

### **Audition Piece 1: Scrooge and Male Actor 1 (Fred)**

**Fred:** A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!

**Scrooge:** Bah! Humbug!

**Fred:** Christmas a humbug, uncle! You don't mean that, I am sure?

**Scrooge:** I do. What's Christmas but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, and not an hour richer. If I had my will, every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.

**Fred:** Uncle!

**Scrooge:** Nephew, keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine.

**Fred:** Keep it! But you don't keep it.

**Scrooge:** Let me leave it alone, then. Much good may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!

**Fred:** There are many things from which I derive good, by which I have not profited. I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!

## **Audition Piece 2: Scrooge and Male Actor 2 (Marley)**

**Scrooge:** How now! What do you want with me?

**Marley:** Much!

**Scrooge:** Who are you?

**Marley:** In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley. You don't believe in me.

**Scrooge:** I don't.

**Marley:** Why do you doubt your senses?

**Scrooge:** Because a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blob of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are! Why do you trouble me? Why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?

**Marley:** It is required of every man, that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow-men, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere. My spirit never walked beyond our counting-house -- mark me! -- in life my spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me! No space of regret can make amends for one life's opportunities misused!

**Scrooge:** But you were always a good man of business, Jacob.

**Marley:** Business? Mankind was my business.

### **Audition Piece 3: Scrooge, Female Actor 1 (Spirit 1), Male Actor 3 (Fezziwig)**

**Spirit 1:** Do you know this place?

**Scrooge:** Know it? I was apprenticed here!

**Spirit 1:** And do you know that old gentleman, sitting behind his desk?

**Scrooge:** Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart, it's Fezziwig, alive again!

**Fezziwig:** Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!

**Scrooge:** Dick Wilkins, to be sure! My old fellow-prentice, bless me, yes. He was very much attached to me!

**Fezziwig:** Yo ho, my boys! No more work to-night. Christmas eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let's have the shutters up, before a man can say Jack Robinson! Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here! [...] Well done! A pot of porter for the fiddler, I say! We must have more dances, and forfeits, and more dances, and cake, negus, Cold Roast, Cold Boiled, mince-pies, and plenty of beer. Oh, but the fiddler has struck up my favourite tune, "Sir Roger de Coverley."!

**Scrooge:** See how old Fezziwig dances with Mrs Fezziwig! All these fine couples and not a one to match 'em. A positive light shines from his calves. Oh, is the party over so soon?

**Fezziwig:** Merry Christmas, one and all! Ebenezer, Dick, goodnight to you, and a very Merry Christmas to you both.

**Spirit 1:** A small matter to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.

**Scrooge:** Small?

**Spirit 1:** He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money, -- three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?

**Scrooge:** It isn't that, Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. The happiness he gives is quite as great as if it cost a fortune. I...

**Spirit 1:** What is the matter?

**Scrooge:** Nothing particular.

**Spirit 1:** Something, I think?

**Scrooge:** No, no. I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now. That's all.

#### **Audition Piece 4: Scrooge and Male Actor 3 (Spirit 2)**

**Spirit 2:** Come in, come in, and know me better, man! I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Look upon me! You have never seen the like of me before!

**Scrooge:** Never.

**Spirit 2:** Have you never walked forth with the other members of my family; my elder brothers born in these late years?

**Scrooge:** I am afraid I have not. Have you had many brothers, Spirit?

**Spirit 2:** More than eighteen hundred.

**Scrooge:** A tremendous family to provide for! Spirit, conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. To-night, if you have ought to teach me, let me profit by it.

**Spirit 2:** Touch my robe! [...]

**Scrooge:** Is there a peculiar flavour in what you sprinkle from your torch?

**Spirit 2:** There is. My own.

**Scrooge:** Would it apply to any kind of dinner on this day?

**Spirit 2:** To any kindly given. To a poor one most.

**Scrooge:** Why to a poor one most?

**Spirit 2:** Because it needs it most.

**Audition Piece 5: Female Actor 1 (Mrs Cratchit), Female Actor 2 (Martha/Tiny Tim) Male Actor 2 (Bob), Female Actor 3 (Young Cratchits)**

**Mrs Cratchit:** What has ever got your precious father then? And your brother Tiny Tim! And Martha warn't as late last Christmas day by half an hour!

