A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

by Charles M. Schulz

Based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson
Stage Adaptation by Eric Schaeffer
By Special Arrangement with Arthur Whitelaw and Ruby Persson

Directed by Pip Kennedy
Music Directed by Barbara Richardson
Choreographed by Shannon Jung

VANCOUVER
DECEMBER
5, 6, 7, 2019

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BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

Based on the television special by
BILL MELENDEZ and LEE MENDELSON

Stage Adaptation by
ERIC SCHAEFFER

By Special Arrangement with
ARTHUR WHITE and RUBY PERS

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PRODUCED BY........................................................................................................................Barbara Richardson

and the Metropolitan Performing Arts Board of Directors

DIRECTOR.......................................................................................................................Pip Kennedy

MUSICAL DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER........................................................................Barbara Richardson

CHOREOGRAPHER........................................................................................................Shannon Jung

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER.........................................................................................Gabby Herron

COSTUME DESIGNER........................................................................................................Katie Cole

WIG & MAKEUP DESIGNER..............................................................................................Ryan Mayfield

SET DESIGNER................................................................................................................Mark Martin

LIGHTING DESIGNER........................................................................................................Michael Burris

PROPS DESIGNER............................................................................................................Heather Skogen

SOUND DESIGNER............................................................................................................Bill Niemeyer

BACKSTAGE CREW...........................................................................................................Gail Holmes, Heather Skogen, Anna Waters

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR............................................................................................Gabby Herron, Michael Burris

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR............................................................................................Bill Niemeyer, Shannon Jung

GREEN ROOM VOLUNTEERS..........................................................................................Heather Skogen, Ryan Mayfield

COSTUME VOLUNTEERS.................................................................................................Melissa Cantwell, Shannon Jung, Kathleen Jung

SET CONSTRUCTION.........................................................................................................Mark Martin, Heath Hefely

SPECIALTY PAINTING.....................................................................................................Greg Shilling, Roxanne DaCorte, Heather Skogen

PAINTING VOLUNTEERS.................................................................................................Jennifer Riedel, Rebecca Riedel, Kathleen Jung

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SOUVENIRS & CONCESSIONS LEADS..........................................................................Julie Metcalf, Heather Skogen

PLAYBILL............................................................................................................................Barbara Richardson

PIANIST (ACT 1 TRACKS) & REHEARSAL TRACKS.........................................................Matt Insley

DRUMMER (ACT 1 TRACKS)............................................................................................Jonathan Galeana

BASSIST (ACT 1 TRACKS).................................................................................................Brian Link

ACT 2 MUSIC TRACKS.....................................................................................................Tams Whitmark Music Library Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHY...............................................................................................................Natasha Hauskins

MPA LOGOS......................................................................................................................ASK Advertising
Note from Executive Director

Barbara Richardson

Welcome to MPA’s production of A Charlie Brown Christmas. This show kicks off our 10th season, welcoming a new generation of audiences to experience the magic of live theater. Producing theater with children is fun, exciting, and entertaining! But it also comes with its own set of challenges and hard work. Behind the scenes, an enormous amount of time and energy goes into making the magic happen. It takes a passionate team of talented people to build, design, rehearse, fundraise, market and produce a show. While it is hard work, one of the reasons I am inspired to do what I do each day is quite simple: I am blessed with the honor of bringing stories to life for children and the young at heart. Stories that will build empathy, educate, inspire, entertain and bring joy.

A Charlie Brown Christmas was certainly a cherished part of my childhood Christmases. I fondly recall snuggling up with my sister on cold winter evenings to watch Charlie, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, Barney’s Night Before Christmas, and more.

