

DREAMARTS & COCKPIT THEATRE  
PRESENT

A NEW MODERN DAY MUSICAL  
OF DICKENS' CLASSIC

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Book & Lyrics by Graham Whitlock

Music by Wayne Roberts

THURSDAY 16—SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER  
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## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL – A MODERN DAY MUSICAL**

### **Synopsis**

Christmas, the most wonderful time of the year... well it is for everyone except the greedy and ruthless City Banker, Scrooge. He has no time for friends, family or fun. He lives in his Maida Vale mansion, a world away from inner city neighbours like his cleaner, the refugee Roberta and her ill but brave son, Tim. Not even Scrooge's conscientious nephew can open Scrooge's eyes to the hardship that surrounds him.

When Scrooge cruelly sacks Roberta on Christmas Eve, he is paid a surprise visit by the ghost of Marley, his former business partner in S&M Bankers. Marley tells Scrooge that he will be called upon by three spirits - a cockney cabbie, a vivacious auntie, and a ghostly Hoodie. Each takes him on a mysterious and magical journey through his past in the 60's, 70's, 80's and into the future to reveal the error of his ways. Scrooge must help those around him and, in doing so, save his soul from damnation. But can Scrooge really change in time for Christmas Day, and discover the true wonder and meaning of Christmas?

### **Cast of Characters**

The original production had a cast of 9 adults and 3 children. However, the cast could be extended to 20, incorporating 15 speaking adult parts and 5 children, plus extras in the market, at the various Christmas parties, at the Community Centre, and playing Ghouls. The traditional Christmas Carols were sung by a Choir made up of varying members of the cast, but they could be a stand-alone singing ensemble. Equally, with more doubling up, the production could be staged with only 8 adults.

For the Ghost of Christmas Future we had all 3 younger cast members dressed in the same spectral hoodie costume so the ghost could seem to disappear and reappear at different points. The Ghost of Christmas Present was envisaged as a large-then-life Caribbean Auntie. However the dialogue is not written in patois and could be played differently depending on the ethnicity of the actress.

Below is a list of characters and how they doubled up in the original production;

1. Scrooge
2. Roberta
3. Marley / Choir
4. Theo / Young Scrooge / Choir
5. Fezziwig / Scrooge Snr / Homeless 1 / Choir
6. Deborah / Homeless 2 / Stall Holder / Choir
7. Journalist / Homeless 3 / Choir

8. Ghost of Christmas Past – a Cabbie / Doctor / Choir
9. Ghost of Christmas Present – a Caribbean Auntie / Secretary / Choir
10. Tim aged 8 / Ghost of Christmas Future – a spectral Hoodie
11. Anne aged 10 / Girl / Ghost of Christmas Future – a spectral Hoodie
12. Scrooge aged 12 / Ghost of Christmas Future – a spectral Hoodie

Market traders & shoppers / Ghouls / Fezziwig's employees / S&M Bankers employees / people attending the Community Centre Christmas Meal / people from Roberta's homeland.

### **Production Notes**

This modern-day musical version of Dicken's classic is set in London today. The story focuses on Church Street NW8 which is where the refugee Robert lives with her son Tim. This area is one of the top 2% most severely deprived wards in the UK and life expectancy is 12 years lower than in neighbouring Maida Vale, where Scrooge has his home. Church Street has a vibrant market and diverse shops ranging from Arabic Shisha bars to expensive antique shops (the image used in the original publicity incorporates an actual photo of Church Street after heavy snowfall).

### **Running Time**

The running time was 1hr 10 minutes without interval. The original story does not present itself with a traditional cliff-hanger to divide it into two clear halves, and its episodic nature together with the fact that so many people are familiar with the story makes it preferable to present it straight through. However, if your bar takings might be hit without incorporating an interval (!) then one could be placed between Scene 7 and Scene 8, which puts the haunting *Carol of the Bells* at the end of Act 1.

### **Set**

The original set depicted iconic landmarks along Church Street, plus the exterior of an imposing Georgian townhouse Stage Left representing Scrooge's house. This set was enhanced by the use of projections which represented various interiors and exteriors – from the London skyline to Scrooge's mansion and the graveyard. Projections also created the effect of Scrooge and the various Ghosts travelling through time. It was also used to project the lyrics of *Calypso Christmas* for the audience interaction section. These projections are available to hire upon request. When Marley's ghostly face appears on Scrooge's computer screen, we projected a representation of Scrooge's screen onto the back drop and then created a moving image of Marley emerging from the screen; a great effect! We can offer a bespoke image with your actor playing Marley appearing from the screen, and put the face of the actor playing Scrooge into a portrait on the wall of his house, for an additional fee.

Other items of set consisted of;

- 2 x Tables (used as Market Stalls, Scrooge's desk, and for the Community Centre)
- Clothes rail on wheels with clothes for sale in the market
- 8 chairs (or as many as you need for the Community Centre Christmas meal)
- Scrooge's Chair, on wheels (as grand an office chair as possible)
- Double bed

Most major set changes are designed to take place whilst the traditional Christmas Carols are being sung, with changes being done by the Singers themselves.

