob, get these foolish creatures away from my door this instance.

BOB : It is Christmas sir

SCROOGE: And ? Is that cause for trespass ?

BOB: they remain outside the property though sir

SCROOGE: They trespass on my *time* Bob – and time is *money*. So their trespass is the grievest of trespassing crimes.

BOB: Perhaps Sir if we ignored them ? Refrained from answering the door ?

SCROOGE: If a man turns up to pay his debts, what then ? We will still need to answer the door then would we not ? Indeed those creatures may make the man turn away ? Just get rid of them Cratchit

*Bob walks towards the door, the carol singers stop, Bob gives them a schilling,*

CAROL SINGER : Thank you Mr Cratchit. And merry Christmas to you. And to you Mr Scrooge, Merry Christmas. *They exit*

SCROOGE : You're a damned fool Bob. A good honest fellow, and a hardworking one at that, but still a damned fool. As poor as a dormouse, and you give what some of what little you have to the undeserving. A damned fool. And why the incessant grin man ?

BOB: Well its just one more sleep till Christmas sir, And I was hoping that as it was Christmas eve and my work today is complete, that I may be permitted to leave, after all it is late and my children will be....

SCROOGE: You'll want tomorrow off I assume ?

BOB: Well if its quite convenient sir

SCROOGE: It is not convenient Cratchit, it is non convenient at all, But if I was to stop you, you'd no doubt think yourself ill-used. And yet, you don't think me unfairly used , when I pay you a days wages for no work.

BOB: *Bob gives a faint smile* Well Sir it is only once a year

SCROOGE: A poor excuse for picking a mans pocket every 25<sup>th</sup> December. But I suppose you shall have the day off if you must – but leave early today ? No, You will stay Bob, if you value your position, you will stay. Did you deliver the papers to Mrs Baldock ?

BOB: I did sir

SCROOGE: She took out a five pound debt on 17<sup>th</sup> July, which means that it is due tomorrow, with the associated interest. You spoke to her about this ?

BOB: I did

SCROOGE: And the interest

BOB: I did Sir

SCROOGE And ?

BOB : Well Sir she hopes to come and see you herself, next week – tomorrow is Christmas day after all.

SCROOGE: I see her worry

BOB: You do Sir ?

SCROOGE: Of course. Tomorrow is Christmas day

BOB: Yes

SCROOGE: And Mrs Baldock is clearly worried that my office will not be open. So please, assure her, that I shall be open and at my desk.

BOB: Well sir, its just that she's struggling to pay- with her husband recently losing his position and another child on the way. She asked that she could throw herself upon your mercy

SCROOGE: It is not my fault that she choses to live beyond her means. It is not my fault that Mr Baldock's position was lost. It is not my fault that despite not having the means to sustain her current family her legs cannot remain closed. If I make an exception for one person, why not the next, and the next. The greatest mercy I can show her is to restore her self-respect by insisting that she live within her means and not mine – thereby allowing her to hold her head up proud to the world. I expect to see her tomorrow morning for the debt to be settled in full. Go and tell her that on your way home

## SCROOGE Piece 2

MARLEY: Good bye..... Friend

*And with that he leaves*

SCROOGE: I shall not continue down the same path Jacob – I promise you I shall not. I shall honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I shall live in the past, present and future – the lessons you and the three spirits have shown me shall strive within me, shall be my conscience and shall be by guiding light. I will not shut out the lessons you and they teach. I want to live in hope, I want to live in hope, and I say this on my knee's, old Jacob on my knees.

*And with that the lights go out and Scrooge falls instantly asleep*

COMPANY: Sing ding don merely on high

SCROOGE: *Waking up*, ughhhhh, I'm alive ? I'm alive. I do live in hope. I have so much wrong to undo, and so much right to do. *He springs up and walks to the window*. What a beautiful day, no mist, no fog, just clear bright jovial, stirring sun. Oh glorious, oh glorious *The Carol Singers top singing*. Oh don't stop, *they look amazed*. Actually do, until you answer me this question – waht day is it ?

