



## **AUDITIONS – THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

Stage Director: Elizabeth Lawrencev      Musical Director: Rod Mounjed

### **PRINCIPAL ROLES**

Auditions for principal roles in *The Pirates of Penzance* will take place on  
**Saturday 30 April and Monday 02 May 2022** (evenings)  
at the Ron Dyer Centre, 42 Ridge St, North Sydney.

Audition bookings are NOW OPEN online at <https://www.picktime.com/gsosydney>  
For further information about audition bookings, email: [info@gsosydney.com.au](mailto:info@gsosydney.com.au)

Note: Auditions for **chorus/ensemble** will be held at the start of rehearsals on **Tues 21 June 22**, at the Parish Hall, St Francis Xavier Church, 17 MacKenzie St, Lavender Bay (North Sydney). If you are interested in joining the chorus, please email us with your details and a contact number.  
[info@gsosydney.com.au](mailto:info@gsosydney.com.au)

### **PERFORMANCE DATES/TIMES & VENUES – 2022**

2pm & 7:30pm, Saturday, 24 September  
Gloucester High School Auditorium, **GLOUCESTER#**, NSW

2pm & 7:30pm, Saturday, 01 October  
Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Railway Street, **BUNDANOON^**

8pm Friday, 7 October  
2pm & 8pm Saturday, 8 October  
2pm Sunday, 9 October  
Smith Auditorium, Shore School, **NORTH SYDNEY**

# For Gloucester performances, the following is necessary – and will be *provided* for all cast: return travel by coach, 2 nights twin-share accommodation\*, select meals.

\*Limited sole-use rooms available; a charge would apply.

^ For Bundanoon performances, independent travel arrangements will be necessary. Accommodation & meals will be optional at cast members' own expense.

### **\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT: COVID 19 SAFETY \*\*\*\*\***

For the health and safety of cast, crew and audiences, all participants in this production of *The Pirates of Penzance* must be fully vaccinated (for current definition of 'fully vaccinated' see [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)). Proof of vaccination status will be required and must be shown at auditions. All participants must comply with current NSW Health directives and requirements regarding COVID 19.

## AUDITIONS FOR PRINCIPAL ROLES

When making your audition booking, you will be asked to nominate the primary role that you wish to be considered for. On the day of the audition, you will be able to nominate a second preference of role should you wish to.

Singers will be asked to perform (ideally from memory), specific pieces of music from *Pirates*. (Harmony parts may also be asked for, where they are relevant in the excerpts below.) Candidates will also be asked to recite passages of dialogue from the show. The dialogue passages for each role are given *further down on this document*. The singing audition requirements for each role are as follows:

ROLE	SONG	PAGE **
Major-General Stanley ( <i>Baritone</i> )	I am the very model	61-68
	Sighing softly to the river	155-158
The Pirate King ( <i>Baritone</i> )	Oh better to far to live and die	18-20
	Although our dark career	79
	We knew your taste for curious*	116-122
Samuel ( <i>Baritone</i> )	For today our Pirate 'Prentice	12-15
	We better pause	59
	Here's your crowbar	149-150
Frederic ( <i>Tenor</i> )	Oh, false one + Recitative	21-26
	Oh is there not one maiden	36-39
	Now for the Pirates' lair	114-115
	Ah must I leave thee here	133-137
Sergeant of Police ( <i>Bass</i> )	When the foeman bares	98-113
	When a felon's not engaged	142-144
	A rollicking band	145-146
Mabel ( <i>Soprano</i> )	Yes one ... Yes tis Mabel	39-40
	Poor wand'ring one	41-45
	Hold Monsters	59
	But they give up*	91-93
	(top "c" required on Page 92) (this item is compulsory in the audition)	
	Stay Frederic, stay!	130-137
Edith ( <i>Soprano or Mezzo-Soprano</i> )	Let us gaily tread the measure	29-31
	What ought we to do	46-47
	Go and do your best endeavour	104-105
Kate ( <i>Mezzo-Soprano</i> )	Far away from toil and care	31-32
	Her case may any day	47

Ruth	When Frederic was a little lad	16-17
( <i>Contralto or Mezzo-Soprano</i> )	Oh false one	21-26
	When you had left our pirate*	116-122

\*\* Page refers to the vocal score as published by *Chappell* and these are all inclusive.

\* Secondary item/s for the role, which auditionees should be very familiar with – particularly where there is *harmony* singing – and may be asked to perform (not necessarily from memory)

## **AUDITION READINGS**

Full libretto available here.... [https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Pirates\\_of\\_Penzance](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Pirates_of_Penzance)

### **1. Dialogue for PIRATE KING, SAMUEL and FREDERIC (with RUTH)**

#### **Frederic**

..... But this afternoon my obligation ceases. Individually, I love you all with affection unspeakable; but, collectively, I look upon you with a disgust that amounts to absolute detestation. Oh! pity me, my beloved friends, for such is my sense of duty that, once out of my indentures, I shall feel myself bound to devote myself heart and soul to your extermination!

