

## *A Christmas Carol - Audition sides*

### Men: (one or more of the following)

#### **Storyteller/ Ensemble:**

Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years afterwards, above the warehouse door: Scrooge and Marley. The firm was known as Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes people new to the business called Scrooge "Scrooge", and sometimes "Marley", but he answered to both names; it was all the same to him.

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.

---

<b>Young Ebenezer</b>	What idol has displaced you?
Belle	A golden one. (Refers to a golden coin)
Young Ebenezer	This, then, is the even-handed dealing of the world. There is nothing on which it is so hard as poverty, and there is nothing it professes to condemn with such severity as the pursuit of wealth.
Belle	You fear the world too much. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you.
Young Ebenezer	What then? Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed toward you. Am I?
Belle	Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor, and content to be so. You are changed. When it was made, you were another man.
Young Ebenezer	I was a boy. You can't expect...
Belle	Your own feeling tells you that you were not what you are. It is with a heavy heart that I release you.
Young Ebenezer	Have I ever sought release?
Belle	In words? No. Never.
Young Ebenezer	In what then?
Belle	In a changed nature, in an altered spirit. If this had never been between us, would you, seek me out and try to win me now?
Young Ebenezer	You think not.

**Women: (one or more of the following)**

**Storyteller** Scrooge lived in chambers which had once belonged to Marley, his deceased partner. They were a gloomy suite of rooms, in a building up a yard, where it had so little business to be, that one could scarcely help fancying it must have run there when it was a young house, playing at hide-and-seek with other houses, and have forgotten the way out again. It was old enough now, and dreary enough, for no one lived in it but Scrooge.

Half a dozen gas-lamps out of the street wouldn't have lighted the entry too well, so you may suppose that it was pretty dark. On Scrooge went, not caring a button for that: darkness is cheap, and Scrooge liked it.

---

**Belle** It matters little; to you, very little. Another idol has displaced me; and if it can cheer and comfort you in time to come, as I would have tried to do, I have no just cause to grieve.

Young Eb. What idol has displaced you?

Belle A golden one. You fear the world too much. I have seen your nobler aspirations fall off one by one, until the master passion, Gain, engrosses you.

Young Eb. What then? Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed toward you. Am I?

Belle Our contract is an old one. When it was made, you were another man.

Young Eb. I was a boy.

Belle Your own feeling tells you that you were not what you are. How often and how keenly I have thought of this, I will not say. It is enough that I have thought of it, and can release you.

Young Eb. Have I ever sought release?

Belle In words? No. Never.

Young Eb. In what then?

Belle In a changed nature, in an altered spirit. If this had never been between us, tell me, would you seek me out and try to win me now?

---

## Spirit of Christmas Past

**Past** Ebenezer!

Scrooge Are you the Spirit whose coming was foretold to me?

Past I am!

Scrooge Who, and what are you?

Past I am the Spirit of Christmas Past.

Scrooge Long Past?

Past No. Your past.

Scrooge But what business conveys you here, Spirit?

Past Your welfare!

Scrooge I wonder but that a night of unbroken rest might be more conducive to that end.

Past Your reclamation, then. Take heed! Rise! And walk with me!

*(Scrooge touches the Spirit's hand, and we are in another place.)*

Scrooge Good Heaven! I was bred in this place. I was a boy here! This is the very road that led to old Master Digby's schoolhouse!

Past You recollect the way?

Scrooge Recollect it? Every gate, and post, and tree! I could walk it blindfolded.

Past Strange to have forgotten it for so many years. Let us see another Christmas.

---

Scrooge Spirit! Show me no more! Conduct me home. Why do you delight to torture me?

Past These are shadows of things that have been. That they are what they are, do not blame me!