### **Puppets**

Puppets were created for the Ghouls who accompany Marley; three join him when he first appeared to Scrooge and sing backing vocals and dance in 'Got No Soul', and six when Marley returned at the end to take Scrooge to Hell. We made them with paper mache faces and one long-fingered hand, joined together with a sheet (looking similar to the *Scream* film costume). Puppets were operated with an actor using one hand holding the head and the other holding the hand. The use of puppets enabled the cast to quickly become Ghouls, reducing costume changes and the number of costumes required. However, it is important that actors don't forget to use their face and bodies to 'act' the expressions and emotions of the Ghouls to bring the puppets to life.

### **Music**

Seven original songs capture music from past decades, together with a mix of alternative Christmas carols. The original score is available on fully produced backing tracks. The traditional Christmas Carols were accompanied on piano. Vocal scores are available to hire upon request.

### **Choreography**

The original choreography was more movement based rather than involving lots of complex dancing. The big dance number is *Disco Christmas Party at Fezziwigs*, which used lots of classic 70's disco moves. Auntie's moves in *Calypso Christmas* need to be simple (but fun) enough for the audience to copy during the Audience Participation section.

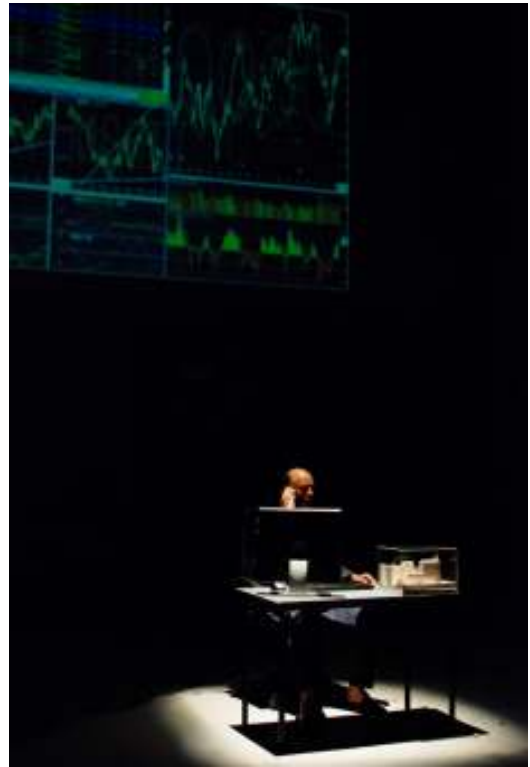
### **About DreamArts & The Cockpit Theatre**

The Cockpit Theatre was London's first purpose built 'black box' theatre. A training and development venue as well as a vibrant fringe theatre, its 180 seat main auditorium has hosted productions by companies ranging from Soho Theatre to Mountview Drama School. DreamArts is described by the British Theatre Guide as 'London's leading youth arts company'. From new musicals and leadership schemes where emerging talent run their own projects, to weekly workshops with top professionals, over 400 children and young people every year credit DreamArts with making a difference in their lives.

For more information visit [www.cockpittheatre.org.uk](http://www.cockpittheatre.org.uk) and [www.dreamarts.org.uk](http://www.dreamarts.org.uk).

*A Christmas Carol* premiered with 9 performances at The Cockpit Theatre, London, December 2010.

















## **Scenes & Songs**

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<b>Scene 12: Scrooge's House in the Future</b> <b>Song 7 – Everything Must Go</b>	<b>Page 47</b>
<b>Scene 13: Roberta's Homeland</b> <i>Carol 6 – Silent Night</i>	<b>Page 50</b>
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<b>Scene 15: Scrooge's House on Christmas Morning</b>	<b>Page 53</b>
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## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

### **SCENE 1: CHRISTMAS EVE, CHURCH STREET MARKET**

*A haunting rendition of Jingle Bells echoes. A bell tolls 2 o'clock*

*The empty stage fills with last-minute Christmas shoppers in Church Street Market. This is a severely deprived area tucked between posh Marylebone and Maida Vale. Amidst the hustle and bustle ROBERTA hands out flyers. In her 20's, she is a refugee doing cash-in-hand jobs as she awaits the decision on her application to stay in the UK. She is cheerful and smiling, even at those who ignore her. Next to her is TIM, her eight year old son who despite his fragility and crutch, sings with gusto.*

#### **CAROL 1: DECK THE HALLS**

*Shoppers & Stall Holders*

Cheer yourself with Christmas shopping  
Tra la la la la, la la la la  
Food and presents, hear the tills ring  
Tra la la la la, la la la la  
Get your cut price Christmas bargain  
Tra la la la la, la la la la  
Credit crunch, cash only darling  
Tra la la la la, la la la la

**Roberta** Two for one sandwiches. Merry Christmas! Two for one sandwiches.

**Tim** Merry Christmas!

#### **SONG 1: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Roberta**

All I want for Christmas is new life for Tim and me  
In this scary wonderful land of opportunity

**Chorus**

Sing a song for Christmas x 3  
For Christmas Eve

**Roberta**

Even if I work hard night and day for little pay  
It's money for lawyers to help us stay

**Chorus**

Sing a song for Christmas x 4

**Roberta**

Tim there'll be no working tomorrow, just fun and play  
Together forever, celebrating Christmas Day!

**Tim**

Christmas Day!

**Roberta & Tim**

Christmas Day!

**Chorus**

Sing a song for Christmas  
For Christmas Day!