CAROL SINGER: Christmas Day Sir

SCROOGE: Really ?

CAROL SINGER: Yes sir

SCROOGE: Really ? I haven't missed it. The spirits have taught all their lessons in but one night. Now then, you fellows need money for the poor yes ?

CAROL SINGER: Yes sir

SCROOGE: Well we can do better than that I feel. Young man, I should think that you will do me enormous favour, do you know if the poulterers round the corner has sold that enomous prize turkey above the window ?

YOUNG MAN: I know the pulterers you're referring to, and sadly no, he has not

SCROOGE Then please and take this money, & go to him – I wish to purchase it, and any others I want the birds unsold. And you two, I should very much appreciate it, if you could take this money to both the bakers in Southwark and buy all the bread, cakes and mince pies he has remaining. And finally, dearest friend, please take this to the cheese merchants and pick me up cheese

YOUNG MAN: How much Sir ?

SCROOGE: Enough for all of London. My friends, I am going to make sure that nobody in Southwark goes hungry this christmas, by having the biggest feast imaginable. All of it provided by Ebenezer Scrooge.

CAROL SINGER: Are you feeling alright sir ?

SCROOGE: I am lighter than air. I have so much wrong that I must put right – and it begins today. Come along, come along, we mustn't dawdle the bellies of Londoners are empty and they must be filled

# AUDITION PIECE FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT SCROOGE

## SONG

Hark The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born king  
 Peace on earth and mercy mild  
 God and sinners reconciled"  
 Joyful all ye nations rise  
 Join the triumph of the skies  
 With angelic host proclaim  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
 Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born king"

# AUDITION PIECE FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT SCROOGE OR TINY TIM

## DIALOGUE

Did scrooge mourn him ? Well that's hard to say – he was certainly an excellent man of business. But I reiterate that Scrooge was perfectly convinced that Marley was dead.

Scrooge never did paint our Marley's name from above the door, so there stood the sign 'Scrooge and Marley' - sometimes those new to his business called him 'Scrooge', sometimes they called him 'Marley' – but it was all the same to him, and he'd answer to both. What mattered to him, mattered most of all in the whole world, was MONEY.

Scrooge was a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping clutching, convetous old sinner. Hard and sharp as a flint from which no steel has ever stuck out a generous fire, secret and self-contained and solitary as an oyster

The cold within him froze his features, nipped his nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait, made his eyes red, his thin lips blue

# NARRATOR / SPIRIT Audition Piece 1

## DIALOGUE IN ADDITION TO STD DIALOGUE & SONG (Part 1)

SCROOGE: No. He sinks to his knee's in tears. I cannot see any more of this. He's just a boy.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: They frequently are. Is it all too much to see ?

SCROOGE: I couldn't --- I shouldn't -- see that

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: You couldn't ? Or you shouldn't ?

SCROOGE: He's a dying child. An innocent child. Is it wrong not to want to see that ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Depends how much responsibility you bear for it

SCROOGE: People get ill, children get sick. What responsibility can I bear ? I live my life and I expect others to live theirs. I did not know that Bob's child was ill, how could I ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: You work with the man six days a week for ten hours a day. Yes, how could you possibly have known ?

SCROOGE: I am just a man ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: You are just a moneylender. You have forsaken responsibility for the wider world and for those less fortunate than yourselves, and you have sought to profit from them. What of it if they haven't the strength to live their lives the way you live yours ? If they haven't the fortune of you

SCROOGE: You cannot do this. Guilt, I refuse it ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Some things you cannot refuse. The debts that you have accumulated Mr Scrooge, they may not be financial, but there are other kinds of debts. Those debts of yours have built up and up and they will soon consume and overwhelm you.

SCROOGE: You know nothing of debts, you can't see....

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT: Ah yes, it is I that cannot see. You asked when the journey I needed to take you on would end. It is now Ebenezer. Now. *With that the ghost pushes Scrooge back across the stage to his chair, where he falls back into it and the lights go out*

# NARRATOR / SPIRIT Audition Piece 2

## DIALOGUE IN ADDITION TO STD DIALOGUE & SONG (Part 2)

SCROOGE: This is grotesque. How dare they disrespect me in death ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: *Slowly considerately, pondering every word* Did you respect them in life ?

