



# Les Misérables



## Auditions

The South West Opera Company and Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre are producing Alain Boublil & Claude-Michel Schönberg's *Les Misérables* for presentation at BREC over the period 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Key members of the Artistic Team are

Director:	Keaton Howe
Musical Director:	Marguerite Monagle

We warmly encourage anyone interested in performing in what promises to be a spectacular production of a truly great piece of musical theatre, to book an audition by emailing [prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com](mailto:prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com) or telephoning Sigari or Tony on 9795 9949. This document provides the information you need to decide whether to audition, what to audition for, and how to prepare for your audition. You will need to allow 10 minutes or so to read this through and digest its contents.

Firstly, some general comments:

- **Auditions will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**, with any call-backs the following weekend (20 – 21 March). They will be at Community Home Care (3 Parade Road, Bunbury – see map on page 12).
- If you wish to audition and cannot attend on 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> March, you can submit a video audition. You will need to record your singing and acting (as required – see below) and submit the recording to us before the audition weekend. Contact us (email / phone above) with any questions and to register your intention to submit a video audition.
- In addition to the named characters there is a substantial chorus or ensemble, comprising many small character roles.
- There will be an audition panel of two or three, including the Director and Musical Director, who will expect auditionees to demonstrate their acting and singing abilities.
- In order to be cast in the show you will need to be available (in principle) to attend all rehearsals (and performances) to which you are called. Rehearsals will commence in May 2021 and will be as follows:
  - Singing rehearsals: 1-2 evenings during the week (Mondays and Thursdays)
  - Sundays – all day (mornings and afternoons) – for blocking etc.
- You will also need to be available throughout the 'production weeks' (6 – 18 September) for evening rehearsals and performances, and for matinée performances.
- There is an 'audition form' for you to complete and bring to your audition – at the end of this document.
- Non-members of SWOC who are cast in *Les Misérables* will need to become 'single event associate members' of SWOC before they can rehearse or perform in this production. The cost will be \$100.



# Les Misérables



- **Make sure you go through the checklist on page 11 as part of the preparation for your audition**

Your participation in this production requires your undivided commitment in order to ensure a production of the highest possible quality. If cast, you cannot commit to any other production during the rehearsal period and production season. You should not audition if you are unable to commit to the rehearsal and production schedule.

If you have any other commitments (personal or work) that may impact on your ability to attend rehearsals, please provide full relevant details on your audition form.

## Roles to be Auditioned

### Jean Valjean

*Stage Age:* Late 30's/early 40s, aging to early 60s by the end of the show.

*Description:* Valjean is an ex-convict who leaves behind a life of hatred and deceit and makes his fortune after adopting a pseudonym to evade the police. Making the emotional journey for an angry man he finds fulfilment in loving his adopted daughter, Cosette, and helping others, with newfound idealism and compassion. His whole life is a quest for redemption, and he ultimately finds bliss on his deathbed. Must believably be seen as a man with great physical strength and presence. The key to his character is his great humanity and compassion. Very Strong dramatic Singer/Actor with vocal stamina.

*Vocal range:* **High Baritone or Tenor. G#2 – A4**

### Javert

*Stage Age:* 40s, aging to 60s

*Description:* Javert is the inspector who serves as antagonist to Jean Valjean. Javert is unswerving in his belief that men cannot change for the good. "Once a thief, always a thief" is his mantra. At first glance Javert might appear to be the villain of the story, but on closer examination it is clear that he is not an evil man. He is aware that in society some people achieve control through evil and others through power of the law. He is a dedicated policeman, with a profound sense of duty. Unlike Valjean he cannot change. His attitudes are rigid and unmovable. He is stern, forbidding and lacking in compassion. Javert should be an actor who can convincingly stand up to Jean Valjean. Strong Singer/Actor.

