## Narrator

## Sinfonietta

## 'A Christmas Carol'

Before the music begins:

Out upon merry Christmas!



Narration 1: Bars 8 – 9 (repeat music until narration finished)

Cold and deep, crisp and white, snow lay on the ground,

Lantern carrying carollers make a joyful sound;

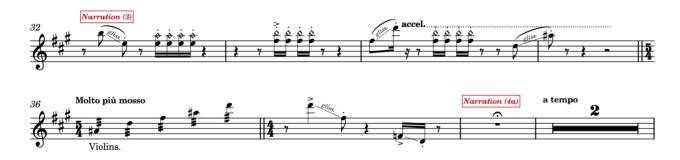
Glowing windows welcome as people homeward go,

Look upon this happy scene of Christmas long ago.



Narration 2: Bar 28 (on beat 4)

The scene is changed and now behold a room so dark and bare: Mr Scrooge, a mean old man, alone is sitting there.



Narration 3: Bar 32 (over music)

See! He trembles, shakes with fright, eyes stare wild with fear: He sees the ghost of Marley suddenly appear.

Narration 4a: Bar 38 (in pause bar)

"Take heed of me" the spectre said,

"before the night is through:

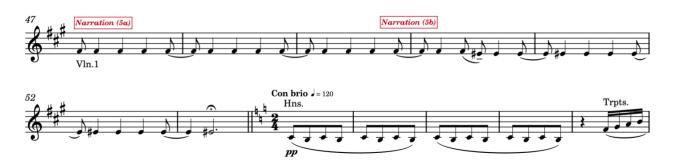
Past, present and future will be revealed to you;"



Narration 4b: Bar 42 (during G.P.)

"On stroke of one three spirits will appear to you in turn,

Remember things both seen and heard, for you have much to learn".



Narration 5a: Bar 47 (over music)

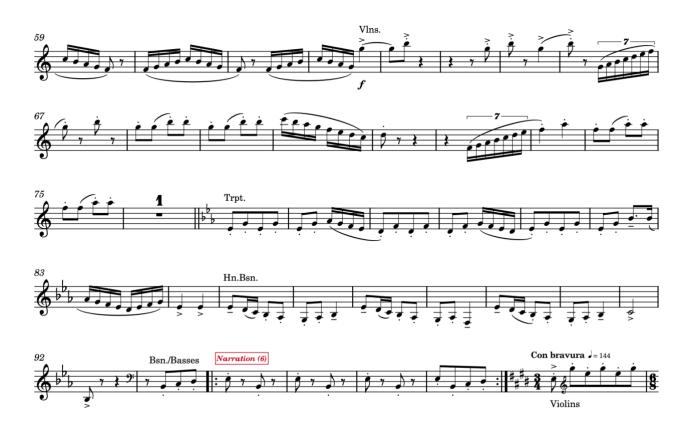
The clock chimes one and Scrooge awakes to look upon a ghost.

Narration 5b: Bar 49 (on beat 3) – finish speaking before 'Con brio' (bar 54)

Christmas past is here to act as the old miser's host.

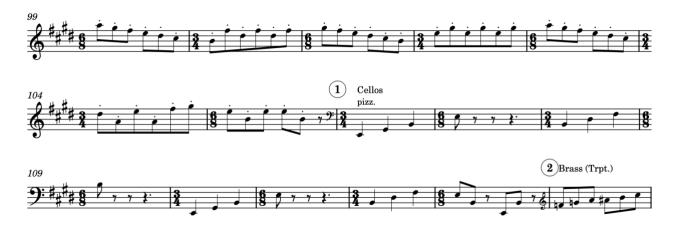
Back, back in time they travel, forgotten friends to meet.

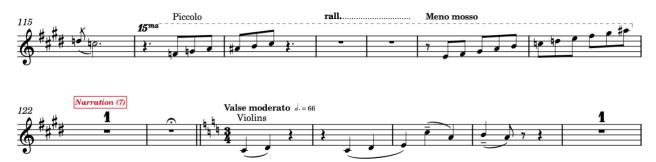
Scenes of boyhood, youth's first love are memories bittersweet.



Narration 6: Bar 94 - 97 (over music)

Once again he laughs and sings, dances a merry jig: With his good friends, Dick Wilkins and Mr Fezziwig.





Narration 7: Bar 122 - 123 (finish speaking before end of pause)

And there, standing beside him, a young girl fair of face; He recollects the love he lost through greed and avarice.

