

Character Breakdown

NOTE: Most male roles may be played by a female

LEADS:

Mary Poppins (singing role)

Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet very particular, and sometimes a little frightening, but she is always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. The role calls for an excellent singer and actor who should be able to move well. Since she carries a majority of the show, precision and diction are key.

Gender: female Vocal range top: F5, Vocal range bottom: G3

Bert (singing role)

The narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert is a chimney sweep and a sidewalk artist, among many other occupations. With a twinkle in his eye and a skip in his step, Bert watches over the children and the goings-on around Cherry Tree Lane. He is a song-and-dance man with oodles of charm who is wise beyond his years. Cast your strongest male singer, dancer, and actor in this role.

Gender: male Vocal range top: F4, Vocal range bottom: B2

George Banks (singing role)

Husband to Winifred and father to Jane and Michael, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household, he is a pip-and-slippers man who doesn't have much to do with his children and believes that Miss Andrew, his cruel, strict childhood nanny, gave him the perfect upbringing. George's emotional armor, however off-putting, conceals a sensitive soul. A baritone, George may speak-sing as necessary and should be among your strongest male actors and singers.

Gender: male Vocal range top: F4, Vocal range bottom: Bb2

Winifred Banks (singing role)

George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. She is a loving homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband's social aspirations while striving to be a model wife and mother. Cast an actor who can portray a great warmth and depth of feeling. Winifred should have a pure vocal tone and be one of your stronger actors and singers.

Gender: female Vocal range top: Eb5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Jane Banks (singing role)

The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness. Cast a wonderful actor and a strong singer who can take the audience on an emotional journey.

Gender: female Vocal range top: Eb5, Vocal range bottom: A3

Michael Banks (singing role)

The cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and longs desperately for his attention. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents. Michael should be a great actor and singer. Ideally, he reads onstage as younger than Jane.

Gender: male Vocal range top: E5, Vocal range bottom: A3

SUPPORTING ROLES:

Mrs. Brill (non-singing role)

The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked, she's always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. She does not have to be a strong singer, but she should be a solid actor.

Gender: female

Robertson Ay (non-singing role)

The houseboy to the Banks family. Forgetful and clumsy, he often bungles simple tasks. He doesn't do a lot of singing, but he should be a good comedic actor. Note: his last name is pronounced like "eye."

Gender: male

ENSEMBLE ROLES & FEATURED ROLES:

All ensembles require group singing; featured roles require either solo singing or solo acting, or both. For each featured role, the pages showcasing the character's lines or vocals are listed.

Ensemble & Featured Characters include:

Katie Nanna, Park Strollers, Statues, Neleus, Bird Woman, Honeybees, Clerks, Miss Smythe, Chairman, Von Hussler, John Northbrook, Vagrants, Buskers, Passerby, Mrs. Corry, Customers, Miss Andrew, Kite Flyers, Chimney Sweeps, Policeman and the Messenger.

Gender: male

Katie Nanna

Katie Nanna is Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children. This role is perfect for a performer who is not quite ready for a larger role.

Gender: female

Miss Smythe

Miss Smythe is the bank Chairman's humorless secretary. This smaller role is great for a performer who is new to the stage.

Gender: female

Neleus

Neleus is a statue who, once brought to life by Mary Poppins, is very happy to befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble.

Gender: any Vocal range top: Eb5 Vocal range bottom: Bb4

Bird Woman (singing role)

The Bird Woman is covered in a patchwork of old shawls, her pockets stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell the crumbs to Passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist. While she should be a good singer, there can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the difficulties of her situation.

Gender: female Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: G3

Chairman (non-singing role)

Chairman, the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed, is an Edwardian stuffed shirt. He does not need to be a strong singer, but he should be a good actor with great stage presence.

Gender: male

Von Hussler (non-singing role)

Von Hussler is a businessman seeking a loan from the bank for a shady business deal. This is a great character role for a fantastic actor who can command the stage with pomposity.

Gender: male

John Northbrook (singing role)

John Northbrook is an honest businessman seeking a loan to build a factory for his community. This is a great role for a good actor and solid singer who may not be ready to tackle a large part.

Gender: male Vocal range top: D4 Vocal range bottom: C3

Mrs. Corry (singing role)

Mrs. Corry owns a magical Talking Shop. She is a mysterious woman of indeterminate age, but has plenty of spirit and is sharp as a tack. Should be an excellent actor who's not afraid to be over the top in this fun role.

Gender: female Vocal range bottom: C#4

Miss Andrew (singing role)

Miss Andrew is George's overbearing and scary childhood nanny. With her bottle of nasty-tasting brimstone and treacle to keep naughty children in line, she is a bully who only knows one way of doing things: her way. Cast one of your stronger singers in this featured role.

Gender: female Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: G#3

Park Strollers

The Park Strollers are citizens of London who go from drab and dreary to bright and colorful as they get swept up in Mary Poppins's adventures in the park.

Gender: any

Statues

The Statues are stone sculptures. Thanks to Mary Poppins, these works of art come alive and dance with Bert and the Park Strollers.

Gender: any

Honeybees

The Honeybees are conjured by Mary Poppins to help teach the children the benefits of “A Spoonful of Sugar.” These roles require good movers who can sing.

Gender: any

Clerks

The Clerks, like George, are employees at the bank. These roles require actors who can sing.

Gender: any

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby

Vagrants, Buskers, and Passerby are citizens of London passing by the cathedral during “Feed the Birds.” They can also be the Park Strollers earlier in the show.

Gender: any

Customers

The Customers are bright, colorful British citizens visiting Mrs. Corry’s Talking Shop. This group can be the same Park Strollers and Passersby from before.

Gender: any

Kite Flyers

Kite Flyers consist of families flying kites in the park. They can also be comprised of the same ensemble members as the Park Strollers, the Passersby, and Mrs. Corry’s Customers.

Gender: any

Chimney Sweeps

Chimney Sweeps (including Sweep 1, Sweep 2, Sweep 3, and Sweep 4) are Bert’s cheerful, friendly, and agile friends who keep London’s chimneys in working order. These actors should be great dancers and good singers, capable of bringing the show-stopping number “Step In Time” to life.

Gender: any

Policeman and the Messenger

The Policeman, a neighborhood patrol officer, and the Messenger, who delivers a summons to George from the bank, are great roles for students new to the stage that might not be ready for a large role.

Gender: any