*Vocal range:* **Bass/Baritone; F2 – F#4**

**Fantine**

*Stage Age:* Early to mid 20s

*Description:* A working-class girl whose innocent affair with a dapper student leaves her pregnant and abandoned. She is rejected by society and forced through circumstances to become a prostitute. She is a brave woman defeated by life, sustained by her love for her daughter and clinging to her dignity. Sick with consumption, we witness her descent through poverty, hunger, cold, loneliness and destitution to death. She is a noble character, whose life becomes a series of terrible events that rob her of her pride, character, and ultimately her life. Strong Singer/Actor that the audience can emotionally connect with. *This actor may be asked to cut her hair – To Be Discussed*

*Vocal range:* **Alto / mezzo-soprano;** F3 – E<sup>b</sup>5

**Marius Pontmercy**

*Stage Age:* Early 20s

*Description:* The son of a colonel in Napoléon's army. An innocent young man, Marius is nonetheless capable of great things and manages both to fight on the barricades and successfully court the love of his life, Cosette. In Act 1 Marius plays Romeo to Cosette's Juliet. Marius matures after the Café Song as a result of his experiences on the barricade. Marius should have a lovely, lyrical voice with a contemporary edge. Strong Singer/Actor. Romantic lead with Byronic qualities.

*Vocal range:* **High Baritone / Tenor;** A2 – A<sup>b</sup>4

**Cosette**

*Stage Age:* 18

*Description:* Fantine's daughter. She is a strong-willed, loving, intelligent, inquiring and personable girl. She is not in any sense a "soppy" romantic heroine. Once adopted by Jean Valjean, Cosette lives a comfortable, if secluded life. She is challenging to Valjean, behaving always with imagination and dignity. She falls instantly in love with Marius, changing her world and her priorities.

*Vocal range:* **Soprano;** B<sup>b</sup>3 – C6

**Éponine**

*Stage Age:* 18

*Description:* Eponine is the daughter of the Thénardiens. She is a young girl who is streetwise and tough, but also sensitive and lonely. She is in love with Marius, knowing that he will never love her. She bravely follows Marius to the Barricades in the hope that they will die there together. Once grown up, Eponine moves with her family to Paris where they fall on hard times. Now poor, living hand to mouth, she survives by helping her father break the law. Eponine is a tragic character, hopelessly in love with Marius. She sings one of the most famous numbers in the show, "On My Own," and should therefore be an excellent singer with a contemporary edge to her voice and an excellent actress. Physically, this actor must also be believable as an adolescent boy. Strong Singer/Actor

*Vocal range:* **Alto / Mezzo-soprano;** F3 – E5

### **M. Thénardier**

*Stage Age:* 30s-40s, aging to 50s-60s

*Description:* M. Thénardier is a cruel, wretched, money-obsessed man who first appears as Cosette's keeper and tormentor. He is an embodiment of evil. That said, he should also possess a wicked sense of humour. Blinded by greed, Thénardier is incapable of loving other human beings and spends every minute in the pursuit of money. Seen as the comic relief, along with his wife Madame Thénardier, but is in reality the real villain in this show. Strong actor with comic timing.

*Vocal range:* **Baritone**; C3 – G4

### **Mme. Thénardier**

*Stage Age:* 30s, aging to 50s

*Description:* Thénardier's wife. Mme. Thénardier is just as evil as her husband and takes special pleasure in abusing Cosette. She is coarse, vulgar, greedy and larger than life. Scheming, comic and quick to see an opportunity, but like her husband is a villain through and through. Strong Actress with comic timing.

*Vocal range:* **Mezzo Soprano**; G<sup>#3</sup> – D5

### **Enjolras**

*Stage Age:* late 20s.

*Description:* Enjolras is a radical student revolutionary and the leader of the ABC society (see below). He is charismatic, heroic and inspirational. On the barricade he should dominate everyone else both physically and vocally. Together with Courfeyrac and Marius, Enjolras leads the insurrection at the barricade. Dynamic vocalist/actor with a heroic stage presence.

*Vocal range:* **Baritone**; A2 – G4

### **The Bishop of Digne**

*Stage Age:* 45-60s

*Description:* A much-admired clergyman who shows great kindness and charity to Valjean and initiates the ex-convict's path to spiritual renewal. This is an important featured role. The actor will also be in the ensemble.

*Vocal range:* **Bass / Baritone**.

### **Young Cosette**

*Stage Age:* 7

*Description:* Fantine's young daughter. Boards with the Thénardiers. She is mistreated, worked like a drudge, beaten by Madame and bullied by young Eponine. She is fearful, lonely and dreams of something better. This actor appears in one scene as young Cosette, and will then also be a member of Gavroche's Gang.

