

ScroogeMart
A Uniquely American Musical

SCENE 1

NARRATORS:

(in front of the curtain)

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOWS OF HOLLY

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

DAWN WE NOW OUR GAY APPAREL,

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

WHILE WE TELL OUR CHRISTMAS CAROL

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

WHAT WILL HAPPEN, WE'RE NOT CERTAIN

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

WHEN WE RAISE OUR YULETIDE CURTAIN

(curtain raises slowly, crowd on stage in tableau)

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

BUT STAY WITH US IF YOU ARE ABLE

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

HEAR THIS GHOSTLY WINTER'S FABLE

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

SEE THE THAT'S NOW BEFORE US

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

STRIKE THE BAND AND JOIN THE CHORUS

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

SETTLE BACK AND WATCH WITH PLEASURE

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

WHILE WE SHARE OUR CHRISTMAS TREASURE

FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

CURTAIN UP

The Scene is inside the ScroogeMart store.

All Cast (shoppers, retail clerks, Scrooge and Cratchit)

Person 1: Come on! Let's shop.

Person 2: But it's Christmas Eve. The store's going to close.

Person 3: Haven't you heard? They're open 24 hours this year!

Person 4: This is amazing!

(New York New York)

SCROOGEMART, SCROOGEMART

IT'S A WONDERFUL STORE

WE'VE GOT ALL NIGHT LONG, SO LET'S NOT WASTE A MINUTE

BUY EVERYTHING IN SIGHT

WE'LL FIND THE PRODUCTS AND THE PRESENTS FOR SALE IN IT

BENEATH THAT BLUE SALE LIGHT

WE'LL FIND A PRICE THAT'S RIGHT

HERE AT SCROOGEMART WE CAN SPEND ALL NIGHT

SIGHT, RIGHT, NIGHT

SCROOGEMART, SCROOGEMART,

IT'S A WONDERFUL STORE

FROM AISLE ONE, TO AISLE 124.

THE PEOPLE LOVE TO BUY MORE AND MORE

SCROOGEMART SCROOGEMART, IT'S A WONDERFUL STORE

Scrooge: Isn't it wonderful, Cratchit? ScroogeMart is not only the world's biggest chain store, but we are the first major retailer to be open all 24 hours of Christmas Day.

Bob: Actually, I had a question about that, sir. Does that mean I have to be here all 24 hours?

Scrooge: Everybody has to be here, Cratchit. That's the point! This year, ScroogeMart is finally giving the American public what it has always wanted—a chance to shop straight through the holiday.

Bob: But some of us were planning on having dinner with our families, Mr. Scrooge.

Scrooge: Nonsense! What American family in its right mind wants to sit around bonding over a dead bird when they could be down here buying I-pods!

THE GOODIES TO BUY ARE SO MANY

AS THE COMMERCIALS SAY

I PROMISED MYSELF I WON'T MISS ANY

'SPECIALLY ON CHRISTMAS DAY

GOT TO SEE THE WHOLE STORE

AND SHOP THE NIGHT AWAY

ALL NIGHT AND DAY!

SCROOGEMART, SCROOGEMART

IT'S A FAMILY PLACE
YOU HAVE TO BE YOUNG TO KEEP UP WITH THE PACE
YOU HAVE TO BE FAST TO BE FIRST IN THE RACE
SCROOGE MART, SCROOGE MART, IT'S FAMILY PLACE

Bob: But don't you think people might be a little tired of spending money?

Scrooge: (genuinely upset) Don't say that! Don't you ever say that!

Bob: Sorry, sir. Still, Christmas IS a holiday.

Scrooge: And that's exactly why we're staying open! This is a nation of many faiths, Cratchit- Christians, Jews, Muslims, Rastafarians. But there is one thing we ALL believe in ...

Bob: Sir?

Scrooge: The discount warehouse! It transcends religion and brings us all together, standing shoulder to shoulder in the check out line. United we shop!

ALL: United we shop!

CHECKOUT CLERKS:

(Lullaby of Broadway)

COME ON ALONG AND LISTEN TO
THE REGISTERS AT SCROOGE MART
THEIR RINGING UP THE HAPPY NEWS
THE REGISTERS AT SCROOGE MART
THE JINGLE OF THOSE SILVER COINS, THE SMELL OF PAPER MONEY
THE CRINKLE OF THOSE CREDIT CARDS, IT'S JUST LIKE MILK AND HONEY
WHEN A SCROOGE MART SHOPPER SAYS GOODNIGHT, IT'S EARLY IN THE
MORNING
WE SCROOGE MART WORKERS WORK ALL NIGHT AND RIGHT THROUGH
DAWN

WELCOME SHOPPERS

WELCOME, HOPE THAT YOU WILL STAY
SPEND SOME, SHOPPERS
SPEND SOME, SHOP ALL NIGHT AND DAY! HEY!

COME ON ALONG AND LISTEN TO
THE REGISTERS AT SCROOGE MART
THEIR RINGING UP THE HAPPY NEWS
THE REGISTERS AT SCROOGE MART
WE'RE COUNTING UP YOUR TOTAL SALES, EVERY GIFT AND TOY-FULL

WE KNOW THE MORE YOU SPEND WITH US, THE MORE YOU FEEL JOYFUL
RING-A-LING AS YOU BUY THIS AND THAT, IT FEELS SO EXCITING
SPEND YOUR WHOLE CHRISTMAS AT THE STORE WITH US!

WELCOME SHOPPERS
WELCOME, HOPE THAT YOU WILL STAY
SPEND SOME, SHOPPERS
SPEND SOME, SHOP ALL NIGHT AND DAY!
LISTEN TO THE REGISTERS AT YOUR SCROOGE MART!

(musical ending)

All exit but Scrooge and Cratchit.

Scrooge: Did you finish those jingles I wanted to use while people are shopping tonight and tomorrow, Cratchit?

Bob: I did exactly what you asked, sir. But I'm not really sure these advertising jingles are entirely appropriate.

Scrooge: Appropriate? You're questioning whether MY ideas are appropriate? I'm sorry, did I die and make YOU the owner of ScroogeMart, Cratchit?

Bob: No, sir. I'm just your director of musical marketing.

Scrooge: Oh, that's right. You're just nobody, aren't you, Bobby?

Bob: Yes, Mr. Scrooge.

Scrooge: Well, then, let's hear what you've got.

Bob: Yes, sir. (Cratchit exits as Freddie enters.)

Freddie: Hello, Uncle Scrooge. Merry Christmas.

Scrooge: Ah, little Fredricka, my favorite niece. A very profitable Christmas to you!

(They embrace.)

Freddie: Well, I just dropped by to make sure you'll be there tomorrow?

Scrooge: There?

Freddie: My Christmas party, Uncle. You didn't forget, did you?

Scrooge: Oh, dear Freddie, I'm working tomorrow. Haven't you heard? We're open all night tonight and all day tomorrow. 'Tis the season to make money, fa, la la la la la la la!

Freddie: But Uncle Scrooge, my fiancé is coming to dinner. Don't you want to meet him?

Scrooge: Why don't you bring him on down to the store instead? You can spend the day registering for all our ScroogeMart wedding gifts!

Freddie: I'm talking about love, Uncle Scrooge, not about shopping!

Scrooge: Oh, Freddie, this is America. Everything is about shopping. From cradle to grave. That reminds me. How many children are you planning on having?

Freddie: Children?

Scrooge: (putting his arm around her) We have a baby shower registry, too, you know. And the minute that baby is born, Freddie, I want you to wrap it in swaddling clothes and bring it right here, so we can sign it up for the ScroogeMart Birthday Club.

Freddie: (more disappointed than angry) Oh, Uncle Scrooge. Don't you believe in family values anymore?

Scrooge: Of course, I do, sweetheart, more than you know. And, I'm cashing in on every one of them. (He kisses her pleasantly and sends her on her way with a big smile.) Not get out of here, and don't come back without a credit card!

Hurt, she runs off, as Cratchit re-enters.

Bob: Your niece—was she crying, sir?

Scrooge: She'll get over it. All right. Let me see the promo for our Santa Corner.

Bob signals off stage. A guy in a Santa suit and four girls in elves outfits walk center stage and then stand with their backs to the audience.