Had I looked up, I’m sure I would have seen the identical glow coming from every living room in the neighborhood. A half-century after the debut of A Charlie Brown Christmas, the world is a very different place. With schedules spread thin, families seldom find time to gather to watch a cartoon. We’re all searching for joy and meaning amid the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. While Charlie is searching for the true meaning of Christmas, Linus relates the Gospel. But God doesn’t come swooping in to help Charlie. Neither does Santa, or an elf, or a reindeer, or a Nutcracker Prince, or the Ghost of Christmas. Charlie Brown, unique among animated Christmas heroes, lives in our world. The other kids are greedy and mean; when Charlie brings his tree back, the insults they fling at him go beyond teasing into actual bullying. "Boy, are you stupid Charlie Brown?" I told you he’d goof it up. He isn’t the kind you can depend on to do anything right." No one comes to his defense. When Charlie takes his tree and walks out into the snow, he goes alone. He takes comfort in millennia-old words, believes in them, and is promptly rewarded by his tree’s death. His response? "Oh! Everything I touch gets ruined." I encourage you to hang out in that quote for a minute. Think about Charlie, alone in the dark again, saying this to the tree he thinks he’s killed, while all the other kids are warm in the theater, meditating on Linus’ grand performance. Here, in the heart of our greatest Christmas special, Charles Schulz doesn’t pretend that the joy of an epiphany will last forever. Linus’ quote doesn’t save Charlie from the pain he feels. What saves him, eventually, is the other kids coming out into the cold with him and rescuing his tree. They put their own prejudices aside and work together creating a synthesis of Christmases that heals both the tree and their community. They do this as a gift to Charlie, inviting him into a holiday that allows for Christmas Queens, Beethoven Christmas music, fake plastic trees, real, needy trees, bright blinking lights, and cold, silent nights. It’s also, implicitly, a plea for forgiveness. Which of course he grants, and then the children sing together in a spirit of harmony and peace. "And that’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

The theater is a place for people to come together, leave the world behind, and enjoy a unique shared experience. Whether you’re here after nostalgia or the chance to make new Christmas memories, I hope you enjoy America’s favorite blockhead and his quest to find the true meaning of Christmas in a thrilling new way... together. After the show, check out our website and sign up for our newsletter to stay up to date for future shows and events with Metropolitan Performing Arts!

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE IN-KIND DONORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO HELP MAKE OUR PROGRAMS POSSIBLE FOR THESE KIDS!

Note from Director

Pip Kennedy

Christmas is a magical time of year filled with lights, music, laughter, tradition, and presents. It’s also filled with love & inspiration. Growing up in the 80’s I remember sitting in front of the television watching some of the best cartoons & specials that Christmas had to offer. It just wasn’t Christmas unless I watched two things, Walt Disney’s “From All Of Us, To All Of You” & “A Charlie Brown Christmas”. Honestly, I’ve been in love with The Peanuts since before I can remember. From Snoopy’s hijinks as The Red Baron, to Sally’s crush on Linus, to Lucy pulling the football on Charlie, I love it all. Mostly I identified with one character in particular, Charlie Brown. The boy who couldn’t do anything right. He is the boy with a heart of gold. I loved the lessons the characters taught. I loved the stories Charles Schultz told through this group of kids. When I was offered to direct this show, I jumped at the chance. I didn’t hesitate. I had to take the challenge on. I call it a challenge, because it’s a classic. It’s what almost everyone watches every year at Christmas time. The characters are classic. They have a certain look & feel. The world they inhabit is specific. So, I wanted to keep as close to the cartoon world as possible. Stay true to the source material, adding a few brushstrokes of my own. The creative team has been wonderful, and deserve a great deal of the credit too. They are some of most talented people in the business, and I am honored to have worked with them. I’ve also been blessed to have some talented kiddos on cast too. They’ve worked hard, and I think it shows. I hope you all enjoy this production, and Merry Christmas Charlie Brown!
**SHANNON JUNG • CHOREOGRAPHER**

Shannon is a dancer, actor, choreographer, and arts educator based out of the Vancouver/Portland area. An alumna of Western Washington University, she is a double major in Theater (acting) and Dance (performance). She has trained heavily in tap, modern, musical theater, ballet, devising, Suzuki, viewpoint, and Stanislavski Technique. Since 2013, Shannon has been choreographing and teaching tap technique, as well as various workshops. Recent MPA choreography credits include: Matilda (2019), Willy Wonka (2018), The Fantasticks (2017), and Aladdin (2017). Other choreography credits include: Young Frankenstein (2018), 1776 (2017), Peter and the Star Catchers (2016), and Twisted (2015).

**MARK MARTIN • SET DESIGNER**

This is Mark's third year as MPA's Set Design/Concept Rendering position. He is currently the MPA tech manager for facility rentals. Mark is thrilled to be the set design master for this season of shows at MPA. He loves working with all the families, students and seeing real theater come to life. He would like to thank his wife and family for supporting this artistic outlet. Cheers!

**KATIE COLE • COSTUME DESIGNER**

Charlie Brown's Christmas marks the 4th main stage production Katie has costumed with Metropolitan Performing Arts. Previous credits include Spamalot, Honk!, and Matilda. Little did she know that when she participated in the Harry Potter LARP camp in 2018 that she would be here today! A Vancouver/Portland native, Katie grew up around theater. She has performed with local groups including NWCT, Lakewood, and Journey Theater. With a background in Fine Arts and crafting, Katie has found costuming a fun and fulfilling challenge. She enjoys working with the kids (and parents!) to put together a show! Thanks to Jordan for being the best husband ever, to Barbara for all that you do, and the wonderful Charlie Brown team for making this show amazing. Enjoy the show!