*Vocal range:* A3 – C5



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## Young Éponine

*Stage age:* 7

*Description:* The Thénardiens' spoiled, pampered daughter who bullies young Cosette mercilessly. Non-singing and non-speaking. This actor will also be a member of Gavroche's Gang.

## Gavroche

*Stage age:* 9 – 12

*Description:* A street urchin. He is a happy-go-lucky child who enjoys the small pleasures of life. He is fierce and brave, and plays a decisive role at the barricade.

*Vocal range:* **Soprano**; B3 – G5

## Ensemble

The ensemble is a critical part of the show and will be featured in many different ways throughout. We are looking for very strong singers, and although this is not a heavy “dance” show, we are looking to see a range of contrasting movement styles from the base, grungy and solicitous to the dainty, affected and aristocratic. Much of the story is told through the atmosphere and emotions set by the ensemble's movement, so the ability to be risk-taking, creative, receptive, flexible, and to move as part of a group is critical. In addition to strong singing and general acting skills, “plays well with others” is a great talent to have in this casting situation!

Almost all Ensemble members will have at least two characters to portray – no one will be sitting around!

## Featured Male Ensemble Roles

### ABC Society

Their name (ABC) is a play on the French word *abaissé* (pronounced exactly as the French pronounce A-B-C), meaning “the abased”, “downtrodden” or “the people below”. Students and workers, part of a secret society to fight for freedom. The students are from wealthy families, the workers are a stark contrast. These are doubled with other ensemble roles. General stage age early 20's. They include:

- **Combeferre** - a philosopher and believer in peace. He is gentle, humane, strong and brave.
- **Feuilly** - a worker, self-educated and an orphan. A believer in “nationality”. Affectionate, warm, poetic.
- **Courfeyrac** - a student. He is youthful, passionate and fearless.
- **Joly** - a medical student. Eccentric and light-hearted, although occasionally morbid. His name is from the English “jolly”.
- **Prouvaire** - a student of social studies. He is kind, soft spoken and at the right moments strong and masterful. He is a poet.
- **Lesgles** - a student, cheerful, laughing at life but unlucky. Close friends with Joly.
- **Grantaire** - a student, the opposite of Enjolras. He believes in nothing. He admires Enjolras, but loves to mock him. Witty and often drunk, he is happy being with the group and they put up with him because of his good humour.

### Thénardier's gang of thieves

They include:

- **Brujon** - Physically strong. The body of a bear and a pea sized brain. A gangster, stupid and evil
- **Babet** - Physically frail, but lean and cunning
- **Claquesous** - "He is the night." Tough, dangerous & secretive
- **Montparnasse** - A teenager, handsome and dangerous. Kills with a knife. He is well dressed, strongly built and supple. Possessive of Eponine

### Other male roles

- The **Foreman**: The foreman of the factory where Fantine works. He is sleazy and even a bit menacing.
- **Bamatabois**: The "customer" who taunts Fantine into violence. Wealthy, dissolute young man who thinks of himself as a gentleman. Drunk, sadistic and feels he can buy anything-even Fantine.
- The **Pimp**: Controls the prostitutes at the dock. Mean, aggressive and abusive. Small solo line in "Lovely Ladies".
- **Chain Gang**: The Chain Gang consists of Jean Valjean's fellow prisoners. There are four soloists. The overall vocal range of the convicts is low and they should be able to sing in a rich baritone if possible.
- **Constables 1 & 2**: There are two Constables with solos in the show.
- **Farmer**: the Farmer has solo lines that are a bit difficult to sing. There may be additional non-singing farmers.
- **Labourers**: the Labourer has solo lines that are a bit difficult to sing. There may be additional non-singing labourers.
- **Sailors**: three sailors begin The Docks scene. All three have solos. Low C to middle C
- **Fauchelevant** is the victim of the cart crash. The role requires a few solo lines and some painful yelps.
- **Citizens; Beggars; Wedding Guests; Waltzers; Judges; etc**

### Featured Female Ensemble Roles

- **Old Woman**: this is the woman who bargains with Fantine for her hair.
- **Factory Girl**: the Shop Girl who fights with Fantine. She is mean, catty, and selfish. She also is most likely having an affair with the Foreman and jealous of Fantine.