The distance SOUND OF SLEIGH BELLS, as the elves turn, sing (in a cutsie pose)
(Jingle Bells)

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS
SANTA'S ON HIS WAY
VISIT HIM AT SCROOGE MART
AT OUR SANTA TIME DISPLAY

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS
HE'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO BUY
WE ALL BELIEVE IN SANTA
'CAUSE HE'S SUCH A SEXY GUY ...

Santa suddenly whips around, tears off his beard, rips open his suit to reveal a bare chest, and Santa and the elves break into a raunchy rap number ala Eminem.

Santa:
I'M SANTA, I'M SANTA
SEE MY SANTA CAP
COME ON TO MY CORNER
AND CLIMB UP ON MY LAP

Elves:
HE'S SANTA, HE'S SANTA
A TREAT YOU SHOULDN'T MISS
DON'T YOU WANT YOUR PICTURE
WITH A GUY LIKE THIS

All:
SANTA, SUCH A SEXY GUY
WHISPER IN HIS/MY EAR
HE'LL/I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO BUY

Santa:
I'M SANTA, I'M SANTA
SEE MY SANTA CAP
COME ON TO MY CORNER
AND CLIMB UP ON MY LAP

The number ends with Santa hold all four of the elves. Scrooge is in heaven as the group exits.

Scrooge: Oh, my word, that's brilliant. Absolutely brilliant.

Bob: Well, you thought of it, sir.

Scrooge: I want that all on video, playing throughout the entire store. Oh, Cratchit, this is going to be the most profitable Christmas ever. Now, what about the store carolers? Did you do what I told you?

Bob: Yes, Mr. Scrooge. But are you really sure this is all in the Christmas spirit?

Scrooge: It's all in the *American* spirit, Cratchit. And, as you know, this country is bigger than any one religion. United we shop!

Bob; (not all that enthusiastic) United we shop, sir. (calling offstage) Could we have the store carolers, please?

Scrooge is beside himself with delight.

Scrooge: Wait, wait! (He runs to get himself an easy chair.) Nothing is more relaxing to the soul than listening to a few of my very own Christmas carols. (He drops into the chair, completely relaxes, as the carolers begin.)

Carolers appear wearing mittens and scarves and carrying music.

Carolers:

(Good King Wenceslas)

GOOD KING WENCESLAS LOOKED OUT ON THE FEAST OF STEPHAN
FELT A LITTLE JEALOUSLY, DECIDED TO GET EVEN
HE COULD MAKE A BETTER FEAST, SHOW STEVE HE WAS COOL
WENT TO SCROOGE M&M'S, SHOPPED ALL NIGHT, WENCHY WAS NO FO-OL.

(We Wish You A Merry Christmas)

WE WISH YOU A TRENDY CHRISTMAS, A FLASHY AND SPENDY CHRISTMAS
WE WISH YOU A TRENDY CHRISTMAS, AND A SHOWY NEW YEAR

OH, BRING US A LOT OF PRESENTS, WE'RE NOT JUST SOME SIMPLE
PEASANTS
GIFTS ALWAYS MAKE US PLEASANT, BRING THEM TO US RIGHT NOW

WE WISH YOU A TRENDY CHRISTMAS, A FLASHY AND SPENDY CHRISTMAS
WE WISH YOU A TRENDY CHRISTMAS, AND A SHOWY NEW YEAR

(3 Kings)

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE
LOOKING FOR A SHOPPING BIZARRE
LOTS OF SPICES, AT GREAT PRICES
LOOK, SCROOGE M&M'S IT CAN'T BE FAR!
OH, OH, STORE OF WONDER, STORE OF LIGHT
STORE THAT MAKES OUR CHRISTMAS BRIGHT
YOU'RE THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON
EVEN KINGS CAN SHOP ALL NIGHT

(Run Rudolph Run)

OUT OF ALL THE REINDEERS YOU ARE REALLY SMART AND HOW
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH, 'CAUSE YOU WORK FOR SCROOGE M&M'S NOW
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH, YOU BRING SANTA JUST LIKE BEFORE
YOU MAKE SANTA HURRY, TELL HIM HE DON'T HAVE TO WORK NO MORE
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH 'CAUSE HE GETS HIS TOYS AT THE SCROOGE M&M'S
STORE.

SAID SANTA TO A BOY CHILD "WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LONGING FOR?
"ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A ROCK AND ROLL ELECTRIC GUITAR?"
AND THEN AWAY WENT RUDOLPH A WHIZZING LIKE A SHOOTING STAR
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH, YOU BRING SANTA JUST LIKE BEFORE
YOU MAKE SANTA HURRY, TELL HIM HE DON'T HAVE TO WORK NO MORE
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH 'CAUSE HE GETS HIS TOYS AT THE SCROOGE MORT
STORE.

SAID SANTA TO A GIRL CHILD "WHAT WOULD PLEASE YOU MOST TO GET?
"A LITTLE BABY DOLL THAT CAN CRY, SLEEP, AND WET?"
AND THEN AWAY WENT RUDOLPH A WHIZZING LIKE A SABER JET
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH, YOU BRING SANTA JUST LIKE BEFORE
YOU MAKE SANTA HURRY, TELL HIM HE DON'T HAVE TO WORK NO MORE
RUN, RUN RUDOLPH 'CAUSE HE GETS HIS TOYS AT THE SCROOGE MORT
STORE.

(Scrooge becomes drowsy, as he relaxes. Finally he closes his eyes. The carolers gather around his chair as he sleeps.)

(Silent Night)

SILENT NIGHT

HOLY NIGHT

SHELVES ARE FULL

LIGHTS ARE BRIGHT

HERE'S YOUR REWARD SCROOGE, FOR ALL THAT YOU DO

THE ENTIRE CHRISTMAS SEASON BELONGS TO YOU

LOOKS LIKE YOUR RESTING IN PEACE

LOOKS LIKE YOUR RESTING IN PEACE.

Lights fade to dim.

CURTAIN DOWN as the everyone exits, leaving the sleeping Scrooge upstage.

SCENE 2

As Scrooge continues to sleep, we hear the SOUND of someone walking. The ghost of Sam Marley appears, bound in chains, calling out plaintively.

Sam: Ebenezer. Ebenezer Scrooge.

Scrooge slowly awakens.

Scrooge: Who's there? (straining to see) I said, who's there?

Sam: It's your old business partner, Scrooge.

Scrooge: Sam? Sam Marley?! But I thought your were dead. Dead as a doornail!

Sam: I am a ghost of my former self, Scrooge. Take a look.

Scrooge gets up, examines the ghost.

Scrooge: (horrified) What are these, Marley? Chains?

Sam: The chains of my former life, Scrooge. Locked together by all the useless things I used to care about. Go ahead. Look closely.

Scrooge looks at the giant locks on Marley's chain.

Scrooge: High profit. Low wages. No healthcare. I don't get it! I thought these were good things, Marley.

Sam: Not in the great beyond. ~~Those things are making my time in the afer life a real hell.~~

Scrooge: Whoa, too bad for you, old buddy.

Sam: No! Too bad for YOU, Ebenezer.

Scrooge: Me?

Sam: That's why I'm here. To tell you you're headed for the same fate, unless you turn your life around.

Scrooge: Oh, come on, Sam. I'm the Consumer King of the World. Everybody loves me. And the ones who don't love, just want to Be me. I'm not gonna end up like you. (not so sure) Am I?

Sam: I'm sending you three spirits, Scrooge, over the next three nights. I think you may learn something about Christmas.

Scrooge: Christmas?

Sam: You better listen to these ghosts, Scrooge. They were all CEOs of Fortune 500 companies.

Scrooge: What happened to them?

Sam: The ultimate leveraged buyout, old friend. It happens to all of us. Beware!

Sam exits as the curtain rises on a psychedelic hell, filled with GHOSTS AND FLAMES who dance around Scrooge and taunt him.

