



## **AUDITION INFORMATION**

(Updated: 1 March 2020)

# AUDITION INFORMATION

Tauranga Musical Theatre is very excited to be staging Les Misérables 25 years after first staging it. This much loved musical is listed as one of the greatest musicals of modern time. Seen by a live global theatre audience of more than 75 Million people since 1985, and now the longest running musical of all time, this epic masterpiece is coming back to Tauranga!

## **Performance season**

September 2020 – Addison Theatre, Baycourt, Tauranga

## **Production team**

Director	Toni Henderson
Musical Directors	Elisabeth Hanna and Elise Rohde
Choreographer	Paige Henderson
Production Managers	Rochelle Sant Jeremy Sparrow

## **About Les Misérables**

Based on the epic French novel of revolution and turmoil published in 1862 by Victor Hugo, it was first staged as a musical with French lyrics in 1980. The English language adaption opened in London on 8 October 1985, and although originally damned by the critics (who got it very wrong!) was an immediate public success. It has been playing to sold out audiences in London for 34 years now and has been staged around the globe in 22 languages, produced in 44 countries. This massive musical, or pop opera, is sung through (no spoken dialogue), and offers some of the greatest songs and characters of the modern musical stage.

## **Information evening**

We will be holding an information evening in the X-Space at Baycourt at 7:00pm on 2 March 2020.

## **Audition dates**

Audition bookings will be online and will be opened on the information evening. Sheet music will be supplied upon booking, along with any backing tracks. The online audition booking links are as follows:

<https://go.oncehub.com/LesMiserablesTMTAuditionsAdults>  
<https://go.oncehub.com/LesMiserablesTMTAuditionsBoys>  
<https://go.oncehub.com/LesMiserablesTMTAuditionsGirls>

### Adult auditions

Adult auditions (16 years and older) will be held at Westside Theatre between Saturday 25 April 2020 to Monday 27 April 2020 (public holiday). Please enter through the green room door. There will be an hour-long movement call for all adults auditioning on Monday 27 April 2020 at 5:00pm – 6:00pm at KJ Studios, 8/47 Waihi Road, Judea, Tauranga.

### Children's auditions

Children's auditions will be held in groups and are on Monday 27 April 2020 between 9:00am and 11:00am at Westside Theatre. Please enter through the green room door.

### Preparation for auditions

Please carefully read the instructions in the character notes below that give clear instructions as to what music you are expected to prepare. On the day, please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your audition time, already warmed up.

Please bring sheet music for your own selection song (no chord charts), or a backing track if you prefer (without vocals). We will provide a pianist and backing track playback facilities for smart devices.

If you are auditioning for one of the Principal roles listed below, please:

- prepare a short (approximately two minutes or less) musical theatre song of your own choosing that showcases your voice, in the style of the featured role for which you are auditioning;
- learn the song excerpt from the show that features your chosen character listed in the audition notes below and be prepared to sing that excerpt and/or song, if requested to do so by the panel. A pianist will play for songs or excerpts if the panel requests any material be sung from Les Misérables;
- if you are wishing to be considered for more than one role please be familiar with the audition pieces for all but choose the one that will best show off your voice as your primary audition. Due to time restraints we may not be able to hear all pieces during the first round.

If you are auditioning for one of the Ensemble, please:

- prepare a short (approximately two minutes or less) musical theatre song of your own choosing that showcases your voice, in the style of Les Misérables, but not from the show itself.

Do not be offended if you do not get to sing all your prepared vocals. It does not mean you are not being considered.

You will be auditioning before a panel consisting of the director, musical directors, choreographer, and a committee representative from Tauranga Musical Theatre.

### Call backs

Please be prepared for the possibility of a call back. Timing will be dictated by the total number of those auditioning, but will likely be the evenings of Monday 27 April 2020 and/or Tuesday 28 April 2020. Getting a call back does not guarantee a role. Likewise, you may be cast even if you are not called back. Please ensure that you have entered a contact telephone number on your audition application form where we can easily reach you during the audition dates.

