

*A group of VILLAGERS with CHILDREN appears. They carry a wassail bowl, baskets of apples and cinnamon, and bottles of ale. The CHILDREN are those with whom Scrooge once played and they scamper about.*

**15. MUSIC: DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH**

VILLAGERS (voice over OR sung live):

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH,  
IN HEAVEN THE BELLS ARE RINGING,  
DING DONG VERILY THE SKY  
IS RIVEN WITH ANGELS SINGING  
GLORIA, HOSANNA IN EXCELSIS.

*SCROOGE moves among them.*

NARRATOR: Scrooge knew everyone. He rejoiced beyond all bounds at their sight. Why was he filled with gladness when he heard them give each other a Merry Christmas? What was 'Merry Christmas' to Scrooge?

*The VILLAGERS run past SCROOGE, unaware of his presence, and separate, going off in different directions.*

NARRATOR: Out upon Merry Christmas! What good had it ever done to him?

**16. MUSIC: CHRISTMAS PAST UNDERSCORE**

CHRISTMAS PAST: These are but shadows of things that have been. They have no consciousness of us.

SCROOGE: I know. I wish... It is too late, now.

CHRISTMAS PAST: What is the matter?

SCROOGE: Nothing. Nothing! There were some boys singing a Christmas carol outside my door last night. I should like to have given them something. That's all.

CHRISTMAS PAST: Let us go on. The school is not quite deserted. A solitary young man, soon to be forgotten by his friends, is left there still. Do you know him?

**SCENE III. A School.**

*BOY SCROOGE is revealed being rejected by some schoolboys. SCROOGE recognizes himself.*

SCROOGE: Why...oh heavens!

**16.A. SCHOOL BOYS**

*THE SCHOOLBOYS run off, FAN enters.*

FAN: Ebenezer!

BOY SCROOGE & SCROOGE: Fan!

**17. MUSIC: FAN'S THEME**

Start

*Both SCROOGE and BOY SCROOGE run toward FAN, arms widespread, to embrace her. BOY SCROOGE lifts her in a warm embrace and then sets her down.*

FAN: Ebenezer! I have come to bring you home, dear brother! (*Claps her hands and laughs at his response*). To bring you home!

BOY SCROOGE: Home, little Fan?

FAN (*gleefully*): Yes. Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever.

BOY SCROOGE: Oh, Fan, I cannot. Father sent me away and he said I was never to return.

FAN: Ebenezer, Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven! He spoke to me so gently one dear night when I was going to bed, that I was not afraid to ask him once more if you might come home; and he said, Yes, you should; and sent me in a coach to bring you. And you're to be a man! And are never to come back here; but first, we're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.

BOY SCROOGE: My dear sister, you have wrought quite a change in Father!

*FAN laughs. THE SPIRIT gestures and FAN and BOY SCROOGE freeze.*

CHRISTMAS PAST: Always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered. But she had a large heart.

SCROOGE: So she had.

*THE SPIRIT gestures. FAN and BOY SCROOGE exit. SCROOGE watches as the two disappear.*

CHRISTMAS PAST: She died a woman; in childbirth, as I think. A mother for only a moment. Her last breath in union with her child's first.

SCROOGE: Her child, her only child – Fred.

CHRISTMAS PAST: True. Your nephew, whom your sister committed to *your* care on her deathbed.

SCROOGE (*Uneasily*): Yes.

CHRISTMAS PAST: Let us see another Christmas.

#### SCENE IV. The Fezziwig Warehouse.

##### 17A. MUSIC: BEFORE FEZZIWIG

*FEZZIWIG'S PARTY GUESTS enter loudly, laughing, and wishing each other holiday greetings. They carry garlands and golden caged mistletoe balls to decorate the hall. Other garlands fly in. The FEZZIWIGS mingle with their guests. Throughout this scene, YOUNG SCROOGE and BELLE realize their deep feelings for each other.*

MR. FEZZIWIG: Yo ho, my young ones! Ebenezer! Dick! Enough work! Join me in a Christmas toast!

CHRISTMAS PAST: Do you know this place?