GHOSTS AND FLAMES:

(Great Ball of Fire)

YOU SHAKE MY NERVES AND YOU RATTLE MY CHAIN
TOO MUCH GREED DRIVES A MAN INSANE
YOU'LL PAY THE BILL, OH WHAT A THRILL
GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

[BAND JOINS]

YOU LEARNED TO LOVE ALL THAT HOLIDAY MONEY
YOU LIKE IT BETTER THAN MILK AND HONEY
YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND, AND DESIRE
GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

YOU DISSED ME BABA, WOO.....DON'T FEEL GOOD
CHEAT ME BABA, ALWAYS TRY TO CHEAT ME LIKE I KNEW YOU WOULD
YOU CREEP, CAN'T SLEEP
GONNA TELL THE WORLD THAT YOUR CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP

WE'LL TREAT YA BAD AND WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL HOT,
YOUR GONNA FE-EL THE FLAMES HERE A LOT,
COME ON BABA, WE'LL HELP YOU EXPIRE,
GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

YOU DISSED ME BABA, WOO.....DON'T FEEL GOOD
CHEAT ME BABA, ALWAYS TRY TO CHEAT ME LIKE I KNEW YOU WOULD
YOU CREEP, CAN'T SLEEP
GONNA TELL THE WORLD THAT YOUR CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP

WE'LL TREAT YA BAD AND WE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL HOT,
YOUR GONNA FE-EL THE FLAMES HERE A LOT,
COME ON BABA, WE'LL HELP YOU EXPIRE,
GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

WE SAY GOODNESS GRACIOUS GREAT BALLS OF FIRE...OOOH.

The Ghosts and Flames exit, leaving Scrooge exhausted and frightened. A church BELL CHIMES once.

Narrators:

HARK HOW THE BELLS,
SWEET SILVER BELLS,
ALL SEEM TO SAY,
THROW CARES AWAY

CHRISTMAS IS HERE,

BRINGING GOOD CHEER,
TO YOUNG AND OLD,
MEEK AND THE BOLD,

OH HOW THEY POUND,
RAISING THE SOUND,
O'ER HILL AND DALE,
TELLING THEIR TALE,

The song is interrupted by ...

The Ghost of Christmas Past dressed like an elderly Jewish woman from the Bronx.

Past: Cut the crap. I'll make my own entrance.

The Narrators run off.

Past:

TO LIFE TO LIFE, LA KAYIM,
LA KAYIM, LA KAYIM, TO LIFE,
ALTHOUGH I MAY BE A GHOST IT'S TRUE
I ONCE WAS ALIVE LIKE YOU,
DRINK LA KAYIM, TO LIFE,
TO LIFE, TO LIFE, LA KAYIM,
LA KAYIM, LA KAYIM, TO LIFE,
DEATH HAS A WAY OF REMINDING FOLK,
YOUR LIFE HERE NOT A JOKE,
DRINK LA KAYIM, TO LIFE!
GOD WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE THOUGHTFUL, EVEN WHEN YOUR LIFE IS
DOING VERY WELL,
BECAUSE IF YOU ARE NOT THOUGHTFUL, THEN YOUR AFTER LIFE CAN BE
A LIVING HELL.
TO LIFE, TO LIFE, LA KAYIM,
LA KAYIM, LA KAYIM, TO LIFE,
IT GIVES YOU SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT,
SOMETHING TO DRINK ABOUT,
DRINK LA KAYIM, TO LIFE!

Past: Relax, Ebe-geezer, you're not dead yet.

Scrooge: That's EbeNeezer. And who are you?

Past: The Ghost of Christmas Past.

Scrooge: Christmas? Past? You sound Jewish.

Past: Of course I sound Jewish, you goyem. Who do you think those people were hanging around the manager? Seventh Day Adventists?

Scrooge: Oh. Sorry.

Past: Good, now that we got that straight, I'm here to show you the child you once were.

Scrooge: Me? A child? I don't remember that.

Past: Well, let's shake up a few of those little gray cells, old fella. Because your childhood is where it all began.

(She waves her hand and a spotlight appears stage right. In it, several children are gathered around the Boy Scrooge, holding the Christmas stockings.)

Past: There you are.

Scrooge: (remembering) Yes, yes, I'm the one in the middle.

Past: And do you remember what you were doing?

Scrooge: I was (suddenly realizing, ashamed) I was stealing.

Past: You were teaching others to steal. Their siblings Christmas stockings, so you could resell the candy on the black market.

Scrooge: That's right. I'd forgotten all about that.

Boy Scrooge:
(You've Got to -a-Pocket or Two)
You see, boys...

IN THIS LIFE, ONE THING COUNTS
IN THE BANK, LARGE AMOUNTS
I'M AFRAID THESE DON'T GROW ON TREES,
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO

YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO, BOYS,
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOYS:
LARGE AMOUNTS DON'T GROW ON TREES.
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-POCKET OR TWO.

BOY SCROOGE:
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE, MY DEARS?

(BOY SCROOGE DEMONSTRATES STEALING A STOCKING AS HE SINGS.)

WHY SHOULD WE BREAK OUR BACKS
STUPIDLY PAYING TAX?
BETTER GET SOME UNTAXED INCOME
BETTER TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-POCKET OR TWO, BOYS
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-POCKET OR TWO.

BOYS
WHY SHOULD WE ALL BREAK OUR BACKS?
BETTER STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOY SCROOGE:
WHO SAYS CRIME DOESN'T PAY?

ROBIN HOOD, WHAT A CROOK!
GAVE AWAY, WHAT HE TOOK.
CHARITY'S FINE, SUBSCRIBE TO MINE.
GET OUT AND STEAL A STOCKING OR TWO

YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO, BOYS
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOYS
ROBIN HOOD WAS FAR TOO GOOD
HE HAD TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOY SCROOGE:
TAKE A TIP FROM E. SCROOGE
YOU CAN TAKE WHAT YOU CHOOSE.
I SUGGEST, YOU TAKE WHAT'S BEST
ALWAYS STEAL A STOCKING OR TWO.

YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO, BOYS
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOYS
WE CAN BE LIKE EBBIE SCROOGE
IF WE STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOY SCROOGE:
VERY GOOD!

DEAR SWEET CHILD PASSING BY

SOMETHING NICE TAKES HIS EYE
EVERYTHING'S CLEAR, ATTACK THE REAR
GET IN AND STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO, BOYS
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOYS
HAVE NO FEAR, ATTACK THE REAR
GET IN AND STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOY SCROOGE:
WHEN I SEE SOMEONE RICH,
BOTH MY THUMBS START TO ITCH
ONLY TO FIND SOME PEACE OF MIND
WE HAVE TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO, BOYS
YOU'VE GOT TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO.

BOYS
JUST TO FIND SOME PEACE OF MIND

BOY SCROOGE AND BOYS
WE HAVE TO STEAL-A-STOCKING OR TWO!

Scrooge: Stop, please!! Stop. I can't believe I behaved that way.

The Ghost waves her hand and the spotlight goes out.

Past: Oh, you did far worse, Ebe-geezer.

Scrooge: I said, that's EbeNeezer.

Past: Whatever.

(She waves her hand again and a spotlight comes up on a Teenaged Scrooge, holding a bunch of flowers, anxiously waiting for someone.)

Scrooge: There I am as a young man! Oh, Spirit, that was so long ago. But who am I waiting for?

Past: (as a young woman walks into the spotlight) You tell me.

Scrooge: Belle! Oh, beautiful Belle.

Spirit: She loved you, you know.

Scrooge: Yes, yes. I do know.

Teen Scrooge: Belle!

Belle: What is it, Ebenezer? It sounded urgent.

Teen Scrooge: I've just started a new business.

Belle: Another one? What is it this time?

Teen Scrooge: I'm selling menorahs door-to-door?

Scrooge: Oh, no, not that menorah thing.

Past: Shameless. And you've never even been to Temple!

Belle: Menorahs?

Teen Scrooge: The market is wide open. And if this goes, I'm going to branch out into dradels.

Belle: But you're not even Jewish.

Teen Scrooge: That's the genius of it. I put on a skull cap, say masetoff a couple of times, and nobody knows the difference.

(dancing)

**I'M GONNA BE A RICH MAN,
YA HA DEEDLE DEEDLE, BUBBA BUBBA DEEDLE DEEDLE DUM.
I'M GOING TO SELL THESE IDDY BIDDY DRADELS
AND I'LL BE A WEALTHY MAN!**

Do you have any idea what the mark up is in Hebrew retail? I'm going to make a fortune. (he pulls out the flowers.) That's why I brought you these. (he gets down on one knee) I want you to marry me, Belle, just as soon as I close my next deal.

Belle: What deal?

Teen Scrooge: I'm selling bootlegged copies of the Koran through mail order.

Disgusted, Belle turns and walks away, throwing down the flowers.

Teen Scrooge: I'm telling you, this idea is a real money machine.

Belle: (stopping turning) There's more to life than money, Ebenezer. (She walks offstage.)

Teen Scrooge: What? What did I say?

The spotlight fades to black.

