



Summer Stage Wooster and

The Wooster High School Drama Club present

Disney's

The Little Mermaid

AUDITIONS

FRIDAY, May 3

5-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, May 4 9-11:30am – 12:30-4pm

CALL BACKS (as needed) **May 5** @ 1 p.m.

At the Performing Arts Center of Wooster High School

Visit **Summer Stage Wooster** on Facebook or summerstagewooster.org for complete details!

Further questions? Contact: *Todd Patterson* at tpatterson@ssw.org

***Note: This document is prepared for the express use of those auditioning for SSW productions and not for reproduction and use by other individuals or groups.**

Character Breakdown

from MTI.com

Ariel

A mermaid and King Triton's youngest daughter. She is obsessed with everything about the human world, and dreams of becoming a part of life above the water. Hardheaded, naive, and emotional, but also kind-hearted. Ariel will "fly" on stage.

Gender: Female

Age: 16 to 25

Vocal range top: Gb5

Vocal range bottom: Ab3

Prince Eric

A human monarch who has no interest of taking the crown. A handsome, affable lad with a buoyant, adventurous nature. After Ariel saves his life, he becomes obsessed with finding her and hearing her voice once more. Eric will “fly” on stage.

Gender: Male

Age: 20 to 30

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: B2

Grimsby

Prince Eric's British guardian. Droll, stuffy, and constantly urging Eric towards his royal duties, specifically marriage.

Gender: Male

Age: 40 to 60

Vocal range top: C4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Flounder

A fish and smitten with Ariel, his best friend. Rambunctious but cautious, fearful of the dangers that lurk in and above the water.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 15 to 20

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: A2

Scuttle

A disheveled seagull and expert in human artifacts. Loudmouthed, optimistic, and a bit ignorant, despite his supposed expertise. Scuttle will “fly” on stage.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 25 to 40

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: C3

King Triton

King of the Sea and Ariel's father. Beneath his imposing presence and commanding nature lurks a harried single father who will do anything to protect his daughters. The death of his wife has also given him an irrational fear of humans.

Gender: Male

Age: 35 to 45

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: Ab2

Sebastian

A crab and advisor to King Triton. A musical virtuoso who is constantly distraught from keeping after Ariel. Despite his paranoia, he can't bring himself to stand in Ariel's way.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 30 to 45

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Flotsam

An eel and one of Ursula's lackeys. Oily and spineless, he will say anything you want or need to hear.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 20 to 40

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: E3

Jetsam

An eel and one of Ursula's lackeys. Oily and spineless, he will say anything you want or need to hear.

Gender: Male or Female

Age: 20 to 40

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: B2

Ursula

The banished Sea Witch and sister of King Triton. Supposedly spurned at childhood, she will use whatever method necessary to steal the kingdom and claim it as her own. Malevolent, calculating, and deceptive. Ursula may “fly” on stage.

Gender: Female

Age: 35 to 45

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: Eb3

Chef Louis

The French palace chef, diabolical and violent. A culinary perfectionist with an affinity for blades, seafood in particular.

Gender: Male

Age: 30 to 50

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Ensemble

Crew Members (Pilot, Sailors); Sea Creatures; Mersisters (Aquata, Andrina, Arista, Atina, Adella, Allana); Gulls; Maids; Chefs; Animals; Princesses

Males and Females, variable ages, choral singing, dancing

Some Frequent Q & A relating to show participation

Does *Summer Stage* pre-cast shows?

Never. No parts are assigned until everyone has had a chance to audition and auditions have ended. It is fundamental to how we operate.

What about the rehearsal schedule?

We really can't build a rehearsal schedule until after the show is cast and we know conflicts. Even then, schedules often vary to accommodate cast needs and facility availability.

Generally speaking:

- We value people's time. We won't ask you to be at a rehearsal and never use you.
- The rehearsal schedule is built with the largest scenes going earliest in the evenings, especially when they involve children. When you are done, you may leave.
- We know you have lives and many of you have a job to go to the next morning. We are not a fan of late rehearsals.
- We start every production with a full cast and crew meeting where we get to know each other and hear about show expectations. It's important that all attend. For this show, that meeting is on June 1 @ 6:30 p.m. in the WHS PAC.
- The musical director and choreographer have first dibs on rehearsal time in the beginning. The artistic director will work on blocking and acting as time allows. Once people learn their music and dance steps, we concentrate on the stage work.
- We will NOT rehearse on the weekends for about the first 4 weeks of rehearsals. So, Fri, Sat & Sundays are clean. After that we will schedule certain characters on an as needed basis.
- The usual complete run time for rehearsals is 6:00-9 p.m.
- We have protocol for cast members to follow for excused absences, but we like to keep absences to a minimum. None of us can make progress when folks are missing.
- This is a summer show. People who have worked hard like to go on vacations and we know that summer time is family time. If you are planning a get away, we would encourage you to plan it for as early in June as possible. There are also no expectations after the show closes on July 31.
- As we near show time, we need all hands on deck. The last two weeks prior to opening is when we put the show together and everyone is required to be there, period. Same is true for all performances.

Is there a fee for participation?

Not in dollars and cents. Your valuable time, talent and commitment are all that we ask you to supply.

What about family participation?

Summer Stage Wooster loves to see families not only show up in the audience, but also participate together in the show. That includes on stage, back stage, front of stage and in the pit orchestra. There is something for everyone in theatre, and we believe in the opportunity for a meaningful family experience that can result from being involved in our productions.

