

音楽狂言

寿来爺

Ongaku-Kyogen

“Sukuru-ji” Scrooge

Based on the novel “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

Stave 1 MARLEY’S GHOST

Enter Scrooge

SCROOGE I’m Scrooge, a businessman of this town. They call me a miser.
Tomorrow is a Christmas Day and people will make merry. Humbug!
Time is money and I never waste time.

He looks busy working. As music grows louder, he looks angry.

SCROOGE Noise, noise! Christmas is the enemy of my business. I hate it!

He notices someone coming in.

SCROOGE Well, here comes a fool. My nephew Fred. *(to Fred)* What are you here for?
What? You mean you want to invite me to your Christmas Dinner? Liar! You must be
trying to make me pay for your food! No? You just want to celebrate Christmas with me?
None of your business! Get out of here! *(to himself)* Christmas is for fools. Just humbug!
(seeing his clerk Bob) Hey Bob! What are you in here for? Get back to your work. *(listening
to Bob)* What? Do you want a day off tomorrow? Idiot! Lazy fellow!
You are fired! Get out of here! *(To himself)* Disgusting!

He covers his ears due to the loud music in town but he sometimes falls into the rhythm.

I can see something white floating in the fog. Drifting here and there.

Wow, it’s coming toward me. So scary! Who are you?

GHOST You don’t remember me?

SCROOGE Are you Marley, my former business partner?

GHOST Yes. I'm Marley's ghost.

SCROOGE Ghost?

GHOST Exactly.

SCROOGE Why did you come back to this world?

GHOST I am here tonight to warn you, that you still have the chance of escaping my fate. You will be visited by ghosts suffering forever because of what we did while we were alive. I'm also suffering and haunted because I was so stingy as you are. Soon you will be haunted by Three Spirits. Without their visits, you cannot hope to shun the path I tread.

*Exit Ghost chanting a Japanese version of Oratio Dominica meaning
"Kyrie eleison, Ave Maria"*

Stave 2 THE FIRST OF THE THREE SPIRITS

SCROOGE That was so horrifying. He said that three spirits were coming. Should I welcome them even though they are frightening? I wonder what they look like, giants or goblins? When they come, I might be eaten. So scary! Wait a minute. What am I scared of? Shame on me. I'll screw up my courage! Come what come may.

Enter First Sprit.

FIRST SPIRIT Hey you, old guy.

Scrooge is paralyzed with fright.

FIRST SPIRIT Are you Scrooge?

SCROOGE Yes, I am. Who are you, sir?

FIRST SPIRIT I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

SCROOGE You mean you come from the past?

FIRST SPIRIT Exactly.

SCROOGE What are you here for?

FIRST SPIRIT I'm here to straighten out your mind so you will practice goodwill towards other people. Now, stand up!

SCROOGE Where are we going?

FIRST SPIRIT To your past, we will go. Hold my waist. Follow me.

SCROOGE I go, I go! *(to himself)* The voice of this spirit sounds gentle and makes me relieved. *(looking down)* I cannot believe it. We are walking in the air, so high! I'm scared.

FIRST SPIRIT Let's take a break. Just sit on this cloud.

After a short break, start flying.

FIRST SPIRIT Take your hands from my waist and open your eyes.

SCROOGE No way!

FIRST SPIRIT Don't worry. Open your eyes wide.

SCROOGE I'll just do it. *(He opens his eyes)* Where are we now?

FIRST SPIRIT Don't you remember? You so see the two poor kids there.

Scrooge suddenly starts crying.

FIRST SPIRIT Who can you see?

SCROOGE Me and my younger sister.

FIRST SPIRIT Yes, it's so. The girl is trying to cheer you up.

SCROOGE As I was leaving home after being scolded by my father, she's come to take me home. Oh, how caring she was!

FIRST SPIRIT And your sister's son is-

SCROOGE My nephew. Poor boy, his mother passed away when she was young.

FIRST SPIRIT Time to go.

SCROOGE No, I want to stay here longer.

FIRST SPIRIT Shall we go to the next place?

SCROOGE No, I want to stay here a bit longer.

FIRST SPIRIT Time is money, isn't it? Hold my waist.

They start walking.

FIRST SPIRIT Here we are. Open your eyes.

SCROOGE No, I won't.

FIRST SPIRIT Open your eyes wide.

SCROOGE Where are we now?

FIRST SPIRIT Don't you know?

SCROOGE I can see my first boss. His red cheeks, round eyes and bald head tell me who he is. Oh, those were the good and old days!

FIRST SPIRIT He must be preparing Christmas dinner.
What a beautiful table setting!

SCROOGE He used to treat people with gorgeous food and drinks on Christmas Day.

FIRST SPIRIT I see. Now they are going to dance.

SCROOGE Yes, they are. I will join them. How about you?
They start dancing together.

SCROOGE How delightful! Now what is it over there?

FIRST SPIRITS I see a young couple talking together. But something wrong is going on between them. The woman is blaming a man for losing interest in her because he only seeks money.

SCROOGE Please do not show me this scene.

FIRST SPIRIT Have a look.

SCROOGE No, I won't.

FIRST SPIRIT You must look at your past.
Exit First Spirit.

SCROOGE Oh, all has vanished. The Spirit, my past and my fiancé are all gone.
He sleeps.

Stave 3 THE SECOND OF THE THREE SPIRITS

Scrooge is dozing.

