

Devonport Choral Society Inc
YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN
Audition Kit

Thank you for your interest in the Devonport Choral Society 2018 production of *Young Frankenstein*. Auditions will be held from 1 – 3 December at the Forth Primary School. All auditionees are encouraged to try out for any role that they are interested in. All roles are open.

Young Frankenstein is a zany, good-natured, energetic musical comedy based on Mel Brook's 1974 cultic movie of the same name. It speaks of expectation from the cast and orchestra, and the audience. The score and vocals are challenging with a diverse range of styles and genres, the characters are plenty and quirky, and solid characterisation skills are a must. There are several dance numbers culminating in a big show-stopping *Puttin' on the Ritz* song and dance routine. We will be looking to introduce tap-dancing for this routine giving the Ensemble the challenge of developing a new skill.

The musical closely follows the movie ~ the villagers of Transylvania are happy because the curse of the valley, Dr. Victor Frankenstein – maker of monsters – is dead. Alas, happiness is short lived as news spreads that his eccentric neurosurgeon grandson, Dr. Fredrick 'Fronkensteen' is alive, and coming to the village to clear up the Frankenstein Estate which is being looked after by the hunchback assistant Igor, and the eccentric house keeper, Frau 'Whinny' Blücher. Fredrick meets a new assistant along the way to the castle, the alluring Inga, and together with the others, Fredrick is tempted back into the 'family business' to create a new Monster. In the meantime, Fredrick's fiancée, the gorgeous and quirky Elizabeth Benning, decides to unexpectedly arrive on the scene with her entourage to surprise Freddy ~ and surprised they all are! There is a resident Hermit yearning for company, and out of the blue in strolls Fredrick's newly escaped Monster who is being hunted by the mob led by the equally quirky Inspector Kemp. In the meantime, the Monster falls in love with Elizabeth, saves Fredrick from the gallows, who in turn proposes to Inga, as we see Frau Blucher running off after the Hermit, and Igor following his hump across his back. The village can rejoice again for Fredrick and his Monster are happy in their wedded bliss!

AUDITIONS

All auditionees need to book an individual audition time during the weekend of 1 – 3 December.

All auditionees are encouraged to try out for any role that they are interested in. All roles are open. Casting will be based entirely on people seen at these auditions.

The audition panel will include the Director (Sid Sidebottom), Vocal Director (Bronwyn Darvell), Music Director (Dominique Baker) and Choreographer (Elizabeth Viney).

Auditions will be held at the Forth Primary School Performing Arts Centre, Wilmot Road, Forth.

Auditions will be held at 15 minute intervals at the following times:

- Friday 1 December 5 – 9pm
- Saturday 2 December 10am – 5pm and 6 – 9pm
- Sunday 3 December 10am – 12noon

To book your audition call Maree on 0408 079 805 (after hours).

Please ensure you are prepared for your audition:

- Warm up your voice for 15 minutes prior to your audition
- Bring water to drink (especially if you are nervous!)

WHAT TO EXPECT AT YOUR AUDITION

Acting

- You will be asked to read a short passage of dialogue. Panel members will focus on diction, accent, expression and flexibility of vocal tone.

You may be asked to read the dialogue again, incorporating changes suggested by the Director.

Singing Auditions

You need to prepare 2 songs for your audition.

1. An excerpt of a song of your choosing in the style of *Young Frankenstein*.
 - You must provide your own accompaniment for this song.
There will be a CD player, speaker system and keyboard available.
 - Keep the excerpt length approx. 1-2 minutes in length.
 - Ensure your song has the same vocal range as the character you are auditioning for.
 - You are welcome, and encouraged, to invite your own accompanist to play for this part of the audition.
2. The recommended *Young Frankenstein* singing excerpt(s) of the character you are auditioning for (including ensemble). Please see Character List for vocal selections.
 - Either the Musical or Vocal Director will accompany the YF piece(s) on the keyboard.
 - If characters have multiple pieces listed, please prepare them all. We may or may not need to hear every excerpt, but please be prepared.

Movement

- Wear clothes and footwear that you can move easily in. Please tell the panel if you have a dance specialty.

Do not be afraid to seek clarification on any instruction that you do not understand.

Please read this information carefully!