**BILL NIEMEYER • SOUND DESIGNER**

This is Bill's sixth production as sound and board operator for MPA. For the last 10 years he has provided A/V to various non-profits and churches. Shout out to his daughter Tessa, who is in the show!

**PIP KENNEDY • DIRECTOR**

Pip Kennedy is delighted to be back at MPA, this time in the directorial role. He’s been working as a professional actor & director for about 20 years now. His directing credits include musicals like Cabaret, Jekyll & Hyde, Annie; and plays such as Othello, The Velveteen Rabbit, and Little Nell. He has over eight years of study & training from Concordia University, PSU, & NYU. He also has special technique training in Meisner technique, directing, script analysis & new play development. He’s enjoyed being able to work with the kiddos, and can’t wait to start teaching next quarter here at MPA.

**MICHAEL BURRIS • LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Michael Burris’ love for theater grew out of his first ever experience in a theater when he went see Lion King. A lighting designer from Las Vegas, Michael strives to inspire creativity and a passion for the arts through design and the behind the scene magic that theaters get to produce. He has worked on several shows from Blue Man Group and Central Live in Las Vegas, to West Side Story, RENT, and Aida. Michael brings his production experience and love for inspiring youth to Metropolitan Performing Arts and hopes to see more students become involved in the arts on and off the stage.

**BARBARA RICHARDSON • MUSIC DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER**

Barbara Richardson is an actor, singer and voice over artist based out of SW Washington. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Metropolitan Performing Arts in Vancouver, WA. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Vanguard University of Southern California (VUSC) and took part in the 2009 NYC Making it on Broadway intensive studying under Jodie Llangel, Nick Wyman, Erin Dilly, Kim Steiner, Dave Clemmons, Ryan Stanza, Judith Fredricks & Pasek and Paul. In 2011 she started her own private vocal studio and has been a vocal coach and musical director for several productions in the Vancouver/Portland area. Barbara is passionate about arts education and creating a safe space for kids to be unapologetically themselves. When not working she enjoys listening to jazz music, reading and hanging out with her niece.

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- SCENES & MUSICAL NUMBERS -

ACT 1- A PEANUTS CHRISTMAS

SCENE 1  "Deck the Halls" .................................................................Full Company
SCENE 2  Skating Rink ......................................................................Snoopy, Lucy, Schroeder, Woodstock, Woodstock Ensemble
SCENE 3  Walking Snoopy .................................................................Snoopy, Sally, Charlie, Lucy, Rerun
SCENE 4  Sally’s Letter to Santa Part 1 ....................................................Sally, Charlie
SCENE 5  Lucy’s Christmas List Part 1 .....................................................Lucy, Schroeder
SCENE 6  My Own Dog, Gone Commercial .....................................Orchestra
SCENE 7  Transition to Snowballs .....................................................Orchestra
SCENE 8  Christmas is Coming/Linus & Lucy ....................................Orchestra
SCENE 9  Transition to Booth ............................................................Orchestra
SCENE 10 "Jolly Old St Nicholas",.......................................................Sally
SCENE 11 "My Little Drum", ............................................................Lucy, Schroeder, Snoopy, Full Company
SCENE 12 "The Christmas Song", .....................................................The Girl
SCENE 13 Charlie and the Red Headed Girl ......................................Charlie, Linus, Sally, Lucy
SCENE 14 "Jingle Bells", .................................................................Rerun, Snoopy
SCENE 15 "What Child is This" .........................................................Violet, Frieda
SCENE 16 Sally Star Struck ...............................................................Charlie, Sally
SCENE 17 Lucy’s Gift ........................................................................Charlie, Lucy, Snoopy
SCENE 18 Woodstock’s Surprise ......................................................Charlie, Sally, Woodstock
SCENE 19 "12 Days of Christmas" .....................................................Full Company

- 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION -

ACT 2- A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

SCENE 1 The Skating Rink "Christmas Time is Here" ..........................Full Company
SCENE 2 The Neighborhood ................................................................Charlie, Patty, Lucy, Linus, Schroeder
SCENE 3 The Doctor is In ....................................................................Lucy, Charlie
SCENE 4 Christmas is Coming .............................................................Snoopy, Charlie, Sally
SCENE 5 Rehearsal ...............................................................................Full Company
SCENE 6 Finding a Tree ......................................................................Linus, Charlie
SCENE 7 Christmas Music ...................................................................Full Company
SCENE 8 Finding Christmas "Hark the Herold Angels Sing" .................Full Company
SCENE 9 Carol Sing-Along ..................................................................Full Company & Audience

