



AUDITION INFORMATION

SINGING ROLES

- Auditions for “CHESS” will be held on **Saturday & Sunday, 28 & 29 January 2012.**
- Recalls will be held on **29 January 2012.**
- All auditions will be individual auditions.
- Auditionees will be given a 5-10 minute time slot.
- Auditionees should arrive at least 10 minutes prior to their scheduled time.
- Anyone interested in auditioning for “CHESS” should e-mail aknagy@xtra.co.nz advising the role(s) they are interested in auditioning for.
- Audition times will be allocated within the two week period prior to the audition weekend.
- Enquiries regarding auditions can be forwarded to Kay Nagy (Production Secretary) from 16 January 2012 – contact details are;
 - T: 06 – 357 0848
 - M: 021 890 806
 - E: aknagy@xtra.co.nz
- Auditionees must sing the Audition Song noted below.
- Music must be learnt (no books held).

AVAILABLE ROLES

❖ **Frederick (Freddie) Trumper (Tenor)**

“The American” – the United States’ champion. A self absorbed, fame-and-fortune seeking, short-tempered, Russophobic bad boy. As the show goes on he matures and realises his position can help Florence and Anatoly.

Audition Song: ‘Pity The Child’

❖ **Florence Vassy (Mezzo-Soprano/Belt)**

Freddie’s strong willed Hungarian born English second, who was separated in Budapest from her presumably captured father during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, having now no further knowledge of his whereabouts. She feels strained by Freddie’s brashness and develops a sexually tinged fascination for Anatoly, eventually becoming his mistress.

Audition Song: ‘Heaven Help My Heart’

❖ **Anatoly Sergievsky (Baritone/Tenor)**

"The Russian" – the Soviet Union's champion. A troubled father and husband who despises the propaganda and politics of the tournament, eventually deciding to defect from his homeland, even at the cost of deserting his family.

Audition Song: 'Anthem'

❖ **Walter de Courcey (Bass-Baritone)**

A media personality of the tournament and a secret CIA agent.

Audition Song: 'Interview'

❖ **Molokov (Bass/Bass-Baritone)**

Anatoly's second who is also, in fact, a manipulative KGB agent.

Audition Song: 'The Soviet Machine'

❖ **Arbiter (Tenor)**

The coldly objective, no nonsense referee of the championship tournament.

Audition Song: 'The Arbiter'

❖ **Svetlana Sergievskaya (Mezzo-Soprano/Belt)**

Anatoly's estranged wife who is manipulated by Molokov to persuade Anatoly to return to his homeland. Although upset at Anatoly's betrayal, she also understands that Florence has given Anatoly something she cannot herself.

Audition Song: 'Someone Else's Story'

❖ **Citizens of Merano/Reporters/Delegates/Civil Servants**

- various other roles to be played by the Company

Audition Song: *Females – 'I Know Him So Well'*

Males – 'Anthem'

DANCE AUDITIONS

❖ **Dancers**

- The Dance auditions for "CHESS" will be held on the weekend of **11 & 12 February 2012**.
- Six female and six male dancers are required.
- Dancers are not required to sing.

GENERAL

- All auditionees must complete an AMT audition form.
- Audition forms can be accessed from AMT's website – www.abbeymusicaltheatre.co.nz on the 'Auditions' page.
- On your audition form you are required to show your vocal range. Not only should you put 'Tenor' or 'Baritone' (for example), but you will also need to indicate what your bottom note is, and what your top note is.
- Should you be cast in "CHESS", vocal rehearsals will start on Sunday, 22 April 2012.
- A rehearsal schedule will be handed out at the first rehearsal.
- "CHESS" will be staged in the Regent on Broadway, Palmerston North, from 17-25 August 2012.

AUDITION TIPS

ON THE DAY

- We may need to see how well you can match pitch. You may sound great on your own, but you also need to sound great with others.
- Know your song well. Just as it is important to have an understanding of a script, it is important to understand the meaning behind a song. Always have your song memorised.
 - NB: Lyrics/clips of audition songs can be accessed through YouTube or Google. Lyrics will also be available from the Abbey Office from 16 January 2012.
- Actors are released from auditions in stages to keep people from waiting around. If you are asked to leave early, it does not mean you will not be cast – simply that the Directors have seen what they need to see.
- Arrive well in advance so that you can take time to warm up and fill out any forms.
- Bring some fluids and snacks for yourself. Apart from satisfying your appetite, it may settle nerves.

DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT NERVES

Everyone gets nervous at auditions, even the old pros, and having a few butterflies can actually be a good thing. But, it is best to avoid worrying excessively about messing up or about what the auditioners might think of you. If you do happen to “mess up”, don't get upset or walk off. Just keep on going until you've finished.

DRESS COMFORTABLY – BUT SMARTLY

Women – please ensure that you wear heeled shoes.

WARM UP IF THIS IS A VOCAL/MUSICAL AUDITION

We want to hear you in your best voice. Take some time before you come into the audition to warm up your voice.

MAKING AN IMPRESSION

Directors must be able to hear and understand you, so project your voice and enunciate well.

NOT BEING CAST

If you don't get the part – that's too bad, but it's not the end of the world, nor the end of your acting career. It was not a rejection of you, only an affirmation of someone else. You simply weren't right for that part, but you will be for another part. Keep auditioning and don't give up – eventually, it will happen. Being cast is only partly about how good you are – it's also about whether or not you are appropriate for the roles we need to fill or, sometimes, whether you match up with or look right in relation to one or more other auditionees. You might be the best actor and/or singer we've seen, but if you're totally inappropriate for the characters we need, we can't cast you. Please respect the Directors' decision.