

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: _____

A Timeless Tale of the Redemptive Power of Love and Charity

Charles Dickens spent just six weeks in October, 1843, writing what is arguably the most popular work of fiction in the English language. His tale of an embittered old man obsessed with wealth was an immediate success as well as an enduring testament to the redemptive power of love and human compassion. The initial printing of 6,000 copies of *A Christmas Carol* sold out in five days, and more copies were rushed into print to satisfy the demand from Londoners for what Dickens described as “this Ghostly little book.”

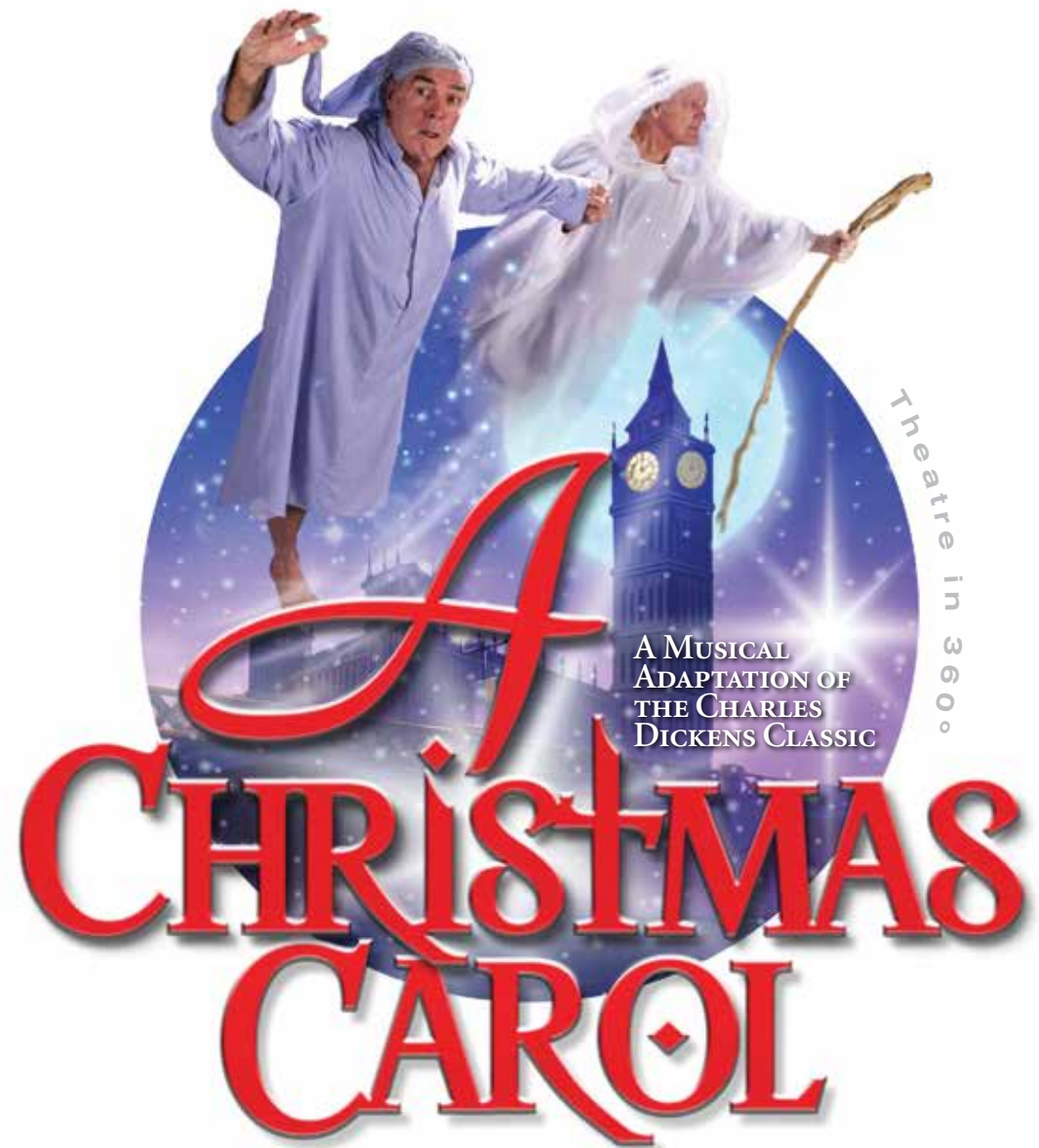
Dickens was motivated to write *A Christmas Carol* by a government report on the terrible abuse of children employed in mines and factories. He knew from personal experience the horrors of working long hours in terrible conditions while earning barely enough money to survive. Dickens' father, John, was confined in debtors prison when Charles was 12; the boy left school, pawned his collection of books, and worked in a factory pasting labels on bottles of shoe blacking, a humiliating experience he never forgot.

