

FEMALE CHORUS INSTRUCTIONS

1. Memorize Audition Side 3. Prepare to act using any of the 5 approaches listed (romantic, etc)
2. Choose a character type from Side 4A or Side 4B and memorize those lines.
3. Focus on the character types you're most interested in.

AUDITION SIDE 3—RELATIVES (& SAILORS)

When auditioning for Chorus, only speak "ALL." (Ralph is pronounced "Rafe")

Be prepared to act the same lines as:

- Romantic
- Angry
- Teasing
- Mystified (puzzled, perplexed)
- As if sharing a secret
- Happy and bubbly
- As though it's so disgusting you don't want to watch

RALPH. My friends, my leave of life I'm taking. For oh, my heart is breaking. When I am gone, tell the maid that, as I died, I loved her well!

ALL. Of life, alas! his leave he's taking, For ah! his faithful heart is breaking; When he is gone we'll surely tell the maid that, as he died, he loved her well. [turning away, weeping].

[BOATSWAIN has loaded a pistol, which he hands to RALPH.]

RALPH. Be warned, my messmates all who love in rank above you—For Josephine I fall!

[Puts pistol to his head. ALL stop their ears] [Enter JOSEPHINE on deck]

JOS. Ah! stay your hand—I love you!

ALL. Ah! stay your hand—she loves you!

RALPH. [incredulously] Loves me?

JOS. Loves you!

ALL. Yes, yes—ah, yes,—she loves you!

AUDITION SIDE 4A—RELATIVES CHORUS

Select the personality type that appeals to you.

RELATIVE 1. This is my first time traveling with Sir Joseph, and, I must say that I expected it to be a bit more... picturesque.

SAILOR W. [In background] C'mon, toss it harder, ya' Rosewater Tar!

RELATIVE 2. Anywhere with Joseph is 'picturesque.'

RELATIVE 1. Ah! Yes! But the ship itself—I don't know if this dress will ever come clean...

GWEN. I think it's perfect! It's everything I imagined! (CONTINUED ON P. 2)

RELATIVE 4. There's something magical about it. The ship is beautiful!

(AUDITION SIDE 4A, CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

RELATIVE 2. And the sailors are rather handsome.

RELATIVE 4. Yes, especially that one right over there.

RELATIVE 1. Now, don't you even cast a glance their way.

RELATIVE 2. [Ignoring her] What I don't understand is their fascination with tar.

RELATIVE 3. Yes, they do go on about it. Tar this... tar that... Why, I even heard one sailor calling the other a 'tar.'

GWEN. [laughing] They're sailors! They call themselves 'Tars.'

RELATIVE 1. Why on earth for?

RELATIVE 2. Because their hair is dark, and shines when the sunlight catches it.

GWEN. Well, people disagree, but most say it's because they use tar all over the ship to keep things dry—on the rigging, to seal the deck hatches...

RELATIVE 4. Now that makes sense.

SAILOR W. [while passing by] Ever heard of a tarpaulin?

GWEN. Oh, yes! The sailors spread tar all over canvas to make it waterproof! Even on their jackets.

RELATIVE 4. So they stay dry even when it rains!

RELATIVE 3. Well, somewhat dry, I'm sure.

SAILOR X. [returning with SAILOR W] Say, where did you learn all this?

GWEN. Oh! Papa gave me a book of sailing ships. I always dreamed I could come out over the high seas. Feel the wind in my face...

RELATIVE 1. You would get yourself covered in tar! Why, look! It's even in their hair! [pointing out tar in SAILOR X's hair]

SAILOR X. [taking it and wiping it on his pants] Sorry, ma'am. Thought I cleaned it all off!

GWEN. Tar, salty air, sun— I wouldn't mind. Why, it would be an adventure!

RELATIVE 3. It's not a life fit for a respectable lady.

SAILOR W. No. Not respectable at all! You'd best stay home and see to your little luncheons, or whatever it is you ladies do.

GWEN. I'd rather die! I'd be a respectable sailor! Do you think the Captain would allow it? If just for one day? I could show you a thing or two... why, look at that standing rigging! It should be covered with tar all the way up... And you need to increase the tension right... there....

SAILOR X. You don't say.

AUDITION SIDE 4B—HEBE, CONSTANCE, ELIZA AND RELATIVES CHORUS

Choose a role that best appeals to you. (Hebe, Constance, Eliza are solo-singing roles, not Chorus roles). Instructions—If auditioning for RELATIVES Chorus, you may read for more than one character at the same time. Try to find character types that don't conflict.

Side 4B Background: *Sir Joseph has just left to court Josephine, not realizing that Hebe is in love with him. He mistakes her sadness for fear of the sailors on the ship. He hands her his hat to hold, and the other RELATIVES take it from her until Constance requests that they return it.*

CONSTANCE. [*retrieving hat; returning it to HEBE*] Ladies. The gentleman handed it to Hebe.

