

Ebenezer
Junior Script
by
Malcolm Sircom

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

* Ebenezer Scrooge	(215)
* Fred.....His Nephew	(53)
Fred's Wife	(5)
* Bob CratchitScrooge's Clerk	(29)
Mrs Cratchit	(22)
Martha Cratchit.....The Elder Daughter	(3)
Belinda Cratchit.....The Younger Daughter	(5)
Peter Cratchit.....The Elder Son.....	(6)
Tim Cratchit (Tiny Tim)Crippled Young Son.....	(4)
* Charity Collector 1.....	(14)
* Charity Collector 2.....	(10)
* Urchin.....	(9)
* Marley's Ghost	(21)
* Three Angels.....Backing group to Marley's Ghost	(0)
* Three Devils.....Backing group to Marley's Ghost	(0)
Ghost of Christmas Past (Ghost).....	(22)
Scrooge (as a child).....	(0)
Scrooge's Sister (as a child)	(0)
* Mr Fezziwig	(7)
Mrs Fezziwig.....	(3)
* The Three Fezziwig Daughters	(0)
* Three Suitors.....To the Fezziwig daughters.....	(0)
Young Scrooge.....Apprentice to Fezziwig.....	(4)
Dick WilkinsHis Apprentice Friend	(1)
* Belle	(8)
* Ghost of Christmas Present (Spirit).A Dude Rapper	(19)
* Posse of Four Rappers	(1-2 each)
Ragged Boy.....	(0)
Ragged Girl	(0)
Ghost of Christmas Future (Spectre).....	(0)
Joe.....A Merchant	(14)
Mrs Dilber	(4)
Crone.....	(4)
Two Market Traders	(3-5 each)
Their Wives.....	(1 each)
* Guest 1.....	(11)
Guest 2.....	(3)

Additional chorus of: Crowd in Street; Fezziwig's Guests; Fred's Guests; Children as Urchins; Schoolchildren.

Choir

CAST LIST BY NUMBER OF LINES

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

* Scrooge.....	215
* Fred.....	53
* Cratchit (Bob).....	29
Ghost.....	22
Mrs Cratchit	22
* Marley	21
* Spirit.....	19
* Collector 1	14
Joe.....	14
* Guest 1.....	11
* Collector 2	10
* Urchin.....	9
* Belle	8
* Fezziwig	7
Peter.....	6
Belinda.....	5
Fred's Wife	5
Trader 1	5
Crone.....	4
Mrs Dilber	4
Tim	4
Young Scrooge.....	4
Guest 2.....	3
Martha	3
Mrs Fezziwig.....	3
Trader 2.....	3
* Posse 3.....	2
* Posse 4.....	2
Dick Wilkins	1
* Posse 1	1
* Posse 2.....	1
Wife 1	1
Wife 2	1

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 45 ACTORS

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

* Scrooge.....	215
* Fred.....	53
* Cratchit (Bob).....	29
Ghost.....	22
Mrs Cratchit	22
* Marley also plays Spectre.....	21
* Spirit.....	19
Guest 2..... also plays Joe	17
Collector 1 also plays Scrooge's sister.....	14
* Collector 2 also plays Crone	14
* Fezziwig also plays a Crowd Member (Scene One) and Trader 1	12
* Guest 1..... also plays a Crowd Member.....	11
* Urchin..... also plays a Child (Scene Three) and Ragged Girl	9
* Belle also plays a Crowd Member (Scenes One + Eleven) and Wife 2.....	9
Mrs Fezziwig..... also plays a Crowd Member (Scenes One + Eleven) and Mrs Dilber	7
Fred's Wife also plays a Crowd Member (Scene One) and Wife 1	6
Peter..... also plays a Child (Scene Three)	6
Belinda..... also plays a Child (Scene Three)	5
Tim also plays a Child (Scenes One + Three) and Ragged Boy	4
Young Scrooge.... also plays Child Scrooge.....	4
Dick Wilkins also plays a Crowd Member (Scenes One + Eleven) and Trader 2	4
Martha also plays a Child (Scenes One and Three).....	3
* Posse 3	2
* Posse 4	2
* Posse 1	1
* Posse 2	1

Non speaking roles: *three Angels (Scene Two), who also play *Fezziwig Daughters (Scene Four); *three Devils (Scene Two), who also play *Suitors (Scene Four); five Crowd Members (Scenes One and Eleven), who also play Guests (Scenes Four, Six and Twelve) and a choir of eight (Scenes One, Four, Five and Thirteen).

