

FAOS January 2019

Fiddler Libretto and Music Audition Pieces

The show is one that I have choreographed before and I really like it. As my Grandfather was Jewish and probably a refugee I am very interested in making this interpretation realistic. I have therefore reached some conclusions about how I want to represent it on stage.

In Russia at this time revolutionary thoughts were beginning to foment, the authorities thought that by attacking the Jews, who were the universal scapegoats, that they could divert the public away from revolutionary thoughts by carrying out pogroms against the Jews.

The Jews in Anatevka at the time the piece is set had a very hard and relatively short life. Therefore I want to cast the daughters at playing age 21/19/17/13/11. This is based on my Grandmother's history as she had a baby every two years but lost two babies so the sequence is interrupted. I think Golde might have done the same. Golde would have been married at 20 so her playing age is a weary 40ish. Tevye would be in his mid 40s. I want to use children to make up the families.

I see the design as being realistic, I have seen to many shows that look like musical comedy and have sparkling white aprons and shiny shoes. Life was hard, cold and hungry.

Tevye – playing age mid 40s, he is a simple man who believes he has a hot line to God who he can talk to at any time. His life has always been bounded by the traditions of his faith and his poverty. He must be funny and likeable but also be able to show the conflict with the changing ways of the world and his inability to deal with them in the context of his own belief system.

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"Today I am a horse" all dialogue leading into the song
Music No 4 "If I were a rich man" (Cut bars 35 – 114)

Music No. 24 "Do you love me" up to bar 27

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"Good day. What were you and he talking about?.....Do you understand me"

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"Accept them?No Chava, no no no."

Please run the two previous pieces of dialogue consecutively without stopping your performance.
Thanks.

Golde - Playing age 40ish – she has to be tough with 7 mouths to feed on a milkman's wages. She is a good Jewish wife, family is everything, but she is the matriarch of hearth and home.

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"Hello Golde I've just been talking to Hodel and Perchik" – straight into Audition song.

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"Mama where should we put these?.....Do you want to tempt the evil eye? Inside."

Music No. 24 "Do you love me" up to bar 27

Tzeitel - Playing age 21ish - She is like her father a traditionalist but she has the nerve to want to marry where her heart lies not have an arranged marriage. She is likeable, gentle and loving.

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Motel, Yente was here.....Good Sabbath Reb Tevye.

Music No. 3 Matchmaker Bars 109 – 140

All girls auditioning to play the daughters will need to do a short dance audition.

Motel

Playing age 22-24

He is tailor, hard working, kind and very scared of Tevye but is prepared to dare all for the girl he loves.

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"Reb Tevye, may I speak to you.....Yes Papa we gave each other a pledge."

Music No. 10 "Miracle of miracles" Cut bars 35 - 60

Hodel – playing age 19 - There is a purity and sense of purpose about Hodel that drives her to endure Siberia to be with Perchik.

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"Pease don't be upset Hodel" up to start of song

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"You don't have to wait for the train"into song.

Music No. 26 "Far from the home I love"

All girls auditioning to play the daughters will need to do a short dance audition.

Perchik - Playing age 22 - He is an impassioned but penniless revolutionary whose ideas will end up with him being exiled to Siberia he symbolises the winds of change that are blowing through Russia at this time and result in the revolution.

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"Please don't be upset Hodel".....into song

Music No. 22 Now I have everything (Cut bars 28 – 38)

Chava – playing age 17 - Chava is the youngest daughter who has a thirst for knowledge; she dares absolutely everything when she falls in love with a Russian gentile.

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"I'm sorry about that they meant no harm".....turn out quite pleasant.

Page 85

"Good day what were you and he talking about?"....."Yes Papa I understand you"

Music No. 3 Matchmaker Bars 144 – 177

All girls auditioning to play the daughters will need to do a short dance audition.

Fyedka (Where possible audition with a possible Chava) – playing age 20 - Fyedka is a young educated Russian soldier who falls in love with Chava; he should have an upright stance and be proud but polite towards Tevye.

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"I'm sorry about that they meant no harm".....turn out quite pleasant.

No solo singing audition

Lazar Wolf - Playing age 50 plus - Lazar is large, comfortable; he should look grandfatherly with a twinkle in his eye and a steely demeanour. Tzeitel does not want to marry him because he is not Motel not because he is threatening.

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"I suppose you know why I wanted to see you.....I like her, what do you think!

Music no. 6 "To Life" Up to bar 30, sing all.

Fruma Sarah - Playing age from 40 upwards - She is a risen corpse who has returned from the grave to protect her place in the real world from being usurped if Lazar marries Tzeitel.

No. 11 The Dream Bars 123 - 138

Constable – playing age 40/50s - He is a firm and powerful man who must carry out the orders of the Government. He likes Tevye and has some sympathy with the Jewish community but he must obey his superiors.

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"I see you have company"....."out of here in three days"

No solo singing audition

Yente

This character is a busybody of an old lady; she represents "Tradition" and the old way of life and the belief that it will be "next year in Jerusalem."

Playing age late 50s

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"Ah children, children,Golde, and you're welcome"

No solo singing audition

We will need a small, young man who can play superb violin and dance; does anybody know of just such a prodigy? I need two girls to play the younger daughters and girls and boys to play the children of the village - a separate audition will be organised for them.

All other parts will be cast from the Company.