GWEN. Well, yes. We were going to give it back, presently.

DEIRDRE. [*still looking off*] It is astounding! How could he believe you're afraid of sailors? [*crosses to REL.*] Does he not see the honest love you have for him?

HEBE. [*Caressing Sir J.'s hat*] Oh, Deirdre, he does not return my love. His eyes rest solely upon Josephine.

VICTORIA. He is very far-sighted. He's only seen her from a distance—at the Officer's Ball—and he never even spoke to her, excepting one official utterance!

ELIZA. And to think. We've spent all of our time with him, going from ship to ship, and I needn't remind you of the horrors of the ship's sway! Well, I don't think he's ever looked at any one of us.

RELATIVES. No! Not one!

KATHLEEN. If only he would open his eyes. Or, better yet. I wish we could cast some magic spell to make Josephine disappear!

PHOEBE. Perhaps we could persuade the Pirates of Penzance to kidnap her! [*REL. laugh.*]

HEBE. [*Wiping tears, beginning to laugh*] Now that is an idea.

KATHLEEN. Sir Joseph is not the only fish in the sea. What about the Captain?

VICTORIA. Kathleen is right. I hear he is widowed!

... *Some dialogue deleted* ...

CONSTANCE. [*To HEBE*] When you find your love, he shall know it as certainly as do you.

DEIDRE. If he has any sense at all!

HEBE. Joseph has my heart. But... If he cannot love me in return, then I shall see to it that he finds the woman of his dreams. His happiness is what matters most. [*She starts to leave*]

VICTORIA: How noble!

(CONTINUED ON P. 4)

(AUDITION SIDE 4B, CONTINUED FROM P. 3)

KATHLEEN: How selfless!

ADELAIDE: How... Romantic! [*they sigh.*]

TABITHA. [*finally noticing HEBE's departure*] Where are you going?

HEBE. To help him!

RELATIVES. Help him?

HEBE. Yes! I shall see to it that he gets his Josephine.

AUDITION SIDE 2B—SAILORS, RELATIVES (FOR AUDITION WORKSHOP)

Female Chorus—Please learn either REBECCA, LOUISA, or GWEN, in anticipation of taking part in this scene during the Audition Workshop.

SAILORS 1 & 2 have been standing in the shadows. ALL others enter quietly.

ALL = all who are on stage, including RELATIVES. Except for SAILOR 5, auditioners should speak every line marked “ALL.” REBECCA, LOUISA and GWEN are RELATIVES.

SAILOR 1. They're gone!

SAILOR 2. That was close! I thought surely they'd see us in the shadows.

GWEN. Is Ralph ready?

SAILOR 3. Think so. Shakin' like a Jelly, but ready.

SAILOR 2. How 'bout Josephine? Is she ready?

REBECCA. Soon. She's packing a few things.

SAILOR 4. Packing? Whatever for? They're only going onshore for...
How long does a wedding take? 5 minutes?

LOUISA. It is the only wedding she will ever have. Allow her some indulgence.
She needs something old, something new...

SAILOR 4. *[interrupting]* Oh. All right, then.

SAILOR 5. *[Bracing himself, as if trying to keep warm]* Strange night to be sneakin' off. Reminds me of that night when we saw 'The Creature.'

SAILOR 3. Yeah, that's some tale you tell. *[Aside to others]* Watch out, he's known for swingin' the lamp a bit *[indicating exaggeration]*.

SAILOR 4. And each time the tale gets taller.

SAILOR 1. I've never heard about 'The Creature.'

SAILOR 2. Me neither.

REBECCA. What is it?

GWEN. It sounds fascinating! Is it of land? or of sea?

LOUISA. It sounds dreadful to me.

SAILOR 5. *[Deep in thought]* Yup. It was a night just like tonight. Clear. Waters as smooth as glass. Full moon. There we was... doin' our maneuvers out in the deeps. No cause for worry... The seas were calm. And then... *[shouts]* Wham!

ALL. Shhh!

SAILOR 5. *[whispering]* Wham! The ship went a'rockin. Almost capsized! Now, how could thatta' happened on such a calm sea? And then... just as plain as nothin' we look out on the starboard side and what dya think we saw?

(AUDITION SIDE 2B, CONTINUED FROM P. 5)

ALL. What?

SAILOR 5. A giant creature. No! Giant don' even begin to describe her! She was bigger than the whole ship! and them teeth! long as my arm!

SAILOR 3. *[to SAILOR 4]* Last time, they were as long as his hand!

SAILOR 5. Now, what woulda' made that creature try to sink our whole ship?

ALL. What?

SAILOR 5. Mermaids!

ALL. Mermaids?

SAILOR 5. The mermaids were ridin' that creature! And when they took one look at us, they let wail with an unearthly.. a-eeeeee.

ALL: *[cutting him off before he can make much sound]* Shhhhhh!

REBECCA. You'll wake the whole ship!

LOUISA. If you haven't already!