*Roberta and Tim approach the Sandwich Stall Holder*

<b>Stall Holder</b>	Here you go Roberta, and a little extra as a Christmas bonus.
<b>Roberta</b>	Really?
<b>Stall Holder</b>	Roberta, love, you're the first person who hands my flyers out instead of binning them. Treat Tim.
<b>Tim</b>	Thanks! Merry Christmas!
<b>Stall Holder</b>	(to Roberta) It would be if your boss old Scrooge...
<b>Market crowd</b>	Scrooge!
<b>Stall Holder</b>	... wasn't planning to pull down the market. Roberta, have a word.
<b>Roberta</b>	Me? The only time Scrooge talks at me is to moan ( <i>impersonating him</i> ); 'Rosanna' – he always gets my name wrong – 'don't use so much bleach. You're literally throwing my money down the toilet!'
<b>Stall Holder</b>	When you're cleaning his place, Roberta, do us all a favour and spit in his kettle.
<b>Tim</b>	Can I spit in his kettle mum?



**Roberta** No! Come along, I can't be late for Mr Scrooge.

**Stall Holder** Merry Christmas!

*Roberta counts the money.*

**Tim** Are we rich?

**Roberta** The richest family in London!

**Tim** We wrote to Santa at school. I asked him if we can stay in this country.

**Roberta** We will stay. I promise. Come, we've got time to get you a present. You can buy anything you like in the entire shop.

**Tim** Anything?!

**Assistant** Welcome to Poundland!

**Roberta** But be quick.

**Tim**

All I want for Christmas is a book! Train! A little toy

**Roberta**

All I want is to see strength return to my little boy

**Chorus**

Sing a song for Christmas x 3

For Christmas Day

**Tim** A football! So when I'm stronger I can be like Kieron Dyer. Can we get it to Santa to deliver?

**Roberta** Luckily I know one of his elves personally.

**Tim** You do?

**Roberta** It's true.

**Roberta & Tim**

But all I want for Christmas is to be with you

*Roberta pays the pound and sees the time. It starts to snow.*

**Tim**                      It's snowing! Can I play?

**Roberta**                It's too cold. You'll have to come into Mr Scrooge's house. But  
stay hidden

**CAROL 2: Holly and the Ivy**

***Chorus***

Round the corner from the market  
But a world away  
Sits a greedy City banker  
Cursing the holiday

## SCENE 2: SCROOGE'S HOUSE

*The grand Georgian town house is home of SCROOGE, a ruthless and greedy sixty year old City banker. His house is cold, stark and clinical. Scrooge swaggers around his desk on a conference call to a JOURNALIST, one eye on his flat screen showing stocks and share prices. Behind him sneaks Roberta and Tim, whom she tries to hide. Roberta starts hurriedly cleaning. Scrooge sees her and looks menacingly at his watch.*

**Journalist** (on the phone) Thanks for being interviewed on Christmas Eve.

**Scrooge** Christmas! Why should stock markets close and prevent me making money?

**Journalist** Some might say you have enough, you're in the top 100 rich list.

**Scrooge** There is no such thing as rich enough. Only poor enough.

**Journalist** Isn't that a quote from your late business partner, Marley?

**Scrooge** No, I said that. Marley took the credit, as usual.

**Journalist** Tell our readers what Santa Claus brings to a man with your wealth and power?

## SONG: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (CONT.)

### Scrooge

Since I sold my firm I've found  
Retirement is a bore.  
Call it hunger, or ambition  
For Christmas I want more.  
Scrooge and Marley Bankers  
Were the biggest in the City  
Life has no pity

### Chorus

Sing a song for Christmas x 3  
Sing a song it's Christmas Eve

**Scrooge**

I sold my firm before the crash  
Walked away with stacks of cash  
The company was liquidated  
I was rich and celebrated  
It did cause me some distress  
That I left Marley in a mess  
He killed himself three years ago  
He couldn't handle stress, you know  
There's losers and winners  
And Scrooge is a success  
I'd pass by and they'd remark  
There goes Scrooge the Teflon Shark

*The doorbell buzzes, loud and continuous.*

**Scrooge** (shouting) Regina? Damn it, where is that cleaner? (to the interviewer) Hold on.

*Scrooge presses the intercom on his desk*

**Kids** (Carol singing, badly)  
God rest ye merry Gentlemen  
May nothing you dismay

**Scrooge** (singing to the tune)  
I'm dismayed by your bad singing  
So ASBO's, go away

*Tim has wandered out of his hiding place and chortles at the scene. Roberta walks in and, upon seeing Tim, urgently hides him behind her just as Scrooge turns around. He speaks to her slowly and loudly as if she's deaf and dim.*

**Scrooge** Regina! I do not have time to waste on wailing hoodies.

*As Scrooge paces Roberta nods an apology and turns to continue hiding Tim behind her back.*

**Scrooge** (back to the interview) Now, where were we?

**Journalist**            You were boasting.

*Roberta chides and ushers Tim to another hiding place. He continues reading 'A Christmas Carol'.*

**Scrooge**            Ah yes. Marley was the face of S&M Bankers, but I was the brains.

*Scrooge admires an architectural model of his planned redevelopment of Church Street, featuring rows of skyscrapers.*

**Scrooge**

Journalists loved Marley  
He showed them a good time  
But now he's dead, and so instead  
It's my time to shine  
Leave my mark, a legacy  
To stand the test of time  
This area redeveloped  
And all of it mine  
Luxury flats, offices  
Towers towering high  
Proud on London's skyline  
And you might ask me why.