Dickens' story translated easily to the stage, and by Christmas 1843, eight adaptations were in production in England. *A Christmas Carol* proved to be a timeless story, and is standard fare at the holiday season in professional and community theaters across the United States.

The web site IMDb lists more than 200 versions of *A Christmas Carol* produced for television or movie theaters, including at least six major movies with stars such as George C. Scott and Albert Finney. The many cartoon versions featured Mr. Magoo, the Muppets, Mickey Mouse, the Jetsons, and the Flintstones, among others. There was even an all-dogs version and one featuring Barbie, who presumably didn't play Scrooge.

Dickens' story is timeless, but some of the words and phrases, such as these, mean little or nothing to 21st century Americans:

- ★ **HALF A CROWN:** An extremely generous tip for the Turkey Boy, amounting to about 12 hours pay for Bob Cratchit.
- ★ **OLD SCRATCH:** Probably derived from an Old Norse word meaning devil, goblin or monster.
- ★ **SMOKING BISHOP:** a hot punch named for the dark red color of the wine, which resembled the color of a bishop's robe. A typical recipe: five unpeeled oranges, one unpeeled grapefruit, ¼ pound of sugar, two bottles of strong red wine, and one bottle of port.
- ★ **BURIED WITH A STAKE OF HOLLY THROUGH HIS HEART:** It was common practice at that time to bury a murderer or someone who committed suicide with a wooden stake through the heart.
- ★ **POOR LAW:** Ostensibly enacted to help the poor, it made escaping poverty almost impossible. Dickens, who grew up poor and showed great compassion for poor people, was an outspoken opponent of the Poor Law.
- ★ **FIFTEEN SHILLINGS A WEEK:** Bob's salary equals about \$80 a week in today's currency, but the cost of living was much cheaper in 1843. A typical salary for a clerk at that time was 25 shillings or more.



DECEMBER 1 – DECEMBER 11, 2016 2016/2017 season



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

'Tis the Season!

This year marks the 35th anniversary of *A Christmas Carol*, and Colonial Players is honored to have one of its creators, Rick Wade, directing this Annapolis family favorite once again.

My involvement with Colonial Players really began in 2010, and while I had been in the DC metro area for nearly 10 years, I had never been to a production of Colonial Player's (then annual) *A Christmas Carol*. As I became more involved with the Players, however, I learned what this cherished gift meant – not only to those within our theater family, but to the Annapolis community as well. I heard stories of parents and grandparents throughout the years bringing their children (and grandchildren), who as they grew up brought their own children. A tradition passed on through generations, and one we are humbly honored to share with you.

Rick Wade's and Dick Gessner's gift to Colonial Players sparked other Colonial Players traditions that fit in with our mission, and help give back some of our blessings to those less fortunate. Each year, Colonial Players sponsors an Angel Tree, and I hope you take a moment to not only look at a child's humble wish list, but to participate with us. We also donate a share of the show's proceeds to a local charitable organization, ensuring that good works can continue well past the holiday season.

I wish you and your family a happy Christmas season!

– SHIRLEY PANEK

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WHAT'S GOING ON AT CP.



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Producer.....Tom Stuckey
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Stage Crew.....Kevin Brennan, Jeremy Eckman, Holly Miller
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Meg Vinton, Carol Youmans
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This production of *A Christmas Carol* is dedicated
to the memory of Bob Marchand.

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Colonial Players gratefully acknowledges the generous bequest from Roland Riley, a longtime patron whose gift helps assure the future economic viability of our theater.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

RICK WADE has been active as a director, writer, and actor in theaters in the Annapolis-Washington-Baltimore area since the late 1960s.

He has directed more than 25 productions for Colonial Players since becoming a member in the late 1960s. They include last season's *Morning's At Seven*, the musical *Ernest In Love*, *Amadeus*, *Our Town*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Trip To Bountiful*, *She Loves Me*, *Inherit The Wind*, *Hello Dolly!* and many others.

Rick also has directed for the Annapolis Opera, Summer Garden Theatre, Anne Arundel

Community College, Bay Theatre, and Compass Rose Theater. He wrote the adaptation and lyrics for this musical version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* with music by Dick Gessner, which has been produced by Colonial Players in Annapolis almost annually for more than 30 years. More than a dozen of his plays and musicals have been produced in community and professional theaters. The Anne Arundel Arts Council presented its Annie Award for achievement in the performing arts to him in 2008. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Arnold and are the parents of a son, Andrew, and a daughter, Sarah, also an active performer and member of CP.