Scrooge: (hanging his head) She married a school teacher, who couldn't even afford a house in the Bay Area. Can you believe that?

Past: He made her happy, you stup-nik. (She waves her hand again and another spotlight appears.) But not everyone recovered from your greed, Geezer.

Scrooge: That's Neezer!

Spotlight on a street, as a middle aged Belle and her husband, bump into Fezziwig, an old man whose now living on the street.)

Scrooge: Oh, look, it's Belle, all grown up. And is that Mr. Fezziwig, my former employer?

Past: You got that right.

Older Belle: Mr. Fezziwig? Merry Christmas. Are you all right?

Fezziwig: Oh, merry Christmas, Belle.

Older Belle: And you remember my husband, Jack?

Jack: Mr. Fezziwig? What's happened to you?

Fezziwig: I lost my business.

Jack: How?

Fezziwig: In a hostile take over.

Older Belle: A take over?

Fezziwig: By ScroogeMart.

Jack: You mean, Ebenezer put you on the street. But how?

Fezziwig: Cheap labor. Outsourcing. Bait and switch. All his usual tricks.

Belle: But you were his mentor. I thought he loved you.

Fezziwig:

(You've Lost That Loving Feeling Lyrics)

HE NEVER SAID THANK ANYMORE WHEN I GAVE AD-VICE.
THERE WAS NO TENDERNESS LIKE BEFORE WHEN I WAS NICE.
HE DIDN'T CARE IF HE SHOWED IT, (BABY).
BUT I'LL TELL YOU I KNOW IT...

SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
WHOA, THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
NOW IT'S GONE...GONE...GONE...WOOOOOOH.

BELLE:

NOW THERE'S NO WELCOME LOOK IN HIS EYES
WHEN HE PASSES BY.
AND NOW HE'S HAPPY TO CRITICIZE AND TO CHEAT AND LIE.
IT MAKES ME JUST FEEL LIKE CRYING,
'CAUSE BABY, SOMETHING IN HIM IS DYING.

BELLE AND FEZZIWIG:

SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
WHOA, THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
NOW IT'S GONE...GONE...GONE...WOOOOOAH

JACK:

POOR SCROOGE, POOR SCROOGE, I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE MAN.
IF HE COULD ONLY LOVE LIFE LIKE WE KNOW HE CAN, YEAH.

HE HAD A CHANCE...A CHANCE...A CHANCE YOU DON'T FIND EVERYDAY.
BUT GREED, GREED, GREED, GREED LET IT SLIP AWAY.

ALL THREE:

SCRO-OGE (SCRO-OGE), SCRO-OGE (SCRO-OGE),
WE KNOW IT'S TOO LATE .. LATE
YOUR FRIENDS ARE GONE, (YOUR FRIENDS ARE GONE)
THEY'RE GONE TOO LONG (THEY'RE GONE TOO LONG)
TO BRING 'EM ON BACK (TO BRING 'EM ON BACK)
BRING 'EM ON BACK (TO BRING 'EM ON BACK)

SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
WHOA, THAT LOVIN' FEELING

SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
NOW IT'S GONE...GONE...GONE,
AND HE CAN'T GO ON,
NOOOO...

SCROOGE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
WHOA, THAT LOVIN' FEELING
SCROOGE THAT LOVIN' FEELING,
NOW IT'S GONE...GONE...

Spotlight and music fade out.

Scrooge covers his face with shame. Then, reaches out and grasps the ghosts hand in despair.

Scrooge: I can't believe I was such a terrible person. Those people really cared about me.

Past: That's right. And this is what happens when you don't have a Jewish mother—you don't learn how to appreciate nutting, no how.

CURTAIN DOWN, as the ghost leads Scrooge back to his chair upstage, where he collapses from exhaustion. The ghost closes Scrooges eyes, and the old man immediately falls asleep.

Past: Sleep fast, you old goose. The night's just getting started.

The ghost disappears.

SCENE 3

Suddenly, as church bell STRIKES ONE, jolting Scrooge awake.

The Narrators enter with the Ghost of Christmas Present, dressed like one of the Rat Pack.

Narrators:

WELL LOOK HERE JACK, THERE'S SOMETHING DOWN THE TRACK
HE'S GOT RHYTHM IN HIS FEET, BUT NOTHING IN HIS SACK
THE BOOGIE WOOGIE GHOST OF NOW,
BOOGIE WOOGIE GHOST OF NOW,
BOOGIE WOOGIE GHOST COMES TO YOU ON THIS CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

GHOST:

WELL, I LIVE UP THERE IN HEAVEN LIKE A SPIRIT WITH NO WORK
I ONLY COME TO VISIT WHEN SOME MORTAL'S BEEN A JERK

THE BOOGIE WOOGIE GHOST OF NOW,

NARRATORS:

BOOGIE WOOGIE GHOST OF NOW,

BOOGIE WOOGIE GHOST COMES TO YOU ON THIS CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

WELL, IT'S ROCK ROCK ROCK MR. GHOST MAN

JUMP JUMP JUMP MR. GHOST MAN, WELL JUMP

GHOST:

GOT NO PRESENTS FOR YOUR TREE—SCROOGE

NO CANDY FOR YOUR SOCKS,

'CAUSE WHEN I START TO BOOGIE, YOU WHOLE WORLD ROCKS

Scrooge: You must be ...

Present: The Ghost of the moment, Scrooge. The Ghoul of what's happenin', even as we speak. Come on, Bubba Lou,.

He grabs Scrooge's hand, pulls him out of the chair.

Scrooge: Where are we going?

CURTAIN UP

Present: To a place you shoulda dropped by a long, long time ago.

A woman enters, wearing an apron and carrying a bowl and spoon.

Mrs. C: All right, children,

LET'S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

A VERY GOOD PLACE TO START.

Scrooge: Who's that?

Present: That's Mrs. Cratchit.

Scrooge: Bob Cratchit's wife? But I've never seen her before.

Present: That's right, Scrooge. And I bet you've never seen the kids, either.

Mrs. C:

WHEN YOU READ YOU BEGIN WITH A-B-C

WHEN YOU SING YOU BEGIN WITH DO-RE-MI

The children enter, carrying a table, stuff to set the table and food. They set the table as

they sing.

Children:
DO-RE-MI, DO-RE-MI

Mrs. C:
THE FIRST THREE NOTES JUST HAPPEN TO BE

Children:
DO-RE-MI, DO-RE-MI

Scrooge: My goodness, I had no idea there were so many.

Mrs. C:
DO-RE-MI-FA-SO-LA-TI
[SPOKEN]
LET'S SEE IF I CAN MAKE IT EASY

DOE, A DEER, A FEMALE DEER
RAY, A DROP OF GOLDEN SUN
ME, A NAME I CALL MYSELF
FAR, A LONG, LONG WAY TO RUN
SEW, A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD
LA, A NOTE TO FOLLOW SEW
TEA, A DRINK WITH JAM AND BREAD
THAT WILL BRING US BACK TO DO (OH-OH-OH)

[MRS. C AND CHILDREN:]
[REPEAT ABOVE VERSE TWICE]

[MRS C:]
DO-RE-MI-FA-SO-LA-TI-DO
SO-DO!

[Mrs. C: (spoken)]
Now children, we don't have a turkey this year, but we will do the best we can without one.
Instead, we will be thankful for what we have, and sing so everyone can hear us.

Scrooge: No turkey? Why is Cratchit so poor?

Present: Ask his employer.

Scrooge: Oh. Point taken.

Mrs. C:

SO DO LA FA MI DO RE

[SPOKEN]

CAN YOU DO THAT?

[CHILDREN:]

SO DO LA FA MI DO RE

[MRS. C:]

SO DO LA TI DO RE DO

[CHILDREN:]

SO DO LA TI DO RE DO

[Mrs. C:]

[spoken]

Now, put it all together.

[Mrs. C and Children:]

SO DO LA FA MI DO RE, SO DO LA TI DO RE DO

[Mrs C/)

Now, let's put in words,. One word for every note. Like this.

When we know the notes to sing

we can sing most anything .

