

## Godspell, Jr. Character and Role Description

Dear Prospective Cast members,

Any student can audition for the ensemble of Godspell, Jr. singing either "Light of the World" beginning at measure 22 or "Learn Your Lessons Well" from the beginning. You will have the choice to sing in pairs or solo at auditions. If you want a solo singing role or featured role, you must audition solo. We highly prefer to hear you sing solo!

Godspell is a little different than other shows, as the characters, other than Jesus and John the Baptist/Judas, aren't named. In every cast, the actor's actual name is used. The success of Godspell, Jr. will depend not upon a few lead roles, but by the ENTIRE CAST embracing the idea of being an apostle or disciple of Jesus by acting out parables from the Gospel of Matthew, and developing the body language and energy of each character. Have fun with auditions and show us ALL you can do!

Please understand that the directors will have a vision for the show that may differ from yours. Keep an open mind about which part(s) you may be asked to read for or play, and don't get your heart set on just one role or solo. Trust us!

The best audition advice we can give you is to get to know the parables by reading through the script, and listening to the music so you are familiar with all of it.

Mrs. Bousquet, Mrs. Cusack, Mrs. DiCorpo

### **Ensemble Roles (for boys and girls)**

There are some group musical numbers for the whole cast, and many roles that involve acting out parables, followed by being in a small group featured number. More detail is listed on the back of this sheet.

### **Lead Roles for Boys (in order of appearance)**

**John the Baptist/Judas** One performer plays both of these roles, which is quite a challenge. This actor must be charismatic in the opening, headstrong and comical in the middle of the show, and eventually turn on Jesus at the end; all of this while being a great singer, too. This role requires strong singing and acting. Audition Songs: "Prepare Ye" and "All For the Best" Audition Dialogue: page 3-4

**Jesus** is a natural-born teacher. We will look for a performer who is a good singer and is comfortable taking on a leadership position without being bossy or judgmental. Jesus experiences a full array of emotions during the show, so this challenging role requires a solid actor who can convincingly perform this range. Audition Songs: "Save the People" and "All For the Best" Audition Dialogue: page 9

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### Soloist Roles for boys or girls (in order of appearance)

**Soloist “Day By Day”** is a signature Godspell song that starts with great power and weight and builds to a great celebratory number.

**Soloists (2) “Learn Your Lessons Well”** is a “patter” song which requires great enunciation and engaging storytelling

**Soloists (2) “O, Bless the Lord, My Soul”** is a big song with a gospel feel. Soloists will need vocal control and power.

**Soloist “All Good Gifts”** is a heartfelt ballad for a beautiful, higher voice who is able to express honest, simple emotions while they are singing.

**Soloist “We Beseech Thee”** This high-energy number can almost be spoken. It's the perfect song for the fun-loving class clown who enjoys performing but might not hit every note. Add a slight southern accent to liven the number up even more.

**Soloists (4) “Light of the World”** Here's another song that can be spoken in rhythm with a gospel feel. These soloists should be performers who are not afraid to interact with the audience.

**Soloist “Beautiful City”** Should be a singer who can bring everyone together and deliver the message of the show in this beautiful, sincere song.

### Narrator and Parable Acting Roles for boys or girls (in order of appearance)

Dialogue pages: Scene 3, King parable on pages 11-14 with 5 speaking parts

Dialogue pages: Scene 4, the Good Samaritan parable, pages 20-23 with 9 acting and speaking parts

Dialogue page: Scene 5, Rich Man Narrator, page 26

Dialogue pages: Scene 7, the Seed parable, pages 45-48, 7+ speaking/acting parts

Dialogue pages: Scene 9, the Prodigal Son parable, pages 63-65, 5+ speaking/acting parts