#### **Pirate King**

Well, Frederic, if you conscientiously feel that it is your duty to destroy us, we cannot blame you for acting on that conviction. Always act in accordance with the dictates of your conscience, my boy, and chance the consequences.

#### **Samuel**

Besides, we can offer you but little temptation to remain with us. We don't seem to make piracy pay. I'm sure I don't know why, but we don't.

#### **Frederic**

I know why, but, alas! I mustn't tell you; it wouldn't be right.

#### **Pirate King**

Why not, my boy? It's only half-past eleven, and you are one of us until the clock strikes twelve.

#### **Samuel**

True, and until then you are bound to protect our interests.

#### **Frederic**

Well, then, it is my duty, as a pirate, to tell you that you are too tender-hearted. For instance, you make a point of never attacking a weaker party than yourselves, and when you attack a stronger party you invariably get thrashed.

#### **Pirate King**

There is some truth in that.

#### **Frederic**

Then, again, you make a point of never molesting an orphan!

#### **Samuel**

Of course: we are orphans ourselves, and know what it is.

**Frederic**

Yes, but it has got about, and what is the consequence? Every one we capture says he's an orphan. The last three ships we took proved to be manned entirely by orphans, and so we had to let them go. One would think that Great Britain's mercantile navy was recruited solely from her orphan asylums — which we know is not the case.

**Samuel**

But, hang it all! you wouldn't have us absolutely merciless?

**Frederic**

There's my difficulty; until twelve o'clock I would, after twelve I wouldn't. Was ever a man placed in so delicate a situation?

**Ruth**

And Ruth, your own Ruth, whom you love so well, and who has won her middle-aged way into your boyish heart, what is to become of her?

**Pirate King**

Oh, he will take you with him. (Hands **Ruth** to **Frederic**.)

**Frederic**

Well, Ruth, I feel some difficulty about you. It is true that I admire you very much, but I have been constantly at sea since I was eight years old, and yours is the only woman's face I have seen during that time. I think it is a sweet face.

**Ruth**

It is — oh, it is!

**Frederic**

I say I think it is; that is my impression. But as I have never had an opportunity of comparing you with other women, it is just possible I may be mistaken.

**Pirate King**

True.

**Frederic**

What a terrible thing it would be if I were to marry this innocent person, and then find out that she is, on the whole, plain!

**Pirate King**

Oh, Ruth is very well, very well indeed.

**Samuel**

Yes, there are the remains of a fine woman about Ruth.

**Frederic**

Do you really think so?

**Samuel**

I do.

**Frederic**

Then I will not be so selfish as to take her from you. In justice to her, and in consideration for you, I will leave her behind. (Hands **Ruth** to Pirate King)

**Pirate King**

No, Frederic, this must not be. We are rough men, who lead a rough life, but we are not so utterly heartless as to deprive thee of thy love. I think I am right in saying that there is not one here who would rob thee of this inestimable treasure for all the world holds dear.

**All (loudly)**

Not one!

**Pirate King**

No, I thought there wasn't. Keep thy love, Frederic, keep thy love.

**Frederic**

You're very good, I'm sure.

*Exit Ruth.*

**Pirate King**

Well, it's the top of the tide, and we must be off. Farewell, Frederic. When your process of extermination begins, let our deaths be as swift and painless as you can conveniently make them.

**Frederic**

I will! By the love I have for you, I swear it! Would that you could render this extermination unnecessary by accompanying me back to civilization!

**Pirate King**

No, Frederic, it cannot be. I don't think much of our profession, but, contrasted with respectability, it is comparatively honest. No, Frederic, I shall live and die a Pirate King.

**2. Dialogue for RUTH (with FREDERIC)**

**Ruth**

Oh, take me with you! I cannot live if I am left behind.

**Frederic**

Ruth, I will be quite candid with you. You are very dear to me, as you know, but I must be circumspect. You see, you are considerably older than I. A lad of twenty-one usually looks for a wife of seventeen.

**Ruth**

A wife of seventeen! You will find me a wife of a thousand!

**Frederic**

No, but I shall find you a wife of forty-seven, and that is quite enough. Ruth, tell me candidly and without reserve: compared with other women — how are you?

**Ruth**

I will answer you truthfully, master — I have a slight cold, but otherwise I am quite well.

**Frederic**

I am sorry for your cold, but I was referring rather to your personal appearance. Compared with other women, are you beautiful?

**Ruth**

*(bashfully)* I have been told so, dear master.