ACT 2 MUSICAL NUMBERS

NO. 1 Christmas Time is Here .................................................................Full Company
NO. 1a Transition to Snowballs .............................................................Orchestra
NO. 2 Snowballs ..................................................................................Orchestra
NO. 2a Transition to Booth ....................................................................Orchestra
NO. 3 My Own Dog, Gone Commercial ...............................................Orchestra
NO. 4 Christmas is Coming/Linus & Lucy ...........................................Orchestra
NO. 5 Finding a Tree ...........................................................................Orchestra
NO. 5a After Finding a Tree .................................................................Orchestra
NO. 6 Schroeder’s Christmas Concert ..................................................Orchestra
NO. 7 After Linus’ Message .................................................................Orchestra
NO. 8 Finding Christmas ......................................................................Orchestra

© Come All Ye Faithful/Silent Night/We Wish You a Merry Christmas .......Orchestra
- CAST OF CHARACTERS-

CHARLIE BROWN ..............................................................Jaedon Moore
SNOOPY...............................................................Caroline Gienapp
*Rebecca Riedel
LUCY...............................................................Norah Skogen
LINUS..........................................................Emerson Skogen
SALLY..............................................................Molly Jung
SCHROEDER..............................................................Aidan Hefely
PIG PEN.............................................................Alan O’Donnell
FRIEDA.........................................................Hannah Flynn
VIOLET.........................................................Lucy Farland
PATTY..............................................................Rebecca Riedel
*Tessa Niemeyer
WOODSTALK.........................................................Flora Wehde
RERUN..............................................................Emma Waters
TWINS.............................................................Holland Rudolph, Alex Cusack
THE BOY..........................................................Alan O’Donnell
THE GIRL.............................................................Alex Cusack
WOODSTALK ENSEMBLE...........Tessa Niemeyer, Holland Rudolph, Alex Cusack

*Understudy performances December 21st & 22nd

- BREAK A LEG! -

~ Good Luck AIDAN HEFELY! From Securus Systems~
~ Shine bright Miss MOLLY! From, PNW Jungs ~
~ SNOOPY Good Luck in the show...
This doesn’t mean I’ll share my chew toys with you. Love, Thor ~
~Enjoy the spirit of Linus, EMERSON, you are our Christmas joy!
Love, Dad, Mom & Ninja~
~ REBECCA, Break both legs. From, Your loving sister~
~ Our NORAH bird, we love to watch your light shine bright!
Love Dad, Mom & Ninja ~
~ TO THE CAST, Have fun! Good Grief. Love, Miss Barbara~
MEET THE CAST

AIDAN HEFELY
Schroeder
Aidan is 11 years old and attends Eisenhower Elementary. He is very excited to perform this show for you! MPA credits include Beauty & the Beast Jr, Aladdin Jr, The Hobbit, Dear Edwina Jr and Junie B., Spamalot and Honk Jr! Aidan would like to thank his parents for working on the show and his friends MPA friends for making him feel special. "Mic Drop."

ALAN O’DONNELL
Pig Pen, The Boy
Alan is 12 years old. This is his second show on the main stage with MPA. You may have seen him previously in Honk Jr as Billy, one of the ducklings. When not on stage Alan enjoys playing games, eating and drinking water.

ALEX CUSACK
Twin, The Girl
Alex is 10 years old and this is her 5th year with MPA. Previous credits include 101 Dalmations KIDS, Annie Jr, Snow White, Phantom Tollbooth TYA, Madeline’s Christmas and Junie B Jones in Jingle Bells Batman Smells. “Hope you like the show, get Subway!”

CAROLINE GIENAPP
Snoopy
Caroline is 13 years old and attends VSAA. This is her first show with MPA! She has been involved in the MPA Off Broadway classes performing in ‘A Nightmare Before Christmas’ and ‘Mary Poppins.’ She would like to thank her brother for singing the songs louder than her.

EMERSON SKOGEN
Linus
Emerson hopes you enjoy the show! This is his second main stage show with MPA. You may have seen him as a Narrator and dead person in Spamalot. Previous credits include Broadway Jr shows (Snow White, Town of Gruff and 101 Dalmatians Jr.) and ReImagined Radio Christmas Carol. Check out Norah’s bio, she’s awesome.

EMMA WATERS
Rerun
Emma is 10 years old and goes to York Elementary. This is her first main stage show with MPA! When not on stage Emma enjoys reading and ice skating. She would like to thank her mom for enrolling her in classes at MPA. “Hope you enjoy the show!”

