

Young Ebenezer

*Based on the short story "A Christmas Carol"
By Charles Dickens*

Adapted by
Elliott B. Baker

Music and Lyrics by Elliott B. Baker

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SYNOPSIS

Gather 'round with the ghosts in the graveyard who will show you the real story of Ebenezer Scrooge! This rousing new adaptation of the beloved novel by Charles Dickens has up-tempo songs of melody and memory. With three actors playing Ebenezer Scrooge, we go back to see Ebenezer through young boyhood, young manhood, and finally to the character we know. In "This Christmas," Ebenezer's family is left homeless thanks to his father's well-intentioned but unrealistic gift giving. When his mother sells the young, gentle boy into servitude, fellow child laborers paint a bleak picture of life without any money in the song "Life Isn't Fair." Thankfully the Fezziwigs rescue the starved young Ebenezer but he vows, "I Will Never Forget." As a young man Ebenezer's life looks brighter as he and Abigail plan their life together. But those childhood scars lead him and Jacob Marley to an unethical plan to go into business together as they sing "When Two Coins Meet One Another." Graveyard hymns and Ebenezer singing "Oh, What Rot" to his optimistic nephew Fred show Ebenezer's depressing, miserly life. Redemption comes—finally!—when a montage of music and characters invade Ebenezer's sleep, and he awakens at last, saying, "And I am here. But not the same. No, never the same." Ghosts aplenty, colorful denizens of mid-nineteenth century England, and exciting, memorable music will have your audiences humming as they leave the theatre. Approximately 90 minutes.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

11 m, 4 w, 2 flexible, 1 girl, 1 child, and large chorus

YOUNG EBENEZER: 8 to 12-year-old boy.

MIDDLE EBENEZER: Man in his late teens or early twenties.

ELDER EBENEZER: An old man.

JACOB MARLEY: A young man, but older than Ebenezer.

MARLEY'S GHOST: Hooded and gowned with chains. (Same actor will also play OLD MARLEY, just before his death.)

JOHNATHAN SCROOGE: Ebenezer's father.

BOOT BLACK MANAGER: Warrens Boot Blacking Factory.

FEZZIWIG: Portly middle-aged gentleman.

BOB CRATCHIT: Ebenezer's clerk.

FRED: Ebenezer's nephew, a young man.

MR. MAGUIRE: Client of Scrooge and Marley.

CATHERINE SCROOGE: Ebenezer's mother.

MRS. FEZZIWIG: Middle-aged woman, Fezziwig's wife.

ABIGAIL: Ebenezer's fiancé.

MARY: Fred's wife, a young woman.

GENTLEMAN #1: Man or woman.

GENTLEMAN #2: Man or woman.

FAN: Ebenezer's sister, 5 to 9-year-old girl.

CHILD: A young child (either gender).

CHORUS:

GHOST CHORUS: Assorted ghosts, all wearing chains and shrouds.

DEBTORS: Men at Marshalsea Debtors' Prison. Including a WARDEN.

BOOT BLACK CHILDREN: Workers at Warrens. Includes BOY #1, BOY/GIRL #2, and BOOT BLACK ADULTS.

FEZZIWIG HOUSEHOLD / PARTY GUESTS: MILDRED: Fezziwig maid; GODFREY: Fezziwig butler; DAUGHTERS: Anna, Sophie, and Emma; DICK Wilkins; CHILD, and GENTLEMAN.

BUSINESSMEN'S CHORUS: Assorted men and boys.

TOWNSPEOPLE: Various ages. Includes BOOK SELLER, FLORIST, SHOP KEEPER, WATCH MAKER, BUTCHER, SCARF VENDOR, and YOUNG BOY.

