

Auditions

Jane Eyre, The Musical

Based on the novel by Charlotte Bronte

Book and additional lyrics-John Ciard

Music and Lyrics-Paul Gordon

Show dates-April 14-16, 2023

God's Power and Light Company will hold auditions on January 3 and 5, 2023, from 6:30-8:30PM, at New Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE. for our spring show "Jane Eyre, The Musical". We will be performing at The Everett Theatre, 47 W. Main Street, Middletown, DE.

The musical retelling of the iconic story of a young girl, who is orphaned and forced to live with her cruel Aunt Reed who hates her. She is sent away to Lowood School where she meets Helen Burns, her best friend. Helen teaches Jane about forgiveness and Jane becomes a governess. The older Jane and the narrator of the story travel to Thornfield Hall where she meets her student Adele' and employer Edward Rochester. Edward falls in love with Jane, but there is a secret in the house...that keeps them apart.

Jane repeatedly succeeds at asserting herself and maintains her principles of justice, human dignity, and Christian beliefs as she challenges the Victorian prejudices against women and the poor.

An uplifting musical where the music is haunting and beautifully written by the composers.

This is a large cast, needing men, women, teens, and a few young ladies.

Please prepare 32 measures of a song suggested in the attached list of songs from the show. You can find the songs on YouTube. If you can't find the music requested, please prepare a song that shows your voice range.

Please have a 1-minute monologue and be prepared to read from the script. English accents.

Character ages are suggestions not absolutes, we are looking for individuals who can present the role accurately.

Rehearsals will be on Tuesday, Thursday's, and some Saturday's starting Tuesday January 10th, 2023.

Video auditions accepted by emailing them to: c.shields@mehrs.com. Please have them to us no later than Jan. 5, 2023.

Please call Cheryl Shields for any further information regarding your audition.
302-602-1638

Characterization of Characters

Jane Eyre

Jane is an intelligent, honest, plain-featured, slender young woman who is orphaned and forced to live with her Aunt Reed and her horribly cruel cousin John, until she goes to Lowood School. There she meets Helen, her only friend. After Helen dies, Jane stays long enough to finish her studies and becomes a governess. She then travels to Thornfield to be a teacher of Adele the ward of her master Edward Rochester. Jane repeatedly succeeds at asserting herself and maintains her principles of justice, human dignity, and Christian beliefs. She also values intellectual and emotional fulfillment. Her strong belief in social equality challenges the Victorian prejudices against women and the poor.

Age: 18-30 Soprano Vocal top range E5 Bottom Range F#3

Young Jane Eyre

Young Jane Eyre is around the age of 9-12. Full of soul. Strong and willful. She has been so badly treated at the Reed house that she wants to get away from them and go to Lowood School, only to find it also a place where the children are treated harshly, but it is where Jane learns forgiveness from her only friend Helen.

Age: 9-12ish Mezzo-soprano D5 D4

Edward Rochester

Jane's employer and the master of Thornfield, Rochester is a wealthy, passionate man with a dark secret that provides much of the musical's suspense. Rochester is unconventional, ready to set aside polite manners, propriety, and consideration of social class in order to interact with Jane frankly and directly. He is rash and impetuous and has spent much of his adult life roaming about Europe in an attempt to avoid the consequences of his youthful indiscretions. His problems are partly the result of his own recklessness, but he is a sympathetic figure because he has suffered for so long as a result of his early marriage to Bertha.

Age: 30-45ish Baritone G4 B2

Mrs./Aunt Reed

Mrs. Reed is Jane's cruel aunt, who raises her at Gateshead Hall until Jane is sent away to school at age ten. Later in her life, Jane attempts reconciliation with her aunt, but the old woman continues to resent her because her husband had always loved Jane more than his own children.

Age 40-50 Soprano/ Mezzo-soprano

Mrs. (Alice) Fairfax

Alice Fairfax is Rochester's elderly relation and housekeeper at Thornfield Hall who is garrulous, and kindhearted. She is the first to tell Jane that the mysterious laughter often heard echoing through the halls is, in fact, the laughter of Grace Poole—a lie that Rochester himself often repeats.

Age: 55-70 Alto C5 F3

Mr. Brocklehurst

The cruel, hypocritical master of the Lowood School, Mr. Brocklehurst preaches a doctrine of privation, while stealing from the school to support his luxurious lifestyle. After a typhus epidemic sweeps Lowood, Brocklehurst's shifty and dishonest practices are brought to light and he is publicly discredited.

Age: 40-60 Tenor/Baritone G4 D3

Miss Scatcherd

Jane's sour and vicious teacher at Lowood, Miss Scatcherd behaves with particular cruelty toward Helen.

Age: 30-60 Mezzo-soprano D5 D4

Helen Burns

Helen Burns is Jane's close friend at the Lowood School. She endures her miserable life there with a passive dignity that Jane cannot understand. She is calm and spiritual, she teaches Jane the most important lesson in her life. Helen dies of consumption in Jane's arms.

Age: 12-16 Mezzo-soprano C#5 A3

Marigold

A servant at Lowood School. An Ex-schoolgirl herself, she has been kept to do the dirty kitchen work and cleaning. She is Semi-moronic and entirely without humor.