SCROOGE: So you do talk ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: And I observe. And I observe your life Ebenezer. And I see doors shutting. One after another after another

SCROOGE: Doors shutting

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: You're the one shutting them. You never had children ?

SCROOGE: No.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: You never had a partner ?

SCROOGE: I had Jacob Marley

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: You never had someone to share your life with

SCROOGE: No

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: You have so much money ?

SCROOGE: I do

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: You have more wealth than you could ever have imagined back when you were a child or back when you were an apprentice. And yet you as your financial wealth increases, the wealth in your heart diminishes. And you live so humbly. Are you not cold with so little heat ? Blinded by so little light ? Hungry ....

SCROOGE: No...

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: With so little love ?

*Scrooge drops his head in silence*

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: *Escorts Scrooge toward the coffin* You will leave a lot; All taken by thieves. Those who love you, you will cut out

*Bob walks up to the coffin and lays some flowers/a reef. He is older, and moves less easily*

BOB: My name is Bob Cratchit. I had the good fortune to work for Mr Scrooge for a good number of years before we parted ways

SCROOGE: Why did we part ways ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: You fired him for poor timekeeping after he fell apart following the death of his son

BOB: *sadly* Mr Scrooge. Rest In Peace. *He breaks down over the coffin. Fred puts his arm around him and they take a step back. He steadies himself* Mr Scrooge was not a man known for his charity, acts of kindness or generosity. But that does not mean that there wasn't a good man in there. He taught me discipline, and he taught me..... I will miss him

SCROOGE: He's kind. He's kinder than I deserve. And After that unimaginable pain; after all that, after all that, he mourns me and does not speak ill of me. Spirit, I see now I man that I betrayed. A man I was lucky to count upon year after year, he gave so much, and was given so little. I feel, I feel

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: Go on ?

SCROOGE: Ashamed. And if I could go back and make good ..... ?

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE: Ebenezer, I, nor any of my colleagues including Jacob Marley, have never said you case for redemption was hopeless. Do not forget what you are seeing..... There are still two others to hear from before you can return to the present



# AUDITION PIECE FOR ANY 'MALE' EXCEPT SCROOGE, NARRATOR & TINY TIM

## DIALOGUE IN ADDITION TO STD DIALOGUE & SONG

SCROOGE: A least you avoided *that* indulgence, though why you married in the first place is beyond me

FRED: Because I fell in love, Oh Uncle, you really should embrace the spirit of season

SCROOGE: What is christmastime,? a time for finding yourself a year old and not an hour richer

FRED: Christmastime is a good time, a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time.....

SCROOGE: Charitable, bah

FRED: the only time I know of, in the long calender of the year, when men and women as an entitiy, open their hearts freely, and think of people below them as if they were fellow-passengers to the grave and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. So therefore Unlce, even though it has not put a scrap of gold or silver in my pcket, I believe is has done me some good, and will do me some good, and I say 'Bless it All'

SCROOGE: A powerful speaker nephew, it's a wonder you don't go into parliment

FRED: Don't be angry uncle, I want nothing from you; I ask nothing of you; why cannot be friends ?

SCROOGE: Foolish boy

FRED : come dine with us toomorrow

SCROOGE: I'm busy tomorrow

FRED: Alone ?

SCROOGE: Like Robinson Crusoe on his island, perfectly content, till Man Friday came along to spoil it all

FRED: Uncle, for all your riches and my poverty, we do share one thing in common

SCROOGE: Really whats that

FRED A woman, laid in an untimely grave

SCROOGE: *Pause* Good afternoon

FRED: Never the less uncle, there will be a place set at our table for you – as there will be next year, and the year after that, and for every Christmas to come

SCROOGE: *(is taken aback momentarily, before resuming his cynicism)* Look nephew, I have work to do, and you have..... well I don't know what you have to do, but I do know it isn't in here, so good day to you

*Scrooge walks fred to the door*

FRED: Good day uncle, and although you may not wish to hear it, I wish you to know that I wish you a very happy Christmas

# AUDITION PIECE FOR ANY 'FEMALE' EXCEPT NARRATOR

## DIALOGUE IN ADDITION TO STD AUDITION DIALOGUE & SONG

SCROOGE: Belle....