**Journalist**            Why?

**Scrooge**

Because I've seen this area  
Where I've lived all my life  
Become an alien country  
Of dirt scum and strife  
My money is a broom  
To sweep the scum away  
That is my hope, my dream  
My prayer for Christmas Day

*The door buzzer goes again.*

**Scrooge**            Rosetta!



*The buzzer continues. Scrooge snarls and answers.*

**Scrooge**                    Get lost!

**Theo**                        *(from outside the house)* And a Merry Christmas to you Uncle!

**Scrooge**                    You, nephew, can most certainly get lost.

*Scrooge returns to the interview*

**Journalist**                Thank you for your time. Now about your interview fee.

**Scrooge**                    Ah yes.

**Journalist**                Everyone on the Rich List has donated their fee to a worthy cause

*As Scrooge talks he doesn't notice THEO has entered the room; Scrooge's charismatic and enthusiastic nephew and local community campaigner.*

**Scrooge**                    My fee comes to me.

**Journalist**                You have your own charity?

**Scrooge**                    Yes, and it starts at home. Pay within fourteen days or you'll hear from my lawyers.

*Scrooge hangs up and is surprised to see Theo.*

**Theo**                        Spreading Christmas cheer, uncle!

**Scrooge**                    Who let you in?

*Scrooge glares at Roberta, who cowers.*

**Scrooge**                    I said let nobody through those gates, and my nephew is most certainly a nobody.

**Theo**                        It's all my fault, I forced Roberta.

**Scrooge**                      Who?

**Theo & Roberta**      Roberta!

*Theo hands Scrooge a present*

**Theo**                      Now no peeking until tomorrow!

*Scrooge takes the present and tosses it into his bin.*

**Scrooge**                      Well I have a present for you.

**Theo**                      Really?

**Scrooge**                      Oh yes. My plans to pull down Church Street are nearly complete.

*Scrooge gestures the architectural model*

**Scrooge**                      Your precious community centre, gone, the tatty antique stores, history, the dirty market, cleaned out.

**Theo**                      You're just cranky coz you're lonely.

**Scrooge**                      I have friends in high places. Unlike you wasting your life helping low lives at your community centre. The work shy thinking themselves poor because they haven't got a plasma screen TV and a woo.

**Theo**                      A Wii.

**Scrooge**                      Whatever. And as for benefit scrounging refugees...

**Theo**                      Actually refugees can't claim benefits

**Scrooge**                      If they find life here so difficult they should go back where they came from.

**Theo**                      Some would rather die

**Scrooge** Then let them do so and reduce both the burden on my taxes, and the world's surplus population.

**Theo** You're just saying that to make me leave you alone. Well that's something *you won't* be getting for Christmas.

**Scrooge** And *you won't* be getting anything in my will.

**Theo** Somewhere inside you there's still the child who wrote those lovely letters to my mother. What was she like?

**Scrooge** That's the past, dead and buried, like poor Annie.

**SONG: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (CONT.)**

**Theo**

All I want for Christmas is us to get along  
As my mother wished

**Scrooge**

I wish to be left alone

**Chorus**

All I want for Christmas x 3  
For Christmas

**Scrooge**

All I want for Christmas is to leave my mark.

**Theo**

All I want for Christmas is to open up your heart

**Roberta**

All I want for Christmas is a new start

**Tim**

All I want for Christmas is to play at Upton Park!

*Scrooge finally spots Tim.*

**Scrooge** A hoodie! Call the police!

**Roberta** That's my son.

**Scrooge** He's armed!

**Tim** It's my crutch Mister Scrooge.

**Roberta** I'm sorry, but it's so cold outside.

**Theo** He can come to the community centre, help me put up decorations for tomorrow's party.

**Scrooge** Good riddance to unwanted rubbish.

**Theo** (*mocking cheerfully*) Merry Christmas Uncle!

**Scrooge** Go!

**Tim** And a Happy New Year!

*Tim leaves with Theo. Roberta can't help smile at her son, but checks herself when she sees Scrooge's glare.*

**Roberta** I'm almost finished for the day...

**Scrooge** You are finished.

**Roberta** I can leave early?

**Scrooge** You can leave and never come back. You're fired.

**Roberta** But... its Christmas

*Scrooge gets out his wallet and pulls out cash to pay Roberta.*

**Scrooge** Which is the only reason I'm not having your brat arrested for trying to rob me.

**Roberta** (*flaring*) My son is no thief.

*Scrooge is initially shocked. He then takes back his hand so the money is just out of Roberta's reach. She bites her tongue.*

**Roberta** I – I'm sorry

**Scrooge** That's better.

*Scrooge throws the cash onto the floor. Roberta picks it up. She looks up, pleading*

**Roberta** I need this job. I'm begging you.

**Scrooge** Take your begging onto the street where it belongs.

*Roberta draws herself up and leaves the house.*

*Outside a group of Carol Singers warm up. Theo gives them a donation before being hit in the head by a cheeky snowball from Tim. Roberta comes out of Scrooge's house.*

**Tim** Gotcha!

**Theo** Hey! (*seeing Roberta*) Was he mad?

**Roberta** Everything's fine.

**Tim** Really?

**Roberta** He let me go early, gave me Christmas off, plus a special bonus.

**Theo** If there's hope for Scrooge, there's hope for us all.

*Tim throws another snowball.*

**Theo** Hey! You play dirty!

*Tim and Theo continue their snowball fight as they leave, Roberta watching her son longingly.*