### Other Female Ensemble

- **Farmers; Innkeeper's Wife; Whores; Factory Workers; Citizens; Beggars; Wedding Guests; Waltzers**

## Audition requirements

### *If you are auditioning for a named role*

A list of the vocal requirements for each of the characters in the show follows, along with suggested songs for you to prepare for each role. You only need to prepare one of these songs, and you can purchase a copy of the sheet music from *musicnotes.com*, using the internet links provided.

**Please do NOT prepare a song from *Les Misérables* for your audition.**

Suggested songs which will allow the panel to assess your suitability for the role are listed below; there are, of course, other songs that will be suitable for your audition, and you may prepare a different song if you wish.

The SWOC accompanist (Fionnuala Hannon) will be available to accompany you if you wish; HOWEVER ...

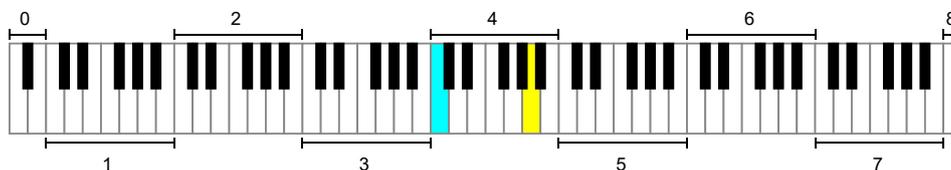
If you do choose to sing a song other than those suggested, you must supply

- One copy of the sheet music for the audition panel – bring with you to the audition
- One copy of the sheet music for the accompanist, which must be delivered to us at least a week before the auditions.

If you prefer to use a pre-recorded backing track as accompaniment for your singing, please bring it with you. There will be facilities available for playing an audio file from a USB stick or a CD. There will also be a Bluetooth speaker available for you to play it from your phone or tablet. Again, if you are using a backing-track for accompaniment of a song which is not one of the suggested songs, you will need to provide a copy of the sheet music for the audition panel.

### **Interpreting the vocal range notation (Scientific Pitch Notation; SPN) in the following table of suggested songs to prepare for each role**

In a specified range, for example G<sup>#</sup>3 – D5, G<sup>#</sup> and D are the standard note names, and the numbers 3 and 5 specify which octave they are in, as shown in this diagram of a piano keyboard. Middle C (C4) is **blue**.



## Guidelines for auditions for named roles

**Jean Valjean** Range G<sup>#</sup>2 - A4. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *A Bit of Earth* in A major, from *The Secret Garden*. Need to sustain Top A at end of song. [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *A Chance For Me* from *Amazing Grace: the Musical* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *I'm Martin Guerre* in B<sup>b</sup> minor, from *Martin Guerre* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

You will also need to be familiar with *Bring him home* (from *Les Misérables*)

**Javert** Range F2 - F<sup>#</sup>4. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Alive!* from *Jekyll & Hyde* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Falcon in the Dive* from *The Scarlet Pimpernel* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Where I Want to Be* from *Chess* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Fantine** Range F3- E<sup>b</sup>5. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Once Upon a Dream* from *Jekyll & Hyde* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *When I Look at You* from *The Scarlet Pimpernel* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Marius Pontmercy** Range A2 - A<sup>b</sup>4. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Close Every Door* from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *She's a Woman* from *Kiss of the Spider Woman* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Why God Why?* from *Miss Saigon* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Cosette** Range B<sup>b</sup>3 – C6. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *How Could I Ever Know?* from *Secret Garden* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Moonfall* from *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Sympathy, Tenderness* from *Jekyll and Hyde* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Éponine** Range F3 – E5. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *I'd Give My Life For You* from *Miss Saigon* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Now That I've Seen Her* from *Miss Saigon* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *The Movie in My Mind* from *Miss Saigon* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Thénardier** Range C3 – G4 . Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Reviewing the Situation* from *Oliver!* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Pick a Pocket or Two* from *Oliver!* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Mme. Thénardier** Range G<sup>#</sup>3 – D5 . Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Little Girls* from *Annie* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *The Worst Pies in London* from *Sweeney Todd* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Enjolras** Range A2 – G4. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Into the Fire* from *The Scarlet Pimpernel* [click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Sunset Boulevard* from *Sunset Boulevard* [click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *This is the Moment* from *Jekyll & Hyde* [click here to purchase sheet music](#)

(continued on next page)