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



ANNIE FLOOD is versatile musician and native Annapolitan. She is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude in Music, with a

double concentration in Piano Performance and Vocal Performance, and was the recipient of the Halloran Music Scholarship. Throughout her career, Annie has enjoyed exploring several genres of music from opera to jazz. She was often featured as a soloist in the Notre Dame Chorale's annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah*, and sang chorus roles in Opera Notre Dame's presentations of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Les contes d'Hoffman*, and *Les dialogues des Carmélites*. She has also performed internationally, singing the role of First Spirit in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Kunming Opera Festival in 2011. Annie has

worked as a rehearsal pianist and coach for the Colonial Players of Annapolis since 2014, and is thrilled to be working as the musical director for *A Christmas Carol* this season. She has also enjoyed collaborating with Opera AACC, the Peabody Institute, and Regino Madrid, violinist of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. Passionate about the creative and collaborative aspects of music, Annie teaches private piano and voice lessons, is active in the music ministry of several churches, and works with Creative Access, a community-based initiative at Peabody that aims to bring positive change throughout Baltimore. Currently, Annie is working to combine her pianistic and vocal training, and is in her second year of the Vocal Accompanying graduate program at the Peabody Conservatory, studying under Eileen Cornett.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER



LINDSAY ZETTER returns to Colonial Players for her second musical production, having served as choreographer for the 2015 production of *Ernest In Love*. Classically trained in ballet since age three, she loved choreographing as soon as she knew the steps. Receiving a degree in Arts Management from Indiana University, she has been Associate Artistic Director of Academy

Ballet School since 2011 and teaches at The Key School. She has staged and choreographed full-length youth productions of *Snow White*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, and has choreographed for both Annapolis Opera's *Faust*, and Key Theater's *Once Upon a Mattress*. She would like to thank Rick for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of an Annapolis tradition, after over a decade of being an audience member.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I began work on a musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* in early 1981. A first draft of the play and some of the lyrics were finished by late that summer with no thought of a production ... it was something I was tinkering with for fun. A casual conversation with then-CP President Dean Johnson (later Annapolis' Mayor) led him to commit the theater to producing it—sight unseen—if it could be finished in time. Dick Gessner and I had collaborated on a series of musicals for children years earlier, and Johnson nudged him to join the project to compose the music.

With the last of the songs written two days before opening, the play, with me as director and Dick as musical director (because no one else wanted to do it), opened in November of

that same year. The actors, designers, crew, and cast agreed to do the show never having seen a page of script or a note of music. More than a few people thought it would quietly fizzle out as a one-year experiment. Annapolitans, bless 'em, took the play to their hearts.

Over the years, I have returned to direct it a few times. It has taught me the timelessness of Dickens' wonderful story and the joy that so many people have found in bringing it to life and watching it told again in the theater for which this musical adaptation was created. Mr. Gessner and I could not be more grateful.

— RICK WADE

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

DICK GESSNER collaborated with Rick Wade to write the music for *A Christmas Carol* and also wrote the music for Wade's adaptations of children's musicals *Pinocchio*, *Puss'n Boots*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, and *Treasure Island*. A popular entertainer in the Annapolis area for many years, Gessner is now retired and living in Florida. He

served as musical director for many productions in Maryland, including *Carousel*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *My Fair Lady* at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, and *Little Mary Sunshine*; *The Apple Tree*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *The Contrast*; and *Carnival* at Colonial Players.

MUSIC SYNOPSIS

<i>Overture</i>	Orchestra
<i>Christmas Eve in London</i>	The Carolers, Londoners
<i>That Most Marvelous Time of the Year</i>	Fred, Bob Cratchit
<i>Mind Your Own Business</i>	Scrooge, Londoners
<i>As If It Were Yesterday</i>	Scrooge
<i>Hilli-Ho! Chirrup!</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, Guests
<i>In Your World</i>	Belle
<i>Cornucopia</i>	Ghost of Christmas Present, Londoners
<i>Bless Us All</i>	Cratchit Family
<i>One Fine Funeral</i>	Undertaker's Man, Laundress, Charwoman
<i>Keeping Christmas</i>	Scrooge
<i>Finale</i>	Scrooge, Company

COUNTING HOUSE: A business office for correspondence and keeping accounts. These were poorly heated and dimly lit. Most firms were small, consisting of only one or two employees. A workday of 12 to 13 hours, six days a week was not uncommon.



THE STAFF (continued)

been a part of Colonial Players for more than half a century, working in all sorts of offstage activities and, a few times in his younger and more foolish years, even appearing on stage. Thanks to Dick and Rick for creating this holiday present to all of us.



CAROL YOUMANS
(Set Designer)

Carol has been active with Colonial Players for over 35 years, starting as a set painter. She created the set for the first production of *A Christmas Carol* in 1981 and designed and painted the murals of the Victorian

London skyline with Jack Youmans, Judi King-Rienitz, and Sandra Zollner in its second year in 1982. She has directed many shows at Colonial Players, including *In The Next Room*, *Dog Logic*, *Macbeth*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. She has served many times on the Board of Directors, most recently as artistic director and president.