[ALL:]

WHEN WE KNOW THE NOTES TO SING

WE CAN SING MOST ANYTHING

DOE, A DEER, A FEMALE DEER

RAY, A DROP OF GOLDEN SUN

ME, A NAME I CALL MYSELF

FAR, A LONG, LONG WAY TO RUN

SEW, A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD

LA, A NOTE TO FOLLOW SEW

TEA, A DRINK WITH JAM AND BREAD

THAT WILL BRING US BACK TO DO

DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO

DO TI LA SO FA MI RE

[CHILDREN:]

DO MI MI

MI SO SO

RE FA FA

LA TI TI

[REPEAT ABOVE VERSE 4X AS MRS C SINGS]

WHEN YOU KNOW THE NOTES TO SING

YOU CAN SING MOST ANYTHING

[ALL]

DOE, A DEER, A FEMALE DEER
RAY, A DROP OF GOLDEN SUN
ME, A NAME I CALL MYSELF
FAR, A LONG, LONG WAY TO RUN
SEW, A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD
LA, A NOTE TO FOLLOW SEW
TEA, A DRINK WITH JAM AND BREAD
THAT WILL BRING US BACK TO

[MRS C

[CHILDREN:]

DO . . . SO DO
RE . . . LA FA
MI . . . MI DO
FA . . . RE
SO . . . SO DO
LA . . . LA FA
TI . . . LA SO FA MI RE
TI DO - OH - OH TI DO -- SO DO

The scene disappears as the spotlight fades.

Scrooge: I can't believe they're so happy, when they have so little.

Present: There's more to life than money.

Scrooge: Belle said that.

Present: But you didn't listen, did ya?

Scrooge: And where's Bob? Why isn't he home with his family?

Present: Glad you asked. He's at church, with his youngest son.

Lights come up on another area of the stage where Bob and Tiny Tim stand without church goers. Sound of Oh, Holy Night under.

Present: That's the boy, Tiny Tim. The one with the crutch.

Scrooge: A crutch? What's wrong with him?

Present: He has a chronic health condition, so his HMO dropped him.

Scrooge: Can't Cratchit get him another one?

Present: He tried. But his employer won't help pay the premium.

Churchgoers and Cratchet and Tim sing:

OH, HOLY NIGHT

Scrooge: Wait a minute. What about the little boy, Tiny Tim? Is he going to be all right?

Present: Without healthcare, or a living wage ... Well, his chair is probably gonna to be empty next Christmas.

Scrooge: Oh, Spirit, you can't mean that.

Present: Hey, I get my orders straight from the top. Would I kid you?

CURTAIN DOWN
END ACT I

ACT II

Scene 4

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOWS OF HOLLY
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA
SCROOGE IS FEELING NOT SO JOLLY
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

HE'S SEEN HIS PAST, IN BACKWARD GLANCES
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA
HIS MISpent YOUTH AND LONG LOST CHANGES
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

NOW THE PRESENT LIES BEFORE HIM
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA
WHAT HE SEES CAN NOT RESTORE HIM
(curtain raises slowly, crowd on stage in tableau)
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA
FIRST HE SAW JUST HOW THE POOR LIVE
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA
NEXT HE'LL SEE HOW THOSE WITH MORE LIVE
FA LA LA LA LA, LA LA LA LA

Present walks briskly onto the stage with Scrooge trailing behind.

Scrooge: Where are we going now?

Present: Just one more stop, Bubba Lou. It's party time!

A spotlight comes up on Freddie Christmas Party.

Scrooge: Oh, look, there's my niece, Freddie. This must be her Christmas party.

The group is gathered around a Christmas tree, singing Christmas songs.

MEDLEY OF ALL KINDS OF CHRISTMAS SONGS

Dialogue for the scene:

Scrooge: There are so many people here. I didn't know one person could have so many friends.

Present: That's because some people have so few.

Scrooge: (feeling more than a little ashamed) Who's that man with Freddie?

Present: Her fiancée, the one you never bothered to meet.

MORE SINGING AND DANCING

Fiancée: It's a great party, Freddie. Where's your Uncle Scrooge?

Freddie: Working.

Fiancée: On Christmas? He doesn't know what he's missing.

Scrooge: But I don't want to miss it, Spirit! Can't I join in?

The Spirit gestures towards the party and Scrooge joins in the dance, although no one can see him. He has the time of his life dancing and singing. When the dance finishes, he rushes over to his niece.

Scrooge: What a great party, Freddie! I'm so glad I came!

Freddie doesn't see him, however, and turns to address her guests.

Freddie: It's time for gifts.

Scrooge: Listen, Freddie, I've got presents. More than anyone in the world. At my store. Just let me go get some.

Freddie: (going right on as if he's not there) Gather round.

Discouraged, Scrooge rushes over to the Spirit.

Scrooge: Why doesn't she see me? Why can't she hear me?

Present: Because you're not here, Scrooge. Remember? Now, quiet. It's gift time.

Freddie: As you know, Michael and I are going to start a new family tradition this year. We're not exchanging Christmas gifts.

Scrooge: What? No presents? What kind of Christmas is that?

Freddie: Instead of accumulating more things we don't need or even want, we've decided to share a portion of our wealth with people who have none.

Scrooge: What is she talking about?

Present: The rest of the world, Scrooge. You know, those people without food and housing.

Freddie: And we hope over time, this will become your Christmas tradition, too. In other words, we have decided to Stop Shopping.

Scrooge: Stop Shopping? At Christmas? But that's blasphemy. If Americans stop consuming, it will render the entire holiday season meaningless. (he stops to think for a moment) Won't it?

Present: Yes, it will. (beat) Unless ...

Scrooge: Unless what?

Present: Unless you find a way to give it new meaning.

Scrooge: What new meaning?

Present: You could try giving Christmas back its old meaning.

Scrooge: I don't understand.

Present: No, Scrooge, you don't. (drawing his attention back to the scene) Oh, look, they're about to sing another song.

The people in the party have all joined hands and gathered round the tree, ala the Whos from the Grinch. They begin singing 'Welcome Christmas' (from the original Grinch TV movie).

Party-Goers
WELCOME CHRISTMAS,
WHA WHO WHA HOW
WELCOME CHRISTMAS, CHRISTMAS DAY
ETC.

Scrooge watches, feeling sad and confused.

Scrooge: I'm tired.

Scrooge's chair appears, as the spotlight and singing begins to fade very, very slowly.

Present: Okay, Bubba Lou, maybe you'd like to rest in peace.

Scrooge sinks into the chair, feeling drowsy.

Scrooge: Stop shopping? I don't understand.

Scrooge drifts off to sleep as the spotlight scene and the ghost disappear.

SCENE 5

A moment later, the church BELL STRIKES one. The Ghost of Christmas Future appears, a phantom in a black, hooded robe. Scrooge jolts awake and watches the approach of the spirit with trepidation. The ghost hovers over him.

Scrooge: You must be the third spirit?

The ghost nods.

Scrooge: The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come?

The ghost nods.

Scrooge: Please, Spirit, please speak to me. Tell me what you've come to say.

The ghost suddenly throws off the hood and is made up like a glamour queen. As she sings and dances, we can see gold sequence beneath the robe.

FUTURE:

SOME BOYS KISS ME, SOME BOYS HUG ME

I THINK THEY'RE O.K.
IF THEY DON'T GIVE ME PROPER CREDIT
I JUST WALK AWAY

THEY CAN BEG AND THEY CAN PLEAD
BUT THEY CAN'T SEE THE LIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT
'CAUSE THE BOY WITH THE COLD HARD CASH
IS ALWAYS MISTER RIGHT, 'CAUSE WE ARE

LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD
AND I AM A MATERIAL GIRL
YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE LIVING IN A MATERIAL WORLD
AND I AM A MATERIAL GIRL

Future: But enough about me. Let's talk about YOU, pumpkin.

Without speaking, the ghost leads him on. A spotlight appears on a news desk with two broadcasters, who are in the middle of reading a news story.

News 1: ... was considered by many on Wall Street as the Nation's leading Captain of Retail.

News 2: He certainly was the richest man in the country. Surprisingly, he had few close acquaintances and no one has come forward to claim the body.

Scrooge: The body?

Future: *The body*, isn't that a delicious expression? Get an eye full of this, pumplin.

The ghost silences him as another spotlight rises on a group of Scroogemart clerks, still in uniform.

CLERKS:
(PICK A LITTLE, TALK A LITTLE) WITH JOY TO THE WORLD

JOY TO THE WORLD, OLD SCROOGE IS DEAD
ALL HAIL THE CORPORATE THIEF,
LET EVERY CLERK PREPARE TO SING
OH, WHAT A HUGE RELIEF, OH, WHAT A HUGE RELIEF,
OH, WHAT OH WHAT AT HUGE RELIEF.