LIST OF CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Collector 1
Collector 2
Cratchit
Crowd
Fred
Scrooge
Urchin

Scene Two

Angels
Devils
Ghost
Marley
Scrooge

Scene Three

Chorus of Children
Ghost
Scrooge
Scrooge (as a child)
Scrooge's sister

Scene Four

3 Fezziwig Daughters
3 Suitors
Belle
Crowd
Dick Wilkins
Fezziwig
Ghost
Guest 1
Guests
Mrs Fezziwig
Posse 1
Posse 2
Posse 3
Posse 4
Scrooge
Spirit
Young Scrooge

Scene Five

Belinda
Cratchit
Martha
Mrs Cratchit
Peter
Posse 1
Posse 2
Posse 3
Posse 4
Scrooge
Spirit
Tim

Scene Six

Fred
Fred's Wife
Guest 1
Guest 2
Guests
Scrooge
Spirit
Posse 1-4 (non-speaking)

Scene Seven

Posse 1
Posse 2
Posse 3
Posse 4
Ragged Boy
Ragged Girl
Scrooge
Spectre
Spirit

Scene Eight

Cratchit
Crone
Mrs Dilber
Old Joe
Scrooge
Spectre
Trader 1
Trader 2
Wife 1
Wife 2

Scene Nine

Belinda
Cratchit
Martha
Mrs Cratchit
Peter
Tim

Scene Ten

Scrooge
Spectre
Urchin

Scene Eleven

Collector 1
Collector 2
Crowd
Scrooge

Scene Twelve

Fred
Fred's Wife
Guest 1
Guest 2
Guests
Scrooge

Scene Thirteen

Cratchit
Scrooge
All (for Finale and bows)

LIST OF PROPERTIES

An asterisk (*) before a property indicates that it will not be required if our digital backdrops will be used for the production.

Scene One

Walking stick..... Scrooge
 Coalscuttle..... Cratchit
 * Office door with "Scrooge & Marley" painted above Scene Prop
 Tin containing coins..... Collectors
 Hat(s)..... Collectors (Male only)
 Keys (on a keychain) Scrooge
 Desk and chair x 2..... Scene Props

Scene Two

Bed, with optional mechanics listed at top of Scene Two Scene Prop
 Bowl and spoon on a bedside table Scene Prop
 Nightshirt and nightcap on a chair Scene Prop
 (Electric) Candle and holder Scrooge
 Coat and shoes Scrooge
 * Window frame with curtains Scene Prop
 Bedroom door, with sawn-off bolt, wired so it can
 open & close itself even when apparently bolted Scene Prop
 Books and cash boxes on chains Marley
 Pitchforks..... Devils

Scene Three

Wooden hoops Chorus of Children

Scene Five

Table laid for Christmas dinner Scene Prop
 Optionally, small stove with saucepans on it Scene Prop
 Optional umbrella/coat stand Scene Prop
 Cutlery and crockery..... Mrs Cratchit & Belinda
 Crutch..... Tim
 Plates of food..... Martha & Belinda
 Jug of drink and glasses Mrs Cratchit

Scene Six

Chairs or sofas Scene Prop
 Glasses All present

Scene Eight

Camp table or similar, to represent a market stall Joe
 Bundles of clothes, including a clean shirt..... Mrs Dilber & Crone
 Money bags, containing coins Joe

Scene Nine

Needle and thread, and some cloth or a garment.....Mrs Cratchit
 Armchair Scene Prop
 Fireplace..... Scene Prop
 Crutch Scene Prop