**Martha:** Here I am mother!

**Young Cratchits:** Here's Martha, mother! Hurrah! There's such a goose, Martha!

**Mrs Cratchit:** Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are!

**Martha:** We'd a deal of work to finish up last night, and had to clear away this morning, mother!

**Mrs Cratchit:** Never mind so long as you are come. Sit ye down before the fire, my dear, and have a warm, Lord bless ye!

**Young Cratchits:** No, no! There's father coming. Hide, Martha, hide!

**Bob:** Why, where's our Martha?

**Mrs Cratchit:** Not coming.

**Bob:** Not coming! Not coming upon Christmas day!

**Martha:** Here I am father – 'twas only a joke.

**Bob:** Here she is indeed! Now, you young'uns, take Tiny Tim to the wash-house.

**Young Cratchits:** Oh yes – you can hear the pudding singing in the copper dish!

**Mrs Cratchit:** And how did little Tim behave?

**Bob:** As good as gold, and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember, upon Christmas day, who made lame beggars walk and blind men see. I do believe... (*gulps*) I do believe Tiny Tim is growing strong and hearty.

**Mrs Cratchit:** And here he comes. Bob, you mix the hot gin and lemons. Peter, take the young'uns to fetch the goose. Tiny Tim, you rest a while on your stool, there's a good boy.

**Tiny Tim:** God bless us every one!

**Audition Piece 6: Female Actor 2 (Mrs Dilber), Female Actor 3 (Laundress)  
Male Actor 3 (Old Joe)**

**Old Joe:** You couldn't have met in a better place. What have you got to sell?

**Mrs Dilber:** Half a minute's patience, Joe, and you shall see.

**Laundress:** What odds, Mrs Dilber? Every person has a right to take care of themselves. He always did! Who's the worse for the loss of a few things like these? Not a dead man, I suppose.

**Mrs Dilber:** No, indeed, ma'am.

**Laundress:** If he wanted to keep 'em after he was dead, a wicked old screw, why wasn't he natural in his lifetime? If he had been, he'd have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out his last there, alone by himself.

**Mrs. Dilber:** Here we are, ducky. Sheets and towels, a little wearing apparel, two old-fashioned silver teaspoons, a pair of sugar-tongs, and a few boots.

**Old Joe:** I always give too much to ladies. It's a weakness of mine, and that's the way I ruin myself. If you asked me for another penny, and made it an open question, I'd repent of being so liberal and knock off half-a-crown.

**Laundress:** And now undo my bundle, Joe.

**Old Joe:** What do you call this? Bed-curtains!

**Laundress:** Bed-curtains!

**Old Joe:** You don't mean to say you took 'em down, rings and all, with him lying there?

**Laundress:** Yes I do. Why not?

**Old Joe:** You were born to make your fortune, and you'll certainly do it.

**Laundress:** I certainly shan't hold back for the sake of such a man as he was, I promise you, Joe. And don't drop oil upon those blankets, now.

**Old Joe:** His blankets?

**Laundress:** Whose else's? He isn't likely to take cold without 'em, I dare say.

**Old Joe:** I hope he didn't die of anything catching? Eh?

**Laundress:** I an't so fond of his company that I'd loiter about him for such things, if he did. Ah! you may look through that shirt till your eyes ache; but you won't find a hole in it. It's the best he had, and they'd have wasted it, if it hadn't been for me.

**Old Joe:** What do you call wasting of it?

**Laundress:** Putting it on him to be buried in, to be sure. Somebody was fool enough to do it, but I took it off again. Calico's good enough for such a purpose. He can't look uglier than he did in that one.