## Guidelines for auditions for named roles (*continued*)

**Bishop of Digne** Suggested song to prepare:

- *Lost in the darkness* from *Jekyll and Hyde* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Young Cosette** Range A3 – C5. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Getting Tall* from *Nine* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Once Upon a December* from *Anastasia* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *The Girl I Mean to Be* from *The Secret Garden* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

**Gavroche** Range B3 – G5. Suggested options for a song to prepare:

- *Consider Yourself* from *Oliver!* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Giants in the Sky* from *Into the Woods* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)
- *Not While I'm Around* from *Sweeney Todd* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#)

## If you are auditioning to be part of the Ensemble

Again, **please do NOT prepare a song from *Les Misérables* for your audition.**

“Group” auditions are a good option if you don’t want to sing on your own – two or more can audition at the same time and sing together. Whether singing with someone else or on your own, you should sing the line for your voice part where multiple voices sing in harmony.

If you sing a song of your own choosing, you will need to provide extra copies:

- One for the audition panel – bring this one with you to your audition
- One for the accompanist if you would like her to play it for you. Fionnuala will need this at least a week in advance.

## MALE ENSEMBLE ROLES

You need to prepare a song, which may be **either**

- your own choice; **or**
- *Pour oh pour the pirate sherry* from *Pirates of Penzance* ([click here to download](#)); **or**
- *I am a Pirate King* from *Pirates of Penzance* ([click here to download](#)).

**Also**, if you would like to be one of the **students / ABC society**, please come prepared to sing

- A section of *Do you Hear the People Sing?*, from *Les Misérables*. (Yes, we’re aware that’s being inconsistent, but that’s how it is!) [Click here to download the sheet music](#).



