

## ***Creative Team***

Director: David Sidwell  
 Musical Director: Victoria Brown  
 Choreographer: Sonja McGirr-Garrett



## ***Audition Information***

Date/s: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
 Audition venue: Clarence St Theatre, Dance Studio, 59 Clarence Street, Hamilton

Audition times: *Children - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 4.00pm – 8.00pm*  
*All company and dancers en masse - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 1.00pm – 3.30pm*

***\*Please note:***

1. ALL dancers must attend the 'en masse' dancers' audition from 1.00pm – 3.30pm, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to learn a short 'warm up' exercise and dance routine.

2. All cast auditioning for a principal or company role should also attend the en masse dance audition call.

All singing/acting roles plus general company members - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 9.00 am - 5.00pm

Call backs as required Sunday evening 11<sup>th</sup> March

***All auditionees must book an audition appointment. Please phone HOS mobile on 027 266 6795, send an email to [info@hamiltonoperatic.co.nz](mailto:info@hamiltonoperatic.co.nz) or visit the Facebook page.***



## ***Audition preparation***

### ***Vocal***

Please prepare a song that best displays your vocal capabilities and qualities within the popular musical theatre genre. Examples of shows to use are *Hairspray*, *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Mary Poppins*, *Wicked* etc

Please be well prepared to sing a show song and know your lyrics.

A piano accompanist will be provided (please bring your own sheet music), or you may provide a karaoke-style CD (no vocals on the CD).

It is strongly advised **not** to sing unaccompanied.

### ***Dance***

All dancers and company members will be auditioned 'en masse'. The choreographer will teach a short warm up and dance routine to the group at this audition call.

Please ensure you wear appropriate clothing and suitable footwear for vigorous movement and dance.

### ***On-stage roles***

The creative team is looking for principal performers aged from 8 years, with a range of talents and skills to characterize the many "Oliver" roles.

The cast will include:    Strong singers with good movement skills  
                                   Excellent dancers with singing ability  
                                   Actors with movement ability

In light of the fresh approach the creative team is taking with this new production, the cast will be wide ranging and multi-talented within the many domains of theatrical performance.  
*Gymnastic and acrobatic abilities an advantage for the dancers.*

### ***Rehearsal period and dates***

<b>AUDITIONS:</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b>
<b>MUSIC REHEARSALS COMMENCE:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> April 2012</b>
<b>BLOCKING/CHOREOGRAPHY REHEARSALS COMMENCE:</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012</b>



**PERFORMANCE DATES:**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> June – closing night Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012**

**Opening Night Saturday**

***FULL ATTENDANCE AT ALL REHEARSALS IS A NECESSITY – TOTAL COMMITMENT REQUIRED!***

## ***Cast required***

### ***Character breakdown***

***OLIVER TWIST*** (Boy soprano, 10 – 13)

The protagonist of the story. He is a lonely orphan boy born in the workhouse. Very sweet and innocent with a good disposition. Though treated with cruelty and surrounded by coarseness for most of his life, he is a pious, innocent child. His true identity is the central mystery of the novel.

***FAGIN*** (Baritone, 50 – 65)

A conniving career criminal, takes in homeless boys and teaches them to pick pockets for him. He is also a buyer of other people's stolen goods. He rarely commits crimes himself, preferring to employ others to commit them—and often suffer legal retribution—in his place. He is manipulative and conniving, but there is something loving about him.

***NANCY*** (Alto, 21 – 35)

Bill Sikes' abused girlfriend. Hard-nosed but soft-hearted. She takes a liking to Oliver and treats him like her own child. She gives her life for Oliver when Sikes murders her.

***MR. BROWNLOW*** (Non-singing, 50 – 70)

Oliver's grandfather, a man of wealth and breeding.

***BILL SIKES*** (Baritone, 30 – 45)

Nancy's brutal and abusive lover, a burglar and eventual murderer. He is intimidating, menacing and scary. Sike's treats both Nancy and his dog Bull's-eye with an odd combination of cruelty and grudging affection.

***MR. BUMBLE*** (Baritone, 45 – 60)

The pompous, self-important beadle of the workhouse in which Oliver was born. Dickens mercilessly satirizes his self-righteousness, greed, hypocrisy, and folly, of which his name is an obvious symbol.

***THE ARTFUL DODGER*** (Boy soprano/Tenor, 13 – 16)

The cleverest of Fagin's pickpockets, he introduces Fagin to Oliver. He is sharp, colourful and a lively comic with dance/movement ability. Though not much older than Oliver, the Dodger talks and dresses like a grown man.

***MR. SOWERBERRY*** (Baritone, 40 – 60)



The wily (kind?) undertaker who takes Oliver in and uses him in the funeral business. Though Mr. Sowerberry makes a grotesque living arranging cut-rate burials for paupers, he is a decent man who is kind to Oliver.

**MRS. SOWERBERRY** (Mezzo soprano, 40 – 60)

The undertaker's wife. She is a real character, even more wily than her husband. She wears 'the trousers' in the relationship. Mrs. Sowerberry is a mean, judgmental woman who henpecks her husband.

**WIDOW CORNEY** (Soprano, 45 – 65)

The domineering matron of the workhouse where Oliver was born, later marries Mr. Bumble.

**CHARLOTTE SOWERBERRY** (Alto, 15 – 19)

The rude but also flirtatious daughter of the Sowerberrys. Charlotte becomes romantically involved with Noah Claypole and follows him about slavishly.

**NOAH CLAYPOLE** (Baritone, 15 – 20)

The Sowerberrys' apprentice, he bullies Oliver about his mother and enjoys a flirty relationship with Charlotte.

**BET** (Alto, 18 – 28)

Nancy's friend, one of Fagin's former pickpockets.

**CHARLEY BATES** (Boy soprano/Tenor, 13 – 16)

One of Fagin's pickpockets. He is Dodger's sidekick. Charley is ready to laugh at anything.

**MRS. BEDWIN** (Soprano, 45 – 65)

Kind-hearted house-servant to Mr. Brownlow and caretaker of Oliver. Mrs. Bedwin is unwilling to believe Mr. Bumble's negative report of Oliver's character.

**DR GRIMWIG** (cameo role from company)

Mr Brownlow's pessimistic, curmudgeonly friend. Dr. Grimwig is essentially good-hearted, and his pessimism is mostly just a provocative character quirk.

**OLD SALLY** (cameo role from company)

An elderly pauper who serves as the nurse at Oliver's birth. Old Sally steals Oliver's mother's gold locket, the only clue to Oliver's identity.

## ***Company of Children***

The children's company will be made up of 8 – 16 year old girls and boys. This company of children will perform in the following vocal numbers:

Food Glorious Food

Consider Yourself



Who Will Buy?

Small cameo roles will be selected from this group to be part of the core children's company.

### ***Conditions of auditioning***

By auditioning for this production of *Oliver!* You will be expected to attend all rehearsals scheduled

You will become a member of Hamilton Operatic Society Inc.

Children will be expected to contribute to the cost and construction of parts of their costume which they may keep at the end of the production

Abide by all rules and regulations set by the Hamilton Operatic Society Inc. Board of Management.

The creative team's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered in to

