



**A Note From RTG Director  
Doug Instenes**

**God Bless Us, Every One!**

What is it about the Dickens novel *A Christmas Carol* that makes it such a beloved story? From the time the book was published in 1843, it was credited with reviving the celebration of Christmas. There is something undeniably joyful about seeing a wicked person transform into a kind and loving human being. The tale touches something optimistic deep within us all. We all have a little Scrooge in us.

A different version of the story was produced at the RTG in 2005, 2006 and 2007 was tremendously popular with our audiences. A few of the main characters were played by the same actors each of the three years, some are even back this time around. Bob Benson, who played Bob Cratchit all three years in the first version, taking on the role of Scrooge this time, Ellie Hammond will be recreating Mrs. Cratchit, and Mark Geisler and Karen Magee are in the ensemble.

I hope everyone who remembers the production from 10 years ago will come again to see this fresh, new musical, with wonderful songs. Our current cast and crew are doing an outstanding job of bringing the story to life, and we think you'll love the singing and dancing. Bring the whole family, as it is suitable for children and adults of all ages.

Christmas is a great time to see live theatre. Invite family and friends, to see *A Christmas Carol*. Or give the gift of entertainment with gift certificates and Flex Passes. This show is sure to wipe out any Bah, Humbug attitude about the holidays, and leave you smiling with the joy of the season.

# CALLBOARD

racine theatre guild **December 2017**

## *A Christmas Carol, The Musical* Opens Dec. 1

The perfect way to get into the holiday spirit is with a sparkling new musical version of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This show opens Friday, December 1, at the Racine Theatre Guild and runs two weeks through December 17. The music is by Alan Menken, eight-time Oscar-winning composer of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, with lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. The book is by Mike Ockrent and Lynn Ahrens.

The familiar story follows the miser Ebenezer Scrooge, who treats everyone around him with contempt, including his nephew Fred and his employee Bob Cratchit. On Christmas Eve he is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley, who is dragging chains of greed forged in his lifetime. Marley warns Scrooge that ignoring others around him and accumulating money will bring nothing but suffering, and three spirits will arrive to teach Scrooge a lesson. The spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future take Scrooge through visions of what had taken place in his life, what is happening now, and what may happen in the future.

From Scrooge's youth, we see his closeness to his sister Fan; his enjoyment of the Christmas ball at home of jolly Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig; getting engaged to a young woman, Emily; and going into business with Jacob Marley. From the present, we see the humble Cratchit home with the crippled Tiny Tim and a Christmas celebration at Fred's house. From the future, Scrooge sees a few of the horrible consequences of his greed.

*A Christmas Carol, The Musical* ran from 1994 to 2003 at the Paramount Theatre in New York's Madison Square Garden, be-

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### A CHRISTMAS CAROL:

#### The Musical

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

Book by Mike Ockrent & Lynn Ahrens

Sponsored by

**SC Johnson Wax**

**National Endowment for the Arts**

#### CAST

Scrooge.....**Bob Benson**  
 Marley ..... **Philip Evreniadis**  
 ChristmasPast.....**JennaZeihen**  
 ChristmasPresent...**DavidsonKane**  
 ChristmasFuture .... **Barbi McGuire**  
 BobCratchit.....**PeterJones**  
 Mrs.Cratchit..... **EllieHammond**  
 Tiny Tim.....**LeahStarks**  
 CratchitChildren.....**BellaNiederer,**  
**Isabel Young, Charlie Cimbalkin**  
 Fezziwig ..... **Frank Russ**  
 Mrs. Fezziwig .... **Lauren Haumersen**  
 Fred/Ebenezer .. **Zachariah Preiwisch**  
 Emily ..... **Zoe Gosey**  
 Ensemble..**JayRattle,Mark Geisler,**  
**Kathy Berg, Lauren Lamoreaux,**  
**Paul Marquez, Loghan Simonsen,**  
**Betty Petersen, Anna Fabian,**  
**Meghan Flynn, Alex Neuens,**  
**Abigail Lamoreaux, Dedrick Woods,**  
**Keira Hassler, Marcus Sorenson,**  
**Evelyn Kane, Katelyn Christensen,**  
**Fallon Duncan, Maeden Hillery,**  
**Karen Magee, Miriam Lamoreaux,**  
**Rebekah Lamoreaux,**  
**Vanetta Powell, Alaina Prochniak**