*** What do I do when I arrive?**

1. Pick up and completely fill out an audition form. You must present this to us when you enter the room for auditions. You will also be assigned an audition number which you will wear on a name tag.
2. Wait until you are called into the audition area. You may want to find a few friends that you are comfortable auditioning with while you are waiting. Working in small groups, we'll be able to audition you more efficiently.

*** What will the audition be like?**

First and foremost, we want you to relax and try to have FUN! Everyone else is in the same boat you are, so just do your best. No one will make fun of you and we will try to be as helpful to you as we can be. The more confident and energetic you are, the more we can see your capabilities.

Your audition will involve three components.
You must participate in all three: Vocal, Reading & Dance.

VOCAL: As part of your audition, you'll be asked to sing. For this show, it is best to sing an up-beat (up tempo) song or slow (ballad) song from a Broadway show similar to *The Little Mermaid*. Even if you don't know many musicals, there are some easier and well-known songs to choose from. If you are able to get the sheet music, you can have an accompanist play for your audition. If you can't, we are happy to hear you without it. If you aren't sure you know any songs from musicals, here are **some examples**:

- ✓ Do-Re-Mi from *The Sound Of Music*
- ✓ Getting to Know You
from *The King And I*
- ✓ Tomorrow from *Annie*
- ✓ Sixteen Going On Seventeen
from *The Sound Of Music*
- ✓ My Favorite Things
from *The Sound Of Music*

- ✓ Singin' In The Rain
from *Singin' In The Rain*
- ✓ What I Did For Love from
A Chorus Line
- ✓ Ten Minutes Ago from *Cinderella*
- ✓ On The Street Where You Live
from *My Fair Lady*
- ✓ Put On A Happy Face from
Bye, Bye Birdie

16 to 32 measures is standard, but another good idea is to sing a verse and a chorus.

Choose something that you know well and can sing confidently. You may sing with the piano, recorded music or a cappella (no accompaniment). Please bring your sheet music if you need accompaniment.

*** What if I don't get to sing my whole song???**

Don't worry if you are interrupted and don't get to finish your song. This is will happen with practically everyone and only means that we have heard enough of your voice to give us a good idea of your sound (actually...this can be a good thing!). But don't be discouraged. You may also be asked to sing us some scales to give us an idea of your vocal range.

READING: You will also be asked to read some lines from the script along with other auditioners. If you are interested in reading for a particular character, let us know at this time. You do **not** necessarily have to read a certain part in order to get that same part in the play! By just reading any character you can give us a good idea of your abilities...even if that character is a different gender! **Remember to speak loudly, clearly and put as much expressive energy into your reading as you can.**

DANCE: There WILL be some choreography in this production. Dance steps for this show will range from simple to complicated, but there is something from everyone! You **MUST** dance as part of our audition so that we can see what you're capable of. After joining a group of about 15 others, our choreographer will go over some simple steps and you will dance them as a group. Bring sneakers or dance shoes if you have them – flips flops are hard to turn in and are often unsafe to wear.

***When am I done with auditions?**

You are finished when we have heard you sing, read and watched you dance. You might get all three done in one night or you can do some the first night and finish the next night.

*** Can I come back and audition for the same thing twice?**

Generally, this is not encouraged. If you feel a real need to do so, speak with the director about it first.

*** What if I get “called back”?**

Callback auditions mean that we would like to see you audition again for some reason. It does **not** necessarily mean that you are guaranteed a part. We just need to find out more before we make our casting decisions. Callbacks, if needed, are Saturday at 3 p.m., following a lunch break. You will be contacted by text or email if called back.

*** What if I am not “called-back”?**

It does not necessarily mean you haven’t been cast. You could not be called back and still be cast in the show.

*** When will I know if I have been cast in the show?**

1. The cast will be posted no later (barring any major problems) than Wednesday, May 4 on the *Summer Stage Wooster* Facebook site and web page. **We will assume that you accept your role as cast unless we hear from you personally. If not, you must tell us immediately and we will respect your decision.** Once you accept, you are committed and we will be counting on you!

2. If you are not cast in the show, you will be disappointed, no doubt. **Please** consider becoming involved in the production in some other capacity. NO production at any level is ever successful without the work of the cast and **crew**. The job of a crew member is no less important than any actor in the success of the show. Although actors tend to get more of the “spotlight”, it takes the dedicated work of the technical crew members to make the show a success. Many theatre people will argue that **this** is where the real talented people are found! We will need help with lights, sound, props, make-up, publicity, tickets, set-building, etc. We hope that *The Little Mermaid* will be a fun and meaningful experience for everyone involved, in whatever capacity they choose to participate.

3. If you are cast, but not necessarily in the role you would have liked, please continue with the production. Unfortunately, some people take these decisions very personally and leave the production entirely. The directors must always do what is best for the success of the show and although we want everyone to what they would like, it cannot always be that way. We hope that students will support each other and choose to be happy and supportive of their cast mates.

Special note: if you accept your role as an actor in the cast, you will be asked to put in a **minimum** of four hours working backstage, with set building, painting, costumes, or wherever you are needed most. We will need this commitment from **every** actor, no matter if your role is large or small. If you are not willing to put in this extra time, please do not audition. “Those who are not willing to help the Little Red Hen grow the wheat, will not be allowed to eat the bread...”

*** When will the first meeting be held?**

All CAST and CREW members will be expected to attend the first organizational meeting at Wooster High School at 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center on **Thursday, May 23**. If you have a conflict and cannot attend, contact Todd Patterson at patterbino@sssnet.com. Those interested in tech crew work and/or playing in the pit orchestra should also attend. The meeting should last about an hour.

Thank you for sharing your talents with us at auditions!!!

Break A Leg!