

St David's Players - 'The Grand Duke' - October 2019

Chorus Auditions

Introduction

The committee has discussed the question of membership and auditions and has decided to implement some adjustments this year in order to make the arrangements for these and for the payment of subscriptions more streamlined.

In summary, these changes are -

- An initial membership fee of £20 is payable to join the company (rather than the previous practice of a single full payment at the outset)
- Everyone who would like to go on stage will be auditioned each year (rather than the previous practice of auditions for new members and then every three years subsequently)
- If invited to be on stage as a member of the chorus or a principal, an additional performers' fee will be charged (£40 or £20 for students and unwaged members) which covers such things as rehearsal venue hire and insurance. No additional weekly fees will be charged and payment can be made in instalments if that would be helpful.

These annual auditions will ensure that numbers are appropriate and that all can manage the requirements of performance.

The auditions will be very brief, simple, gentle and encouraging, so please do not be anxious in advance or nervous in the room - we need and want lots of you to be involved.

Members wishing to audition for principal parts will not be asked to do the chorus audition in addition to their principal audition on 26th May and the decision at that point will be about the invitation to go on stage as well as the allocation of principal parts.

Arrangements for this year's chorus auditions

- They will take place at the end of a slightly shortened normal rehearsal time (c9:15) in the rehearsal room commencing Tuesday 7th May.
- It is hoped that they can all be completed as quickly as possible (across 3 sessions if we can) and members will be asked to sign up for their preferred date.
- People will be asked to audition individually and other company members will not be in the room at the same time.
- The audition will be heard by the Director and the MD (or their Deputy) and another officer of the company.
- Everyone will be asked to do the same thing and the audition will have three elements
 - i. Sing the final section of 'The Grand Duke' musical Number 2 (often called 'The sausage roll song ') - page 13, bottom stave 'By the mystic regulation.....' to the end of the song, which starts in unison and then moves into harmony at letter U.
This will be clearly taught at the first rehearsal and revised on 7th, and you can also hear it on the You-tube recording and the G&S practice archive
 - ii. Perform a few demonstrated steps to part of that music (with or without singing at the same time)
 - iii. Demonstrate facially and through posture three emotions which will be given
- Since part of the process is to make sure that numbers are appropriate, decisions are unlikely to be communicated immediately, but we shall let you know as quickly as possible.