### Dec. Production Calendar - *A Christmas Carol*

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17						

FRIDAY, Dec. 1	7:00 pm
SATURDAY, Dec 2	7:00 pm
SUNDAY, Dec. 3	2:00 pm
FRIDAY, Dec. 8	7:00 pm
SATURDAY, Dec. 9	2:00 & 7:00 pm
SUNDAY, Dec. 10	2:00 & 7:00 pm
FRIDAY, Dec. 15	7:00 pm
SATURDAY, Dec. 16	2:00 & 7:00 pm
SUNDAY, Dec. 17	2:00 pm

## Fourth Time Around 2005, 2006, 2007, 2017

Four actors who appeared in *Scrooge The Musical* talked about coming back after 10 years to perform in *A Christmas Carol The Musical*.

### Bob Benson

"I really enjoyed my time playing Bob Cratchit in the first version of this story," Bob recalls. "And now I'm honored and thrilled to have the role of Scrooge. The score in this musical is so beautiful, and it's so fun to play a character who transforms into something better. I think this may end up being my favorite role ever. I love to sing, and I have had a wonderful time with all my roles at the RTG. But playing Scrooge and singing this terrific music is making this a very special time and a real highlight of my stage experience."

Bob particularly likes the fact that this musical shows more of the back story of Scrooge and why he is the way he is in the present. In addition to singing, Bob feels this musical gives him a chance to stretch his acting skills. "I get to transform from the greedy, obnoxious, loud and mean Scrooge into a kind person who is filled with undiluted joy at the end. That makes it a great role, and it's a wonderful story. Having such great music too is just the icing on the cake."

### Ellie Hammond

"I loved being Mrs. Cratchit for all three years of the first version," Ellie says. "And I am having just as much fun being Mrs. Cratchit this time around. I think people will love the music. This is a fresh way of telling the same story, and it's a little more like an opera, with music throughout, even underscoring the dialogue. This is a great cast of fabulous actors"

Just like the first time around, Ellie's mother, Nat Cycenas, sewed her costume. "I really like this musical," Ellie says, "even though this time the Cratchits only have four children, where last time we had five. I think the book has six children, so obviously each adaptation gives the author freedom to write it a certain way. I really hope audiences will love this musical score as much as we love singing it."

### Karen Magee

As a member of the ensemble for *Scrooge The Musical*, Karen is again in the ensemble for *A Christmas Carol, The Musical*. "I am so honored to be in this cast," she says. "All the kids and adults are working hard to make this show great. Every actor in this show is superbly cast. I am so impressed with how everyone gets along so well together, and we create an intergen-

erational family. There is much more music in this version. I can hardly get this music out of my head."

"I am so happy that I am part of this show," she says. "The theme is all about love and generosity, and I think that helps to pull the cast together into a cohesive whole. Because the music is so emotional and powerful, it is more than telling a story. It is portraying an emotional impact to the audience. Anyone who saw the version from 10 years ago should absolutely come again, because this show is so different and has powerful music."

### Mark Geisler

Is very happy to be back for another outreach play. Along with *Scrooge*, he has been in *Beauty and the Beast* and *Annie*. Not only does he enjoy performing "for" the kids, he has enjoyed performing "with" the kids. "These kids are so talented that it's very inspiring to see their dedication and love of theatre. They are just as creative and talented as the kids 10 years ago, however these kids have cell phones. Times may be changing, but kids are kids and so much fun to be around. I also find that the more I do this, the less nervous I have become. I used to be the new guy, but now I feel like an oldtimer."

## A Family Affair - Meet the Kane & Lamoreaux Families

One nice thing about community theatre is occasionally you get to perform along side family members. Those shared memories can last a lifetime.

