



Adult Audition Pack

Director – Sarah Dyer
Musical Director – David Manifold
Choreographer – Emily Samways

Important Dates:

Open Day: Sunday 16th December 2-5pm
(The Richard Pate School, Southern Rd, GL53 9RP)

Pre-audition rehearsals: 3rd & 8th January – Music
10th January – movement
15th & 22nd January – Music and movement recaps

Auditions: Sunday 27th January (time tbc)

(Pre-audition rehearsals and auditions at Shurdington Primary School, 7:30-10:00pm)



Oliver!

Oliver! is Lionel Bart's classic musical, based on Charles Dickens' novel, *Oliver Twist*. The Tony and Olivier Award-winning show is one of the few musicals to win an Academy Award for Best Picture and is widely hailed as a true theatrical masterpiece by actors and audience members alike.

Synopsis:

The curtain opens on the sinister interior of the workhouse with bare dining tables. Pale-faced wretches can be seen peering through the bars of the door at the back. The door opens and the boys file in to the table singing *Food, Glorious Food*. Widow Corney, who runs the workhouse, and Mr Bumble, the parish beadle, enter to serve gruel to the boys. Amongst them, Oliver takes the bowl to Bumble and asks, "Please, Sir, I want some more." Bumble is outraged. Oliver must go and so he hawks Oliver through the streets of London singing *Boy For Sale*. Oliver is sold to Mr Sowerberry, the undertaker. Alone, plaintive and surrounded by coffins, Oliver sings, *Where Is Love?*

He runs away and meets the Artful Dodger who sings *Consider Yourself*. Oliver is taken to a hideout to meet Fagin and the apprentice thieves - they welcome Oliver with *You've Got To Pick a Pocket Or Two*. Nancy, Bill Sykes girl, and Bet arrive and sing *It's A Fine Life*. Next morning, Oliver goes with the boys and is arrested by the police, not for picking pockets but simply for looking guilty.

In Act 2, Nancy sings *Oom-pah-pah*. Fagin's boys tell of Oliver's arrest by the police but that, as he has been found to be innocent, he is now safe in the house of a kindly, rich gentleman. Fagin and Sykes despatch Nancy to get Oliver back. Meanwhile, Oliver has become a well-cared for little lad. Seeing London street-traders from his bedroom window he sings *Who Will Buy?*, a plea that his good fortune will become permanent. However, outside the house he is captured by Nancy and she returns him to Fagin. Fagin sings *Reviewing the Situation* and thinks of going straight.

Bumble and Mrs Corney, now married, discover that Oliver is the heir to a rich family and try to get him back. A regretful Nancy plans to return Oliver to his benefactor. She is fearful of Sykes yet sings, *As Long As He Needs Me*. Sykes stalks and kills her, grabs Oliver and, after a chase, is shot dead. Oliver is restored to his benefactor who, as it turns out, is his own grandfather. Fagin, now minus the boys, home and money, reprises *Reviewing the Situation*.

Character Breakdown:

Fagin: Age 35-55 Vocal type – Baritone (Top F)

A conniving career criminal, who takes in homeless boys and teaches them to pick pockets. Although a darker character, he has a humorous side which he uses to his advantage. Often played with a 'Jewish influence' in line with Dicken's original description of 'the Jew'.

A strong character actor and singer, who also needs to move well. He needs to show warmth towards the boys in his care, has a miserly streak, needs to calm and placate Bill, but is ultimately only interested in his own self-preservation.

Nancy: Age 25-35 Vocal type – Mezzo/Alto (G below middle C to top G)

When she was younger she worked for Fagin but is now a "barmaid" at the Three Cripples Bar. She lives with and loves Bill Sykes, is pretty, intelligent and longs for a better life. She feels very protective of Oliver but is eventually murdered for the steps she takes on his behalf.

A great singer with a full range of vocal ability – we know she can belt out a song but we need to see her vulnerability too. The actress must be able to portray a full range of emotions from having a laugh in the pub to being a 'beaten woman' who is brave enough to stand up to Bill. The audience must absolutely love this 'tart with a heart'. Good mover. Cockney accent.

Bill Sykes: Age 30-45 Vocal type - Baritone

Bill worked for Fagin as a youth but is now a feared master criminal. Nancy's brutal, abusive lover and her eventual murderer.

The actor needs to be menacing and surly. He is good looking in a rough sort of way and 'loves' Nancy. The audience should feel that he is always on the brink of violence. Cockney accent.

Mr. Bumble: Age 35-50 Vocal type - Tenor

A large, pompous and corrupt bureaucrat and the Beadle of the workhouse where Oliver was born. Horrible to the boys in his supposed care and in love with Mrs Corney, who dominates him!

A great actor and singer needed for this role, who should tower over the children making them feel even more insignificant.

Widow Corney: Age 30-50 Vocal Type – Mezzo Soprano (Top F, A flat optional)

The Mistress of the Workhouse and sharp-tongued widow who is also corrupt. She later marries Mr. Bumble.

She is described as a buxom beauty! Great character singing and acting with an accent that tries to be posh to hide her Cockney roots. Will be included in some ensemble scenes.