### **SONG: ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS (A'CAPELLA)**

**Roberta**

All I want for Christmas is keep Tim's dreams alive  
To pray we can stay hope that we'll survive



*The Carol Singers begin to sing;*

**CAROL 3: GOOD KING WENCESLAUS**

***Carol Singers***

Old Scrooge sat as night time fell  
Freezing fog and black ice  
Sat in bedclothes checking out  
Investment, stocks and share price  
Brightly shone the moon that night  
Though the frost was cruel  
Not as cruel as Ole Man Scrooge  
Who'll soon meet a ghoul

### SCENE 3: MARLEY'S GHOST

*Scrooge appears in his pajamas and dressing gown with a bowl of soup. He looks at the stocks and shares on his computer screen, which is also projected onto the cyclorama. As the carol singers sing 'goul' we hear a ghostly voice echo.*

**Scrooge**                    Hmm? Must be the wind. *(looking at the screen)* A profit of four pence per share. Now that's what I call a Christmas present.

**Voice**                    Scrooge!

*Suddenly the ghostly face of Marley appears on the computer screen.*

**Scrooge**                    I must have a computer virus. Marley? Is that you?

*Scrooge's blackberry rings.*

**Scrooge**                    Hello? Hello?

**Voice**                    Scrooge!

**Scrooge**                    Yes?

**Voice**                    Scroooge!

*Scrooge switches off the phone.*

**Scrooge**                    Prank callers.

*The blackberry rings again.*

**Scrooge**                    But I turned it off...

*More ring tones chime, reaching a deafening crescendo. Then silence. We hear the sound of a clanking chain approach. Scrooge cowers.*

**Scrooge**                    Who's there? I'm warning you. My money's locked up in the bank.

*The door slowly opens. Through it appears the ghostly figure of MARLEY, the high-living champagne drinking party animal of the S&M partnership.*

<b>Scrooge</b>	Arghh!!!
<b>Marley</b>	Ahhh boy! If you could see the look on your face! It makes eternal damnation almost worthwhile.
<b>Scrooge</b>	What are you?
<b>Marley</b>	Now that hurts. Though not as much as throwing yourself out of a penthouse window, trust me.
<b>Scrooge</b>	Marley?
<b>Marley</b>	Bingo!
<b>Scrooge</b>	But you killed yourself...
<b>Marley</b>	Three years this very night.
<b>Scrooge</b>	Really? To look at you I'd say, two years, tops.
<b>Marley</b>	Still smooth, Scrooge.
<b>Scrooge</b>	<i>(shaking his head)</i> I've been working too hard.
<b>Marley</b>	You always worked too hard. You'd better let your hair down, have a little fun while you can, coz when you die, the likes of you and I are doomed.
<b>Scrooge</b>	You've become quite moany since you died.
<b>Marley</b>	Of course I'm moaning. I'm a ghost.
<i>Three ghostly ghouls enter; they also have chains around them and moan.</i>	
<b>Scrooge</b>	You used to party with the jet set, not dead beats.
<b>Marley</b>	I enjoyed myself at the expense of others. Good times are no good unless you <i>do</i> good. Now we cannot rest.

<b>Scrooge</b>	Hardly surprising, carrying those chains.
<b>Marley</b>	These chains we made in life. Every dirty deal, every lie, every time we turned our back on others, we add a link. Now we are tormented.
<b>Ghouls</b>	Tormented!
<b>Marley</b>	Tortured
<b>Ghouls</b>	Tortured!
<b>Marley</b>	Doomed
<b>Ghouls</b>	Doomed!
<b>Marley</b>	<i>(to the Gouls)</i> Alright, I've got this.
<b>Gouls</b>	<i>(admonished)</i> Ohhhh.
<b>Marley</b>	Now your fate rests in my cold dead hands!
<b>Scrooge</b>	Is there hope for me... dear friend?
<b>Marley</b>	Dear friend? Come off it. The only time I ever saw you dance was on my grave.
<b>Scrooge</b>	I was just happy I sold out to you before the markets crashed. It was nothing personal, strictly business.
<b>Marley</b>	You screwed me, Scrooge, and it's time to return the favour.

## SONG 2: GOT NO SOUL

*Verse 1*

**Marley**

You got money, you got power  
 You got houses, yachts and wealth  
 You got ambitious projects, hell you even got your health

But there's something you not got  
Something cash won't buy

**Scrooge**

Well I'd like to hear just what.

**Marley**

I'm gonna tell you why

*Chorus*

**Marley**

You got no soul

**Scrooge**

I've got no soul?

**Marley**

You got no soul

**Gouls**

You got no soul

**Marley**

Where your heart belongs there's just a hole

**Marley**

You got no soul

**Scrooge**

I've got no soul?

**Marley**

You got no soul

**Gouls**

You got no soul

**Marley**

In this life the welfare of others ought a be our goal

*Verse 2*

**Marley**

You and me made fortunes  
Beyond the wealth of kings  
Money making schemes gave us  
Cash beyond our dreams  
But our business enterprise  
Was built upon a pack of lies  
Masters of our Universe  
With an eternal curse



*Chorus*

**Marley**

We got no soul

**Gouls**

We got no soul

**Marley**

We got no soul

**Gouls**

We got no soul

**Marley**

Where our heart belongs there's just a hole

You got no soul

**Scrooge**

I got no soul?

