

## Principal Auditions for St David's Players' production of 'The Grand Duke' - 2019

- The auditions will be held on Sunday 26th May 2019 in Kalendar Hall on South Street
- There will be a form for members to complete in advance if they wish to be considered for a principal part. This will give the panel clear information with which to work.
- The session on Sunday 26th May will commence at 2:00 but once we know how many people would like to audition, a rough timetable will be drawn up to give people an idea of the approximate time at which they will be required.
- The sections (music and dialogue) required for the auditions will be notified in advance. Any who wish to be considered for multiple parts should be prepared to 'perform' all elements (although actual requests will depend a little on time constraints if large numbers of people wish to audition)
- An information sheet giving details about the various parts (vocal range, extent and style of appearances, character etc) will be available at the first rehearsal and on the website.
- Anyone wishing to audition for a principal part must be a paid up member of the company in advance of their audition.
- The decisions about the allocation of parts will be made by a panel which includes - as a minimum - The Director, Musical Director and either the Chairman or President of the Society. It might also be appropriate to include an independent 'advisor' (possibly a life member of the company)
- A pianist will be employed for the session to enable the Musical Director to focus on those auditioning.
- When people are contacted with the final decisions about casting, they should be asked not to share that information until the full list is published so that all are able to hear their own outcome direct from a member of the panel.

*In order to be absolutely fair to all those who audition and to make the job of the panel simpler and their decisions most clearly informed, it is best if all of the auditions take place at the same session for a number of reasons -*

- It is harder to make comparisons across different occasions
- If people do not audition together, it is not possible to hear exactly how their voices sound together - for instance if they have a duet (as for example in this case for Lisa and Ludwig and the Duke and the Baroness)
- The interplay between characters - particularly in dialogue sections - is not seen; there are some parts of the casting where people need to be 'right' against each other
- The short sections to show movement will be taught on 26th (although this could be done for an individual)

*However, there might be people for whom 26th May is a genuine impossibility and it would be a shame to rule out a potentially excellent auditionee by refusing to allow another date.*

*If an alternative is required, the following are suggested guidelines -*

- An alternative date can only be allowed in cases where it is absolutely impossible for a person to attend on 26th May (thus not merely because another date would be more convenient or a subsequent booking has been made)
- 26th May is the last occasion for principal auditions - we need to make final decisions on that day when we have seen the majority - if not all - people (obviously the exception would be if there were a part which we had not been able to cast by that date and we needed to seek further performers)
- The panel and the required elements of the audition must be the same for everyone who applies.
- Given the previous point, it is not reasonable or practical to have multiple alternative dates.
- Where dialogue or singing together is required, it is not appropriate to ask a member of the company who is themselves auditioning at a different time to undertake this (that would give the appearance of a pre-judgement about casting).

- Those who audition early need to be aware that discussions about all auditionees will take place at the end of the session on 26th May and that decisions will be made and announced subsequently.

*SGJ 27th April 2019*