

Ext. The Streets of London.
Christmas Day – Morning.

SCROOGE. Wheeeeeeeee! I am as bright as a light and as light as a feather and as happy as an angel and as merry as a school-boy and as giddy and as dizzy as a drunken man.

(remembers the audience again, a florid bow) A Merry Christmas everybody! A Happy New Year to all the world!

(double takes) WHAT!!!!!!? What did I just say!? Happy? Merry? Merry Christmas!!!!? I have never said Merry Christmas in all my life! All I ever said was hum – humbu – humbu –

(gasps) I can't say it! Hum – humbu – humbu – ha! 'Tis impossible to speak it!

(tries again) Humbu – humbu – humbu – Ha! Ha! Ha! What a wonder! Everything is a wonder! The world is a wonder! You are a wonder! I am a wonder! Christmas is a wonder! I love it! And –

(to audience) I love YOU! ALL of you!

(to individual person) And particularly YOU madam! D'you feel it too!? Isn't it – a miracle!!! *(sotto)* Are you doing anything later? *(loud)* What's come over me!? I need to dance!

(does a ballet leap) I need to sing!

(snatch of bel canto) La la la la la!!! I need to – dare I say it? – skate! Let's SKATE!!

(Music: "VOICES OF SPRING" – Johann Strauss)

(The other ACTORS enter. They skate in formation towards SCROOGE as he pirouettes rather unsteadily, still in his nightcap and gown.)

Wheeeeeeeee! I'm skating and I don't care!!!