**Marley**

You got no soul

**Gouls**

You got no soul

**Marley**

In this life the welfare of others ought a be our goal

*Bridge*

**Marley**

You can't buy redemption

Can't cheat the hand of fate

Listen to my words, Scrooge

Before it's too late...

**Marley**

You will be visited by three ghosts.

**Scrooge**

More ghosts?

**Marley**

At 1am, 2am and 3am

**Scrooge**

Can't they all come at once and get it over with?

**Marley**

Those are your allocated slots. We're rushed off our feet haunting greedy bankers like you who've....

**Marley**

Got no soul  
**Gouls**  
They got no soul  
*Chorus*  
**Marley**  
You got no soul  
**Gouls**  
You got no soul  
**Marley**  
Where your heart belongs there's just a hole  
**Marley**  
You got no soul  
**Gouls**  
We got no soul  
**Marley**  
We got no soul  
**Gouls**  
You got no soul  
**Marley & Gouls**  
In this life the welfare of others ought a be our  
others ought a be our  
others ought a be our goal

*Marley and his Ghouls leave a trembling Scrooge hiding in his bed.*

## SCENE 4: THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST ARRIVES

### CAROL 4: WE THREE KINGS

#### **Chorus**

So three Ghosts who came from afar  
Visit Scrooge, each one on the hour  
One at one, and two and three  
According to Marley  
Oh Ghosts of wonder, Ghosts of light  
Ghosts of Christmas shining bright  
Scrooge they're leading  
He'll be pleading  
Can I get some sleep tonight

*Scrooge is awoken by the bell tolling 1am.*

**Scrooge** One AM. The first spirit is due. *(beat)* Well come along. Being dead is no excuse for lateness. *(beat)* Perhaps I imagined the whole thing.

*The doorbell rings.*

**Scrooge** Who on earth is that? *(pressing the intercom)* Hello?

**Cabbie** *(offstage)* Smash and grab?

**Scrooge** Smash and grab?

**Cabbie** *(offstage)* You ordered a smash and grab. Cab! Cab for Scrooge

**Scrooge** I haven't ordered a cab.

*The door bursts open and the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST (aka CABBIE) bursts through with purpose; a cheery London cabbie*

**Cabbie** Sorry Guv'nor, head office ain't ever wrong.

**Scrooge** How did you get in here?

*The Cabbie comes and sits on the bed.*

**Scrooge**                   What are you doing?!

*The Cabbie sneezes*

**Cabbie**                   Sorry, swine flu. (*going to shake his hand*) Only joking!

*Cabbie wipes his nose on the sheets*

**Scrooge**                   Those sheets cost a thousand pounds!

**Cabbie**                   Lovely bit of silk. Perfect Christmas pressie for me misses.

**Scrooge**                   Get off my bed

*Scrooge jumps onto the bed to pull the Cabbie up. The Cabbie mimes putting the bed into gear and takes hold of an imaginary steering wheel.*

**Cabbie**                   Come on Scroogie. Hold on tight.

**Scrooge**                   My bed! It's flying!

**Cabbie**                   Put your seatbelt on, I don't wanna loose my license.

**Scrooge**                   We won't fit through the window.

**Cabbie**                   You'd be surprised where my cab can go. Breathe in.

**Scrooge**                   (*covering his eyes*) Arghh!

**Cabbie**                   (*joining in*) Arghh!

*They uncover their eyes together; they are now in the skies above the streets. The bed lurches to one side; the Cabbie grabs the steering wheel just in time.*

**Cabbie**                   Phew! The city always looks so peaceful from up here.

**Scrooge**                   What kind of cabbie are you?

**Cabbie**                    I've taking you on a journey, to Christmas Past.

**Scrooge**                    Long past?

**Cabbie**                    Your past, stupid. The meter's running. Tips are welcome. Now hang on, it's gonna be a bumpy ride.

*The bed speeds through time and space*

## SCENE 5: THE SCROOGE HOUSEHOLD, 1962

**Scrooge** You aren't a very good driver are you?

**Cabbie** How do you think I ended up as a ghost? Remember this place?

**Scrooge** Of course. It's my house, only as it was when I was a boy.

**Cabbie** Bit shabby

**Scrooge** Back in the 60's you couldn't give these houses away.

**Cabbie** Where's the furniture?

**Scrooge** Sold to pay off Father's debts. *(beat)* Oh I get it. You show me how sad my childhood was and I'm supposed to go boo hoo hoo. Well you've got the wrong man.

**Cabbie** You're the Gov'nor, Gov'nor

*The door bursts open and SCROOGE JNR aged 12 rushes in with his younger sister, ANNIE, aged 9. They set up a Monopoly board.*

**Scrooge Jnr** I want to be the car

**Annie** No I want to be the car!

**Scrooge** That's me as a boy! And my sister Annie! *(calling to her)* Annie!

**Cabbie** Can't hear you, or see you. We can't change the past.

*The door bursts open again and SCROOGE SNR enters dressed as Santa Claus, with a bottle of whisky in his hand. He joins his children for a game of monopoly.*

**Scrooge Snr** Ho ho ho! Merry Christmas!

**Scrooge Jnr** *(hesitantly)* & **Anne** *(enthusiastically)* Merry Christmas!

**Scrooge** This was the first and only time father allowed me home from boarding school at Christmas.

**Scrooge Snr**            *(throwing a dice)* Double six! *(to Scrooge Jnr)* You're losing, boy, and I'm winning.

**Scrooge Jnr**            Er, actually you've landed on Mayfair. That's mine. Four hotels, two houses, you owe me... let's see...