ABOUT OUR NEXT PLAY

At a time when the political divide in America seems to be widening and strengthening, our next play, *The City of Conversation*, takes us back to a time when Republicans and Democrats fought like cats and dogs during House and Senate sessions, then put aside political differences to attend glitzy Georgetown cocktail parties where legislative compromises were worked out. Anthony Giardina's 2014 play centers on Hester Ferris, a Democratic activist whose legendary parties in her Georgetown home attract high-level officials from both parties. It begins in 1979, when the bipartisan fabric in Washington was beginning to fray, and covers three decades from the end of Jimmy Carter's term to Ronald Reagan's second term to the inauguration of Barack Obama.

The City of Conversation was widely praised by critics following its opening at Lincoln Center. *New York Times* critic Charles Isherwood described it as "smart, literate, and funny." Chris Jones in *The Chicago Tribune* deemed it a "truly superb, deeply involving" play. *City of Conversation* runs from January 11th through January 28th.



THE STAFF



JULIE BAYS

(Costume Coordinator)

Julie is excited to be part of *A Christmas Carol*. She has been involved in costuming theater productions for the last 20 years in the Annapolis area. Her last production was *Elephant and Piggie* with Infinity Theater. She has taught sewing lessons to students of all ages. For the last three years, she has been a guest artist teaching costume design with the public school Performance and Visual Arts Program. Julie gains great joy helping others learn that they can be creative.



KAELYNN BEDSWORTH

(Sound Designer)

Kaelynn is delighted to be a part of her third *A Christmas Carol* production, though she decided to step behind the scenes for this one. Previously she played the roles of Mrs. Cratchit (2014) and Belle and Fred's Wife (2012), and loved every Christmas-cheery minute of it. Kaelynn has also been seen on the CP stage in multiple productions since 2011 (the latest being *The Secret Garden*), with sound design credits on *The Secret Garden*, *Bat Boy*, *Rocket Man*, *Ernest in Love*, and *Why Torture Is Wrong and the People Who Love Them*. Kaelynn hopes for a Christmas season full of hot cocoa and hippopotamusesses for all!



TIM BROWN

(Stage Manager)

Having been an assistant stage manager and stage crew for several recent productions, Tim is serving for the first time as the "official" stage manager. He can't believe his good fortune to be involved in such a wonderful production so central to Colonial Players and to be working with such great people both on and behind the stage. Happy Holidays.



FRANK FLORENTINE

(Lighting Designer)

Frank has spent years creating Magic with a Drop of Light! For the past four years, his lighting designs for The Colonial Players

have generated outstanding reviews, two Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH) nominations for best lighting design in a play (*Chapter Two* and *Coyote on a Fence*), and two WATCH selections for Best Lighting Design for a Musical (*Bat Boy* and *Ernest in Love*). Frank's previous work included 25 years as lighting designer for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, show caves throughout the United States, residences, and a 65,000-mile tour with the late Danseur Rudolf Nureyev. His work has achieved numerous professional awards. Frank is a Fellow of the Illuminating Engineering Society and Lighting Certified by the National Council of Qualified Lighting Professionals. He is also a member of United Scenic Artist 829, Lighting Designer. Frank and his wife, Susan Cook (who reluctantly but lovingly becomes a theater widow when he lights a show!!), have lived in the Annapolis area for 27 years.



CONSTANCE ROBINSON

(Properties Designer/Set Decoration)

During the past 16 years, Connie has volunteered as a public relations consultant, graphic designer, box office assistant, properties designer, and set decorator for Colonial Players. She also serves on the current Marketing Committee. Connie has collected props for numerous productions at Colonial Players, and one play at Dignity Players. She has received three WATCH nominations, and has had many challenges when collecting "unusual props" that still make her smile. Connie enjoys her volunteer work at CP because of the terrific people she works with! She thanks her husband, John, for his help with modifying props. She thanks her family and friends for loaning personal belongings for set props, and for their enthusiastic support.



TOM STUCKEY

(Producer)

Tom was stage manager for *A Christmas Carol* two years ago and thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this wonderful story of redemption and hope. He thanks his outstanding creative team and the hard-working cast for bringing Dickens' magical tale to life. Tom has



THE CAST



GREG ANDERSON

(Solicitor One)

Greg is excited to be back on CP's "360," working with Rick and Tom, and this terrific cast and crew. Past CP favorites include Lt. Wright in *The Secret Garden*, David Crampton in *Morning's At Seven*, and the Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol* (2014). Among Greg's other favorite juicy roles with PGLT, BCT, Tiffany Shannon Productions, and Church Hill Theatre are Bobby Dwayne, Fred Gailey (U.S. stage premiere), Leon Tolchinsky, Dr. Nikolai Zubritsky, Bob Cratchit, Teddy Brewster, Andrew Ladd III, The Tin Woodman, G.W. Nethercott, Ken Gorman, Hysterium, Miles Gloriosus, President Art Hockstader, and Santa. Greg thanks Suzanne and the kids, Molly Rey and BoPeep, for their support. Keep wondering, but keep smiling!



