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Cantate Theatre School

Patrons: Ngel Bates, Kevin colson, Samanthi , Nicholas smith

LES MISERABLES - SCHOOL EDITION

SUMMER WORKSHOP 19th-29th August 2009

Collingwood School, 3 Springfield Road, Wallington.

Thank you for your interest in our production of Les Miserables, please find below further details and application form for the workshop. If you have any more specific questions please do contact us!

Workshop outline

The aim of the workshop is to rehearse daily for the duration of the course creating two performances at the end for friends + family to enjoy. The workshop will be run by professional experienced teachers/musicians with the aim being to enhance existing talents and improve students abilities in areas where needed, all in a friendly and relaxed environment. This should also be a fun way to spend a few days!

The course is open to students aged 19 or under at the time of the production and places are available for actors/singers on stage, musicians in the orchestra and a limited number of backstage and technical crew.

Auditions

Auditions will be held for lead roles in July (alternate dates may be available if requested) and members awarded these parts will be expected to learn words etc before the workshop begins. Orchestral musicians need not audition but a standard of Grade 5+ will be expected. Some previous experience for backstage/technical crew is welcomed but not essential.

Enrolment /Payment

To reserve a place on the workshop a deposit of £15.00 must be sent along with a completed registration form. Payments for the workshop may be spread out but will be due in full by 1st August 2009.

Directors: Tamasine Kimber, Chris Kimber

Acting Roles

Below you will find a description of the available lead and supporting roles. If you wish to audition for a particular role, please indicate this on your application form. If you wish to be in the chorus, an audition is not necessary.

MALE ROLES

Jean Valjean is the hero of the show. It is his life journey that we follow. Jean Valjean is supposed to be stronger than other men, and so physically should appear robust. He should reasonably carry himself as mature and paternal. Valjean's ability to change is his greatest asset. The key to his character is his great humanity and compassion. Jean Valjean is a vocally demanding role. Vocal range: Low A to high A (above Middle C)

Javert is the inspector who serves as antagonist to Jean Valjean. Javert is unswerving in his belief that men cannot change for the good. "Once a thief, always a thief" is his mantra. At first glance Javert might appear to be the villain of the story, but on closer examination it is clear that he is not an evil man. He is aware that in society some people achieve control through evil and others through the power of the law. He is a dedicated policeman, with a profound sense of duty. Unlike Valjean he cannot change. His attitudes are rigid and unmoveable. He is stern, forbidding and lacking in compassion. Javert should be a talented actor who can convincingly stand up to Jean Valjean. Javert should have a rich baritone voice and be a good singer. Vocal range: A (below Middle C) to F sharp (above Middle C)

Thenardier is the true villain of Les Misérables. He is amoral and an opportunist. That said, he should also possess a wicked sense of humour. He delights in cheating, robbing, fraud and blackmail, relishing every aspect of them with glee. He is tough, greedy, brutal, stupid and crafty and yet irresistible. He hates society and blames it and everyone else for all his misfortune. Thenardier is also the opportunist and realist of the show. He is a thief, a liar and a cheat. He steals valuables from the dead with no remorse. He is also the comic relief of the production. However, his comedy is based in reality and shouldn't be too exaggerated. He is married to Madame Thenardier and father to Eponine and Gavroche (although he has abandoned Gavroche to the streets of Paris). Vocally the role is not incredibly demanding, a character voice is best. Vocal range: C (below Middle C) to G sharp (above Middle C)

Gavroche is Thenardier's son. He is left to fend for himself and lives by his wits in the streets of Paris. His "arch enemy" is Javert the Policeman. He is brave and witty. He should be cocky and have a fantastic unbroken voice. Think a young Artful Dodger. Gavroche has a very dramatic death at the barricade. Vocal range: B (below Middle C) To G

Enjolras is the student leader. He is handsome, brave and daring, although youthful. He combines his revolutionary ideals with a strong charismatic leadership. He is described by Victor Hugo as "a thinker and a man of action". On the barricade he physically and vocally should dominate everyone else. He should be charismatic, be a natural leader, be good looking, and have a very strong high baritone or a tenor voice. . Remember, Enjolras must lead the students to fight and ultimately die. His death at the barricade is one of the dramatic highlights of the show. Vocal range: A to G (above Middle C)

