



# A Christmas Carol

Book by David Armstrong  
Lyrics by Mark Waldrop  
Music by Dick Gallagher  
Based on the story by Charles Dickens

In this musical interpretation of the Charles Dickens classic, we first meet the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas Eve, as he is complaining about having to give his clerk, Bob Cratchit, the next day's holiday off. Maintaining that Christmas is merely "humbug," Scrooge refuses to contribute to the local charity's fund for the poor.

He even refuses the invitation of his nephew, Fred, to join his family for a holiday celebration. It is only later that night when he is visited by a succession of spirits – the ghost of his deceased partner, Jacob Marley and the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present, and Yet-to-Come – that Ebenezer considers the consequences of his past and present actions and reconsiders his outlook on life. Grateful for a "second chance," Scrooge vows to help his fellow man – including Bob Cratchit and his frail little son, Tiny Tim – and is reunited with his family. Though it may have only been a dream, Ebenezer Scrooge is a changed man.

*A Christmas Carol* captures both the humorous and touching moments of the classic story with witty dialogue and fresh new songs, conveying Dickens' original message that the holiday season should be a "kind, forgiving, charitable time," a sentiment which still rings true today.

**"A thorough delight!  
Inspired, funny and intimate."**

– *The New York Times*

Illustration by Peter de Seve

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**DAVID ARMSTRONG** (Book, Original Director) is the Producing Artistic Director of The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle where he has directed acclaimed productions of *Hair*, *Sweeney Todd*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Secret Garden*, *Anything Goes*, *The Rocky Horror Show* and written and directed *Yankee Doodle Dandy*. His Off-Broadway productions include *Tallulah* and *The Wonder Years* which he co-authored and which also had a long running Los Angeles production. His long relationship with Theatreworks USA includes directing and writing the book for *Gold Rush!* which toured for six seasons; directing and devising *Reading Rainbow*; and directing *Black Beauty*, *The Great Brain*, *Columbus*, and *Lady Liberty*. For New Jersey's Paper Mill Playhouse he directed *Brigadoon* and *The Secret Garden* and his work has been seen at many other leading regional theaters including the Kennedy Center, Actors' Theater of Louisville, Cincinnati Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Dallas Summer Musicals, Theater Of The Stars (Atlanta), The Ordway Center (St. Paul) and Ford's Theater. Mr. Armstrong is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre.

**MARK WALDROP** (Lyrics) Winner of the 1997 Edward Kleban Award for Lyrics, Mark provided special material for *Bea Arthur on Broadway* and Bette Midler's *Divine Miss Millennium Tour*. Off-Broadway, he wrote book and lyrics for Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly*, which he also directed (1997 Drama Desk Award/Best Revue, 1997 Outer Critic's Circle Award/Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical, OBIE.) In addition to *A Christmas Carol*, he collaborated with Dick Gallagher and David Armstrong on another Theatreworks USA touring production, *Gold Rush!* He contributed lyrics to Howard Crabtree's *Whoop-Dee-Doo*, *Pete 'n' Keely*, the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular and *Hey, Love: The Songs of Mary Rodgers* at Rainbow & Stars. He also enjoys a busy career as a theater director and is the author of the soon-to-be published children's book, *Nicholas Bickle and the Five Scary Stories*.

**DICK GALLAGHER** (Music) was Patti LuPone's Musical Director for her one-woman show *Matters of the Heart* at Lincoln Center as well as for the seven-week run of her one-woman show, *Patti LuPone on Broadway*. Mr. Gallagher has accompanied and conducted for many of New York's most prominent vocalists, for which he has received an unprecedented six MAC (Manhattan Association of Cabarets & Clubs) Awards for Outstanding Musical Direction. His song writing contributions include the score of the Off-Broadway musical *Have I Got a Girl for You -The Frankenstein Musical; Whatnot*, for which he won the 1990 Richard Rodgers Award; several songs in the long-running *That's Life!*; and the title song of Charles Busch's recent Off-Broadway comedy *You Should Be So Lucky*. He also wrote most of the music included in Howard Crabtree's *Whoop-Dee-Doo!*, winner of the 1994 Drama Desk Award for Best Revue. His contributions to the revue can be heard on the recently released original cast recording. He composed the music for the long-running off Broadway show, *When Pigs Fly*, written with Crabtree and Mark Waldrop. Mr. Gallagher is a graduate of Northwestern University. For Theatreworks USA, Gallagher has composed the music for *Gold Rush!*



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