BARBARA BARTOS

(Laundress)

This is Barbara's second performance with Colonial Players. She was last seen in 2015 as Lady Bracknell in *Ernest in Love*. Barbara's past theatrical experience includes performing as a featured singer with the British Embassy Gilbert & Sullivan Society in Washington and in a number of NYC Off-Off Broadway showcases in roles including Toby in *The Gingerbread Lady* and The Dancer in *Feiffer's People*. Her past regional theater roles include Aldonza in *Man of La Mancha*. Barbara is currently a member of the U.S. Naval Academy Chapel Chorale. She is president of Speakers.com, a celebrity speaker's bureau, which she co-founded with her husband and partner, Glenn. She is delighted to be back on stage playing with the incomparable Rick Wade and this fantastic cast of *A Christmas Carol*. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!



TOM BETHARDS

(Dick Wilkens/Party Guest)

Tom is excited to return to Colonial Players for this very special production. You may remember him from *Annie!* (Mr. Bundles/Ensemble) and *1776* (Mr. Morris). He has also performed at Silhouette Stages (*Oliver!*,

Mr. Sowerberry) and Prince George's Little Theatre (*Once Upon a Mattress*, Sir Render/Ensemble). As a singer, he has appeared at venues ranging from pub sings and cabarets to the Maryland Renaissance Festival to the Kennedy Center and the National Cathedral. He is also an avid piano student, specializing in jazz. He would like to thank his friends, his family, and his fellow cast members for all of their support.



DR. DOUG DILLNER

(Undertaker's Man)

Doug started acting when in high school. Here at Colonial Players, he has played Scrooge and Marley several times, as well as Fezziwig. Tonight he reprises his role as Joe, The Undertaker's Man. Next role for him? Tiny Tim or bust. Life is good – Talllyho.



WALKER DIXON

(Peter Cratchit)

Walker is a freshman at Annapolis High School who recently moved from Charlotte, NC. His most recent professional productions include *Oliver!*, *Scrooge*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. He appeared in the world premiere of *Ella's Big Chance: A Jazz-Age Cinderella* at Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Film credits include *The Way Way Down* as a series regular. Walker would like to thank Colonial Players for this wonderful opportunity to do what he loves best, performing on stage.



MICHAEL N. DUNLOP

(Ebenezer Scrooge)

Michael is very happy and excited to return to the Colonial Players as Scrooge in this year's production of *A Christmas Carol*. This will be his fourth appearance in the show, including appearing as Scrooge in the 2014 production. Last year, he worked with director Rick Wade on *Morning's at Seven* and is thrilled to be working with him again. Other productions at Colonial Players include *Something's Afoot*, *Sly Fox*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Trying*. Michael has been a SAG-AFTRA member since 1988 and has acted in film, television, and commercial video productions in



THE CAST (continued)

the Baltimore/Washington market, with a recent role in *Veep* on HBO.



REED ECKMAN

(*Tim Cratchit/Boy Scrooge*)

Reed is in the second grade and is thrilled to be making his theater debut with Colonial Players. He has dreamed of being on this stage since watching his older sisters perform here in *Annie* three years ago. Reed enjoys spending time outdoors, playing piano, and making conversation. He can always be heard singing a tune wherever he goes. Like Tim, he feels truly blessed, especially to have been given the opportunity to be part of such a talented cast.



PETER EGLITIS

(*Mr. Fezziwig/Caroler*)

"My character's description: 'An enormous portly man who brims with high spirit and good cheer'... 'Extremely agile for his size'... 'Rich, fat, comfortable jovial voice.' I, Peter Eglitis, plead guilty as charged! Enjoying a second attempt as Mr. Fezziwig with The Colonial Players. This will officially be my second stage performance since my younger school years... Truly appreciative of my family, friends, and the Colonial team for all the support and patience to keep my dreams alive! It is great to be 'Cozy and among friends!'"



TREVOR GREENFIELD

(*Nephew Fred*)

Trevor is excited to be making his Colonial Players debut! He is a K-4th grade General Music teacher for Anne Arundel public schools. He received his B.A. in Music Education (voice, piano) from Slippery Rock University in 2011. Before relocating to Maryland in 2015, he taught K-12 music, private voice and instrument lessons, and directed *The Drowsy Chaperone*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and *Bye, Bye Birdie!* for the Leetonia School District in Ohio. He most recently served as music director for Children's Theatre of Annapolis' Fall production of *Seussical*. Some of his favorite roles include Jeffrey from *Godspell*, Perchik from *Fiddler on the Roof*, Judah from *Joseph and the Amazing*

Technicolor Dreamcoat, and his ensemble roles in *The Producers*. Trevor would like to thank his fellow cast mates for their dedication and support and his directors for giving him the opportunity to perform in his favorite story!