Marius is the handsome romantic hero of the story. He is impulsive, passionate, wilful and headstrong. His moods change according to his circumstances. He is sweet and tender but also capable of great courage and compassion. In Act I Marius plays Romeo to Cosette's Juliet. Marius matures after the Café Song as a result of his experiences on the barricade. Marius should have a lovely, lyrical voice with a contemporary edge. Vocal range: Low A to High A flat

Chain Gang The Chain Gang consists of Jean Valjean's fellow prisoners. There are four soloists (indicated as convicts 1, 2, 3, 4). The overall vocal range of the convicts is low and they should be able sing in a rich baritone if possible. Vocal range: Low F to High E flat

Constables There are two solo constables in the show. Vocal range: E to High E

Farmer and Labourers The Farmer and a Labourer have solo lines that are a bit difficult to sing. Labourers are non-singing. Farmer - Vocal range: Middle C to D flat. Solo Labourer - Vocal range: A sharp to D flat

Bishop of Digne The Bishop is a good man who saves Valjean with his compassion. Don't overlook the importance of this role. The Bishop of Digne's compassion carefully establishes the premise of the show by literally buying Jean Valjean's soul for God. This is a powerful role requiring a nice baritone voice and a good actor. Vocal range: Low A to High E

Foreman The Foreman begins Fantine on her downward spiral of desperation. He should be virile, commanding and a bit sleazy around the edges. Vocal range: E (below Middle C) to D flat (above Middle C)

Sailors Three sailors begin the Docks scene. All three have solos but do not need to be great singers. Vocal range: Low C to Middle C

Bamatobois is the "customer" who taunts Fantine into violence. He is dressed in expensive clothes. He is a wealthy dissolute young man who thinks of himself as a gentleman. He is drunk and in a sadistic mood and chauvinistically feels it is his right to buy anything, even Fantine. Vocal range: D (below Middle C) to High D

Pimp The Pimp controls the prostitutes at the docks. He is mean, aggressive and abusive. The Pimp has a small solo line in "The Docks." Vocal range: E (below Middle C) to D

Judge The Judge or Judges are non-singing roles. Vocal range: N/A

Mistaken Jean Valjean and family These characters are also non-singing. This is the man who Javert believes to be Jean Valjean. Vocal range: N/A

FEMALE ROLES

Fantine is the beautiful young girl who, abandoned by her lover, is left to fend for herself and her daughter Cosette. She is rejected by society and forced through circumstances to become a prostitute. She is a brave woman defeated by life, sustained by her love for her daughter and clinging to her dignity. Sick with consumption, we witness her descent through poverty, hunger, cold, loneliness and destitution to death. She is a noble and proud character, whose life becomes a series of terrible events that rob her of her pride, character, and ultimately her life. The actress playing the role needs a powerful voice that is more mezzo (or alto) than soprano. Vocal range: G flat (below Middle C) to E flat

Young Cosette is the child of Fantine. She is the ward of the Thenardiers, forced into child labour and sings "Castle on A Cloud." She is a trembling little creature, underfed, beaten by Madame Thenardier and bullied by Eponine. Vocal range: A (below Middle C) to C

Cosette is the beautiful daughter of Fantine. She is strong willed and loving. She is an intelligent, inquiring, personable girl. She is not in any sense a "soppy" romantic heroine. Once adopted by Jean Valjean, Cosette lives a comfortable, if secluded life. She is challenging towards Valjean, behaving always with imagination and dignity. She falls instantly in love with Marius, changing her world and her priorities. The role calls for an excellent singer with a lovely, lyrical soprano voice. Vocal range: B flat (below Middle C) to High C (2 octaves above Middle C)

Young Eponine is the pampered daughter of the Thenardiers. She does little except enter the stage and taunt Young Cosette. The role requires no singing or speaking. She should be a smaller version of grown Eponine and resemble Eponine in appearance and features. Vocal range: N/A

Girl 5 (Factory Girl) The Girl who fights with Fantine. She is mean, catty and selfish. She also is most likely having an affair with the Foreman and is jealous of Fantine. Vocal range: B flat (below Middle C) to C

(above Middle C)

Eponine is the daughter of Thenardier. She is a young girl who is streetwise and tough, but also sensitive and lonely. She is in love with Marius, knowing that he will never love her. She bravely follows Marius to the barricades in the hope that they will die there together. Once grown up, Eponine moves with her family to Paris where they fall on hard times. Now poor, living hand to mouth, she survives by helping her father break the law. Eponine is a tragic character, hopelessly in love with Marius. She sings one of the most famous numbers in the show, "On My Own" and should therefore be an excellent singer with a contemporary edge to her voice and an excellent actress. Vocal range: F sharp (below Middle C) to E

