

## **The WordPlayers: Auditions for Jane Eyre**

*We are looking for very strong singers who can play a variety of roles. **Auditions are by appointment only on Sunday, January 21 from 2-5:30, with callbacks on Monday, January 22nd from 6-9 at Erin Presbyterian Church, 200 Lockett Road, Knoxville.***

*We will **begin rehearsals Tuesday, May 29**, and the **show will run at The Bijou Theatre July 20-22**.*

*We audition early so cast members can plan their summer travel with consideration of rehearsals. Please come to the audition knowing your availability. Actors unavailable the two weeks prior to the show will not be cast.*

*If you are auditioning for the role of Jane, please communicate that when making your appointment, as we need to allow more time to see you.*

*To schedule an appointment, email Matthew Lloyd at [cvarts@gmail.com](mailto:cvarts@gmail.com) or text him at 865-310-6908.*

*Thank you.*

### **FEMALE ROLES**

There will be a small number of young girls who appear in the first few scenes.

- Age 8-12 sing Young Jane's song, m. 19-133 in the "Graveside Scene."
- Age 13-16 sing Helen's song, "Forgiveness," m 30-45

Sheet music for these songs will be emailed to you after you have made your appointment.

**Except for Jane, Rochester, Mrs. Fairfax, Adele, and Bertha, all roles will also be part of the ensemble.**

#### **Jane Eyre**

*The story's protagonist. A young, strong-willed woman who is outwardly quiet, watchful and shy. Her beauty does not come from her physical appearance but rather from her character, humor, and strength.*

Age: 18 to 25 (should appear 20 years younger than Rochester)

Vocal range top: E5; Vocal range bottom: F#3

Sing the first verse and refrain of "Sweet Liberty" m. 23-43. Also, be prepared to sing the last part of "Painting My Portrait" starting at m. 143 to the end of the song if time allows. If you are called back, be prepared to sing with Young Jane on "The Graveside Scene," m. 126-133 as well as "Brave Enough For Love" with Rochester (Coke Morgan) at m. 206-265, including in this all monologues, closing with line "...judgement with mercy"

**Young Jane/Possible Ensemble/ Possible Amy Eshton**

*Full of soul. Strong and willful like the adult Jane*

Age: 9 to 12

Vocal range top: D5; Vocal range bottom: D4

Please sing m. 19-133 in "Graveside Scene." If you are called back, be prepared to sing with Jane at "The Graveside Scene," m. 126-133 and read a scene on page 10-14.

**Mrs. Fairfax**

*Rochester's elderly relation and the house-keeper of Thornfield Hall who is fussy, garrulous, and kind-hearted. The comic relief of the show.*

Age: 55 to 70

Vocal range top: C5; Vocal range bottom: F3

Sing "Perfectly Nice," m. 1-32.

Might be asked to read 26-27 & 31-33 at initial audition

**Helen Burns/Children's Ensemble/ Possibly Louisa Eshton**

*Young Jane's first friend who teaches her important spiritual lessons.*

Age: 14 to 16. Vocal range top: C#5. Vocal range bottom: A3

Sing "Forgiveness" m. 30-45.

If called back, read pages 10-14 w Jane.

**Adele/Possible School Girl**

*The French ward of Rochester. Her mother, dead, was an actress. She is full of life and drama. Sings very little - mainly an acting role.*

Age 8-10

Sing Young Jane's song, m. 19-133 in the "Graveside Scene."

Will read pages 44-47 if called back. The French accent is not required at auditions, but if the young lady has it - let her use it!

**Blanche Ingram**

*The clever, sophisticated, and stunningly beautiful woman who is to be married to Rochester. She is witty, arrogant, and graceful but also possesses a stunning legit soprano voice.*

Age: 18 to 30

Vocal range top: B5; Vocal range bottom: B3

Sing m. 60-99 of "Finer Things"

Read 62-64 in the script if called back

**Mrs. Reed/Ensemble/Possible Lady Ingram or Miss Scatcherd**

*Jane's cold and cruel aunt who keeps her in an attic after Jane's parents die. Dying, she refuses Jane's forgiveness. Dotes on her son, who later dies.*

Age 30-45

Sing any 16 bars reflecting the character, OR sing m. 6-24 "The Chestnut Tree"

If called back, read 2-4 & 116-120

**Miss Scatcherd/ Ensemble/Possible Mrs. Reed or Lady Ingram**

*A teacher at Lowood, she is a hard-faced and embittered woman whose nature has been warped by dogged obedience to Mr. Brocklehurst and a natural distrust of anything unusual or imaginative.*