ERIC HUFFORD

(*Ghost of Christmas Present*)

Happy, as always, to be back on the CP stage, Eric's most recent role at CP was as Jack Worthing in the 2015 production of *Ernest in Love*. Favorite roles at CP include Leslie Bainbridge in *Taking Steps* and Thomas Jefferson in *1776*. He has also played roles such as Pharaoh in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at other venues. Offstage at Colonial Players, Eric was assistant director for *Watch on the Rhine* during the 2015-16 season. "I'd like to thank Sarah for always supporting me in everything I do. Enjoy the show!"



CHARLIZE LEFLER

(*Belinda Cratchit*)

Charlize is 12 years old and is thrilled to be cast as Belinda Cratchit with Colonial Players. Most recently, she performed with Ford's Theatre in *A Christmas Carol* as Belinda Cratchit. She also has performed with Compass Rose Theater in *Roar of the Greasepaint*, Colonial Players in *Annie* as Molly, 2nd Star Productions in *Children of Eden*, Talent Machine's productions of *Camp Rock* and *Once on this Island*, and Children's Theatre of Annapolis' production of *Pippi Longstocking*. Charlize takes tap, ballet, voice, and piano lessons. In addition to musical theater, she also performs with her rock band, Mistaken Identity, with The Priddy Music Academy at various venues in Maryland. Charlize would like to thank all of her teachers, directors, and the cast for all of their support! Enjoy the show!



HEATHER MCMUNIGAL

(*Fred's Wife/Caroler*)

Heather is delighted to make her second appearance on the Colonial Players stage after having played Rose Lennox in *The Secret Garden* last season. Heather grew up performing



THE CAST (continued)

Busie Body, *Death of a Salesman*, *Rebecca*, and *Arcadia*. He dedicates his performance to his family and friends, especially to his wonderful grandchildren. "Love you all. And to Rick, and his entire production team, backstage crew, and terrific cast, thank you. God Bless Everyone! Merry Christmas."



MARTIN THOMPSON

(*Young Scrooge*)

Martin is excited to be back on the Colonial Players stage. CP credits include roles in *The Philadelphia Story* and *The Busie Body* as well as two previous productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Additionally for CP, he directed the one-act play *The Shepherd's Chameleon* and designed sound for various productions including *Company*. He was one of two Colonial Players Scholarship recipients in 2010. Other performance credits include Michael Wells in *Two Rooms*, Mr. Marmalade in *Mr. Marmalade*; Romeo in *Shakespeare's R&J*; and Horace Vandergelder in *The Matchmaker*.



DIANA TOBIN

(*Beggar Two*)

After hanging around Colonial Players for the past two years watching friends and family work on shows, Diana is overjoyed to be making her debut on the CP stage in *A Christmas Carol*. Diana is a freshman in the IB program at Annapolis High School, where she recently appeared in their fall production of *Mr. Peepers*. Diana gives shout outs to her friends Sam, Carrie, Kallan, and Liza for being so supportive, and also would like to thank her family, especially her mom and dad, for always helping and supporting her as well as giving acting tips and driving her to and from acting camps.



STEVE TOBIN

(*Ghost of Jacob Marley*)

Steve has been hiding in the director's chair for the last 25 years, but is now thrilled to be in front of the audience again with his CP acting debut in *A Christmas Carol* (and to be acting with his daughter Diana for the first time). As a director, Steve helmed the CP Season

66 production of *The Liar*, which won the Ruby Griffith Award for Best All-Round Production. He also directed *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Compass Rose Theater last season. Steve did his professional acting apprenticeship at The NJ Shakespeare Festival, and his favorite (very) past acting roles include Ken Harrison in *Whose Life Is It Anyway?*, John Merrick in *The Elephant Man*, and Florizel in *The Winter's Tale*. In his spare time, Steve enjoys being with his family and writing about himself in the third person. Thanks to Cast and Crew!



SARAH WADE

(*Belle*)

Sarah is very excited to be performing in her ninth production of *A Christmas Carol*, having made her Colonial Players debut at the age of 10 as the Turkey Boy in 2000. As luck would have it, she would meet her now-husband (see *Ghost of Christmas Present*) in the 2012 production and is very happy to be back onstage with him, and not playing his ward. She is fresh off of CP's recent production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in the role of Honey. Past credits include Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing*, Cecily Cardew in *Ernest in Love*, Izzy/Sabine in the Ruby Griffith-award-winning *The Liar*, Catherine Donahue in *These Shining Lives*, Star-to-Be in *Annie*, Jessica in *Communicating Doors*, and Kitty in *Taking Steps*. She also appeared as Lisa Morrison in *Collected Stories* at Dignity Players. Thanks to her family and friends for understanding: "I can't, I have rehearsal."



ED WINTERMUTE

(*Ghost of Christmas Past*)

Ed has appeared in every performance of *A Christmas Carol* except for one year. Usually he has played The Ghost of Christmas Present, although he once appeared as one of the Two Gentlemen. This year, he gets to play a more age-appropriate, and very different, role: The Ghost of Christmas Past.