JOY TO THE WORLD, OLD SCROOGE IS DEAD
LET'S ALL JOIN IN THE SONG
LET EVERY CLERK PREPARE TO DANCE
THE KING OF GREED IS GONE
THE KING OF GREED IS GONE

THE KING, THE KING OF GREED IS GONE.

JOY TO THE WORLD, OLD SCROOGE IS DEAD,
WE NOT IN HIS EMPLOY
LET EVERY CLERK, SING AND DANCE
REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY
REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY,
REPEAT, REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY.

PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER
CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, PAY US NAUGHT, WORK US LONGER MORE
{THREE TIMES}
PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER
THAT MAN WAS CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP

Clerk 1: I'll tell you, the man never gave me a raise.

Clerk 2: Or even a day off.

Clerk 3: He didn't care about his employees.

Clerk 4: Or his customers.

Clerk 5: All he wanted was money.

Clerk 1: Money.

Clerk 2: Money

Clerk 6: And more money.

Clerk 5: Overworked.

Clerk 6: Underpaid.

Clerk 3: That's how all his dough was made.

Clerk 4: He's gone.

The 4 all cheer.

As the clerks sing 'PAY US LITTLE', the two Broadcasters sing, 'Good bye, Scrooge'

PAY US LITTLE, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
GOODBYE SCROOGE CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, SELL A LOT, WORK US LONGER
MORE

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
GOODBYE SCROOGE CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, SELL A LOT, WORK US LONGER
MORE

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
GOODBYE SCROOGE CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, PAY NAUGHT, WORK US
LONGER MORE

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE US NOW CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP
CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
FAREWELL SCROOGE CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, PAY US NAUGHT, WORK US
LONGER MORE

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
FAREWELL SCROOGE CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, PAY US NAUGHT, WORK US
LONGER MORE

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
FAREWELL SCROOGE CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP, PAY US NAUGHT, WORK US
LONGER MORE

WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE US NOW WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE,
WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE

CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP
CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP
CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP
WORK US LONGER, PAY US LITTLE, CHEAP!

Both the newscasters and the clerks end the number with uproarious LAUGHTER as the spotlights go to black.

Scrooge: They're laughing. I've made more money than anyone else on earth, and they're laughing! I don't want to see any more of this!

Future: Bummer, isn't it? Well, let's go some place else, then, pumpkin.

The Spirit directs the old man's attention to another spotlight, this time a large gathering at a funeral. The mourners are singing.

Scrooge: What's this? A funeral. But look at all the people! See there, Spirit, at least there are lots of people. You see that?!

Mourners:
(The Ash Grove)

THE ASH GROVE HOW GRACEFUL, HOW PLAINLY 'TIS SPEAKING
THE WIND THROUGH IT PLAYING HAS LANGUAGE FOR ME.

WHENEVER THE LIGHT THROUGH ITS BRANCHES IS BREAKING,
A HOST OF KIND FACES IS GAZING AT ME.
THE FRIENDS FROM MY CHILDHOOD AGAIN ARE BEFORE ME
EACH STEP BRINGS A MEMORY AS FREELY I ROAM.
WITH SOFT WHISPERS LADEN THE LEAVES RUSTLE O'ER ME
THE ASH GROVE, THE ASH GROVE ALONE IS MY HOME.

Scrooge: Isn't it beautiful? Look, they're all crying. You see how sad they are? How much love there is?

As the singing continues, the ghost moves to the crowd of mourners, which separates, exposing the grave, which is covered with flowers. At the head of the grave stand Bob Cratchit and his wife. As the singing continues, Bob places a single crutch on the grave.

Scrooge: (stunned) This is not my funeral, it's the boy's!

DOWN YONDER GREEN MEADOW WHERE STREAMLETS MEANDER
WHEN TWILIGHT IS FADING I PENSIVELY ROAM
OR IN THE BRIGHT NOON TIDE IN SOLITUDE WANDER
AMID THE DARK SPACES OF THAT LONELY ASH GROVE.

The crowd continues singing as they begin to move away in different directions and the spotlight fades.

'T WAS THERE WHILE THE BLACK BIRD WAS CHEERFULLY SINGING
I FIRST MET MY DEAR ONE THE JOY OF MY HEART
AROUND US FOR GLADNESS THE BLUE BELLS WERE SPRINGING
THE ASH GROVE, THE ASH GROVE THAT SHELTERED MY HOME

The light fades to black.

Scrooge: I can't get over how much they all loved him.

Future: What'dya say we 'compare and contrast'?

Scrooge: What are you talking about?

Future: This ...

The ghost gestures toward another area, where a spotlight comes up on a single, barren grave stone that reads, Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge crosses to it, stands on the grave.

Scrooge: There's no one here. Hated by my employees. Forgotten by my relatives.
Deserted at my grave site.
That's my funeral.

Future: THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

The Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present enter.

Past: THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Present: THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL.

Past:

IT'S BEEN A LONG SATISFYING LIFE
NEVER TIME FOR CHILDREN OR A WIFE
WORKING HARD TO OWN MOST EVERY POSSESSION
TOO BAD YOUR ASSETS DON'T MAKE A FUNERAL PROCESSION.
THERE'S NO BLESSING ON YOUR REMAINS
JUST A NOTE ABOUT YOUR CAPITAL GAINS
NO MOURNERS
IN ALL CORNERS
JUST THE SOUND OF YOUR OWN CHAINS

Future:

BUT YOUR COFFIN'S LINED WITH SATIN
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Past:

THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Future:

LARGE ENOUGH TO WEAR YOUR HAT IN.
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Past:

THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Present:

WE'RE JUST HERE TO GET YOU READY
FOR THAT ENDLESS SLEEP.

Past:

HERE TO TELL YOU WHERE YOU'RE GOING
WHEN YOU'RE SIX FEET DEEP.

Present:

AT THE WAKE THERE'LL BE NOBODY
JUST YOUR BODY PITIFUL.

Future:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Past:
NOT OUR FUNERAL

All:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Future:
LIKE TO BURY COMPETITION
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Present:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Future:
WE'LL GIVE YOU THE SAME CONDITION
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Past:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Future:
VISUALIZE THE EARTH DESCENDING ON YOU DEED BY DEED
YOU CAN'T COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE BURIED
UNDER SO MUCH ... GREED.

Present:
WHEN YOUR LIFE IS MADE OF MONEY
AND ITS ALL REMUNERAL

Future:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL.

Past:
NOT OUR FUNERAL

Present:
NOT OUR FUNERAL

[ALL]
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL.

Present:
LOOK, POOR SCROOGE IS FEELING SORRY

ALL:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Past:
HE'S GOT GOOD REASON TO WORRY

All:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Future:
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Present
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL SO SAD SCROOGE
YOU'VE JUST YOURSELF TO BLAME

Future:
IS IT OUR FAULT IT'S YOUR FUNERAL AND NO ONE CAME?
THE WAY YOU TREATED OTHERS
WITH MOTIVES SO IMPUNABLE
THAT'S YOUR FUNERAL

Past:
NO ONE ELSE'S FUNERAL

Present:
THAT'S YOUR ...

Present:
THAT'S YOUR ...

All:
FUNERAL!

The ghosts now surround a distraught Scrooge, and bring him upstage as the
CURTAIN COMES DOWN.

Past: Well, Ebe-geezer, what have you got to say for yourself?

Present: Like where you ended up, Bubba Lou?

Future: Come on, Pumpkin, you can talk to us.

Scrooge: Is it true? NOBODY came to my funeral? NOBODY?

Present: That's the story.

Past: Unless, of course, you'd like to change it.

Future: Learned any lessons, pumpkin?

Scrooge: Yes. You bet I have. (Beat) If nobody comes to my funeral, I say, screw 'em.

Ghosts: What?!

Scrooge: I say, screw the whole lot of them. I'm not changing! Now get out of here. All three of you. I'm exhausted, and I've got a big day tomorrow. My biggest retail day, ever!!

Scrooge goes to his chair, sits down and closes his eyes.

The three ghosts are stunned. They move upstage and huddle for a strategy session.

Present: What'd we do now?

Past: We're only contracted to run this nightmare until 2 am. I say we go home and let this guy rot in you know where.

Future: No, wait. We can't just desert him. (beat, she gets an idea) Why don't we let him get what he wants?