Scene Ten

Bed, table, window frame and door as in Scene TwoScene Prop
 Gravestone with "EBENEZER SCROOGE" in large lettersScene Prop
 Money and small, soft money bag Scrooge
 Card or paper Scrooge

Scene Eleven

Tin containing coins..... Collectors
 Another money bag Scrooge

Scene Twelve

Chairs or sofas, glasses, as in Scene Six.....Scene Prop

Scene Thirteen

*Office door as in Scene OneScene Prop
 Desk and chair.....Scene Prop
 StoolScene Prop
 Ruler.....Scene Prop

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

This production can be staged effectively with very simple scenery. Alternatively, instant scenery is now available with our digital backdrops. **Project It!** Provides a different backdrop for EVERY scene change and is supplied in both a PowerPoint presentation and as individual JPG files.

This is a show that moves from location to location throughout:

Scene One starts in a London street then moves into Scrooge's office which should be set with a desk and chair at each side of the stage. Scrooge's desk should be on a raised plinth and ideally larger than Cratchit's desk, so that his imposing seniority and power is visually greater.

Scene Two would use the full set. Clearly, the Office setting does not need to be as big as the Bedroom due to the nature of the props – desks vs. four-poster bed.

Scene Three is a short and simple scene with no specific staging needed.

Scene Four - Fezziwig's Warehouse is to be set on the full stage area. The final part of this scene is played at stage front/apron, during which **Scene Five** may be set.

Scene Five – Bob Cratchit's Home. Again, this is quite a large set as it requires a dining table and the kitchen recess to be set and used again as **Scene Nine**.

Scene Six – Fred's Parlour. The full stage area should be used in this scene to allow room for chairs and guests.

Scene Seven – A Desolate Place. No specific staging required but should be dimly lit if possible.

Scene Eight – The Market Place. Stalls should be set to create a typical market scene. A smoke machine would be useful here to help create a foggy atmosphere, if one is available.

Scene Nine – Bob Cratchit's Home. This should be set as Scene Five.

Scene Ten – Scrooge's Bedroom. This should be set as Scene Two.

Scene Eleven – The Street, should be set as Scene One but with snow if possible.

Scene Twelve – Fred’s Parlour as a full set scene once again.

Scene Thirteen – Scrooge’s Office. Should be set as Scene One.

Track 34: Curtain Reprise – This should be set as Scene Eleven.

CHOREOGRAPHY

This is a lively show for much of the time and needs to be dynamic, especially during the songs.

Track 1 – “Roll On Christmas” is a clever counterpoint melody of the familiar carol “Ding, Dong, Merrily On High” and is sung by street vendors, urchins, passers-by etc. Consequently there needs to be movement within the song, to emphasise a busy street scene just before Christmas: a great opportunity for a dance instructor to animate the song!

Again, **Track 2** – “Charity” is an animated song, moving into a salsa or conga routine around the stage. Scrooge brings all of this down to earth with his vindictive song – “I Hate Everybody!” – and the reprise at the end of the scene.

Track 11 – “Too Late Now” is a little more relaxed but does require the presence of the devils and angels to be prompt.

Track 18 – “Let’s Have A Party” provides a great opportunity for dance, with a lively rock ‘n’ roll and/or jive particularly in the dance section.

Track 22 – “Christmas Present Rap”, and **Track 25** – “Exit Rap” (a reprise) – are not set as a dance, but certainly need to be animated, especially by the posse!

Track 24 – “Dear Old Uncle Scrooge”, contains a Bavarian Waltz which provides an opportunity, and this needs to be light-hearted without making fun of Scrooge.

Track 27 – “And Everyone Loved Him”, is a poignant number reflecting on the passing away of Tiny Tim, although Scrooge doesn’t perhaps see that at first. Bob Cratchit sings solo with the choir counterpointing him, probably from offstage. Alternatively, if the choir are characters on stage, then they could perhaps group around Bob to form a cameo setting as the song concludes. The remaining songs are self-explanatory in their setting and choreography.

