# Sinfonietta 

## 'A Christmas Carol'

for Narrator and Orchestra

## Music by <br> LAWRENCE KILLIAN

Words from Charles Dickens<br>adapted by<br>MARGARET KILLIAN



## FULL SCORE

(Revised 2021)

## INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo<br>2 Flutes<br>2 Oboes<br>Cor Anglais<br>2 Clarinets in A<br>2 Bassoons<br>4 French Horns<br>3 Trumpets in Bb<br>2 Tenor Trombones<br>Bass Trombone<br>Tuba<br>Timpani<br>Percussion*<br>(Three Percussion Players Required)<br>Strings<br>Narrator

*Percussion 1: Side Drum, and Glockenspiel
*Percussion 2: Tambourine, Bass Drum, and Tubular Bells (A \& D)
*Percussion 3: Crash Cymbals, and Sleigh Bells

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The standard orchestral layout for a concerto with the Narrator at the front will work well for a performance of this piece. A microphone may assist in bringing the narration to the focus of the performance.

However, it is recommended that a more theatrical approach is used to enhance the story's impact on the audience. For example, the Narrator could dress in costume(s), use props, and move around the auditorium for heightened dramatic effect.

Other characters could also be introduced to good effect in the various tableaux that are depicted.

Sound effects could be used along with images projected behind or around the performers.

## NOTES

The music, combined with the narration, conjures up images of a busy Christmas scene in Victorian London. The narration is adapted from the story of Scrooge and Tiny Tim in the Charles Dickens novel A Christmas Carol.

The structure of the music and narration follows the descriptive headlines added to the 1868 edition of the Dickens work as follows:

Out upon Merry Christmas!<br>God Bless you, Merry Gentlemen!<br>Scrooge's Fireside<br>The Ghost<br>The Ghost's Departure<br>Another Unearthly Visitor<br>Christmas Shops<br>At Bob Cratchit's<br>Tiny Tim and Mr Scrooge<br>Over Land and Sea<br>Games and Forfeits<br>Ignorance and Want<br>A Death has Occurred<br>Ghouls<br>Poor Tiny Tim<br>The Name of the Dead Man

A Delightful Boy
Scrooge Reclaimed by Christmas

## Sinfonietta

"A Christmas Carol"


Narration 1: Bars 8-9 (repeated music until narration finished)
Cold and deep, crisp and white, snow lay on the ground,
Lantern carrying carollers make a joyful sound; Glowing windows welcome as people homeward go, Look upon this happy scene of Christmas long ago.









Narration (5b) bar 49, beat 3 - finish speaking before 'Con brio':
Christmas Past is here to act as the old miser's host.
Back, back in time they travel, forgotten friends to meet.
Scenes of boyhood, youth's first love are memories bittersweet.





Timp. $\sum_{\text {Phen }}$


Timp.

Naration (6)



122










Narration (9): Bar 182, beat 3
Alone again old Scrooge prepares to face what must befall. The hour of one is chiming now, he hears a strange voice call,
There, dressed in green, with holly crown, stands spirit number two,
"Lead where you will, the miser said, "for I must follow you."



Narration (10): bar 192 \& 193 (repeat ad lib)
Sounds of happy revellers filled the frosty air;
Shops were overflowing with bounteous Yultide fare.
Children playing snowball games, cheeks rosy with delight; Streets alive with Christmas cheers, such a joyous sight.




Narration (11a) bar 209, beat 3
They stop before Bob Crachet's house and see the family sat, Around a table laden with goose ....... round and fat.

Narration (11b): bar 214, on pause Scrooge's gaze falls upon the face of Tiny Tim, The plight of the frail, crippled boy, touches and saddens him

214 Narration (11b)







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\begin{array}{r}
\text { Narration (12): bar } 228 \text { ("fly" is cue for Glock to play) } \\
\text { The view suddenly fades: Scrooge leaves with a sigh; } \\
\text { "Hold fast my cloak!", the Spirit said, } \\
\text { "now come with me and fly!" } \\
\hline
\end{array}
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Narration (13): bar 232
High, high above the clouds, they travel far and near;
The Spirit leaves behind him blessings and good cheer.
Within the hearts of rich and poor the Christmas Spirit dwells.




Narration (14): bar 246, beat 1 ("Come"), then spoken on pause "Come!" न "My time on Earth is short!", the Christmas Ghost exclaimed; Then brought two forms from out his cloak, both were abject and maimed:

Narration (15a): bar 249
"This boy is ignorance, this girl is want, of both you must beware!"


249


Narration (15a)

Narration (15a)


Narration (15b): bar 252-254
A bell struck one, (bell strikes - ل)
Scrooge saw the Spirit vanish into air.

Narration (16a): bar 255 (on pause)
(give time for dramatic silence) A deathly silence followed, he was filled with dread;


Narration (16b): bar 257
Approaching was a phantom with draped hooded head. Spectral finger pointing it stood silent and tall, "Spirit of the future, I fear you most of all".


Narration (17a): bar 260, beat 3
In sombre mood the silent pair visit Bob's house again, The Miser looks for one small face, but alas in vain.

Narr. (17b): bar 264, beat 2 They stop before a gravestone ...... It's finger points.

Narr. (17c): bar 266, beat 4
In letters large and newly carved he a reads a name .... his own.


## Narration 17d: bar 269, beat 4

Upon his knees the Miser begs,
"Spirit! this can not be,
Will the shadows alter
if there's a change in me?"
He clutches at the ghost;
It shrinks, collapses, dwindles,
into his own bedpost.







