

Christmas Carols

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our saviour was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we had gone astray.
Oh! Tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh! Tidings of comfort and joy!
From God, our heavenly Father the blessed angels came
Unto some certain shepherds with tidings of the same,
That Christ was born in Bethlehem, the Son of God by name.
Oh! Tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh! Tidings of comfort and joy!

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous, all together, fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Ding, dong, merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing.
Ding, dong, verily the sky is riven with angels singing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers.
May you beautifully rhyme your eve time song, ye singers!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

A Note on the Author

Charles Dickens was a great admirer of Hans Christian Andersen, or at least, he was until he met him, but in creating *A Christmas Carol* he out-Andersened Andersen by inventing a fable that would become legendary worldwide. While writing it he 'wept and laughed, and wept again and excited himself in a most extraordinary manner'. This is because he identified with his anti-hero Scrooge.

Several incidents in the story come from Dickens' life. He had indeed been left on his own at school, in his case in Chatham for a week after his family moved to London, although he was in the care of a teacher. Scrooge's failed love affair reflects Dickens' courtship, before he became famous, of Maria Beadnell; her parents disapproved of him and she broke off the relationship.

Money was uppermost in Dickens' mind at the time he wrote the *Carol* because the novel he was working on, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, wasn't selling well. But, although the *Carol* was an instant success, he lost money on it. He'd spent too much on the printing, and on top of that, he sued two writers who had plagiarised the story, won the case, but was left with a bill for costs after they declared themselves bankrupt. On a more positive note, his description of Scrooge at the end of the book. "It was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well", would come to be reflected in Dickens' own legendary parties at Gads Hill.

There's also a spooky side to the *Carol*. Scrooge's sister, who rescues him from his school, dies young. She is thought to be based on Dickens' own elder sister Frances, who was a talented musician and did indeed die young... some five years after *A Christmas Carol* was first published.

Michael Bath, 'Charles Dickens'

Cast

Ian White as **Ebenezer Scrooge**
Barry Kearns as **Young Scrooge**
Molly Pearce and **Peter Steers** as **Boy Scrooge**

Michael Bath as **Charles Dickens**

Simon King as **Bob Cratchit**
Kate Brookes as **Mrs Cratchit**
Jade Boxall as **Martha Cratchit**
James Roots as **Peter Cratchit**
Ellis Stoner as **Tiny Tim**

Allister Kay as **Jacob Marley**
Hayley Bullivant as **The Ghost of Christmas Present**
Del de Lorme as **The Ghost of Christmas Past**
John Firmin as **The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come**

Mike Dickinson as **Fred, Scrooge's nephew**
Candice Fanning as **Clara, Fred's wife**
Shania McFarlane as **Fan, Scrooge's sister**

Andrew Prockter as **Fezziwig**
Elaine Thomas as **Mrs Dilber**
Sam Jolley as **Charlotte**
Ronnie Titley as **Mr Topper**

Francesca West-Lindsay as **Featured Solo**
Aurelia Lloyd-Morell and **Isla Kearns** singing **Silent Night**

Reiss Foley and **Murray Johnson** as **Turkey Boy**

With **Anabelle Craig, Camron Thompson, Darcie Morgan, Delilah Craig, Elsie Hehir, Emily O'Loughlin, Evan Capon, Iris Hehir, Jasmine Webb, Kiara Brown, Lola Johnson, Olanma Umeojiako, Simon James,** and **Suzie Glinska** in the **Ensemble**

Crew

Director Barry Kearns
Stage Manager John Winson
Chris Loft
Assistant Stage Managers Ian McWilliams
Suta Phillips
Teresa and Bob Campbell
Properties Kate Brookes
Kerrie Owens
Light Andrew Coulson
Sound Mic Aldington
Set Design & Construction Barry Kearns
Del de Lorme
Wardrobe Elaine Thomas
Kairn Bignell
David Hutley
Chaperones Luke Taylor
Derek Thompson
Kerrie Thompson
Carol Scott