**Scrooge Snr**            What?! Fine. Here. Take it all.

*He angrily throws his money at his son and swipes away the pieces on the board.*

**Scrooge Jnr**            Father...

**Scrooge Snr**            You mean Father Christmas! Must you spoil everything, boy? Your return to boarding school will not be a day too soon.

**Annie**                    But Father Christmas, I asked for my brother be home with us.

**Scrooge Snr**            We don't always get what we want.

*Scrooge Snr takes a swig of the whisky and storms out.*

**Scrooge Jnr**            Cheer up Annie. Father Christmas is tired after delivering presents around the world.

**Annie**                    I do know that's not really Father Christmas. I'm not a little girl.

**Scrooge Jnr**            I know Annie.

*Annie hands Scrooge Jnr a present. It's a record single.*

**Annie**                    Merry Christmas! It's a single from a new band called the Beatles. You always liked bugs and creepy crawlies.

**Scrooge Jnr**            *(reading the title)* 'Love Me Do'. I'll play it when we're apart and think of you.

*They hug and leave the stage.*

**Scrooge**                   She had such a big heart. But it was weak. She died young.

**Cabbie**                    She died having a baby. Your nephew. He's a dead ringer for her.

**Scrooge**                    I've never noticed.

**Cabbie**                    Hard to see with tears in your eyes.

**Scrooge**                    I am not crying

**Cabbie**                    Are too.

**Scrooge**                    Am not.

**Cabbie**                    Are too. Come on. Hold tight.

*The bed starts its next journey.*

**Scrooge**                    Where are we going now?

**Cabbie**                    Get yer platform shoes and flares, we're off to 1973



## SCENE 6: FEZZIWIG'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – 1973

*FEZZIWIG bursts onto stage; the larger-than-life head of a City investment firm. He cries, in the style of Slade;*

**Fezziwig** It's Chriiiiiistmassss! Come on everyone, as your boss I order you to party!

*Fezziwig's staff enter and dance. They include YOUNG SCROOGE in his early 20's.*

**Scrooge** That's old Fezziwig! I was an apprentice at his investment bank. Look! That's me!

**Cabbie** What, the stiff in the corner?

*Everyone formation dances, even Scrooge (reluctantly). Fezziwig leads proceedings.*

## SONG 3: DISCO CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Cabbie**

It's the Fizziwig Christmas Party, way back in 73  
Everybody shake and do your thing and let it all hang free

**Cabbie** (*dragging up Scrooge*) Come on Scroogie!

**Cabbie**

Move it to the left  
Move it to the right  
It's Disco music  
Lets dance all night

It's the Fizziwig Christmas Party, way back in 73  
Everybody shake and do your thing and let it all hang free

**All**

Move it to the left  
Move it to the right  
It's Disco music  
Dance all night

X 2

Dance all night

It's the Fizziwig Christmas Party, way back in 73

**All**

Lets dance all night  
Lets dance all night  
Lets dance all night  
Lets dance all night  
Lets dance all night

**Cabbie** That Fezziwig's a right idiot.

**Scrooge** No, no, he had the power to make work a burden or a pleasure. He loved Christmas, even though he was Jewish.

**Cabbie** (*spitting*) An immigrant

**Scrooge** Well yes, but he was full of drive and initiative.

**Cabbie** Just like Roberta.

**Scrooge** Who?

**Cabbie** Your cleaner. The one you sacked.

**Scrooge** Oh. Yes. Well I am considering offering her job back.

**Cabbie** What? Admit you were wrong?

**Scrooge** Not at all. It's just that good cleaners are very hard to come by.

**Cabbie** Sure they are, yeah, sure.

*Fezziwig approaches Young Scrooge.*

**Fezziwig** Scrooge, we have some important business.

**Young Scrooge** Sir, I know the Peck investment made a loss, I tried to turn it around...

**Fezziwig** Oh hush, we all make mistakes, the important thing is to honestly admit we're wrong and learn for the future.

**Cabbie** Shame today's bankers didn't listen to Fezziwig.

**Fezziwig** But the business I refer to is more important than money. (*calling*) Oh Deborah, dear? You remember young Scrooge from the summer barbeque?