COSTUME

This is a traditional Dickens' story and should be costumed in that period throughout, with the exception of the Ghost of Christmas Present (Spirit), Ghost of Christmas Future (Spectre) and the Devils and Angels. The Ghost of Christmas Present, being a rapper, can be dressed in whatever is fashionable at the time and preferably 'Over the Top'. Christmas Future can be as futuristic as you can imagine. The Devils and Angels could be traditional or be a little mischievous, playing on the characters of 'Little Devils' and 'Little Angels'.

Lighting and Sound

This all depends on what resources you have available to you – every group is different, but the following suggestions presume you have a reasonable amount of lighting at your disposal. If you haven't, then clearly you can adapt accordingly to create the atmosphere.

The lighting for **Track 1** wants to be bright with lots of steel blue tints to enhance the colour of the snow and compliment the vitality of this opening number. The lighting rapidly changes on Scrooge's entrance to a darker more sinister feel, utilising cold colours.

This remains for the rest of the scene, only contrasted on **Track 2** when the Charity Collectors start their number. Scrooge's Bedroom (**Scene Two**) is cold and dark as he is too mean to either illuminate or heat it. Some gently flickering light to imitate his candlestick would be good. The scene remains dark and sinister throughout except where indicated for Marley's apparition appearing and the use of white light and reddish light as appropriate, when the angels and the devils appear.

Scene Three, the Schoolyard, is meant to be a mysterious, dream like place. Lighting, set on the stage floor, beaming at the audience would greatly enhance this effect.

Scene Four – Fezziwig's Warehouse should be brightly lit, despite being a warehouse. It is a contrast to the previous scenes, revealing the nephew's appreciation of how Christmas should be celebrated. 'Disco' lighting using effects etc. to create a party or 'club' atmosphere is what is ideally needed to lift the show to a new height at this point. In contrast, when young Scrooge and Belle enter they should if possible be spot lit, with the remaining set barely visible as the scene leads into **Track 20**.

After the blackout the lighting should come up again on Scrooge before switching to bright, colourful, strong colours for the entrance of the Ghost of Christmas Present and his Rappers (**Track 22**). Strong bright lighting, switched in time to the beat of the music, would be appropriate here.

Bob Cratchit's home (**Scene Five**) just needs average lighting, not too bright, but focussed on the key acting areas, as does **Scene Six** (The Parlour).

Scene Nine should be lit as per **Scene Five**.

Scene Ten opens with dim lighting and a heavy feeling but switches to a light, bright airy feel after the blackout as Scrooge casts off his past.

This extends into **Scene Eleven** for a fresh feel in the street.

Scene Twelve (Fred's Parlour) should be lit as previously (**Scene Six**).

Scene Thirteen – in Scrooge's Office - should start off dimly lit but switch to a bright feeling as Scrooge raises Bob's salary in his second major monologue. Give it all you've got for your curtain calls!

SOUND EFFECTS

With regard to sound, there are a small number of Sound Effects, available from Musicline as part of the vocal and backing tracks CDs (or downloadable MP3s). The sounds are as follows:

Scene Two:	Tapping At Window
	Door Creak
	Eerie Howl
	Clanking Chains Approaching
	Eerie Howl (again)
	Door Creak (again)
	Clock Quarter Past
	Clock Half Past
	Clock Quarter To
	One O'Clock
Scene Three:	School Bell
Scene Four:	One O'Clock (again)
Scene Seven:	Twelve O'Clock
Scene Ten:	Christmas Bells

SCENE ONE:**A LONDON STREET**

(The Chorus are discovered, hustling and bustling about in typical Victorian pre-Christmas manner. Street vendors, urchins etc., a busy, jolly street scene, with everyone excited, wishing each other a Merry Christmas etc.)

TRACK 1:**ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS! (SONG)****CHORUS:**

ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.
ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.
TIME TO SHOVEL SNOW AGAIN,
FOR YOUR NOSE TO GLOW AGAIN,
KISS YOUR AUNTY FLO AGAIN,
ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!