SCROOGE I must have fallen asleep before I knew it. Was it a dream? It was such a realistic dream! Yes, it must have been a dream. I have been busy working hard for so many years that I cannot even remember my own sister or my ex-fiancé. How lonely I have been!

Enter Second Spirit.

SECOND SPIRIT Hey, are you Scrooge?

SCROOGE Yes, Sir.

SECOND SPIRIT Raise your face.

SCROOGE Who are you, Sir?

SECOND SPIRIT I am the Ghost of Christmas Present.

SCROOGE What are you here for?

SECOND SPIRIT I'm here to straighten out your mind to make you practice goodwill towards other people. Now, stand up! Hold my waist.

They start walking.

SECOND SPIRIT Take your hands off my waist and open your eyes.

SCROOGE Please forgive me.

SECOND SPIRIT Do not worry. Open your eyes wide.

SCROOGE I'll do it. (*he opens his eyes*) Where are we now?

SECOND SPIRIT Don't you know? It's your clerk's house. It is so humble but the kids look happy waiting for their Father to come home. And their Mother has prepared a plain meal. Look, here comes their Father.

SCROOGE True, it's Bob Cratchit, my clerk.

SECOND SPIRIT The family looks so merry.

SCROOGE Yes, they really do.

SECOND SPIRIT Shall we watch them for a little while?

They watch.

SECOND SPIRIT Do you see the little girl over there?

SCROOGE Yes, what a cheerful girl!

SECOND SPIRIT I'm afraid her days are numbered.

SCROOGE I feel so sorry for her. What can I do for her?

SECOND SPIRIT No one would blame him because it will reduce a mouth to feed if she dies, which means he can better support his family on his low wages. Now, shall we move to the next place?

Scrooge is forced to move.

SECOND SPIRIT Here we are.

SCROOGE Where are we now?

SECOND SPIRIT Don't you know where we are?

SCROOGE I can see my nephew.

SECOND SPIRIT Exactly. Though he is poor, he is warm-hearted and sincere.
Look at the vacant seat. He is keeping the seat for you though you have refused to join them.
How generous he is!

SCROOGE You are being cynical, aren't you? You surely cannot appreciate his kindness.

SECOND SPIRIT It's not me but you who does not appreciate his kindness.
(Listening to their conversation) What a nice guy! He would never blame you for not joining
them and he looks so gentle with a lot of smiles.

SCROOGE Exactly.

SECOND SPIRIT We'll make ourselves invisible and listen to their conversation.
After a little while.

SECOND SPIRIT It's time to go.

SCROOGE No! I'd like to stay more.

SECOND SRIRIT You say so? Time is money, isn't it?
We need to go around to a lot of places.
After going around many places.

SECOND SPIRIT We could almost visit everywhere to go.

SCROOGE Yes, so many wonderful scenes. You look smaller than you used to be.

SECOND SPIRIT Because Christmas Day is passing by.

SCROOGE What do I see around your legs?

SECOND SPIRT They are orphans.

SCROOGE I'm sorry for them. Can't somebody take them in?

SECOND SPIRIT Is there a prison or a workhouse nearby for them?

SCROOGE How miserable! How pitiful!

Exit Second Spirit.

Stave4 THE LAST OF THE THREE SPIRITS

Scrooge is crying.

SCROOGE What kind of fool have I been? Now I see all the evils in my mind. How horrible! How disgusting! What should I do?

Enter the third Spirit.

SCROOGE Excuse me. Are you the last of the Spirits?

The Spirit nods.

SCROOGE I've met the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present.
Are you the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?

The Spirit nods.

SCROOGE Then you will show me my future, right?

The Spirit doesn't nod this time but starts walking. Scrooge follows him.

SCROOGE (*To himself*) The Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present were easy to talk to.
But this one does not say anything and looks so scary. Anyway, I must follow him.

They stop walking.

SCROOGE What do I see? This is a graveyard. How scary! (*The Spirit points out a gravestone*) You are showing me a gravestone, aren't you? (*Reading*) SCROOGE.

(*Shocked*) Oh, no! This is my gravestone. Am I that man who lay upon this ruined bed? Did I die lonely? How miserable! How pitiful! (*Starts crying*)

Exit the Spirit.

He stops crying and looks up.

SCROOGE Am I dead? No, I'm alive. Thank god! Heaven be praised!

Good Spirits, please assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, I will alter my life!

Enter a Spirit.

SPIRIT Scrooge awakes on Christmas Day and is delighted to find he has the chance to repent his miserly ways. He rushes out onto the street hoping to share his newfound Christmas spirit. He exchanges greetings with neighbors and provides lavish gifts for the poor, and treats his fellow humans with kindness, generosity, and warmth. At last he comes to his nephew's house.

SCROOGE Hello.

SPIRIT His nephew finds that the man is his Uncle Scrooge, which surprises him a lot. And he opens the door with his eyes wide open.

SCROOGE Merry Christmas! May I join you for Christmas dinner?

SPIRIT His nephew welcomes Scrooge, and they have a really good time. Scrooge is so happy. Then he goes to Bob's house to give him a Christmas turkey and offers him a pay-rise. Scrooge gets a huge welcome by all in the family. Especially by the girl who was bound to die.

Later on, he gives his money to charity and eventually becomes known as a man who knows how to celebrate Christmas. You know what? In Japanese 寿来翁 Sukuru-gi means an old man who brings in happiness, so we can truly say he deserves his name.

SCROOGE Merry Christmas to you all!

FINIS