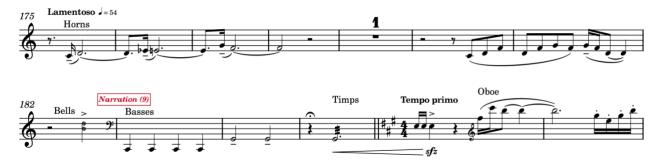


Narration 8: Bar 169 (from beat 3)

The miser's heart is heavy, his anguish plain to see.

"Remove us from this place", he cries,

"And then begone from me!"



Narration 9: Bar 182 (from beat 3) – finish speaking before timpani is cued (after pause)

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: Bars 192 – 193 (repeat music until narration finished)

Sounds of happy revellers filled the frosty air;

Shops were overflowing with bounteous Yuletide fare.

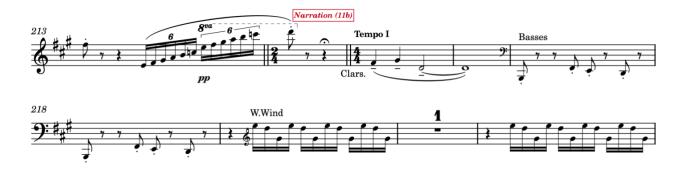
Children playing snowball games, cheeks rosy with delight:

Streets alive with Christmas cheer, such a joyous sight.



Narration 11a: Bar 209 (from beat 3), over music

They stop before Bob Cratchet's house and see the family sat; Around a table laden with a goose ...... round and fat.



Narration 11b: Bar 214 (during G.P.)

Scrooge's gaze falls upon the face of Tiny Tim;

The plight of the frail, crippled boy, touches and saddens him.



Narration 12: Bar 228 ("fly!" cues Glock to play)

The view suddenly fades: Scrooge leaves with a sigh;

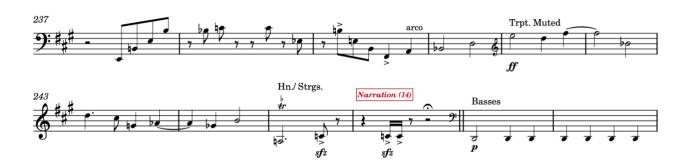
"Hold fast my cloak!" the Spirit said, "now come with me and fly!"

Narration 13: Bar 232 - over music

High, high above the clouds, they travel far and near;

The Sprit 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 G.P.

"Come", \( \mathcal{F} \) "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 (over music)

"This boy is ignorance, this girl is want, of both you must beware".

Narration 15b: Bar 252 (music continues)

A bell struck one, ( ... bell strikes)

Scrooge saw the spirit vanish into air.

Narration 16a: Bar 255 (on G.P. - giving time for a dramatic silence)

A deathly silence followed, he was filled with dread;



Narration 16b: Bar 257 (music continues)

Approaching was a phantom with draped hooded head.

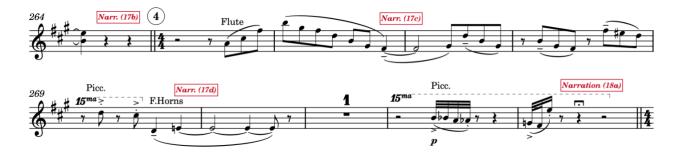
Spectral finger pointing it stood silent and tall;

"Spirit of the future, I fear you most of all".

Narration 17a: Bar 260 (beat 3) - music continues

In sombre mood the silent pair visit Bob's house again;

The miser looks for one small face, but alas in vain.



Narration 17b: Bar 264 (beat 2) - music continues

They stop before a gravestone ...... It's finger points.

Narration 17c: Bar 266 (beat 4) - music continues

In letters large and newly carved he reads a name ..... his own.

Narration 17d: Bar 269 (beat 4) - music continues

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.

Narration 18a: Bar 273 (on G.P.) – narrator to ad lib acting E.G., talking into the audience etc.

Tears of joy run down his face, he laughs out with glee:

"I will keep within my heart the spirit of Christmas, you wait and see!"

He rushes to the window and flings it open wide;

"What's today young fellow?", he hails a boy outside:

"Christmas day!", the lad shouts above the church bells ringing.

"Run and buy a turkey, the biggest one in town:

Deliver it with all haste to the house of Tiny Tim;

How delighted they will be, it's twice the size of him!"

Narration 18b: Bar 274 (over music) – timed to finish just before (or on) timpani entry

The transformation was complete, the spirit's work was done;
And so as Tiny Tim would say, "God Bless Us Everyone!"