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## FEMALE ENSEMBLE ROLES

You should be prepared to sing **either**

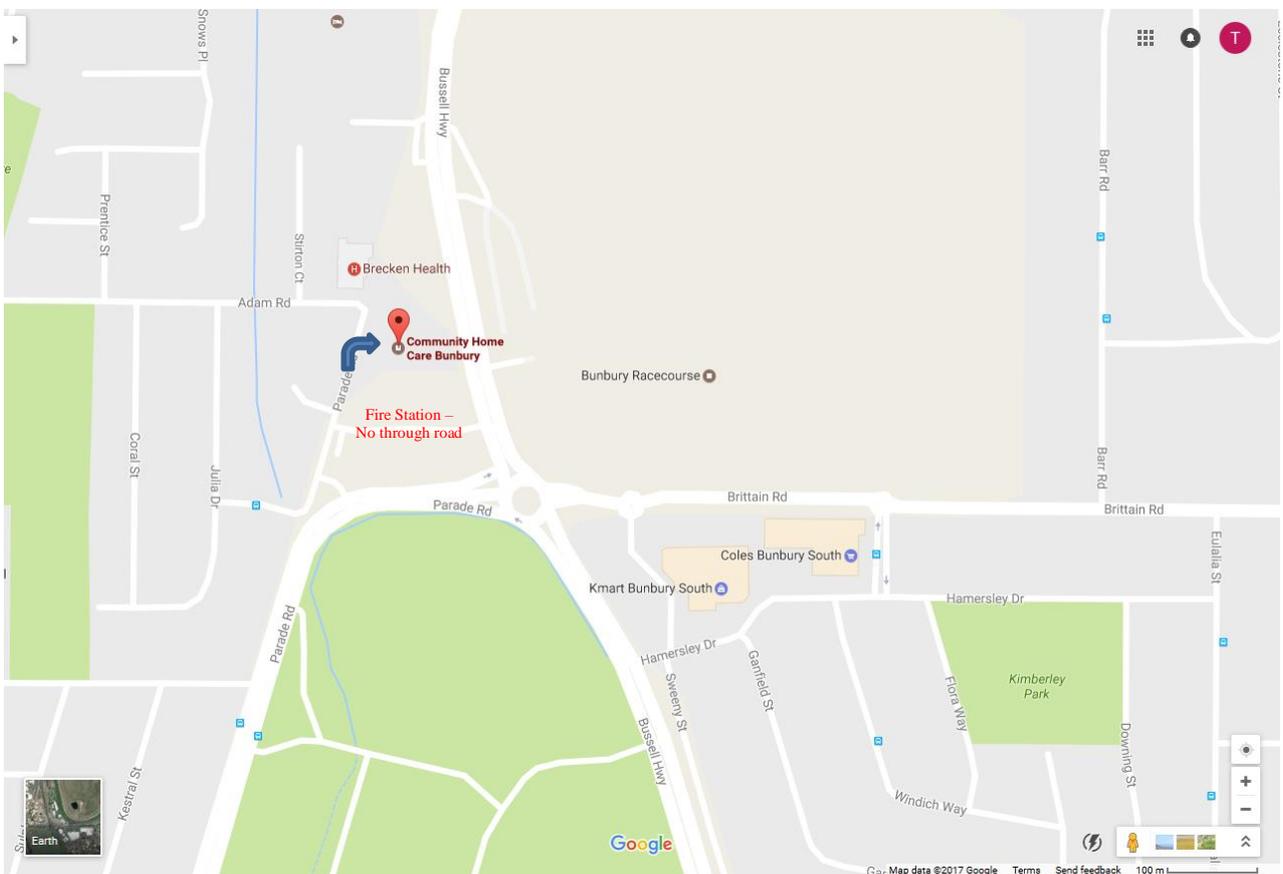
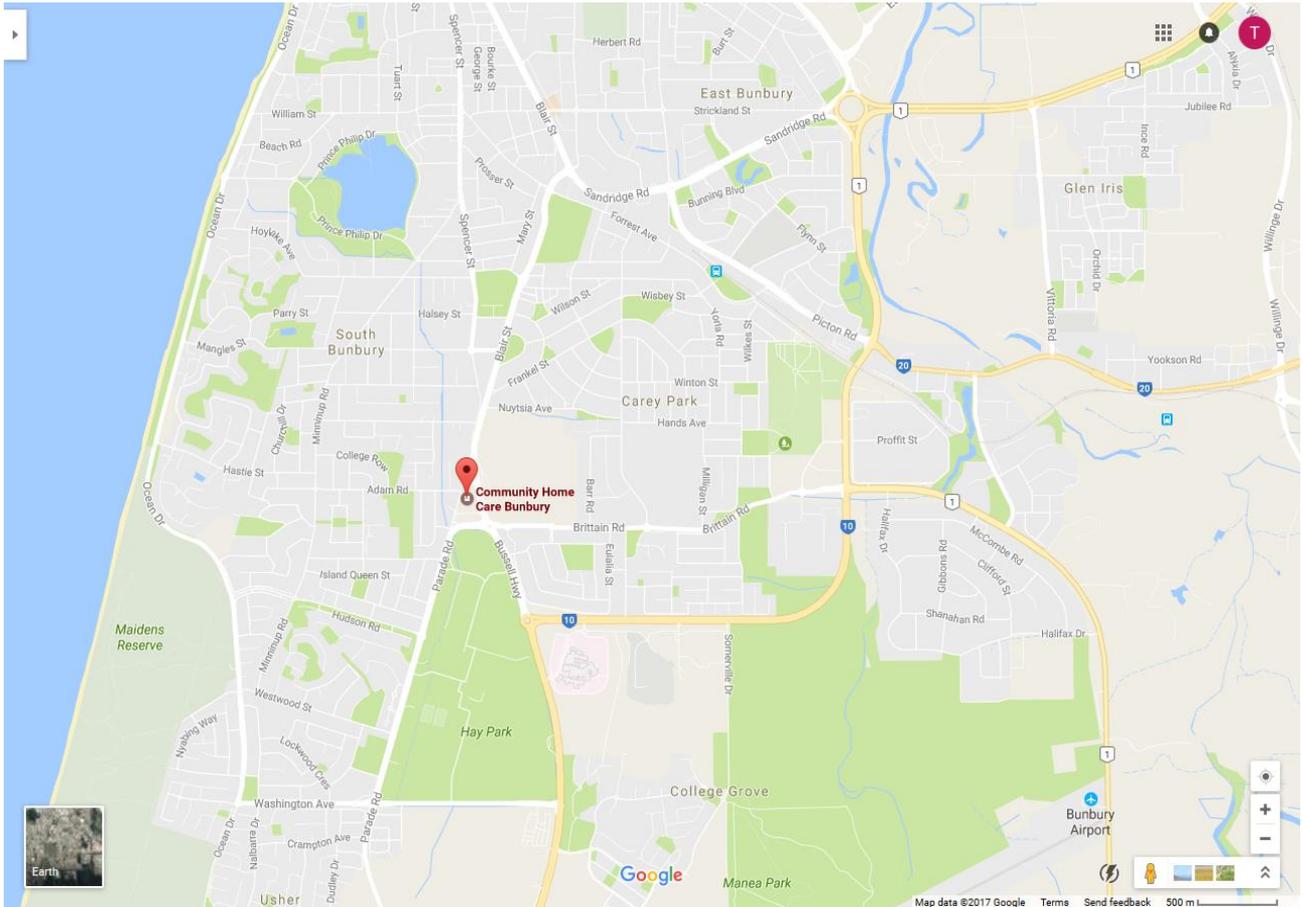
- The relevant part (alto or soprano; sopranos should probably sing the second soprano line where dangerously high notes are required!) in *Bells of Notre Dame* from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. To purchase the sheet music, click [here for an excerpt from the song](#) (sufficient for your audition), or [here for the whole song](#); **or**
- *God help the outcasts* from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* [Click here to purchase sheet music](#); **or**
- A piece of your own choosing that you have learnt in an ensemble (e.g. a selection from *The Phantom of the Opera* or *Wicked*; as long as it shows your range and your ability to sing in an ensemble).