Madame Thenardier She is the wife of Thenardier. Madame Thenardier is as "one" with Thenardier. Together they con the world as partners in crime. They were made for each other, although she complains about him, she loves him dearly. She is coarse and vulgar; unhappy in her existence without knowing why. She is romantic, greedy, stupid, evil and larger than life. She is mean and nasty to Little Cosette and able to improvise in nearly any situation. We need an actress with excellent physical comedy skills, who is also a good musician with a good sense of rhythm. Vocal range: G sharp (below Middle C) to D

Old Woman The Old Woman is a nice feature part. This is the character that purchases Fantine's hair. Her vocal solo is a bit tricky so a strong singer would be preferred. Vocal range: E (above Middle C) to D

Fauchelevant is the victim of the cart crash. The role requires little, a few solo lines and some painful yelps! Vocal range: B (below Middle C) to E flat

CHORUS/NON SOLO PARTS

Gavroche's Gang Suitable for younger cast members (10yrs-) Vocal range: N/A

Montparnasse, Babet, Brujon, Claquesous These are members of Thenardier's gang of thieves. In the professional companies men play them, but for the School Edition, these roles may be cast as a mix of males and females. Vocal ranges: C sharp (below Middle C) to E. **Brujon** - Physically very strong. The body of a bear and a pea sized brain. A genuine gangster, he is stupid and evil. **Babet** - Physically frail. He is lean and cunning. **Claquesous** - Tough, dangerous and secretive. **Montparnasse** - A teenager. Handsome and dangerous. Kills with a knife. He is well dressed, strongly built and supple.

Members of the ABC Society (May be cast male or Female) A secret society of students and workers, the letters "A" "B" "C", as pronounced in French, make the word "abaisse," which means "the underdog" or "the people below." The members are drawn from wealthy families, and members have chosen to fight for freedom in stark contrast to the poor who have no choice due to their downtrodden circumstance. Additional characters, besides Enjolras and Marius are: **Combeferre** - Is the philosopher and believer in peace. He is gentle, humane, strong and brave. **Feuilly** - Is a worker, self-educated and an orphan. A believer in "nationality." Affectionate, warm and poetic. **Courfeyrac** - Is a student. His is youthful, passionate and fearless. **Joly** - A medical student. Eccentric and light-hearted, although sometimes morbid. His name is derived from the English word "jolly." **Prouvaire** - A student of social studies. He is kind, softly spoken and at the right moments strong and masterful. He is also a poet. **Lesgles** - A student. Cheerful, laughing at life but unlucky. His close friend is Joly. **Grantaire** - A student. He is the opposite of Enjolras. He believes in nothing. Although he admires Enjolras he loves to mock him. Witty and drunken, he is happy being with the group and they put up with him because of his good humour. He also keeps a watchful eye on Gavroche, the mascot of the group, and is the most heartbroken when Gavroche is killed. So much so that Grantaire abandons his cynicism and rushes to die on the barricade. Vocal ranges: Low A to F

General chorus will double many group parts and maybe small solo roles. Will require general chorus singing.

Orchestral Musicians

Places are available for the following instruments:-

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass Guitar, Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Oboe/Cor Anglais, Trumpetx2, Trombone, Hornx2, Guitar, Drums, Percussion, Keyboards x 3.

Doubling up of certain instruments may be possible.

Backstage/Technical

If you are not a performer, this is still a great way to be involved in the production. To make the show complete we will need a few people to help with:-

Set design/creation.

Wardrobe/costumes

Make up

Props

Stage hands

Lighting assistants

Sound crew

Places will be limited in these areas due to lack of space so book early if you would like to be involved in the backstage crew!

Fees

Fees for the workshop are set as follows:-

Acting/on stage performer - £150.00

Orchestra member - £80.00

Backstage crew - £45.00

Fees include membership of the Theatre School (a legal requirement!) and 2 free tickets to one of the performances. More tickets may be purchased during the workshop week.

A deposit of £15.00 is due on enrolment and the final balance is due by 1st August 2009. Cheques should be made payable to "Cantate". In the event of a member being unable to take part in the production at the last minute, we regret that we will be unable to return fees.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Chris & Tamasine Kimber