## Les Misérables Character Details

Role	Stage age	Vocal range	Description	Audition material
JEAN VALJEAN	Early 40s, aging to early 60s by the end of the show	High lyric baritone or tenor with strong low notes, A to B.	Valjean is an ex-convict who leaves behind a life of hatred and deceit and makes his fortune after adopting a pseudonym to evade the police. Making the emotional journey for an angry man he finds fulfilment in loving his adopted daughter, Cosette, and helping others, with newfound idealism and compassion. His whole life is a quest for redemption, and he ultimately finds bliss on his deathbed. Must believably be seen as a man with great physical strength and presence. The key to his character is his great humanity and compassion. Very Strong dramatic Singer/Actor with vocal stamina	<p>A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).</p> <p>“Bring Him Home” Bar 95 to the end (“Bring him peace, Bring him Joy...”)</p> <p>AND “Who Am I?” Bar 112 to the End (“Who am I? Can I condemn this man to slavery, .....” to End).</p> <p>Recall, if requested: the two complete Les Misérables songs listed above.</p>
JAVERT	40s, ages to 60s	Baritone with a vocal tone darker than that of Jean Valjean	JAVERT is the inspector who serves as antagonist to Jean Valjean. Javert is unswerving in his belief that men cannot change for the good. "Once a thief, always a thief" is his mantra. At first glance Javert might appear to be the villain of the story, but on closer examination it is clear that he is not an evil man. He is aware that in society some people achieve control through evil and others through power of the law. He is a dedicated policeman, with a profound sense of duty. Unlike Valjean he cannot change. His attitudes are rigid and unmovable. He is stern, forbidding and lacking in compassion. Javert should be an actor who can convincingly stand up to Jean Valjean. Strong Singer/Actor.	<p>A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).</p> <p>“Stars” Bar 19 to Bar 40 (“Stars in your multitudes” to “..pay the price”).</p> <p>Recall, if requested: the complete Les Misérables song listed above.</p>

FANTINE	Early to mid 20s	Mezzo belt, Gb to Eb.	A working-class girl whose innocent affair with a dapper student leaves her pregnant and abandoned. She is rejected by society and forced through circumstances to become a prostitute. She is a brave woman defeated by life, sustained by her love for her daughter and clinging to her dignity. Sick with consumption, we witness her descent through poverty, hunger, cold, loneliness and destitution to death. She is a noble character, whose life becomes a series of terrible events that rob her of her pride, character, and ultimately her life. Strong Singer/Actor that the audience can emotionally connect with. This actor may be asked to cut her hair	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "I Dreamed a Dream" Bar 33 to 50 "But the tigers come at night"..."when autumn came".  Recall, if requested: the complete Les Misérables song listed above.
MARIUS PONTMERCY	Early 20s	Tenor, Middle C to High Ab	The son of a colonel in Napoléon's army. An innocent young man, Marius is nonetheless capable of great things and manages both to fight on the barricades and successfully court the love of his life, Cosette. In Act 1 Marius plays Romeo to Cosette's Juliet. Marius matures after the Cafe Song as a result of his experiences on the barricade. Marius should have a lovely, lyrical voice with a contemporary edge. Strong Singer/Actor. Romantic lead with Bryonic qualities.	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "Empty Chairs & Empty Tables" Bar 20 to End ("From the table in the corner".... to end).  Recall, if requested: "Heart full of Love" sung with Cosette (entire song)
COSETTE	Stage Age 18	Soprano, Bb to High C. A light, young classically lyric sound, without heavy vibrato.	Fantine's daughter. She is strong willed, loving, intelligent, inquiring and personable girl. She is not in any sense a "soppy" romantic heroine. Once adopted by Jean Valjean, Cosette lives a comfortable, if secluded life. She is challenging to Valjean, behaving always with imagination and dignity. She falls instantly in love with Marius, changing her world and her priorities.	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "A heart full of love" Bar 67 to 89. ("A heart full to love" to "Not a dream after all").  Recall, if requested: "Heart full of Love" sung with Marius (entire song)

EPONINE	Stage Age 18	Mezzo belt, F to High F. A powerful and beautiful belt voice with the ability to also sing with vulnerability and softness	EPONINE is the daughter of the Thenardiers. She is a young girl who is streetwise and tough, but also sensitive and lonely. She is in love with Marius, knowing that he will never love her. She bravely follows Marius to the Barricades in the hope that they will die there together. Once grown up, Eponine moves with her family to Paris where they fall on hard times. Now poor, living hand to mouth, she survives by helping her father break the law. Eponine is a tragic character, hopelessly in love with Marius. She sings one of the most famous numbers in the show, "On My Own," and should therefore be an excellent singer with a contemporary edge to her voice and an excellent actress. Physically, this actor must believably be able to also pass for an adolescent boy. Strong Singer/Actor	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "On My Own" Bar 128 to M 146 ("I love him, but when the night is over." To "the world is full of happiness that I have never known").  Recall, if requested: the complete Les Misérables song listed above.
M. THÉNARDIER	Stage Age 30s-40s, ages to 50s-60s	Tenor, C to G	M. THÉNARDIER A cruel, wretched, money-obsessed man who first appears as Cosette's keeper and tormentor. He is embodiment of evil. That said, he should also possess a wicked sense of humour. Blinded by greed, Thénardier is incapable of loving other human beings and spends every minute in the pursuit of money. Seen as the comic relief along with his wife Madame Thénardier but is reality the real villain in this show. Strong Actor with comic timing.	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "Master of the House" Bar 121 to Bar 139/Bar 155 to Bar 171 "Enter M'sier, Lay down your load" to "...til I'm satisfied"  AND "Charge 'em for the lice" to "It's amazing how it grows!"  Recall, if requested: "Master of the House" sung with Mme. Thénardier (entire song)