**Frederic**

Ah, but lately?

**Ruth**

Oh, no; years and years ago.

**Frederic**

What do you think of yourself?

**Ruth**

It is a delicate question to answer, but I think I am a fine woman.

**Frederic**

That is your candid opinion?

**Ruth**

Yes, I should be deceiving you if I told you otherwise.

**Frederic**

Thank you, Ruth. I believe you, for I am sure you would not practice on my inexperience. I wish to do the right thing, and if — I say if — you are really a fine woman, your age shall be no obstacle to our union! *(Chorus of Girls heard in the distance)* Hark! Surely I hear voices! Who has ventured to approach our all but inaccessible lair? Can it be Custom House? No, it does not sound like Custom House.

**Ruth**

*(aside)* Confusion! it is the voices of young girls! If he should see them I am lost.

**Frederic**

*(looking off)* By all that's marvellous, a bevy of beautiful maidens!

**Ruth**

*(aside)* Lost! lost! lost!

**Frederic**

How lovely, how surpassingly lovely is the plainest of them! What grace — what delicacy — what refinement! And Ruth — Ruth told me she was beautiful!

### 3. Dialogue for KATE, EDITH and ISABEL

**Kate**

What a picturesque spot! I wonder where we are!

**Edith**

And I wonder where Papa is. We have left him ever so far behind.

**Isabel**

Oh, he will be here presently! Remember poor Papa is not as young as we are, and we came over a rather difficult country.

**Kate**

But how thoroughly delightful it is to be so entirely alone! Why, in all probability we are the first human beings who ever set foot on this enchanting spot.

**Isabel**

Except the mermaids — it's the very place for mermaids.

**Kate**

Who are only human beings down to the waist!

**Edith**

And who can't be said strictly to set foot anywhere. Tails they may, but feet they cannot.

**Kate**

But what shall we do until Papa and the servants arrive with the luncheon?

**Edith**

We are quite alone, and the sea is as smooth as glass. Suppose we take off our shoes and stockings and paddle?

#### **4. Dialogue for MAJOR-GENERAL (and FREDERIC)**

**Major-General**

Why do I sit here? To escape from the pirates' clutches, I described myself as an orphan; and, heaven help me, I am no orphan! I come here to humble myself before the tombs of my ancestors, and to implore their pardon for having brought dishonour on the family escutcheon.

**Frederic**

But you forget, sir, you only bought the property a year ago, and the stucco on your baronial castle is scarcely dry.

**Major-General**

Frederic, in this chapel are ancestors: you cannot deny that. With the estate, I bought the chapel and its contents. I don't know whose ancestors they were, but I know whose ancestors they are, and I shudder to think that their descendant by purchase (if I may so describe myself) should have brought disgrace upon what, I have no doubt, was an unstained escutcheon.

**Frederic**

Be comforted. Had you not acted as you did, these reckless men would assuredly have called in the nearest clergyman, and have married your large family on the spot.

**Major-General**

I thank you for your proffered solace, but it is unavailing. I assure you, Frederic, that such is the anguish and remorse I feel at the abominable falsehood by which I escaped these easily deluded pirates, that I would go to their simple-minded chief this very night and confess all, did I not fear that the consequences would be most disastrous to myself. At what time does your expedition march against these scoundrels?

**Frederic**

At eleven, and before midnight I hope to have atoned for my involuntary association with the pestilent scourges by sweeping them from the face of the earth — and then, dear Mabel, you will be mine!

**Major-General**

Are your devoted followers at hand?

**Frederic**

They are, they only wait my orders.

## **5. Dialogue for MABEL and SERGEANT OF POLICE**

**Mabel**

Sergeant, approach! Young Frederic was to have led you to death and glory.

**Police**

That is not a pleasant way of putting it.

**Mabel**

No matter; he will not so lead you, for he has allied himself once more with his old associates.

**Police**

He has acted shamefully!

**Mabel**

You speak falsely. You know nothing about it. He has acted nobly.

**Police**

He has acted nobly!

**Mabel**

Dearly as I loved him before, his heroic sacrifice to his sense of duty has endeared him to me tenfold. He has done his duty. I will do mine. Go ye and do yours.

*Exit Mabel.*

**Police**

Right oh!

**Sergeant**

This is perplexing.

**Police**

We cannot understand it at all.

**Sergeant**

Still, as he is actuated by a sense of duty —

**Police**

That makes a difference, of course. At the same time, we repeat, we cannot understand it at all.

**Sergeant**

No matter. Our course is clear: we must do our best to capture these pirates alone. It is most distressing to us to be the agents whereby our erring fellow-creatures are deprived of that liberty which is so dear to us all — but we should have thought of that before we joined the force.

**Police**

We should!

**Sergeant**

It is too late now!