- **Auditions are a chance for you to demonstrate your skills, energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to be in this production. Give it your very best shot by preparing and showing you care about your audition.**
- **The Audition panel want you to succeed in your endeavours, so help them by giving your all. The panel will choose the cast that they believe will exhibit the balance and character required to enhance the challenges and highlights of YF. If you are unsure of anything, please ask for clarification. The Panel are there to help.**
- Audition times are by appointment only. If you know someone else who is interested in auditioning then please have them make an appointment.
- Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your scheduled audition time to allow for check in and warm up.
- Bring with you, your completed audition form and any appropriate attachments.
- Auditions may include singing, reading, acting and/or movement.
- Parents and friends will not be admitted into the audition room. A waiting area is available.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances delays can occur, especially later in the afternoon. Please be patient.
- Persons considered suitable for any role may be called back for a second audition.
- All persons who audition for *Young Frankenstein* will receive written confirmation via email, outlining the outcome of their audition.
- Rehearsals will be held on Sundays (12noon - 5:00pm), Tuesdays and Fridays. (7:30pm - 9:30pm) from Sunday 21 January. From April, there may also be rehearsals on Saturday afternoons with the band. If you have difficulties with any of these rehearsal times, please make a note of these on your registration form.
- Rehearsal schedules will be given out at regular intervals and will be available on the DCS website – www.devonportchoral.org and through a closed group on Facebook.
- Regular rehearsals will be held at the Uniting Church hall, Steele Street, Devonport.
- All cast members will be required to contribute a minimum of eight hours towards backstage/offstage work on the production. This may include (but is not limited to) assistance with sets or costumes or seeking sponsorship.
- All cast members will be required to become financial members of the Devonport Choral Society. Adult membership \$20.00, concession \$15 or family membership \$40.
- All cast members must be available for every performance: 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26 May 2018. All performances to be held at the Devonport Entertainment and Convention Centre.

MUSICAL NUMBERS AND SCENES

Act I

1. A village in Transylvania

"The Happiest Town" – Kemp and Villagers

2. A Medical School Classroom in NY

"The Brain" – Frederick and Students

3. The Hudson River Pier

"Please Don't Touch Me" – Elizabeth and Voyagers

4. Train Station in Transylvania Heights

"Together Again for The First Time" – Frederick and Igor

5. On the way to the Castle

"Roll in the Hay" – Inga, Frederick, and Igor

6. Outside Castle Frankenstein

7. Inside the Grand Hall

"Join the Family Business" – Victor, Frederick, and Ancestors

8. The Old Laboratory

"He Was My Boyfriend" – Frau Blücher

9. The Town Hall

"The Law" – Kemp and Villagers

10. In the Street and into The Restored Laboratory

"Life, Life" – Frederick, Igor, Inga, and Blücher

11. The Castle Courtyard

"Welcome to Transylvania" – Transylvania Quartet

"Transylvania Mania" – Igor, Frederick, Inga, Kemp and Villagers

Act II

1. Out and about Monster Hunting

"He's Loose" – Kemp and Villagers

2. The Laboratory

"Listen to Your Heart" – Inga

"Surprise" – Elizabeth, Igor, Blücher, and Entourage

3. The Blind Hermit's Cottage.

"Please Send Me Someone" – The Hermit

4. The Dungeon

"Man, About Town" – Frederick

5. The Village Theatre

"Puttin' On the Ritz" – Frederick, The Monster, Inga, Igor, and Ensemble

"He's Loose" ~ Reprise

6. Out and About Somewhere

"Deep Love" – Elizabeth

7. The Laboratory ~ Later the same night

8. The Village Square ~ "Deep Love Reprise" & "Finale Ultimo" - Company

CHARACTER LIST

The following are indicators, rather than being totally prescriptive: we are requiring energised characters looking for a challenge. YF is a fantastic ensemble show requiring very good teamwork from a relatively small cast of some 20-22 players. Clearly, an ability to sing, characterise, and dance are crucial. It is the production team's role to choose a cast that covers all character bases, and to enhance each player's contribution to the show. Each show is both a personal and collective journey and chosen players are expected to further their skills both at rehearsals and outside the set schedule.

Dr Frederick Frankenstein (Lead / Male)

Vocal range: Tenor (Bb2 – G4)

Age Range: 25 - 45 years old

The eccentric grandson of the infamous mad scientist and relative Dr Victor Frankenstein.

He is the Dean of Anatomy at New York's best university.

A challenging, show-centred role requiring very confident acting, characterisation, singing, and some dancing skills. A fine sense of comic timing is a must!