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PLACE

London, England

TIME

The mid-nineteenth century.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I

Scene 1: The graveyard, present

Scene 2: Young Ebenezer's home

Scene 3: Marshalsea Debtors' Prison, some months later

Scene 4: Warrens Blacking Factory, some weeks later

Scene 5: Fezziwig's home, some weeks later

Scene 6: Fezziwig's warehouse, ten to twelve years later

Scene 7: Outside Fezziwig's warehouse, later that night

Scene 8: Ebenezer's room, a few days later

Scene 9: The Office of Marley & Scrooge, three years later

Scene 10: The Office of Marley & Scrooge, a few days later

ACT II

Scene 1: Marley's bedside, twenty years have passed

Scene 2: Ebenezer's office, seven years have passed

Scene 3: Ebenezer's room, Christmas eve/Montage

Scene 4: The town square, Christmas day

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- 1 Opening Underscore
- 2 Graveyard Hymn (Ghosts)
- 3 Act I, Scene 1 Playoff
- 4 This Christmas (Catherine)
- 5 Act I, Scene 2 Playoff
- 6 All Hail To Marshalsea (Marshalsea Inmates)
- 7 Act I, Scene 3 Playoff
- 8 Same Old Story (Ensemble)
- 9 Life's Not Fair (Ensemble)
- 10 Act I, Scene 4 Playoff
- 11 Good Night's Sleep (Fezziwig & Mrs. Fezziwig)
- 12 I Will Never Forget (Young Ebenezer & Middle Ebenezer)
- 13 Celebrate, It's Christmas (Ensemble)
- 14 Christmas Underscore
- 15 Together (Middle Ebenezer & Abigail)
- 16 Act I, Scene 6 Playoff
- 17 When Two Coins Meet One Another (Middle Ebenezer, Jacob Marley & Men's Chorus)
- 18 When Two Coins Meet Reprise
- 19 Act I, Scene 7 Playoff
- 20 Act I, Scene 8 Playoff
- 21 Act I, Scene 9 Playoff
- 22 Together Reprise (Abigail & Middle Ebenezer)
- 23 I Will Never Forget Reprise (Middle Ebenezer & Elder Ebenezer)

ACT II

- 24 Act II Opening Underscore
- 25 Graveyard Hymn Reprise #1 (Ghosts)
- 26 There Comes A Moment (Old Marley)
- 27 Graveyard Hymn Reprise #2 (Ghosts)
- 28 Act II, Scene 1 Playoff
- 29 Graveyard Hymn Reprise #3 (Ghosts)
- 30 Oh, What Rot! (Elder Ebenezer)
- 31 Graveyard Hymn Reprise #4 (Ghosts)
- 32 Graveyard Hymn Reprise #5 (Ghosts)
- 33 Celebrate, It's Christmas (Child) a few bars sung a cappella
- 34 Act II, Scene 2 Playoff
- 35 Act II, Scene 3 Opening Underscore
- 36 Montage (Ensemble)
- 37 Oh, What Rot! Reprise (Elder Ebenezer)
- 38 Finale – Oh, What Rot! Reprise (Company)
- 39 Bow Music

ACT I
Scene 1

MUSIC No. 1 – OPENING UNDERSCORE

(SFX: Wind and thunder. SFXs end when the GHOSTS start to ooh. Ghosts begin to appear, climbing up over the backs of tombstones and coming on stage in groups according to placement in Music No. 2. ELDER EBENEZER is thrown on stage to his knees. He can hear the ghosts but not see them, except for MARLEY, until they begin to sing “Graveyard Hymn” when he sees them all.)

ELDER EBENEZER: Spirit, I don't understand. Why have you brought me here? *(Looks back.)* Spirit, where have you gone? Please don't leave me here, alone. *(Looks around for the voices.)* Who's there?

(MARLEY'S GHOST enters or stands from behind the tombstone.)

MARLEY'S GHOST: *(Spoken, drawn out.)* Ebenezer Scrooge!

ELDER EBENEZER: Marley? Jacob Marley? No, it can't be you. You're dead. You've been dead for seven years.

MARLEY'S GHOST: *(Again drawn out.)* Ebenezer.

(MARLEY'S GHOST points to the gravestone. The GHOSTS move to surround EBENEZER.)

MUSIC No. 2 – GRAVEYARD HYMN

GHOSTS: VERY SOON YOU'LL JOIN IN THE CHORUS
ALL OUR PAINFUL THOUGHTS WAITING FOR US
IT'S SO PLEASANT JUST TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL
SOON BE HERE.

NOT MUCH LIFE REMAINS, WE'LL BE WAITING
YOU'LL BE DRESSED IN CHAINS SUFFOCATING

End of Freeview

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