Age 25-60

Vocal range top: D5; Vocal range bottom: D4

Sing any 16 bars reflecting the character, OR sing m. 6-24 "The Chestnut Tree"  
If called back, read 16-17 & 21-22

**Grace Poole/Ensemble**

*Bertha Mason's minder and nurse who is caring and capable, and has an occasional fondness for the liquor pot.*

Age: 40 to 60

Vocal range top: D5; Vocal range bottom: A3

Sing any 16 bars, OR sing m. 6-24 "The Chestnut Tree"

If called back, read 56-58

**Lady Ingram/Ensemble**

*Haughty, pompous and dogmatic. Blanche Ingram's mother.*

Age: 40 to 55

Sing any 16 bars reflecting the character, OR sing m. 6-24 "The Chestnut Tree"

Read 62-64 in the script if called back

**Mary Ingram/Ensemble or Children's Chorus**

*Younger sister to Blanche. Catty and constantly smirking under her breath at the expense of others.*

Age: 14-16 (younger than Blanche)

Sing any 16 bars reflecting the character, OR sing "Forgiveness," m 30-45

Read 62-64 in the script if called back

**Louisa Eshton/Ensemble or Children's Chorus/Possibly Helen Burns**

*Daughter to Mr. Eshton. Myopic and a little slow to catch on*

Sing "Forgiveness" m. 30-45.

Age 12-16

If called back, read 62-64 in the script

**Amy Eshton/Children's Chorus**

*Youngest daughter of Colonel Eshton, sister to Louisa. Pretty, childlike and naive*

Age 8-11

Sing Young Jane's song, m. 19-133 in the "Graveside Scene."

If called back, read 62-64 in the script

**Mrs. Dent/Ensemble/Possible Miss Scatcherd**

*Wife of Colonel Dent. Sweet natured, but under the thumb of Lady Ingram.*

Age: 30-50

Sing any 16 bars reflecting the character, OR sing m. 6-24 "The Chestnut Tree"

If called back, read 62-64 in the script

**Bertha Mason**

*Rochester's mad wife, kept in the attic of Thornfield Hall. She is strangely beautiful, yet a criminally deranged.*

Age: 35 to 50

Vocal range top: C#5; Vocal range bottom: C#4

Sing any 16 bars reflecting the character, OR sing m. 6-24 "The Chestnut Tree"

## MALE ROLES

**Edward Fairfax Rochester** - This role has been cast

**John Reed/Lord Ingram/ Ensemble**

*Mrs. Reed's horrible little son, cruel, manipulative and violent. This part could be played by a clever child actor or by an adult actor playing down in age.*

Age 12-16

Sing any song which reflects the character

If called back, read pages 2-4 from the script

**Mr. Brocklehurst/Ensemble/Possibly Colonel Dent/Vicar**

*The headmaster of Lowood School. He must be an imposing and frightening figure to Young Jane; zealous and pontifical.*

Age: 40 to 60

Vocal range top: G4. Vocal range bottom: D3

Sing the end of the Prologue, pick up to m. 58-69 Last note can be high or low,

Read 7-8 & 11-12 if called back

**Mr. Richard Mason/Ensemble**

*Bertha's brother, feels responsible for her sad state, and for Rochester's.*

Age: 40-55

Vocal range top: G4. Vocal range bottom: C3 (possibly A2)

Sing "The Scream" m. 2-16. You may choose the high E and F or the lower octave.

If called back, read: 79 & 105

**Colonel Dent/Ensemble/Possibly Mr. Brocklehurst & Vicar**

*A grouchy middle-aged man with an eye for young women*

Age 45-60

Sing the end of the Prologue, pick up to m. 58-69 Last note can be high or low

No reading needed

**St. John Rivers/Ensemble/Possibly Mr. Eshton**

*The appealing and handsome curate of the parish of Gateshead who is caring for Mrs Reed at her death. He is a complex young man, passionately devoted to his Christian faith and duty.*

Age: 25 to 35

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: C3

Sing "The Call" at m. 19-46

Read 114-115 & 122-123

**Mr. Eshton/Ensemble/Possibly St. John Rivers**

*A charming middle-aged widower with two young daughters.*

Age 35-45

Sing "The Call" at m. 19-46

No reading necessary

**Robert (could possibly double with Brocklehurst or St. John Rivers)/Ensemble**

*The Butler at Thornfield. Robert is dry and intelligent and kind, a martyr to Mrs. Fairfax's whims, deafness and dottiness. An understanding and reliable servant to Rochester. Not a big part but a very present one. Must possess comic timing.*

Age: 25 to 50

Vocal range top: Bb3. Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Sing song of choice reflecting character, or "The Call," taking low notes instead of high.

Can speak his lines without other characters, pgs. 87-89