



Devonport Choral Society Inc
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AUDITION KIT

Thank you for your interest in the Devonport Choral Society 2026 youth production of *Oliver! Jr.*

Auditions will be held 17 – 19 April at Miandetta Primary School. All auditionees are encouraged to try out for any role that they are interested in. A list of characters are available later in this document.

Our production of *Oliver! Jr.* invites young performers into the vibrant, fast-paced world of Charles Dickens' classic tale, reimagined for the stage with big musical numbers and unforgettable characters. The story follows Oliver, a brave orphan who escapes a harsh workhouse and finds himself swept into the lively streets of Victorian London, where he meets a colourful cast - from the mischievous Artful Dodger to the larger-than-life Fagin and his band of pickpockets.

It's a show filled with humour, heart, and adventure, giving actors the chance to explore rich storytelling, expressive songs, and dynamic ensemble work. For auditionees, it's an opportunity to step into a timeless story, build confidence, and be part of a production full of energy and imagination.

This 60-minutes version has been adapted from the full-length musical by Lionel Bart who wrote the book, music and lyrics, and has been tailored for young performers.

The Devonport Choral Society is excited to support some up-and-coming creatives who will be part of our Production Team. These emerging artists will be working alongside our experienced team members to help bring *Oliver! JR.* to life.

PRODUCTION TEAM:

- Director – Lola Storan
- Vocal Director – Isabella Tilt
- Choreographer – Gabi Sallese
- Directing Mentor – Maree Brodzinski
- Vocal Mentors – Carolyn Harris & Elizabeth Sly
- Choreography Mentor – Dana Sallese
- Producer – Felicity Sly
- Stage Manager – Jane Inglis-Smith
- Set Design – Jenny Slater
- Sound & Lighting – Christian Storan & Michael Westcott

PERFORMANCES:

- Venue – Town Hall Theatre, paranapple arts centre
- Number of performances – 6
- Performance dates - August 21, 22, 28, 29 at 7.30pm + August 23, 29 at 1pm.
- If show sells well, we may also have Thursday 27th as an additional performance date.

REHEARSALS:

- Rehearsal venue – Miandetta Primary School
- Beginning Saturday 2 May
- Saturday afternoons 2 - 5pm
- Tuesday & Friday evenings 6 - 8pm

AUDITIONS:

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 (Lola Storan), Vocal Director (Isabella Tilt), Choreographer (Gabi Sallese), and one of the DCS Production Team mentors.

Auditions will be held at Miandetta Primary School, 86 Berrigan Road, Devonport.

Auditions will be held at 20-minute intervals on:

- Friday 17 April, 6.30 – 8.30pm
- Saturday 18 April, 9am – 12noon & 1 – 4pm
- Sunday 19 April, 9am – 12noon & 1 – 4pm

To book your audition call Maree (0408 079 805) or send an email to dev_choral@hotmail.com.

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:

- Before you come to your audition, take a look at the roles available and check out the audition materials available for the characters you are interested in.
- If there is no song listed for the character you would like to audition for, choose a song from one of the other characters that is best suited to your voice.
- [You can find audition materials here.](#)

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

- During your audition, panel members will be focusing on the following abilities:
 - Vocal range & pitch
 - Vocal strength
 - Ability to hold basic harmony parts
 - Connection with the lyrics
 - Expression
- You may be stopped during your audition. This does not necessarily mean that you have not got the part; it could just mean that the panel has seen enough to base their decision on.
- You might have to do some short exercises to determine your range, ability to hold a part or change your vocal quality.
- [You can find audition materials here.](#)

Movement

- Wear clothes and footwear that you can move easily in.
- You will be shown a short dance sequence to show the panel your movement style and how well you pick up choreography.
- 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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 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 *Oliver! Jr.* 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 at least 10 -15 mins earlier in order to fulfil the administrative requirements for the audition, and to adequately warm up for the audition.
- Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear that is comfortable to dance in.

- Complete the Audition Form and indicate which role/s you would like to be considered for. Feel free to discuss any questions about the show with the various Directors.
- You will be required to bring an up-to-date photograph to be presented with your audition form.
- It is vital that your voice and body are warmed up well before your audition.
- Auditions are private and last around 10 - 15 minutes.
- You'll be auditioning just for the Audition Panel. They'll ask you to sing the songs you've prepared, learn and perform a short piece of choreography, and act out a few character moments. For the acting part, you might read a small section of dialogue from the show or pretend to be a character during part of a song.
- If anything is confusing or you're not sure what to do, you can always ask for help or clarification.
- Parents and friends will not be admitted into the audition room. A waiting area is available.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances delays can occur. Please be patient.
- All auditionees will be informed of the Panel's decisions ASAP either via email and/or by phone.
- If you get a role, you'll need to officially accept it and follow the values of the Devonport Choral Society, as well as the expectations and schedule set by the Production Team. If you have any special needs, know about any dates you'll have to miss, or think you might need time off, please let the team know as early as you can.
- Rehearsal schedules will be given out at regular intervals and will be available via email.
- All cast members must be available for every performance.

