

HASLEMERE PLAYERS – “THE GONDOLIERS” – CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

MARCO: Tenor. Heavily involved musically in duets, quartets, with the chorus and has a solo song. One of the two leading gondoliers. Ideal age – 20s to 30s. Popular with the ladies. Athletic and comic style. Brother and similar age to Giuseppe. Paired romantically with Gianetta.

GIUSEPPE: Baritone. As Marco above. Brother to Marco. Paired romantically with Tessa.

TESSA: Mezzo. Heavily involved musically in duets, quartets, with the chorus and has a solo song. Ideal age – early 20s to 30s. Lively and full of fun. Paired romantically with Giuseppe.

GIANETTA: Soprano. As Tessa above. Paired romantically with Marco.

CASILDA: Soprano. Heavily involved musically – trios, duets, quintets..., Daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Plaza Toro. Ideal age – similar to Gianetta and Tessa. Outwardly a bit stuffy, but secretly in love with Luiz.

LUIZ: Tenor/baritone. Sings a couple of romantic duets with Casilda. Down-trodden attendant to the Duke. Similar age to Marco and Giuseppe. Required to produce a few drum rolls! Madly in love with Casilda. Turns out to be the heir to the throne of Barataria.

DUKE OF PLAZA TORO: Baritone. The archetypal G&S ‘patter man’. Comic solo and duet with the Duchess plus more. A likeable fool very much bossed by the Duchess. As father of Casilda he is 50/60ish years of age.

DUCHESS OF PLAZA TORO: Contralto. Solo and duet with the Duke plus more. Comically overbearing wife of the Duke. Overly full of airs and graces, but nonetheless endears herself to audiences. Mother of Casilda and of similar age, or younger, than the Duke.

DON ALHAMBRA: Bass/baritone. The Grand Inquisitor and therefore ‘feared’ by all. His demeanour is one of demanding respect but he is a bit of an old roué with a droll sense of humour. A character part. Takes the lead in a quintet and a trio. Age 45/50+, or at least appear to be!

ANTONIO: Baritone. One of the gondoliers, ideally aged early 20s/30s or more! Has a solo at the start of the show. Needs to be athletic (within reason!). Will be given additional lines and action to that in the libretto.

FRANCESCO: Tenor. **GIORGIO:** Bass. Any age. Two additional gondoliers which have a few individual lines to sing in the chorus. Will be given additional lines and action to that in the libretto.

INEZ: Mezzo (recitative). Makes an appearance at the end of the show. Could be a cameo role. Inez is Luiz’s foster mother and therefore should be/look 45/60 years old. She will **not** be played as an old crone as is often the case!

FIAMETTA: Soprano / **VITTORIA:** Mezzo / **GIULIA:** Soprano: Any age. Each has a few individual lines to sing in the chorus.

Venetian Masked Dancers: Two/three dancers are required who will appear during the overture and throughout the show dressed as masked dancers. They will be part of the chorus as well as being required to set scenes and move properties on and off stage.