### Davidson & Evelyn Kane

"I love theatre, especially musicals," Davidson says, "and I have been honored to be in some terrific shows at the RTG. But this is the first time I'm in a show with a Christmas theme, and I have to say it makes it so much fun. Then I get to share it with my 11-year-old daughter." Davidson's daughter Evelyn is a student at Prairie School, and she loves theatre as much as her dad. "Being in rehearsals and then in all the performances makes it a special time together," says Davidson. "It is a neat thing to share. One of my sons was in *Willy Wonka*, and the other one was in a Children's Theatre Packy play with me. I am having fun with the role of Christmas Present. He is jolly and larger than life. This show is just great. First it is showing people doing good things to each other, as a lesson for Scrooge. Secondly, it is a big cast, with everyone so dedicated and talented, and we are all bonding with each other like a big family. And it's special that I share this experience with my daughter. I certainly hope audiences love this show as much as I do!"

### Lamoreaux Family

"Oh, this is such an emotionally positive experience!" Lauren raves. "All three of my daughters are in the cast too. Abigail, Miriam, and Rebekah. We are all rehearsing the songs around the kitchen table at home." Lauren has loved theatre, especially musicals, and she is thrilled that her three girls also love to sing and dance and act. "I never pushed it on them," she says. "They just have the talent and the interest, and that makes it so wonderful that we can share theatre together. There are so many things that make this such a fun experience," Lauren says. "The RTG volunteers are so much like family, and I get to bond with everyone in the cast and crew, and share that bonding with my three daughters." Lauren quotes a line from the show that sums up her feelings about the closeness of the cast in this show: *Families are created by friendship as well as by birth*. "And that's what the RTG is to me and now to my daughters, too: family!"

**Happy Holidays!**  
TO: YOU  
FROM: ME

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and drama  
Throughout the year

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coming a favorite every Christmas season. It was made into a television movie in 2004. Several details in the musical are closer to the original Charles Dickens 1843 book, such as showing that Scrooge's father was thrown into debtors' prison, which motivates him to accumulate wealth at the expense of everything else. Another interesting point is that the three ghosts appear in the early scenes of the show, as various townspeople.

This version emphasizes music and singing. The music heightens both the drama and the emotion, and features songs "Link by Link," "God Bless Us Every One," and "Yesterday, Tomorrow and Today."

Critics have praised the productions of the show, in New York and around the country. Some comments include: "Enjoyable theatre, and it sends the right message as to how the spirit of Christmas and the holiday season in general ought to be." "A delicious bit of treacle, just in time for the holidays."

If you saw the RTG's version of *Scrooge, The Musical*, which ran 2005, 2006 and 2007, you will be enchanted with this new version with its award-winning music. *A Christmas Carol, The Musical* runs December 1 to 17, and tickets are going fast. Call the box office at 262-633-4218 to order tickets or for further information. Or visit the RTG web site at [racinetheatre.org](http://racinetheatre.org). It is just the show to put you in the holiday spirit and remind you of the joy and generosity of the season!

### A Christmas Carol - Crew

Director ..... Doug Instenes  
Music Director ..... Greg Berg  
Choreographer ..... Kara Ernst-Schalk  
Scenic Design/TD ..... Chris Reinhardt  
PSM ..... Virginia Mueller  
Stage Manager ..... Eric Guttenberg  
ASM's ..... Rose Bliss, Jeff Hansen  
Costumes Design ..... Sharon Molina  
Wardrobe ..... Cynthia McCrory,  
Mary Jo Maheras  
Props ..... Jill Dickert, Jodi Gement  
Digital Orchestration ..... MTPIT  
Sound ... Eric Goodwin, Jim Rasmussen,  
John Whyte, Colleen Whyte  
Lights ..... Art Dexter, Lisa Niederer  
Makeup/Hair ..... Jeanne Christensen,  
Kori Hassler

*The Callboard* is written by volunteer  
Nancy Moldenhauer, a freelance writer

## Auditions for

### A Comedy of Tenors - 7 pm, December 11 & 12

One hotel suite, four tenors, two wives, three girlfriends, and a soccer stadium filled with screaming fans. *A Comedy of Tenors*, the sequel to *Lend Me a Tenor* performed at RTG in 2016, brings back character the audience loved, and a new meaning to the phrase "the show must go on." It is a frenzy of a farce, promising an evening of sheer joy. Roles for 4 Men, 3 Women, and performance dates are February 23-March 11. No experience required. Scripts can be checked out from the box office.