Vocal audition selections:

- "The Brain" – Bars 34-70
- "Puttin' on the Ritz" – Bars 5-36
- "Man, About Town" – Bars 38-54A

The Monster (Lead / Male)

Vocal range: Baritone (D3 – Bb4)

Age Range: 30-40+ years old

The large, misunderstood creation of Frederick. A hopeless romantic. The monster requires an actor of imposing stature, with a large physical presence on stage. Tap dancing skills are a bonus for this terrific role requiring good comic timing.

Vocal audition selections:

- "Puttin' on the Ritz" – Bars 107-114
- "Puttin' on the Ritz" – Bars 5-19 (Singing both "Frederick" and "Monster" parts)

Igor (Lead / Male)

Vocal range: Tenor (C3 – G4)

Age Range: 25-45 years old

Frederick's faithful, bright-eyed, eager servant. Igor requires an actor who can play 'small of stature', as the role is that of a hunchback. This is a challenging and show-centred role requiring confident acting, singing, and movement skills.

Vocal audition selection:

- "Together Again for the First Time" – Bars 1-25

Inga (Lead / Female)

Vocal range: Soprano (G#3 – A5)

Age Range: 20-30 years old

The not-so-bright assistant to Frederick. Young and sexy. Needs to be capable of yodelling. Comic European Accent. A fab female role requiring very confident acting and singing skills, with a nice sense of comic timing.

Vocal audition selections:

- “Roll in the Hay” – Bars 5-35
- “Roll in the Hay” – Bars 132-147

Elizabeth Benning (Lead / Female)

Vocal range: Mezzo/Soprano (F#3 – F5)

Age Range: 25 -40 years old

Self-loving, naive, boisterous fiancée of Frederick. New York socialite. Another excellent female role requiring very confident singing and characterization skills. Elizabeth is indeed eccentric ~ even more so than the other characters!

Vocal audition selection:

- “Please Don’t Touch Me” – Bars 15-39

Frau Blucher (Lead / Female)

Vocal range: Mezzo/Alto (E3 – B4)

Age Range: 30 -60 years old

The proud housekeeper of the Frankenstein estate. Intense and stern. Comic European accent. A very challenging role requiring good comedic skills, and gets to sing a signature song of the show ~ *He Vas My Boyfriend*.

Vocal audition selection:

- “He Vas My Boyfriend” – Bars 28-61

Inspector Hans Kemp (Featured Role / Male)

Vocal range: Baritone (A2 – F4)

Age Range: 40-50+ years old

The Justice-driven, protective, steadfast town inspector. Comic European accent. Odd movement due to a false arm and false leg. A beaut male role which helps anchor much of the ensemble scenes and numbers. A good sense of comedy and confident stage presence required. Often, doubles up as the Hermit.

Vocal audition selections:

- “Welcome to Transylvania” – Bars 14-31
- “He’s Loose” – Bars 15-24

The Hermit (Featured Role / Male) also often played by the same player of Kemp.

Vocal range: Baritone (A2 – Db4)

Age Range: 35-55 years old

The lonely, poor, blind town hermit. Gets to sing one of the show's most moving songs.

Vocal audition selection:

- "Please Send Me Someone" – Bars 7-47

Dr. Victor Von Frankenstein (Featured Role / Male)

Vocal range: Baritone (B2 – F4)

Age Range: 30-65 years old

Frederick's infamous grandfather and creator of the original monster. A proud and stubborn man. Will get to lead a major Ensemble routine ~ *Join the family Business* ~ and will be part of the show ensemble. Confident stage presence, good acting and singing, and movement skills.

Vocal audition selection:

- "Join the Family Business" – Bars 1-36

Ziggy (Male)

Vocal range: D3 – Eb4

Age Range: 18 to 30+ years old

Well-intentioned village idiot. A good comic role and central part of the Ensemble.

Vocal audition selection:

- "The Happiest Town in Town" – Bars 158-173 (Singing both "Women" and "Ziggy" parts)
- "The Happiest Town in Town" – Bars 17-63

Ensemble and minor roles

10 -12 males and females are required to play several different roles, characterise, sing parts, and dance. The YF Ensemble is very busy throughout the show and energetically infused into numerous scenes culminating in a show-stopping, show time song and dance routine ~ *Puttin' on the Ritz*.

Vocal audition selection:

- "The Happiest Town in Town" – Bars 17-63