BELLE: Ebenezer

SCROOGE: I was afraid you might not recognise me – for age has not been my friend

BELLE: Of course I recognise you Ebenezer. And as for the effect of the years, you think I too have been unaffected

SCROOGE: You are as I always have remembered you to be .... Radiant *she smiles* I am sorry to have interrupted your Christmas Day

BELLE: That's quite Ok.

SCROOGE: It was just that, well, I was so happy that it was Christmas day

BELLE: I like this day too – but I feared you didn't

SCROOGE: I didn't, but am no longer the man I was for decades. And I must make amends, and things that I must set right

BELLE: And what might those be ?

SCROOGE: The choices I made, the paths that I followed, that I wish I had seen more clearly

BELLE: You made your choices Ebenezer, and the paths, well they were clear. At least to me they were

SCROOGE: And given the chance to start again, I would do differently Belle.

BELLE: You would ?

SCROOGE: You understand what I'm saying ?

BELLE: I do

SCROOGE: And you dislike me for saying so ?

BELLE: I do not. But Ebenezer, I wouldn't do things differently. *She takes his hand.* I waited for you Ebbie, I spurned other suitors to wait for you. But how long could I wait ? *pauses.* I married a good man, Ebbie, a good, kind and honest man and together we brought up two good kind and honest children. I would not change that for the world.

*There is a pause, and then Scrooge intercedes*

SCROOGE: I see

BELLE: But Ebbie, if it hadn't been for you, and how I felt about you, then I may not have waited. I may not have met Nicholas, and I may not have raised two wonderful children and had a very happy life. And I am happy as to what my life became. So you are part of my story Ebbie, a very important part of my story, and I am delighted how my story turned out

*He thinks and then smiles*

SCROOGE: In that case, I am happy for you Belle

BELLE: And I am happy that you are questioning the man you became. It is not the man you should have become and is not the man I loved.

SCROOGE: And ? And you think I can change ? Change from the man I became ?

BELLE: The true Ebenezer Scrooge is not the man you became. Of course you can change, change is within us all. There is still time for that Ebenezer Scrooge that I met and fell in love with when he was an awkward teenager – a principled, loving, hard working yet generous man - there is still time for that Ebenezer Scrooge to be the present and the future. He blushes..... Look Ebbie, I must get back to my turkey, Nicholas will shortly be back from he errands and.....

# TINY TIM AUDITION

TINY TIM: Excuse me Sir ? *pulling at Scrooge's trouser leg*

BOB: Tim, please don't bother our visitor. I am sorry Sir.

SCROOGE: Nonsense .... And less of this Sir ? Its Ebenezer to you all

TINY TIM: My names Tim

SCROOGE: *Bending down* Well I am very glad to meet to Tim

TINY TIM: Would you like to come inside and have Christmas dinner with us Ebenezer ?

SCROOGE: Well Tim, that is a mighty fine offer, I should like nothing more than to have dinner with you. But I must dash, however I shall be honoured if after finishing the wonderful feast your mother has prepared you, that you and your parents wrap up in the warmest of clothes and jump on a carriage that I shall arrange, and come and join me. I am laying on the finest feast for all-who-come to enjoy – and would mean the world to me if you could join me

TINY TIM: I would love that. Please mother, please can we go ?

MRS CRATCHIT: Of course; what a generous offer. In fact why don't we bring what we have prepared to the feast and join you now – it is the spirit of csharing after all.

SCROOGE: Then I shall flag that carriage right away

MRS CRATCHIT: Come on Tim we need to go inside. Thank you Mr Scrooge.

*Tim looks at Scrooge, then puts his arms around him*

TINY TIM: God bless you Mr Scrooge