Bet: Age 20-30 Vocal type – Mezzo/Alto (A flat below middle C to top F sharp)

Nancy's friend, who may also have worked for Fagin. She is still a little naïve and is yet to see the true harshness of life.

Lovely singing and acting should portray her innocence, as a contrast to Nancy. Good mover with Cockney accent. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

***Mr. Sowerberry:** Age 35+ Vocal type - Baritone

The undertaker who buys Oliver to work in the funeral home. Sinister and malevolent.

A character singer and actor required with a mild Cockney accent. Some movement.

***Mrs. Sowerberry:** Age 35+ Vocal type - Mezzo

The undertaker's wife, who matches her husband in character. She has no qualms about leaving a young child to sleep amongst coffins!

A character singer and actor. Some movement.

***Noah Claypole:** Age 16-25 (sing as ensemble)

The Undertaker's apprentice, who may have also come from Workhouse. He feels threatened by, dislikes and torments Oliver. He bullies Oliver about his mother and enjoys a flirtatious relationship with Charlotte.

Cockney accent. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

***Charlotte:** Age 16-20 (sing as ensemble)

The Sowerberry's daughter who is attracted to Noah. She is also unkind to Oliver and encourages Noah's bullying.

Cockney accent. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

Mr. Brownlow: Age 50+ (sing as ensemble)

A kind, upper-class gentleman who we eventually discover is Oliver's grandfather.

We must see the element of regret that he once 'lost' a daughter and then the joy at finding his grandson. Depending on casting, the actor may appear in ensemble scenes.

***Dr. Grimwig:** Age 40+ (sing as ensemble)

Upper class, friend of Mr. Brownlow. He assesses Oliver's condition at the beginning of Act II, deeming him fit to go outside. Will be included in ensemble scenes.

***Mrs. Bedwin:** Age 35+ (soprano - sing as ensemble)

A housekeeper who works for Mr. Brownlow. Warm and caring personality.

Will be included in ensemble scenes.

Adult Ensemble: Age ranges 16 and up, singers (all voice types), characters with cockney and traditional British accents. Included in this are the "featured" soloists: The Rose Seller (mezzo), Strawberry Seller (soprano), Milk Maid (soprano), Knife Grinder (baritone) and Long Song Seller (Tenor);

* Will also be part of the ensemble

Audition Pieces:

Part	Dialogue	Vocal	Dance
Mr Bumble	p14 -15	No. 5 <i>Boy For Sale</i> (Whole song) No. 4 <i>I Shall Scream</i> (Whole song)	Yes
Widow Corney	p14-15	No. 4 <i>I Shall Scream</i> (Whole song)	Yes
Mr Sowerberry *	p19-20 (start to '- what's your name?') Bumble to be read in	No. 6 <i>That's Your Funeral</i> (from start to D)	Yes
Mrs Sowerberry *	p19-20 (start to '- what's your name?') Bumble to be read in	No. 6 <i>That's Your Funeral</i> (from start to D)	Yes
Noah *	p26-28 (start to 'You are a one') Oliver to be read in	Sing ensemble audition	Yes
Charlotte *	p26-28 (start to 'You are a one') Oliver to be read in	Sing ensemble audition	Yes
Fagin	p45-47 (start to 'WASH!') Oliver to be read in p75-77 (from 'This is hardly fair' to 'Don't you forget it')	No. 24 <i>Reviewing the Situation</i> (from start to E)	Yes
Nancy	P47 'What's wrong...' into song p 75-77 (from 'This is hardly fair' to 'Don't you forget it')	No. 13 <i>It's A Fine Life</i> (from start to C) No. 18 <i>As Long As He Needs Me</i> (whole song)	Yes
Bill Sykes	p75-77 (from 'This is hardly fair' to 'Don't you forget it')	No. 17 <i>My Name</i> (A and B)	No
Mr Brownlow	p70 (from 'Doctor,... to 'attached to the child.')	Sing ensemble audition	No
Bet	None	No. 13 <i>It's A Fine Life</i> (from start to E, sing both Nancy and Bet's line)	Yes
Ensemble	None	No. 21 <i>Who Will Buy?</i> (from start to E) Sop – Milkmaid, Alto – Rose, Tenor – Strawberry, Bass – Knife Grinder (ignore Long Song seller)	Yes

Please make all efforts to be 'off book' for your audition. This will give you greater freedom to move and express the lyrics of the music and act with conviction in the dialogue.

When you are auditioning with others, you may wish to practise prior to the audition. However, please be prepared that the panel could ask you to perform with another person too.

Sunday 16th December:

2.00 – 2.30pm	30 mins	Chairman and panel introductions. Sarah talk through characters etc Sign-up sheet Arrangements for January pre-auditions and auditions
2.30 – 3.15pm	45 mins	Music – David to work through ensemble numbers, including the audition piece.
3.15 - 3.45pm	30 mins	Mince Pies and Mulled wine
3.45 – 4.15pm	30 mins	Movement - Emily
4.15 – 5.00pm	45 mins	Principal Music – David to work through principal songs including audition pieces. All welcome or stay and have more Mulled wine!