

Dream

Suggestions for Auditions

Doubling

Three characters in the show can double up with other characters (not including the players), they are:

Theseus/Oberon
Hippolyta/Titania
Puck/Philostrate

This can be for dramatic reasons rather than for economy, and the play is often performed this way as the characters are parallel personas across the human and fairy worlds. But they can be separate, which is often useful for companies looking to give as many singers a part as is possible.

Characters

Theseus/Oberon: Theseus is a man of high status (in the play he is Duke of Athens). He is to marry Hippolyta. Oberon is the spirit King who is troubled by his Queen's interest in a young boy.

Range: Bass

Music: A1-No.7 Titania's story.

Hippolyta/Titania: Hippolyta is to marry Theseus but she is unsure of her love for him. (In the play she is the Queen of the Amazons whom Theseus has won in battle). Titania is Queen of the fairies and has a young boy in her care which is making Oberon jealous.

Range: Alto

Music: A1-No.23 A Miserable Song.

Hermia: Hermia loves Lysander but her father Egeus wishes her to marry Demetrius. She and Lysander run away to be wed. She is a strong-willed young woman.

Range: Sop.

Music: A2-No.1 Another dream.

Lysander: Lover to Hermia. He is disliked by Egeus who regards him as an unstable character who is not fit to marry his daughter. He is a true romantic and an honourable young man (of the fiery type rather than the wet rag variety).

Range: Tenor

Music: A1-No.10 Where is Auntie's house?

Helena: A tenacious young lady in love with Demetrius who is unable to take 'no' for an answer.

Range: Sop.

Music: A1-No.4 A miserable song.

Demetrius: Former lover of Helena, he now lays claim to Hermia's hand in marriage and has her father's backing. He's a bit of a cad to begin with but is quite likeable by the end.

Range: Tenor

Music: A1-No.8 An insulting song.

Bottom: A basket weaver by trade and a basket case by nature. He takes on the lead role in the player's play courtesy of his (fictitious) claims to be 'An Actor'. He is turned into an ass by Puck and is seduced by Titania. He is the classic G&S 'Patter man' of the show.

Range: Ten/Bass (Patter part)

Music: A1-Bottom's song.

Puck/Philostrate: Puck is Oberon's servant. A mischievous spirit who finds fun in the chaos he creates. Philostrate is master of entertainment at the wedding.

Range: Bar.

Music: A1-No.7 Titania's story.

3 Fairies: A trio of fairies who flirt with Puck, serve their mistress Titania and attend to Bottom's needs. [Also in chorus].

Range: Sop. Sop/Alt. Alto

Music: A1-No.6 How to catch a fairy.

A2-No.4 Lullaby for an ass.

Quince: Self appointed director of the players' play. A part for the would-be director who enjoys singing and acting. [Also in chorus].

Range : Ten/bar/Bass

Music: A1-5a recit.

A1-11 A rehearsal.

Thisby: Lover to Pyramus in the Player's play. A comic role due to over acting and frequent mistakes (played by a man in Shakespeare's version). [Also in chorus].

Range: Sop.

Music: A1-No.11 A rehearsal.

A2-No.9g Thisby's farewell.

Wall: Wall separates the lovers Pyramus and Thisby but, being a kindly partition, it has a hole through which the lovers may kiss. [Also in chorus].

Range: Alto

Music: A2-No.9b Wall.

Lion: A would-be Tiger who Scares Thisby and rips up her cloak with his blood stained paws. Must have a kind face. [Also in chorus].

Range: Ten/Bass/Alto/Sop

Music: A2-No.9e Lion.

Moonlight: A cameo for the connoisseur of blues and barbershop. [Also in chorus].

Range: Bass/Alto

Music: A2-No.9f Moonlight.

Other parts from the chorus.

Egeus: [Spoken part] An old man, rather conservative in nature, who wishes his daughter Hermia to marry for stability rather than for love.

A1-No.2 Hens p9-11 Sop/Alt.

A1-No.9 Lullaby p69-70 Alto

A1-No.11 A rehearsal p91 Bass

" P92-93 Sop/Alt.

" P112-113 Ten/Sop.

A2-No.6 Bottom's dream p177-178 Sop/Alt. Sop/Alt. Bass