CHARACTERS

All roles are available, and casting is open. All auditionees will be considered for all roles to achieve the best overall fit for the cast.

Mr. Bumble

Mr. Bumble runs the workhouse where Oliver finds himself in the beginning of the show. He is cold, cruel, and he doesn't care one bit about the boys in his workhouse. This character requires a good actor and decent singer who reads as older onstage and makes a good team with Widow Corney.

Widow Corney

Widow Corney runs the workhouse along with Mr. Bumble. She is cold and calculating, like Mr. Bumble, and only cares that the work gets done and puts money in her pocket. This character requires a good actor and singer who works well with Mr. Bumble.

Oliver Twist

Oliver Twist is the 11-year-old orphan around which the whole plot of the show revolves. Oliver is intelligent and kind, but he is not afraid to stand up for himself when the situation calls for it. He longs for a family and escapes to London to try to make his fortune – though he has no idea what adventures await him there! Ideally, Oliver should read as younger onstage, but a great singer with a strong stage presence is more important than a physically smaller actor.

Mr. Sowerberry

Mr. Sowerberry is the undertaker who purchases Oliver from Mr. Bumble. He is a callous man who does not treat Oliver much better than Mr. Bumble. He does not sing a solo but should be an actor that pairs well with Mrs. Sowerberry.

Mrs. Sowerberry

Mrs. Sowerberry gives Oliver scraps left for the dog to eat. She, like her husband, does not care at all for Oliver's well-being and only wants him to work. This actor should pair well with Mr. Sowerberry.

Charlotte

Charlotte works for the Sowerberrys. She is kinder to Oliver than the others in the Sowerberry home, but not by much. Charlotte has a few lines and is not required to sing any solos.

Noah Claypole

Noah Claypole works for the Sowerberrys. He is a mean, nasty person who insults Oliver's mother on purpose to upset him. Noah should read as older onstage than Oliver and have good stage presence. He does not have to sing any solos.

Artful Dodger

The Artful Dodger, a.k.a. Jack Dawkins, is one of the most famous characters in literature. He is charming, upbeat, and charismatic. Though Dodger works for Fagin as a

thief, he is the first person to show Oliver real kindness and gives him a place to belong. This character should be a great singer and actor who exudes charm and commands the stage.

Fagin

Fagin recruits, trains, and manages a gang of child-thieves. Though he claims he cares for each of his children, providing them food and shelter and characteristically calling them “my dear,” he’s really only concerned with the money these young thieves bring in. The persons playing Fagin should be a charismatic actor with a robust voice who can portray Fagin’s nuanced charm.

Charlie Bates

Charlie Bates is one of Fagin’s child-thieves. He is a great admirer of the Artful Dodger and an accomplished pocket-picker. We need a good actor and singer in this fun role.

Nipper

Nipper is the smallest member of Fagin’s gang. He has a small solo. An actor of a smaller stature who can sing in this role is needed.

Captain and Handwalker

The Captain and Handwalker are children in Fagin’s gang. They each have small solos.

Nancy

Nancy is an adventurous young lady with a heart of gold who has fallen in with the wrong crowd. She is vivacious and kind, the life of the party, and she immediately takes Oliver under her wing. Unfortunately, she is involved with Bill Sikes, who is a troublesome person. A fantastic actress and great singer is needed in this dynamic role.

Bet

Bet is a friend of Nancy’s who shares her spirited nature and sense of adventure. Like Nancy, Bet has a kind heart but has fallen upon hard times. This actor should be a reliable singer and dancer who pairs well with Nancy.

Mr. Brownlow

Mr. Brownlow is a sweet man who takes Oliver in, even after Oliver has picked his pocket. Oliver is familiar to Mr. Brownlow immediately, even though he has no idea that Oliver is his grandchild. Mr. Brownlow doesn’t have any solos. This role is perfect for a strong, caring actor.

Bill Sikes

Bill Sikes is a quintessential villain. He is mean, selfish, and ruthless, and he always looks out for number one. He bullies everyone around him, especially Nancy, and is paranoid, always afraid that people will betray him. This role is for a terrific actor and consistent singer who can lean into this character’s menacing presence.

Chairman

The Chairman is a small, featured role in the Three Cripples Public House. His few lines are crucial to the storytelling. This role needs an actor who has solid diction and can project.

Mrs. Bedwin

Mrs. Bedwin is Mr. Brownlow's kind-hearted housekeeper. This is a lovely featured role for a singer and actor who reads as older onstage.

Milkmaid, Strawberry Seller, Knife Grinder and Rose Seller

The Milkmaid, Strawberry Seller, Knife Grinder and Rose Seller are featured roles that fill out the world of Oliver! JR. They all have solos, so good singers are required in these roles. These roles are great for younger performers who may not be ready to take on a larger part.

