

Ensemble

Stage ages: 16+

The best part in the show. No doubt, directors have tried to tell you that the chorus is paramount. Usually that's nonsense, but in this show, the ensemble has the best music and does more than just about anyone else. They play surgeons, murder victims and lunatics, to name just a few of the group's varied personae.

Every member of the ensemble must be an extremely accomplished singer in his or her own right, able to maintain close, dissonant harmonies and make the most beautiful, chilling sounds in musical theater. Most likely, everyone will have plenty of solo work as well. We hope to cast six to ten ensemble members, from basses, to sopranos who can sing a D#5.

Men:

SWEENEY TODD

Stage age: 35-50

An unassuming barber-surgeon. After escaping 15 years in a foreign work camp, he has returned to his home and profession to seek revenge and start his family again. When that doesn't happen, he descends into quiet, violent insanity.

Baritone

F#2-F#4

ANTHONY HOPE

Stage age: 18-30

Written as a naïve, one-dimensional hero, we hope to have a more textured Anthony to seduce Todd's daughter, Johanna. He is a sailor after all — he's worldlier than one might think.

Tenor

Ab2-F#4

TOBIAS RAGG

Stage age: Teens to early twenties

A slow young man who does what he's told -- until he doesn't. Must be able to play a range from absolute innocence to murderous madness.

Tenor

Eb - A4

JUDGE TURPIN

Stage age: 40-plus

A religious man who seeks to do the Christian thing, whether it's condemning a child to death or marrying his ward, Johanna, to protect her from the outside world. More sophisticated than the other characters, it's clear to him that his way is the right one.

Bass

E2-F4

THE BEADLE

Stage age: 35-plus

Judge Turpin's right-hand man and something of a fop. Conflicted about his friend's outrageous immorality but devoted to him nonetheless.

Tenor

Up to D5 — seriously

PIRELLI

Stage age: 25-40

An assistant to Todd before his imprisonment, now a flamboyant quack barber-surgeon. Actually an Irishman by the name of Daniel O'Higgins, this actor must be able to do a convincing lower class Irish accent. No need for the Italian to be particularly realistic.

Tenor

G#2 - C5

Women:

MRS. LOVETT

Stage Age: 35-50

The pie shop owner in love with Todd even before he was transported. She's the money-grubbing force behind his turn from revenge-seeker to serial murderer. Outwardly motherly and funny, this woman is dangerous. We're not looking for Angela Lansbury's cutesy goof.

Alto

F#3 - E5

JOHANNA

Stage Age: 16

Todd's daughter, raised by Turpin. Externally pampered but subject to untold horrors in Turpin's home, she's in perpetual fight-or-flight mode.

Soprano

C4 - Bb5

BEGGAR WOMAN

Stage age: 35-50

Todd's wife Lucy, now mad after poisoning herself with arsenic. She's been on the street for 15 years, selling her body. This role calls for an extremely versatile actress, able to change moods on a dime.

Alto with a strong head voice

A3 - F#5