MME. THÉNARDIER	Stage Age 30s, ages to 50s	Alto Belt, G# to D with lots of character	Thénardier's wife. Mme. Thénardier is just as evil as her husband and takes special pleasure in abusing Cosette. She is coarse, vulgar, greedy and larger than life. Scheming, comic and quick to see an opportunity, but like her husband is a villain through and through. Strong Actress with comic timing.	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "Master of the House": Bar 188 to 208, (Madame T's solo).  Recall, if requested: "Master of the House" sung with M. Thénardier (entire song)
ENJOLRAS	Stage Age late 20s.	High Baritone / Tenor, A to high G#.	Enjolras is a radical student revolutionary and the leader of the Friends of the ABC. He is charismatic, heroic and inspirational. On the barricade he physically and vocally should dominate everyone else. Together with Courfeyrac and Marius, Enjolras leads the insurrection at the barricade. Dynamic vocalist/Actor with a heroic stage presence.	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "The People's Song" Bar3 to Bar 24. "Do you Hear .." to "when tomorrow comes"
THE BISHOP OF DIGNE	Stage Age: 45-60s	Bass	A much-admired clergyman who shows great kindness and charity to Valjean and initiates the ex-convict's path to spiritual renewal. This is an important featured role. The actor will also be in the ensemble.	A short own choice selection in the musical style of your chosen character (not from Les Misérables).  "Stars" Bar 19 to Bar 40 ("Stars in your multitudes" to "..pay the price")

### Ensemble

The ensemble is a critical part of the show and will be featured in many different ways throughout. We are looking for very strong singers, and although this is not a heavy "dance" show, we are looking to see a range of contrasting movement styles from the base, grungy and solicitous to the dainty, affected and aristocratic. Much of the story is told through the atmosphere and emotions set by the ensemble's movement, so the ability to be a risk-taking, creative, receptive, flexible and move as part of a group is critical.

In addition to strong singing and general acting skills, "plays well with others" is a great talent to have in this casting situation!

For all ensemble roles, please prepare your own short piece from a musical that shows your range and character (not from Les Misérables). The musical director may test your vocal range with scales.

## Featured Male Ensemble Roles

### Abc Society

“Abaisse”. Their name is a play on words of the French: “the abased” or “the people below”. Students and workers, part of a secret society to fight for freedom. The students are from wealthy families, the workers are a stark contrast. These are doubled with other ensemble roles. General stage age early 20’s. They include:

- Combeferre - a philosopher and believer in peace. He is gentle, humane, strong and brave. Low A to F
- Feuilly - a worker, self-educated and an orphan. A Believer in “nationality”. Affectionate, warm, poetic. Low A to F
- Courfeyrac - a student. He is youthful, passionate and fearless.
- Joly - a medical student. Eccentric and light-hearted, although occasionally morbid. His name is from the English “jolly”. Low A to F
- Prouvaire - a student of social studies. He is kind, soft spoken and at the right moments strong and masterful. He is a poet. Low A to F
- Lesgles - a student, cheerful, laughing at life but unlucky. Close friends with Joly. Low A to F
- Grantaire - a student, the opposite of Enjolras. He believes in nothing. He admires Enjolras, but loves to mock him. Witty and often drunk, he is happy being with the group and they put up with him because of his good humour. Low A to F

### Thenardier’s Gang Of Thieves

They include:

- Brujon - Physically strong. The body of a bear and a pea sized brain. A gangster, stupid and evil - . C sharp (below middle C) to E
- Babet - Physically frail, but lean and cunning - C sharp(below middle C) to E
- Claquesous - “He is the night.” tough, dangerous & secretive - C sharp (below middle C) to E
- Montparnasse - A teenager, handsome and dangerous. Kills with a knife. He is well dressed, strongly built and supple Possessive of Eponine - C sharp (below middle C) to E

### Others

- The Foreman: The foreman of the factory where Fantine works. He is sleazy and even a bit menacing.
- Bamatabois: The “customer” who taunts Fantine into violence. Wealthy, dissolute young man who thinks of himself as a gentleman. Drunk, sadistic and feels he can buy anything-even Fantine.
- The Pimp: Controls the prostitutes at the dock. Mean, aggressive and abusive. Small solo line in “Lovely Ladies”. E (below middle C) to D
- Chain Gang: The Chain Gang consists of Jean Valjean's fellow prisoners. There are four soloists. The overall vocal range of the convicts is low and they should be able to sing in a rich baritone if possible. Low F to High E flat
- Constable 1 & 2: There are two Constables with solos in the show. E to High E
- Farmer: the Farmer has solo lines that are a bit difficult to sing. There may be additional non-singing farmers. Middle C to D flat
- Labourers: the Labourer has solo lines that are a bit difficult to sing. There may be additional non-singing labourers. A sharp to D flat