Present: You mean, run the Hail Mary play?

Past: (shivering) Oooyyyy, I hate that play.

Future: No, not the Hail Mary play, the Jimmy Stewart play. It's a Wonderful Life.

Past: Ah, now you're using your noodle. Let him see what happens when he *owns* Christmas.

Present: You wanna give ScroogeMart the entire holiday?

Future: We're not GIVING it to him. We're showing him what he'll have to pay for it.

She puts her hand out, and the other ghosts pile their hands on, like a football team before a play.

Ghosts: Let's go!

Lights out to black.

Scene 6

The Narrators appear and sing softly in Scrooge's ear.

DREAM YOUR DREAMS, SWEET AND DELICIOUS
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
YEARS HAVE PASSED, YOU HAVE YOUR WISHES
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
GHOSTS CAN'T KEEP YOU PLANS FROM STOPPING
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
EVERYONE SPENDS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

(THE CURTAIN RISES as Scrooge opens his eyes. The store is packed with clerks and shoppers. Scrooge is beside himself with joy, but as the scene wears on he becomes more and MORE APPALLED by what is happening.)

LOOK, ANOTHER CHRISTMAS BLOOMING
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
THE WORLD ARRIVES TO START CONSUMING
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
EVEN FRIENDS AND FAMILY TRY IT
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
LOVE'S ON SALE, AND THEY ALL BUY IT!

(THE SONG MORPHS INTO A RAP, AS THE WORDS TAKE ON AN EDGE)

THEY BUY IT, THEY BUY IT,
LOVE'S ON AISLE THREE
JUST TRY IT, JUST TRY IT
IT COMES WITH A T.V.

NO STOPPING, KEEP SHOPPING
THERE'S PEACE ON AISLE FOUR
WE'LL WRAP IT UP FOR FREE
THEN YOU CAN SHOP SOME MORE.

The ScroogeMart Workers Come forward.

Workers:

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

ONE MORE THING, OH DEAR EMPLOYER
WE GOTTEN OURSELVES A LAWYER
SO. WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

'CAUSE WE'RE SUING THIS YEAR.

(MORPHS INTO A RAP)
MORE HOURS, NO POWER,
CAN'T GET NO SATISFACTION
UNITING, WE FIGHTING
WE'RE FILING A CLASS ACTION

Scrooge: Sue me! No, wait.

But the workers have disappeared and Belle steps up next, accompanied by shoppers.

Belle and Shoppers:
UP ON THE HOUSE TOP REINDEER'S PAWS
OUT JUMPS GOOD OLD SANTA CLAUS
USED TO BRING CHEER AND CHRISTMAS THRILLS
Belle:
NOW ALL HE BRINGS IS CREDIT CARD BILLS.

(MORPHS INTO A RAP)
HO, HO, HO, IN DEBT I GO
WITH PLASTIC, FANTASTIC,
YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE INFLICTED
MY SPENDING'S UNENDING,
I'M BROKE AND I'M ADDICTED!

Scrooge: Addicted? No, Belle, I didn't mean ...

But Belle is gone and Freddie and her Fiancé are up next.

SILVER BELLS, SILVER BELLS
THAT WAS THE SOUND OF OUR WEDDING
YOU MISSED, DISMISSED IT
NOW WE ARE GETTING DIVORCED.

(MORPHS INTO A RAP)
Freddie, pointing to Michael, her husband:
OH, UNCLE, HE'S DATED
HIS IDEAS ARE SO STRANGE
HE CAN'T ACCEPT THIS NEW WORLD
HE DOESN'T WANT TO CHANGE

HE SAYS THAT CHRISTMAS CAN'T BE BOUGHT
IT'S LOST IT'S MEANING TO HIM
WELL, I SAY YOU OWN CHRISTMAS NOW
FORGET MY MARRIAGE, SCREW HIM!

Freddie kisses Scrooge on the cheek and marches away from her Fiancé.

Scrooge: No, Freddie, I didn't mean to ruin your marriage ...

But she's gone, and Bob Cratchit steps up.

Bob: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA
ALLE-LU-IA.
OH SCROOGE YOU CHANGED MY LIFE FOREVER.

Everyone in the store:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA,

Bob;
'CAUSE MY LIFE IS THE BEST EVER!

Everyone in the store:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA,

(MORPHS INTO A RAP)

Bob:
'CAUSE TINY TIM, A MIRACLE
HE WOKE ONE DAY AND JUST GOT WELL
WE RAISED HIM POOR, WE RAISED HIM SWELL
WE RAISED HIM SMART AND MAD AS HELL

HE WENT TO SCHOOL, HE WENT TO WORK
HE STARTED AS A SCROOGE MART CLERK
HE LEARNED THE BUSINESS THROUGH AND THROUGH
HE LEARNED IT BETTER THAN OLD YOU

HE TOOK A BOAT, HE GOT A LOAN
HE WENT TO CHINA ON HIS OWN
HE BUILT A STORE, HE DID HIS THING
HE CALLED IT TIM-MART IN BEIJING

HE WENT FROM ONE TO 1 MILLION STORES
NOW HIS CHAIN IS MORE THAN YOURS
AND HERE'S THE WAY IT ALL WORKED OUT
TINY TIME JUST BOUGHT YOU OUT!!

Scrooge: What?!

Everybody:
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

ALLE-LU-IA.

The MUSIC breaks in to a cacophony of competing sounds as Scrooge descends into his own insanity.

He falls to his knees, then to the floor, as the sounds and shoppers fade away to silence.

Scrooge: Oh, Spirits, can't you help me undo my past?

The three ghosts appears, standing over him.

Past: What's done is done, old geezer. Just came to say I can't help you.

She departs.

Scrooge: But I need help. I WANT help.

He turns to Present.

Scrooge: What about the present? Can't I change what happens today?

Present: You'd have to give it new meaning, Bubba Lou? Remember?

The Spirit of Christmas Present now moves to depart.

Scrooge: New meaning? But how do I give Christmas new meaning?

But the Present is gone. Scrooge turns in desperation to the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come.

Scrooge: Please, please Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come. Help me. How do I change the future?

Future: Try giving Christmas back its old meaning.

Scrooge: Its old meaning?

Future: There is no competition, Scrooge. We are all one.

Scrooge: We are?

Future: You don't have to corner the market on anything. There's enough for everybody.

Scrooge: There is?

Future: And you can't sell love. Get out there and give it away, pumpkin. It compounds like nothing else you've ever invested.

Scrooge: Are you sure that's true?

Future steps into an eerie colored spotlight.

Future: Know this, Ebenezer ...

The other two spirits appear in separate, colored spotlights on the stage.

Past: Know this, Ebenezer ...

Present: Know this, Ebenezer ...

Future: We are time ...

Past: Time ...

Present: Time.

All: And Time will tell.

All lights fade to black. CURTAIN DOWN.

SCENE 5

Lights up upstage, where Scrooge sleeps in his chair. The church BELL STRIKE again. Scrooge jolts awake. Looks around, expectantly.

Scrooge: No spirits? (An exhausted Bob Cratchit wanders across the stage.) Cratchit? Is that you?

Bob: Sir?

Scrooge: What day is it?

Bob: Is that a joke, sir?

Scrooge: It certainly is not. What day is it?!

Bob: Christmas, sir.

Scrooge: 2004?

Bob: Is something wrong, sir?

Scrooge: What time? What time is it?

Bob: It's only eight.

Scrooge: In the morning?

Bob: We've been working all night, sir. Just 16 more hours to go.

Scrooge: It's 8 o'clock on Christmas morning!! Oh, thank heavens. It's not too late. I want an employee meeting.

Bob: You mean now, sir?

Scrooge: Of course, I mean now. Didn't you hear me?

Bob: But we've got customers in the store.

Scrooge: I don't care. I wanna see our customers, too. Everybody, on the floor. Now!

Bob picks up the store intercom mike as the curtain opens to reveal customers and clerks doing their respective things.

Bob: Attention all ScroogeMart Associates! Attention ScroogeMart shoppers! (when no one responds) They don't seem to be listening, Mr. Scrooge.

Scrooge: Give me that microphone. Listen up, you people. Stop. Stop shopping. NOW!

Suddenly, everyone freezes in place.

Scrooge: That's better. (He walks into the scene.) I don't know what you people thing you're doing.

(Oklahoma)

BRAND NEW DAY!