Age: 30-40 Spoke E5 D4

Mrs. (Alice) Fairfax

Alice Fairfax is Rochester's elderly relation and housekeeper at Thornfield Hall who is garrulous, and kindhearted. She is the first to tell Jane that the mysterious laughter often heard echoing through the halls is, in fact, the laughter of Grace Poole—a lie that Rochester himself often repeats.

Age: 55-70 Alto C5 F3

Adèle Varens

Jane's pupil at Thornfield, Adèle Varens is a lively though somewhat spoiled child from France. Rochester brought her to Thornfield after her mother, Celine, abandoned her. Although Celine was once Rochester's mistress, he does not believe himself to be Adèle's father.

Age 8-13 depending on size Mezzo soprano/Alto

Robert

The butler at Thornfield, He is dry and intelligent, and a martyr to Mrs. Fairfax whims. He is an understanding and reliable servant to Mr. Rochester. He is a lead role and just a few singing lines, but he is comical aspect to the story.

Age: 25-50 Baritone/bass B Flat 3 B Flat 2

Bertha Mason

Rochester's mad wife, kept in the attic of Thornfield Hall. Bertha Mason is a formerly beautiful and wealthy Creole woman who has become insane, violent, and bestial. She lives locked in a secret room on the third story of Thornfield and is guarded by Grace Poole, whose occasional bouts of inebriation sometimes enable Bertha to escape. Bertha eventually burns down Thornfield, plunging to her death in the flames.

Age: 30-40 C#5 C3

St. John Rivers

The appealing and handsome curate of the parish of Gateshead who is caring for Mrs. Reed at her death. He is a complex young man, passionately devoted to his Christian faith and duty. St. John (pronounced "Sinjin") serves as Jane's benefactor after she runs away from Thornfield, giving her food and shelter.

Age: 25-35 Mezzo-soprano, alto G4 C3

Grace Poole

Grace Poole is Bertha Mason's keeper at Thornfield, whose drunken carelessness frequently allows Bertha to escape. When Jane first arrives at Thornfield, Mrs. Fairfax attributes to Grace all evidence of Bertha's misdeeds.

Age: 30-60 Mezzo-soprano D5 A3

Richard Mason

Richard Mason is Bertha's brother. During a visit to Thornfield, he is injured by his mad sister. After learning of Rochester's intent to marry Jane, Mason arrives in order to thwart the wedding and reveal the truth of Rochester's prior marriage.

Age: 40-50 Tenor

Blanche Ingram

Blanche Ingram is a clever, sophisticated beautiful socialite who despises Jane and hopes to marry Rochester for his money. She has a stunning voice

Age: 20-30 Soprano

B5

B3

Lady Ingram

Blanche's Mother. An amply proportioned woman who wears and expression of almost insupportable haughtiness, her eyes are fierce and her voice deep. She is pompous and dogmatic.

Age: 55-65

Mezzo-soprano and alto

John Reed

John Reed is Jane's cousin, Mrs. Reed's son, and brother to Eliza and Georgiana. John treats Jane with appalling cruelty during their childhood and later falls into a life of drinking and gambling. John commits suicide midway through the novel when his mother ceases to pay his debts for him.

Age: 14-17 Spoken

Vicar The minister who comes to marry Jane and Edward.

Baritone

Ensemble roles-Many with solos-teachers at Lowood, maids and butlers, ensemble, party guests, Wedding guests. Etc.

Girls at Lowood School can also be maids and in the ensemble.

Mary Ingram Soprano, Mezzo Soprano

Lord Ingram Tenor, baritone and bass

Mr. Eshton Tenor, baritone, bass

Louisa Soprano, Mezzo Soprano

Colonel Dent Countertenor, Baritone, Bass

Mrs. Dent Soprano, Mezzo Soprano and Alto

Amy Ashton Soprano, mezzo-Sop. And Alt0

Audition Songs – Jane Eyre

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Jane-Sweet Liberty | #7 | P. 39 |
| Rochester-Farewell Good Angel | #37 | P. 222 |
| Sirens | #25 | P. 140 |
| Young Jane-The Death of Helen Burns | #5 | P. 27 |
| Helen-Forgiveness | #3 | P. 20 |
| Mrs. Fairfax- A Slip of a Girl | #33 | P. 197 |
| Robert-Perfectly nice | #9 | P. 55 |
| Bertha-Behind the Door | # 35 Ah's | P. 209 |
| Mrs. Reed-Children of God | #2 | P. 8 |
| Adele-Perfectly Nice, French accent | #9 | P. 55 |
| Blanche-The Finer Things | | |
| Brocklehurst-Children of God | #2 | P.8 |
| Mason-The Scream | #27 | P.152 |
| Mrs. Scattchard-Children of God | #2 | P. 8 |
| St. John-The Voice across the Moors | #41 | P. 240 |
| John Reed-Children of God | #2 | P.8 |
| Girl's ensemble-Children of God | #2 | P. 8 |

The ensemble may choose from the list above, and there are many opportunities for solos in the ensemble roles.

Please prepare to sing 32 measures of a song the shows your voice range, the above list is a suggestion.

Please have a 1 minute monologue prepared so we can hear your voice in English accent.

Thank you, Cheryl Shields-302-602-1638