THE CAST (continued)



SUSAN S. PORTER
(*Charwoman*)

Susan is delighted to be back at CP where she was previously seen in *The Christmas Doll* and *Last Night at Ballyhoo*. Favorite roles include: Yenta the Matchmaker, *Fiddler on the Roof*; Edith Frank, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Toby's Dinner Theatre); Mrs. Gardiner, *Pride and Prejudice*; Marcellus, *The Player Queen, Hamlet* tour (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); Margaret/various other roles, *The Laramie Project* (KAT); Cyn, *The Revelation of Bobby Pritchard* (Iron Crow); Cunningham, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (NCDA); Maddy, *Mamaleh* (Spotlighters Theatre); Lee Green, *Tale of the Allergist's Wife*; Shirley Kaplan, *Street Scene* (Fell's Point Corner Theatre); Norma Hubley, *Plaza Suite* (Cockpit in Court); Lorenzo/Coachman, *Pinocchio* (Red Branch Theatre); Doris, *Lemonade Dreams* (FCP-Capital Fringe Festival); improv troupe, Yo' Mama's Cookin' (HCC). Training: National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. Grandson, Jack, this is for you!



LISA KB RATH
(*Solicitor Two/Bump Woman*)

You may have seen Lisa at The Colonial Players as the drunk old Irish Mammy in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, as Mrs. Hudson in last season's *Sherlock's Last Case*, as well as in *The Curious Savage* and *The Shepherd's Chameleon*. She performed in Dignity Players' premiere of *Bloodlines*. By day, she is the owner of Paint and Parties (paint and sip events), and At Your Service Annapolis (concierge services). Lisa's fine art photography has been exhibited in juried competitions, galleries, publications, and private collections, including Arterrie Fine Art Gallery (Chicago), Artomatic, Circle Gallery, Paul's Homewood Café, Annapolis Maritime Museum, and BWI airport. Photography sites: LisaRath.com and Lisa Rath Photography on Facebook. Lisa is mom to Taylor, Emma, Hayley, and Connor Gilbert.



JIM REITER
(*Bob Cratchit*)

Jim played Mr. Boddy in *Clue*, this summer's "one-week musical" at Colonial Players, and received a Washington Area Theatre

Community Honors best director nomination for last October's *Side Man*. Other CP roles include Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* (2005 and 2010), the Dead Guy in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Ben Hecht in *Moonlight and Magnolias*, Dale in *Dog Logic*, Mr. Maraczek in *She Loves Me!*, multiple characters in *Hauptmann* (WATCH Award for best featured actor), Robert in *Proof*, and Boolie in *Driving Miss Daisy*, his first CP production way back in 1995. He appeared in Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre's *The Addams Family*, and directed *The 39 Steps* at Dignity Players, where he appeared in *Sordid Lives*, *The Crucible*, and *The Shadowbox*. Elsewhere he appeared in the Annapolis Chorale's *Once Upon a Mattress*, Annapolis Shakespeare's *Pride and Prejudice*, and Bay Theatre's Becky's *New Car*. At 2nd Star Productions, Jim directed 1776, *The Music Man*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and appeared in numerous productions.



SAMANTHA SIKON
(*Mistletoe Man/Bump Man/Turkey Boy*)

Samantha is an 8th grader at St. John the Evangelist in Severna Park and is so excited to make her Colonial Players debut in *A Christmas Carol*. Her previous roles have included Lily St. Regis in St John's production of *Annie*, Puck in Shakespeare Along the Severn's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the Fairy Godmother in Children's Theatre of Annapolis' production of *Twinderella*. She enjoys horseback riding and playing the electric guitar, and can regularly be seen jamming with her friends at the School of Rock in Gambrills. Sammy wants to thank both Rick Wade and Annie Flood for bringing *A Christmas Carol* to life and making it so much fun.



FRED TAYLOR
(*Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come*)

A Catonsville resident and the Official Town Crier for Annapolis, Fred failed retirement twice. He currently works as a tour guide for Watermark and is the court-side announcer for UMBC basketball. He is thrilled to return to the Colonial Players stage, where he has appeared in *A Christmas Carol*, 1776,



THE CAST (continued)

in musical theater from a young age and received her Bachelor of Arts in Music (voice) from Penn State University. Heather remains an active singer and has worked for nonprofit arts organizations for several years. She now helps to "Save the Bay," working for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and living not far from the theater in downtown Annapolis. Many thanks to the cast and creative team for making this experience a marvelous one at this most wonderful time of the year.