BRAND NEW DAY, GONNA CHANGE MY WAY!

GONNA CHANGE PERSPECTIVE, THINKING AND DIRECTION,

GONNA TAKE SOME TIME OFF,

AND TRY SOME REFLECTION!

MAYBE I'VE GOT PLENTY, I'VE GOT TOO MUCH STUFF,

MAYBE TOO MUCH IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

TIME TO LET GO OF THINGS WE OWN

TIME TO GIVE THANKS, TIME TO GO HOME.

(SINGING TO INDIVIDUAL SHOPPERS AND CLERKS)

YOU---GO-HOME-TO-WHERE, YOUR FAMILY'S WAITING AT THE DOOR

WHERE THE LOVE YOU BRING IS JUST THE THING

THAT CAN'T BE BOUGHT IN ANY STORE.

YOU---GO-HOME-TO
WHERE THE ROAST AND TURKEY'S WAITING THERE
AND THEN TAKE TIME OUT TO THINK ABOUT
THE FOLKS WHOSE CHRISTMAS' TABLE'S BARE
WE KNOW THAT THIS WORLD ISN'T FAIR
SO BEWARE THAT WE ALL HAVE TO SHARE
AND WE SAY
THIS IS CHRISTMAS DAAAAAY
WE'RE ONLY SAYING
WE'RE DOIN' FINE
SO DON'T SPEND IT
SEND IT AWAY.

CLERK A: Has the old man lost his mind?

CUSTOMER 1: He's telling us to stop shopping?

CUSTOMER 2: And start sending some of our money to poor people? Free of charge?

CLERK B: Unbelievable!

CUSTOMER 3: Un-American!

CLERK 3: This flies in the face of social Darwinism.

CUSTOMER 4: It flies in the fact of trickle-down economics.

CUSTOMER 5: What really worries me, it is flies in the fact of the Fox News Network.

Scrooge:

YOU---GO-HOME-TO-WHERE, YOUR FAMILY'S WAITING AT THE DOOR
WHERE THE LOVE YOU BRING IS JUST THE THING
THAT CAN'T BE BOUGHT IN ANY STORE.
YOU---GO-HOME-TO
WHERE THE ROAST AND TURKEY'S WAITING THERE
AND THEN TAKE TIME OUT TO THINK ABOUT
THE FOLKS WHOSE CHRISTMAS' TABLE'S BARE
WE KNOW THAT THIS WORLD ISN'T FAIR
SO BEWARE THAT WE ALL HAVE TO SHARE
AND WE SAY
THIS IS CHRISTMAS DAAAAAY
WE'RE ONLY SAYING
WE'RE DOIN' FINE
SO DON'T SPEND IT
SEND IT AWAY.
OK, GET OUT, GO HOME, GOOD-BYE!!

All leave the store. CURTAIN DOWN.

SCENE 6

Only Scrooge and Cratchit remain upstage. Bob is stunned.

Scrooge: Well, aren't you going?

Bob: I just wanted to make sure you're all right, sir. You seem rather—strange.

Scrooge: Yes, well, let's say I've had a 'spiritual awakening'. Literally.

Bob: May I say that was a very brave thing you just did, Mr. Scrooge.

Scrooge: It was, wasn't it? And you know, I've feeling pretty good about myself. (He does a little dance, then starts to put on party clothes) By the way, how's your son? Tiny Tim, is it?

Bob: (surprised) You know I have a son?

Scrooge: Oh, I know far more than I did, and much less than I should. How is he?

Bob: Well, he's doing fine, considering.

Scrooge: Yes, that health insurance issue. And that turkey issue. Something should be done about both those things.

Bob: Sir?

Scrooge: We are all one, Cratchit.

Bob: I didn't know you believed that, Mr. Scrooge.

Scrooge: Some of us are slow learners.

Bob: And did you know there's enough for everyone, sir?

Scrooge: Actually, I've always known that. But I was never a big sharer. (considering) How do you think this suit coat looks?

Bob: Very nice, sir.

Scrooge: Good. Put it on. We're going to a Christmas party.

Scrooge puts the jacket on Bob.

Bob: A party, sir?

Scrooge: Yes, I've invited everyone I know, and a few people I don't, over to my niece Freddie's house.

Bob: But my family ---

Scrooge: Oh, they're coming. It's a very big party. With lots of turkey!

Bob: Turkey! My children will love that, sir.

Scrooge: (giving Bob an envelope) And this is for you.

Bob: (opening the envelope) An HMO! You're giving me an HMO for Christmas!

Scrooge: It's the best I could do, until we get universal coverage in this country. Merry Christmas, Bob!

We HEAR THE STRAINS of Music from behind the curtain.

Bob: Oh, listen. The party's started! This is so wonderful of you, sir!

Scrooge: You know, it feels like my heart's grown three sizes today. (He takes Bob's hand and steps into the scene with the others.)

The CURTAIN OPENS to reveal all the characters

ALL;
JOYFUL, JOYFUL
LORD, WE ADORE THEE
GOD OF GLORY
LORD OF LOVE
HEARTS UNFOLD LIKE FLOWERS BEFORE THEE
HAIL THEE AS THE SUN ABOVE
MELT THE CLOUDS OF SIN AND SADNESS
DRIVE THE DARK OF DOUBT AWAY
GIVER OF IMMORTAL GLADNESS
FILL US WITH THE LIGHT
FILL US WITH THE LIGHT
OH, FILL US WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY.....

JOYFUL, JOYFUL
LORD, WE ADORE THEE
GOD OF GLORY
LORD OF LOVE
HEARTS UNFOLD LIKE FLOWERS BEFORE THEE

HAIL THEE AS THE SUN ABOVE
MELT THE CLOUDS OF SIN, SIN AND SADNESS
DRIVE THE DARK OF DOUBT AWAY
DRIVE IT AWAY
GIVER OF IMMORTAL GLADNESS
FILL US
FILL US WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY
LIGHT OF DAY!

Bob:
(CHECK THE RHYME)
JOYFUL, JOYFUL
LORD WE ADORE THEE
AN' IN MY LIFE
I PUT NONE BEFORE THEE
CUZ SINCE I WAS A YOUNGSTER
I CAME TO KNOW
THAT YOU WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GO

Scrooge:
SO I HAD TO GROW AN' COME TO AN UNDERSTANDIN'
THAT I'M DOWN WITH THE KING SO NOW I'M DEMANDIN'
THAT YOU TELL ME WHO YOU DOWN WITH, SEE
CUZ ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M DOWN WITH G-O-D
YOU DOWN WITH G-O-D?
(YEAH, YOU KNOW ME)
YOU DOWN WITH G-O-D?
(YEAH, YOU KNOW ME)
YOU DOWN WITH G-O-D?
(YEAH, YOU KNOW ME)
WHO'S DOWN WITH G-O-D?

Scrooge: What a terrific party. Good night, my friends and God bless, America! (Tiny Tim pulls at his sleeve and whispers in his ear.) Nope, wrong, cancel that. It's Christmas, let's get it right. Good night, my friends and ..

Tiny Tim: God bless us, *everyone!*

Scrooge: God bless us, everyone!

Everybody:
COME AND JOIN THE CHORUS
THE MIGHTY, MIGHTY CHORUS
WHICH THE MORNING STARS BEGUN
THE FATHER OF LOVE IS REIGNING OVER US

HE WATCHES OVER EVERYTHING
SO WE SING

JOYFUL, JOYFUL
LORD, WE ADORE THEE
GOD OF GLORY
LORD OF LOVE
HEARTS UNFOLD LIKE FLOWERS BEFORE THEE
HAIL THEE AS THE SUN ABOVE
MELT THE CLOUDS OF SIN, SIN AND SADNESS
DRIVE THE DARK OF DOUBT AWAY
DRIVE IT AWAY
GIVER OF IMMORTAL GLADNESS (WON'T YOU)
FILL US (FILL US WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY, LORD, FILL US)
FILL US (OH WE NEED YOU, YES WE DO, FILL US)
FILL US (YEAH..., OH, OH YEAH)
FILL US (WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY, LORD)

....

(WE NEED YOU, COME RIGHT AWAY,
WE NEED YOU, NEED YOU TODAY, WE NEED YOU,
I'M HERE TO SAY FILL US, FILL US, FILL US, FILL US...)

FILL US WITH THE LIGHT OF DAY (OH, YEAH)
LIGHT OF DAY!

The End.