## Audition Checklist

### Have you done the following?

1. Booked an audition time  
([prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com](mailto:prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com) 9795 9949); and
2. Let us know which part(s) you would like to be considered for;  
and
3. Determined the specific requirements for your audition? If in  
any doubt contact us ([prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com](mailto:prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com) 9795 9949);  
and
4. Learnt your song(s); and
5. Sent a copy of the music for your song if it's not one of the  
suggested pieces to [prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com](mailto:prodmgr.swoc@gmail.com) (for the  
accompanist – bring an extra copy to the audition); and
6. Filled out, read and signed your audition form, ready to bring  
it with you.

# Maps showing location of Community Home Care, Parade Rd. Bunbury





# Les Misérables



## AUDITION FORM

NAME

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ADDRESS

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CONTACT NUMBERS

Home:

---

Mobile:

---

email ADDRESS

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VOICE TYPE (soprano / alto / tenor / bass)

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What ROLE(s) would you like to play?

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Will you accept a different role?

Perform in the chorus?

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PREVIOUS THEATRE / MUSIC EXPERIENCE:

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SPECIAL SKILLS (eg. Juggling / Dancing / Playing an instrument)

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Are you interested in contributing to the show by helping in any of these areas?

- Set construction    Props    Costumes    Make-up    Hair
-

**If you are cast in the show, we will need your agreement to each of the following.** Please indicate your agreement by signing below. If you are unable to commit to one or more of these requirements, please indicate which one(s), put a line through it/them, and mention this to the audition panel and audition reception.

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**REHEARSALS** will be on Monday and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm, and Sundays all day. They will start in May 2021. You will not be required to attend every rehearsal, or necessarily the whole of those rehearsals you are called for, but should be available to attend as required on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays. You agree always to inform us as far in advance as possible if you are unable to attend a rehearsal you are called for.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS** You consent to us using photographs we may take of you for the purpose of promoting the show, including for the printed programme and in advertising media.

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**SINGLE EVENT MEMBERSHIP OF SWOC** You will need to be a member of SWOC and to consent to SWOC's Child Protection Policy. If you are not already a member, you will need to take out 'single event membership'. The membership fee\* will be payable at the first rehearsal.

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**PERFORMANCES** Participation in this production of *Les Misérables* will require you to be available for rehearsals (any evening) and performances (afternoon or evening) during the weeks Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2021. You agree to be available for rehearsal and performance throughout that period, as required.

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**COMMUNICATION** The principal means of communication for all matters concerning this show will be email. You agree to check your email at least daily during the rehearsal and production period, and always to respond promptly to emails as required.

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**SOCIAL MEDIA & PUBLICITY** You agree NOT to publish any unauthorised pictures, videos or other material relating to the production, on social media or elsewhere.

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**I agree to abide by each of these requirements if I am cast in the show.**

Signature:

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\* \$100 for adults; \$75 for under 18s



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