SHERRI MILLAN
(*Mrs. Fezziwig/Caroler*)

Sherri was born in Baltimore and moved to Annapolis as a young teen. She has long enjoyed music and performing. Outside the theater, Sherri is the treasurer for Spoutwood Farm, a non-profit in Glen Rock, PA. She also enjoys painting, reading, gardening, playing guitar, and being in the presence of animals. *A Christmas Carol* is Sherri's third production with Colonial Players. Her former experience includes playing Effie in *Ernest in Love* and Myrtle Brown in *Morning's at Seven*. Sherri would like to thank her family, everyone at Colonial Players for all their hard work, and a special thanks to Annie Flood for patience and excellence as music director.



EMMA MILLER
(*Fanny*)

This is Emma's first time on stage, and she is thrilled to be playing the same role that her sister Holly played in the 2012 production. She is also excited to be able to share the stage with her mom, Lesley Miller (Party Guest). In her spare time, Emma enjoys playing her violin, singing, gymnastics, and doing fun things with her Girl Scout troop.



LESLEY MILLER
(*Party Guest*)

This is Lesley's seventh time performing in this production, having previously played The Ghost of Christmas Past (2001) and Mrs. Cratchit (2002-2005, 2012). She has also performed with other local groups, including Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, 2nd Star Productions, and Bowie Community Theater.

She is very much enjoying being on stage with her daughter Emma (Fanny), and would like to thank Rick, Annie, the cast, and the crew for making this so much fun to do!



LINDSEY MILLER
(*Mrs. Cratchit*)

Lindsey recently relocated here from Chicago and is happy to be making her area debut with The Colonial Players. Recent credits include Mrs. Medlock in *Secret Garden*, Sister James in *Doubt*, Joyce in *Treasure Island*, Dance Corp/Doll in *Mary Poppins*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Oliver!* Lindsey spent the 2014/15 season performing with Edge of the Wood's Resident Theatre in *Our Town* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Lindsey holds a B.A. in Theater and Vocal Performance. She wishes to thank the production staff for welcoming her to the CP family! Much thanks to Mom and Rich for all their support and love, and to her two shining stars, Ewan and Finnegan.



HALLIE PARROTT
(*Martha Cratchit*)

Hallie is 18 years old and a senior at Broadneck High School. She is very excited to be in her fourth production with CP! She also participates in shows with Broadneck High School, Children's Theatre of Annapolis, and Talent Machine Company. She would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for all of their hard work. Merry Christmas, and enjoy the show!



AVA PHILLIPS
(*Beggar One*)

Ava is very excited to be in another season of *A Christmas Carol*. In 2014 she was cast as Fanny, and now she is a beggar! Ava is thrilled that she gets to meet new friends along the way. She has also been Juliet in *The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet*, Goose from *Charlotte's Web*, and more. She has loved acting for a long time and hopes she will continue it for her whole life. Ava's favorite play that she's been in so far is *A Christmas Carol* with Colonial Players. She knows that this year will be as awesome as it was the previous time!

THE COLONIAL
PLAYERS, INC.

presents



Play and Lyrics by
RICK WADE

Music by
DICK GESSNER

Directed by
RICK WADE

Music Director
ANNIE FLOOD

Choreographer
LINDSAY ZETTER

TIME AND PLACE

The play takes place in the streets of Victorian London and in the counting house and bedchamber of Ebenezer Scrooge. In the revelations of the ghosts and in Scrooge's memory, we are transported to times and places of Scrooge's past, present and future.

Produced by special arrangement with the authors.

Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.

THE CAST
(in order of appearance)

The Carolers.....Greg Anderson, Peter Eglitis, Ava Harrison,
Heather McMunigal, Sherri Millan, Marty Thompson
Ebenezer Scrooge.....Michael N. Dunlop
Bob Cratchit.....Jim Reiter
Nephew Fred.....Trevor Greenfield
Solicitor One.....Greg Anderson
Solicitor Two.....Lisa KB Rath
Mistletoe Man.....Samantha Sikon
Beggar One.....Ava Phillips
Beggar Two.....Diana Tobin
Ghost of Jacob Marley.....Steve Tobin
Ghost of Christmas Past.....Ed Wintermute
Boy Scrooge.....Reed Eckman
Fanny.....Emma Miller
Dick Wilkins.....Tom Bethards
Young Scrooge.....Marty Thompson
Mr. Fezziwig.....Peter Eglitis
Mrs. Fezziwig.....Sherri Millan
Belle.....Sarah Wade
Ghost of Christmas Present.....Eric Hufford
Bump Woman.....Lisa KB Rath
Bump Man.....Samantha Sikon
Mrs. Cratchit.....Lindsey Miller
Belinda Cratchit.....Charlize Lefler
Peter Cratchit.....Walker Dixon
Martha Cratchit.....Hallie Parrott
Tim Cratchit.....Reed Eckman
Fred's Wife.....Heather McMunigal
Party Guest.....Lesley Miller
Party Guest.....Tom Bethards
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.....Fred Taylor
Undertaker's Man.....Dr. Doug Dillner
Laundress.....Barbara Bartos
Charwoman.....Susan Porter
Turkey Boy.....Samantha Sikon