TIME FOR KETTLES ON THE HOB,
TIME FOR STOPPERS IN YOUR GOB,
BUTTER UP YOUR UNCLE BOB,
ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!

DING, DONG, DING,
THE CHURCH BELLS RING.
HEAR THE CHOIR SING:

CHOIR:

HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.

(The Choir now sing "Ding, dong! Merrily..." as the Chorus repeat "Roll on, Christmas".)

CHOIR:

DING, DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH,
IN HEAV'N THE BELLS ARE RINGING.
DING, DONG! VERILY THE SKY
IS RIV'N WITH ANGELS SINGING.
GLORIA,

HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.

GLORIA,

HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.

CHORUS:

ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.
ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!
IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.
TIME TO SHOVEL SNOW AGAIN,
FOR YOUR NOSE TO GLOW AGAIN,
KISS YOUR AUNTY FLO AGAIN,
ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!

TIME FOR KETTLES ON THE HOB,
TIME FOR STOPPERS IN YOUR GOB,
BUTTER UP YOUR UNCLE BOB,
ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!

ALL:

ROLL ON, CHRISTMAS!
CHRISTMAS!

CROWD: It's Ebenezer Scrooge!
SCROOGE: Bah! Clear off, the lot of you!

(He waves his stick at the crowd. The crowd scream and disperse. Scrooge exits before re-entering into his counting house. He is confronted by his clerk, Bob Cratchit, with a coalscuttle in his mittened hand.)*

*(*Change backdrop here, if using.)*

SCROOGE: Well, Cratchit, what do you want?
CRATCHIT: Please, sir... I... I wondered if I... if I might have a lump of coal from your scuttle, Mr Scrooge. My fire is almost out.
SCROOGE: A lump of coal? Did I hear right?
CRATCHIT: It is very cold, sir - and it is Christmas - just one little lump?
SCROOGE: Coal costs money, Cratchit - and as for Christmas! If I hear any more talk of Christmas I'll... I'll retire to the nearest lunatic asylum! Christmas, Cratchit? Humbug!

(Scrooge moves to his desk. Enter his nephew Fred, cheerful and vivacious.)

FRED: A Merry Christmas, Bob Cratchit.
CRATCHIT: And to you, Mr Fred.
FRED: Is the old misery in?
SCROOGE: *(While seated at his desk.)* I heard that!
FRED: He's in! *(He goes over to Scrooge's desk.)* A Merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!
SCROOGE: Bah! Humbug!
FRED: Christmas a humbug, uncle! You can't mean that, I'm sure?
SCROOGE: Indeed I do. Merry Christmas - bah! What right have you to be merry, young Fred? You're poor enough.
FRED: Come, then, what right have you to be so dismal? You're rich enough.
SCROOGE: Nephew! Keep Christmas in your way and let me keep it in mine.
FRED: Keep it! But you don't keep it! Come, uncle, dine with us tomorrow.
SCROOGE: I'll see you in Hades first.
FRED: But why? Why?
SCROOGE: Why did you get married?
FRED: Because I fell in love!
SCROOGE: Because you fell in love! Bah! Humbug! Good afternoon, nephew!
FRED: You never came to see me before I was married. Why give it as a reason for not coming now?
SCROOGE: Good afternoon!

FRED: I am sorry with all my heart to find you so resolute. We have never had a quarrel to which I have been a party, but I'll keep my Christmas humour to the last, so... a Merry Christmas, uncle!

SCROOGE: Humbug!

FRED: And a Happy New Year!

SCROOGE: Clear off!

(Scrooge throws something at Fred, who laughingly ducks, then goes over to Cratchit's desk.)

FRED: The season's greetings, Bob Cratchit.

CRATCHIT: Thank you, Mr Fred. A Merry Christmas to you and your good wife.

FRED: And to you and yours, Bob. How is poor Tiny Tim? Any better?

CRATCHIT: No better, Mr Fred, but by the Lord's mercy, none the worse.

FRED: If there's anything my wife and I can do...