*DEBORAH, the playful daughter of Fezziwig, comes over. Young Scrooge blushes.*

**Scrooge** Do you see her?

**Cabbie** Sure, I'm not *that* dead.

**Deborah** You never called me.

**Fezziwig / Cabbie** (*playful*) Tut tut tut!

**Young Scrooge / Scrooge** Let me explain...

**Deborah** Hush. Time to dance.

**Scrooge Jnr** I don't dance.

**Deborah** You do now.

*Young Scrooge and Deborah slow dance.*

**Cabbie** She had spirit, and I should know, I'm a ghost. Dunno what she saw in you.

**Scrooge** Neither did I.

*Fezziwig approaches Scrooge.*

**Fezziwig** Oh, Scrooge, a letter came for you this morning.

*Scrooge takes and opens the letter. Deborah notices Scrooge's smile has gone.*

**Deborah**                    What is it?

**Young Scrooge**        (*flatly*) My father is dead.

**Deborah**                    Oh... I'm so sorry.

**Young Scrooge**        Don't be. We've not spoken since my sister died. But he's left me his house. I'm not a nobody.

**Deborah**                    I never thought you were.

**Young Scrooge**        I feel like somebody when I'm with you. I'll make that house a home for us.

**Deborah**                    One dance and he's proposing to me!

**Young Scrooge**        No... I... I just...

**Deborah**                    I'm not being serious. You should try it some time.

**Cabbie**                    Why oh why oh why did you let her go?

**Scrooge**                    She left me.

**Cabbie**                    (*disbelieving*) Really?

**Scrooge**                    No! Not there. Don't take me there.

**Cabbie**                    Get your shoulder pads ready, next stop is 1983!

## SCENE 7: S&M BANKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY – 1983

*It is the office party of the new City firm Scrooge and Marley Bankers. Party revelers enter in a Conga line led by a Marley. The fun and innocence of the 70's office party makes way for decadence and debauchery.*

**Scrooge**                    It's 1983. That was the first Christmas party of Scrooge and Marley Bankers. There's Marley lavishing our money on staff and clients.

**Marley**                    Come on everybody! Crack open a magnum! Who's gonna sit on Santa's lap?

**Secretary**                Oh, Mr Marley!

*Deborah enters, searching; her playfulness has been replaced with sadness.*

**Marley**                    Debs! Babe! (*dangling mistletoe at her*) How about a snog under the mistletoe?

**Scrooge**                    Marley, if you weren't already dead...

**Marley**                    Scrooge will never find out.

**Scrooge**                    That's what you think!

**Deborah**                    Where is my fiancé?

**Marley**                    Still working away in his office.

*Marley goes back to the secretary who drapes over him.*

**Deborah**                    Perhaps if *you* did a bit more work he wouldn't have to.

**Scrooge**                    Well said.

**Deborah**                    And your flies are undone.

*Marley looks down embarrassed. The secretary laughs at him. Deborah walks off to Scrooge's office; Young Scrooge paces and talks on an enormous early mobile phone.*

**Young Scrooge** I play to win. Sell now, or we'll take you over by force. *(pause)*  
That is our final offer. *(pause)* I knew you'd see sense. I'll finish  
the paperwork tonight. And a Merry Christmas.

*He spots Deborah.*

**Young Scrooge** Debs. Why are you here?

**Deborah** Good question. We should be on a plane to Paris.

**Young Scrooge** Paris can wait. I have important news.

**Deborah** Me too.

**Young Scrooge** I've closed the deal! The takeover is ours! Do you know what that  
means?

**Deborah** No, but I...

**Young Scrooge** S&M Bankers are playing with the big boys! Aren't you happy?

**Deborah** Not for a long time, although at last you've noticed.

**Young Scrooge** You know how much this firm means to me.

**Deborah** It's your world.

**Young Scrooge** I knew you'd understand.

**Deborah** Only too well. That's why I'm breaking off our engagement.

*She gives him back her engagement ring.*

### **SONG: ONCE UPON A TIME**

*Verse 1*

**Deborah**

You don't love me anymore.

**Young Scrooge**

You. You're the one I adore.

*Chorus*

**Deborah & Young Scrooge**

Once upon a time we had love in our heart  
As the years go by  
We've been falling apart

**Deborah**

You know it's true  
I still love...

*Verse 2*

**Deborah**

You don't love me anymore.

**Young Scrooge**

You can't walk out of the door

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

**Deborah**

Memories of what we had  
What we could have been  
I'm tired of fighting  
When I know I won't win

**Young Scrooge**

You clearly made your mind up

**Deborah**

That's all you got to say?

**Scrooge**

Tell her that you love her  
Say you need her to stay

*Chorus*

**Deborah & Young Scrooge**

Once upon a time we had love in our heart  
As the years go by we've been falling apart.

**Deborah**

You know it's true.

**Scrooge & Young Scrooge**

I still love you

*Deborah turns and walks away, nearly bumping into Marley as he enters.*

**Marley**                      You closed the takeover deal?

*Young Scrooge nods*

**Marley**                      Yi ha! Let's celebrate!

*Marley looks at the ring in Scrooge's hand, and smiles.*

**Marley**                      Don't worry old boy. Plenty more fish in the sea.

*Marley swaggers off. Young Scrooge looks at the ring in his hand. Scrooge meanwhile looks at a ring on a chain around his neck; it is the same ring.*

*Outro*

**Scrooge & Young Scrooge**

No. Not for me

Dreams of what was not be

I wish I'd said I love you

I wish I'd said please stay

Maybe if I had then you wouldn't go away

It's true

I still love you

**Cabbie**                      Poor Scrooge. A failure in love.

**Scrooge**                      A success in business.

**Cabbie**                      As cold and hard as his father.

**Scrooge**                      I've seen enough.

**Cabbie**                      You buried your past, but it won't go away.

**Scrooge**                      I want to be taken home

**Cabbie**                      So you can be alone in your million pound prison?



**Scrooge** Take me home

**Cabbie** We can't always get what we want.

**Scrooge** Fine, I'll drive

*Scrooge grabs the imaginary wheel. Cabbie struggles to take control back.*

**Cabbie** Hold on Gov'nor, we'll crash.

**Scrooge** Let go of the wheel

**Cabbie** Look out!

*The lights black out as we hear the bed crash. As the lights come back up the Cabbie is gone and Scrooge is alone, fighting his bedsheets.*

**END OF SAMPLE SCRIPT – FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT NODA**  
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