FLORA WEHDE
Woodstalk
Flora is a seventh grader. This is her eighth show with MPA. Past credits are Matilda, Spamalot, Junie B Jones, Aladdin Jr, Aristocats Kids, Dear Edwina Jr and Willy Wonka Jr. She would like to thank her mom and dad for always believing in her.

HANNAH FLYNN
Frieda
This is Hannah’s fifth show with MPA. Previous MPA credits include Junie B, Spamalot, Mermaid and Honk Jr! Other stage credits include Oklahoma, Grease, Seussical, West Side Story and The Little Mermaid. Hannah would like to thank her new and old friends for making each performance very special. She would also like to thank her family.

HOLLAND RUDOLPH
Twin, Woodstalk Ensemble
Holland is 11 years old and attends Gaiser Middle School. This is her first main stage show with MPA! When not on stage she enjoys reading, writing and taking classes at MPA. Holland would like to thank her mom for driving her to rehearsal. "Merry Christmas!"

JAEDON MOORE
Charlie Brown
Jaedon is 12 years old and attends VSAA. Previous MPA credits are Shrek the Musical Jr, Elf the Musical Jr, Dear Edwina Jr and Junie B Jones in Jingle Bells Batman Smells. He would like to thank his mom for his support. "I got a rock!"

LUCY FARLAND
Violet
Lucy is 13 years old and attends Liberty Middle School. This is her very first show with MPA! Other show credits include Shrek the Musical Jr and Into the Woods Jr. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her in this new journey. "Enjoy a Charlie Brown Christmas!"

MOLLY JUNG
Sally
Molly is 13 years old and goes to Jason Lee Middle School. Favorite MPA credits are Bilbo Baggins in The Hobbit, Junie B in Junie B Jones Jingle Bells Batman Smells and Charlie Bucket in Willy Wonka Jr. She would like to thank her mom, dad and Shannon for dealing with her.
**MEET THE CAST**

**NORAH SKOGEN**

*Lucy*

Norah is Freshmen at iTech Preparatory. Favorite MPA credits include Spamalot, Junie B in Jingle Bells Batman Smells, The Hobbit, Madeline’s Christmas, Elf the Musical Jr, Shrek Jr and The Little Mermaid Jr. Shout out to Emerson, check out his bio!

**TESSA NIEMEYER**

*Woodstalk Ensemble, U/S Patty*

Tessa is 11 years old and this is her 6th year with MPA. Favorite credits include Honk!, Junie B Jones in Jingle Bells Batman Smells, Annie Jr and Madeline’s Christmas. Tessa would like to thank her parents for enrolling her in MTP. “Thank you Katie for all our costumes! Get Subway, it’s great.”

**REBECCA RIEDEL**

*Patty, U/S Snoopy*

This is Rebecca’s sixth show with MPA. Previous shows include Junie B Jones Jingle Bells Batman Smells, Willy Wonka Jr, Spamalot, Honk and Snow White. Rebecca has had so much fun working with the cast and thinks everyone at MPA is super nice! She would like to thank Pip, Barbara and Shannon for putting the show together. “I eat chalk, get Subway!”

**GABBY HERRON**

*Assistant Stage Manager*

Gabby is a Freshmen at VSAA. She has been on stage in several MPA productions including Shrek The Musical Jr, Little Mermaid Jr and The Hobbit. She first joined the Tech team for MPA’s production of Junie B and discovered she loves working backstage! Gabby is thrilled to be part of the crew for Charlie Brown. “Best of luck to everyone in the show!”

---

**Break a leg Holland!**

Love,

Mom

---

**TO THE CAST AND CREW OF**

"A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"

Peace on earth and good will towards all.

Happy Holidays!
Best of luck with the show!

From,
The Jung Family

---

**A RE-IMAGINED RADIO CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Wednesday, December 18th
7:00pm at the Kiggins Theatre

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A Radio Christmas Carol is adapted from the 1938 radio broadcast by The Mercury Theatre on the Air. That performance was itself inspired by the Charles Dickens novella, A Christmas Carol, first published in 1843, and never out of print since. The message—humanity outweighs riches—is timely for the holiday season. Live performance by Metropolitan Performing Arts actors and other community volunteers at the historic Kiggins Theatre in downtown Vancouver, Washington.
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At the end of Act 2, sing along with us to get in the holiday spirit!

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the King of Angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

We wish you a merry Christmas
And a happy new year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
Good tidings of Christmas and a happy new year.