Dr. Grimwig

Dr. Grimwig is a featured acting role. He is extremely intelligent but a bit pessimistic, especially compared to Mr. Brownlow. This role is for a character actor who will enjoy playing an older character onstage in this non-singing role.

Old Sally and Matron

Old Sally and Matron confirm that Oliver is Agnes's son, and therefore Mr. Brownlow's grandson. These featured roles do not have solos, so they are perfect for actors who can deliver their important lines clearly.

Ensemble

The large ensemble helps bring the world of Oliver! JR. to life. Ensemble members may be cast in multiple roles throughout the show.

These roles can include:

- Workhouse Children
- Workhouse Governors
- Servants
- Maid
- Delivery Person
- Pauper Assistants
- People in the City (including Passing Man)
- Fagin's Gang
- Policeman
- Customers at the Three Cripples Public House
- Street Sellers
- Market Sellers
- Crowd Members in the Town Square - including First Woman, Second Woman, Third Woman, First Man
- People and Police at London Bridge - including Lamplighter, First Runner, Police 1, Police 2

MUSICAL NUMBERS:

*Food, Glorious Food– Workhouse Boys
*Oliver! – Mr. Bumble, Widow Corney and Workhouse Boys
Boy for Sale – Mr. Bumble
Where is Love? – Oliver
*Consider Yourself – The Artful Dodger, Oliver, and Chorus
*You’ve Got to Pick a Pocket or Two – Fagin and Fagin's Gang
*It's a Fine Life – Nancy, Bet, and Fagin's Gang
*I'd Do Anything– The Artful Dodger, Nancy, Oliver, Bet, Fagin, and Fagin's Gang
*Be Back Soon – Fagin, The Artful Dodger, Oliver and Fagin's Gang
*Oom-Pah-Pah – Nancy and Chorus
My Name – Bill Sikes
As Long as He Needs Me – Nancy
Where Is Love? (Reprise) – Mrs. Bedwin
*Who Will Buy? – Oliver, Vendors, and Chorus
It's a Fine Life (Reprise) – Bill Sikes, Nancy, Fagin, and The Artful Dodger
*Reviewing the Situation – Fagin
Oliver! (Reprise) – Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney
As Long As He Needs Me (Reprise) – Nancy
London Bridge - Fagin
Bows – Full Cast

A song with an asterisk (*) before the title indicates a dance number.

EXPECTATIONS FOR CAST MEMBERS

Being part of Oliver! Jr. is a shared commitment - not just for each cast member, but for the families and supporters who help make their involvement possible. Taking on a role in this production means embracing the expectations that create a safe, respectful, and productive rehearsal environment, and it also means that parents, guardians, and support networks play an essential part in upholding these standards. By working together, we ensure that every young performer can thrive, contribute positively to the ensemble, and enjoy the full experience of bringing this story to life.

Respect everyone involved - fellow cast, crew, volunteers, and production staff should always be treated with kindness, inclusivity, and professionalism.

Attend rehearsals reliably - arrive on time, be prepared, and communicate early if you're unwell or unable to attend.

Commit to learning - practice lines, music, and choreography outside of rehearsals so the whole cast can progress together.

Follow safety and behaviour guidelines - listen to instructions, use spaces and equipment responsibly, and uphold all child-safe expectations.

Maintain a positive attitude - support your castmates, stay focused during rehearsals, and contribute to a fun, encouraging creative environment.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM DCS

Just as we ask our cast and families to commit to a positive rehearsal environment, the Devonport Choral Society is equally committed to supporting every young performer throughout the production process.

During rehearsals, you can expect:

A safe and welcoming environment - rehearsals will be run with child-safe practices, clear boundaries, and respect for every participant.

Supportive and encouraging leadership - our Production Team will guide cast members with patience, positivity, and professionalism.

Clear communication - schedules, expectations, and updates will be shared in a timely manner so families can plan ahead and feel confident about what's coming next.

Well-structured rehearsals - time will be used effectively, with a balance of learning, practicing, and creative exploration.

Opportunities for growth - cast members will be encouraged to develop their skills in singing, acting, movement, and teamwork, no matter their level of experience.

Respect for wellbeing - we understand that young performers have school, family, and other commitments, and we aim to support a healthy balance wherever possible.

Devonport Choral Society places the wellbeing of young people at the heart of everything it does, creating an environment where children can explore the performing arts with confidence and support. The organisation follows clear child-safe policies, ensures all volunteers and production staff meet required screening standards, and promotes a culture where respect, inclusion, and open communication are the norm. Young performers are encouraged to speak up, ask questions, and feel empowered throughout their involvement. This commitment isn't just about meeting obligations - it reflects the Society's belief that every child deserves a creative space that is nurturing, secure, and genuinely protective of their growth and potential.

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