CRATCHIT: You're very kind, sir, but I'm afraid only a deal of money...

FRED: A commodity we're both short of, eh, Bob? *(Exits.)*

(If backdrops are used, change here. It may be convenient to leave the desks on stage during the next song.)

TRACK 2:**CHARITY (SONG)**

(Music starts. Enter two Charity Collectors (can be either sex - or one of each). They have a tin with coins in that can be rattled in time to the Samba music. A crowd collects.)

COLLECTORS: CHARITY, CHA-CHA-RITY,
WE'RE COLLECTING FOR CHARITY.

CROWD: CHARITY, CHA-CHA-RITY,
THEY'RE COLLECTING FOR CHARITY.

COLLECTORS: CHRISTMAS IS COMING,
THE GEESE ARE FAR FROM THIN.
PLEASE PUT A PENNY,
PUT A PENNY IN THE TIN.
ANY CONTRIBUTION ACCEPTED GRATEFULLY.
YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE,
TO GIVE A FEW PENCE
TO CHARITY!

CROWD: CHARITY, CHA-CHA-RITY,
WE'RE ALL GIVING TO CHARITY.
CHARITY, CHA-CHA-RITY,
WE'RE ALL GIVING TO CHARITY.
LET YOUR CASH MAKE A BIG SPLASH,
THEN YOU'LL ALL AGREE,
YOU'LL FEEL GOOD,
WHEN YOU'RE GIVING
TO CHARITY!

(Dance (Conga or Salsa). Collectors then sing their verse (reinforced, if necessary, by the choir) at the same time as the Crowd sing their verse.)

COLLECTORS:
CHRISTMAS IS COMING,
THE GEESE ARE FAR FROM THIN.
PLEASE PUT A PENNY,
PUT A PENNY IN THE TIN.
ANY CONTRIBUTION
ACCEPTED GRATEFULLY.
YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE,
TO GIVE A FEW PENCE
TO CHARITY!

CROWD:
CHARITY, CHA-CHA-RITY,
WE'RE ALL GIVING TO CHARITY.
CHARITY, CHA-CHA-RITY,
WE'RE ALL GIVING TO CHARITY.
LET YOUR CASH MAKE A BIG SPLASH,
THEN YOU'LL ALL AGREE,
YOU'LL FEEL GOOD,
WHEN YOU'RE GIVING
TO CHARITY!

COLLECTORS: WE'RE COLLECTING FOR...
CROWD: WE ARE GIVING TO...
COLLECTORS: WE'RE COLLECTING FOR...
CROWD: WE ARE GIVING TO...
COLLECTORS: WE'RE COLLECTING FOR...
CROWD: WE ARE GIVING TO...
ALL: CHARITY!

(The Crowd, but not the collectors, leave. The Collectors look at the 'Scrooge & Marley' sign above Scrooge's office.)

COLLECTOR 1: This looks a good place, let's try here.

(Change backdrop here if using. Collectors exit and re-enter into Scrooge's office.)

COLLECTOR 1: Scrooge and Marley's, I believe? Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr Scrooge or Mr Marley?
SCROOGE: Mr Marley died seven years ago this very night.

(The Collectors offer expressions of sympathy, the Man (Men) take(s) off his (their) hat(s).)

COLLECTOR 2: We have no doubt his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner.
SCROOGE: Liberality?
COLLECTOR 2: We are collecting for the poor and destitute who suffer greatly at the present time.
SCROOGE: Are there no prisons?

(The Collectors glance at each other, amazed.)

COLLECTOR 1: Plenty of prisons.
SCROOGE: And the workhouses? Are they still in operation?
COLLECTOR 2: They are still. I wish I could say they were not.
SCROOGE: I'm very glad to hear it.
COLLECTOR 1: Under the impression that they scarcely furnish Christian cheer, a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the poor some meat and drink and means of warmth.
COLLECTOR 2: What shall we put you down for?
SCROOGE: Nothing!
COLLECTOR 1: You wish to remain anonymous?