- Sailors: three sailors begin The Docks scene. All three have solos. Low C to middle C
- Fauchelevent is the victim of the cart crash. The role requires a few solo lines and some painful yelps. B (below middle C) to E flat
- Citizens, Beggars, Wedding Guests, Waltzers, judges etc

### Featured Female Ensemble Roles

- Old Woman: this is the woman who bargains with Fantine for her hair. E (above middle C) to D
- Factory Girl: the Shop Girl who fights with Fantine. She is mean, catty, and selfish. She also is most likely having an affair with the Foreman and jealous of Fantine. E (below middle C) to D flat (above middle C)

### Other Female Ensemble

- Farmers, Innkeeper’s Wife, Whores, Factory Workers, Citizens, Beggars, Wedding Guests, Waltzers.

### Children’s Roles

We anticipate that 2 or 3 children will be cast in each role to cover the long season. The children will not be added to the adult chorus numbers.

Children will be auditioned in groups with each session being half an hour on Monday 27 April 2020 between 9:00am and 11:00am. Audition booking information will be made available at the information evening.

YOUNG COSETTE	Stage Age 7 years old. Ideally under 125 cm in height	Soprano, A to C above Middle C.	Fantine’s young daughter. Boards with the Thénardier’s. She is mistreated, worked like a drudge, beaten by Madame and bullied by young Eponine. She is fearful, lonely and dreams of something better. This actor appears in one scene as young Cosette. This actor may also alternate roles with the actor playing young Eponine	“Castle on a Cloud” Bar 40 to 54 “There is a lady all ....” to “Not in my castle on a cloud”
YOUNG EPONINE	Stage Age 7 Ideally under 125 cm in height		The Thénardier’s spoiled, pampered daughter who bullies young Cosette mercilessly. Non singing/speaking/this actor may alternate roles with the actor playing young Cosette.	Same as for Young Cosette
GAVROCHE	Stage Age 9 to 12 boy. Ideally under 135cm in height	Alto, unchanged voice, B to G.	A street urchin. He is a happy-go-lucky child who enjoys the small pleasures of life. He is fierce and brave, and plays a decisive role in the barricade. Cockney accent is an advantage.	“Look Down-Beggar’s Song “Bar 10 to 19 “How do you do?” to “Follow Me”

## **Timeline**

- Calls for expressions of interest for Heads of Departments (and their teams): January 2020;
- Heads of departments appointed: February 2020;
- Information evening: 2 March 2020;
- Audition bookings open: 2 March 2020;
- Individual vocal auditions: 25 to 27 April 2020;
- Movement and dance audition (all adults auditioning must attend): 5:00pm on 27 April 2020 at KJ Studios, 8/47 Waihi Road, Judea, Tauranga.
- Rehearsals will begin mid-late May 2020 and will be as follows:
  - Leads: 1-2 evenings during the week and Sundays (mornings and afternoons);
  - Ensemble: primarily Sundays (mornings and afternoons);
- Please note we pack-in to Baycourt on Saturday 29 August 2020 and pack-out on Sunday 27 September 2020. You must be available for all evenings and weekends during this time, including pack-in and pack-out.

## **Production expectations**

Your participation in this production requires your undivided commitment in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. If cast, you cannot commit to any other production during the rehearsal period and production season. You should not audition if you are unable to commit to the rehearsal and production schedule. If you have any other commitments (personal or work) that may impact on your ability to attend rehearsals, you must provide full relevant details in your audition application. Not all performers will be required at all rehearsals, and rehearsals will be scheduled as carefully as possible to make the best use of your time.

## **Casting announcement**

Performers will be notified by email or phone of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible following casting. Feedback will not be given. A full cast announcement will be subsequently made on the Tauranga Musical Theatre media channels.

All cast and crew are considered to be goodwill ambassadors for Tauranga Musical Theatre and for the show and we expect all cast and crew to meet that responsibility both in person and online. There will be a closed group Facebook page which cast and crew are encouraged to join and actively participate in.

### Other information

All involved in this production will need to become a financial member of Tauranga Musical Theatre, and are required to agree and adhere to a code of conduct that covers health and safety, personal wellbeing, and responsibilities to fellow cast and crew members.

Please direct any queries that you may have to Jeremy Sparrow ([jsparrow@tmt.org.nz](mailto:jsparrow@tmt.org.nz)) or Rochelle Sant ([rochelleerinsant@gmail.com](mailto:rochelleerinsant@gmail.com)).

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