

Character Info

“Fiddler on the Roof”

Avram (*pronounced "ah-va-rom"*) M, 40-60, Mostly Ensemble singing with a few solo lines. Some Speaking, D3 - Eb4, Runs the local bookshop and keeps the town advised of all the news in the area. General Ensemble dancing.

Beggar: Nachum (*pronounced "Nay-hem" the H is guttural*) M, Small Speaking

Bielke (*pronounced "bee-el -ka"*) F, 8-12, Ensemble Speaking, B3 - D5, Tevye and Golde’s youngest daughter. A typical child. Lots of on stage time. Some ensemble dancing

Chava (*pronounced "ha-va" - the H is guttural*) F, 15-20, Singing Speaking, B3 - D5, An introspective, rather shy young woman who seems to favor books over other pursuits. Her love for the young Russian, Fyedka, tests her father's love to the limit and provides the largest conflict in the story. The actor playing Chava must be able to display a wide emotional range. Ensemble dancing and two dances with sisters.

Constable M, 35-50, Non-singing, Speaking, Russian military official stationed near Anatevka who knows the villagers well. He has a good relationship with Tevye, but this relationship does not prevent him from carrying out violence against the villagers. Non-singing and dancing role.

Dance Ensemble: Bottle Dancers M/F, Non-singing Non-speaking, Excellent dancers (3-5 to be cast,) may be filled by a female who will be dressed as a male. **Russian dancers** M/F open Non-singing Non-speaking N/A Excellent dancers (3-5 to be cast) may be filled by a female who will be dressed as a male.

Ensemble M/F, Ensemble singing and dancing, Villager, Family, and Russian Ensembles

The Fiddler M/F, Opens the show - must be unafraid of heights and able convince audience that he/she is actually playing violin. Requires some dance steps.

Fruma Sarah F, 35-45, Singing in song, C4 - Eb5, Lazar Wolf’s deceased first wife. She becomes enraged when her husband plans to wed Tzeitel. Must be able to present a fearful appearance, loud voice and do general stage movements for the role. May be double cast in the ensemble.

Fyedka (*pronounced "fee-yed-ka"*) M, 20-25, Speaking role, Russian soldier, non-Jewish. Tevye and the rest of the men are distrusting of him, but he is actually a very kind and gentle man, despite being a soldier. He is strong and confident. He must be a good, strong dancer. Could have the Russian solo in TO LIFE if voice matches the part, but could be played as a non-singing role. If a singer, could be Russian singer M upper G5 Strong tenor, Small bit part.

Golde (*pronounced "goal-deh"*) F 40-50 Singing Speaking A3 - Eb5 Tevye’s strong-willed wife who wishes for her daughters to have good husbands and live easier than she and Tevye. She is the backbone of the family. She has a rather gruff exterior, but in her heart is sheer dedication to her family. She runs the household and keeps Tevye's more emotional side in check. Conversely, she should be able to show a softer side when dealing with Chava and Tevye's rift. Golde is an efficient helpmate and traditionalist, faced with changes of a “new world.” She has a sharp tongue and wit. Her love of family helps her face the challenges that her family encounters. Good Comic timing for some funny lines. General ensemble dancing.

Grandma Tzeitel F 60-75 Singing Non-speaking C#4 - D5 Golde’s late grandmother who endorses the marriage between Tzeitel and Motel. A ghost figure who appears in the dream scene. May also be double cast as a villager. Some dance type stage movement required.

Hatter: Yussel (*pronounced "You-zel"*) - runs the hat shop in town. Ensemble dancing.

Hodel (*pronounced "hudd-ul"*) F 18-23 Singing Speaking B3 - E5 A strong, independent middle child of the three older daughters. She is outspoken, but respectful. She has her eye on the Rabbi's son at the outset of the story, but she is taken with the revolutionary Perchik from the moment she meets him. Hodel proves that her dedication to and love for Perchik is real as she follows him to Siberia after his arrest. Sings a haunting solo saying goodbye to her father. Ensemble dancing and two dances with sisters.

Innkeeper - runs the bar in town, Tevye's friend. Ensemble dancing.

Lazar Wolf (*pronounced "lay-zer"*) M 40-50 Singing Speaking C3 - F#4 The feisty, brawny butcher. The town's wealthiest citizen. Widower of Fruma-Sarah, and the man Yente the matchmaker sets as a match for Tzeitel. Tzeitel is frightened to marry Lazar Wolf and she should have reason to be so. Lazar Wolf has featured singing in, "To Life" and must be able to sell the song.

Mendel (*pronounce with accent on 2nd syllable*) M 18-25 Mostly Ensemble singing with a few solo lines Some Speaking N/A Rabbi's son.

Innkeeper: Mordcha (*pronounced "Moor-dekai"*) M 30-60 Mostly Ensemble singing with a few solo lines. Some Speaking N/A

Motel (*pronounced "mutt-ul"*) M 18-25 Singing Speaking E3 - F#4 The poor and meek tailor who shares a deep love with Tzeitel. Sensitive and nervous, but sincere and friendly. He is an endearing sort of Woody Allen type. He is a strong singer/dancer: able to dance at his wedding. A young man with good comic timing and a vulnerable quality is ideal.

M open Ensemble Some Speaking N/A

Perchik (*pronounced "per-chick"*) M 20-30 Singing Speaking B2 - E4 An outspoken young student who leans toward a revolutionary, or as Tevye calls him, "A radical." Perchik should be able to hold his own with Tevye. Being a strong character, he clashes with Tevye idealistically, but is likable, charming, and ultimately, a member of the family. Requires an actor who can show intensity and an unfailing commitment to his ideals. Some ensemble dancing and a small dance scene with Hodel.

The Priest M 25-60 Non-singing Non-speaking N/A

Rabbi M 40-80 Ensemble Some Speaking N/A Anatevka's Jewish spiritual leader. Ensemble dancing.

Russian singer M upper G5 Strong tenor, Small bit part, or could be filled by Fyedka actor.

Russian soldier- Fedyka's friend. Good dancer required for To Life. May cast a good female dancer in this role.

Shandel F 40-60 Ensemble Some Speaking N/A Motel's mother and also part of the ensemble. Ensemble dancing.

Sasha M/F 17-25 Ensemble Small Speaking N/A

Shprintze (*pronounced "sprin-za"*) F 9-13 Ensemble Speaking B3 - D5 Tevye and Golde's fourth daughter. A typical child. Lots of on stage time. Some ensemble dancing

Teen boys M 8-15 Non-singing Non-speaking N/A At end of show - Yente's matches for remaining daughters

Tevye (*pronounced "tev-yeh"*) M 40-60 Singing Speaking Ab2-F4 Lead role -narrator and main character in the show, likable, hardworking, pious man dairyman, who sees the positive side of life. Strong patriarch but gentle father of five daughters, closely raised according to the scriptures. Husband to Golde. He is humorous and relaxed, but when pushed, can show stubbornness and rage. Strong actor must carry the show and have a good connection with the audience. Should be able to show the wide range of conflict, joy and pain that his character feels throughout the story. Large amounts of dialogue and singing, solo and with others. Some dance ability required.

Tzeitel (*pronounced "z-eye-tul"*) F 18-25 Singing Speaking B3 - D5 The oldest daughter of Tevye and Golde. She is the first to be matched by Yente and sets the plot of Fiddler into action by pleading with her father to let her marry Motel the Tailor, to whom she has pledged her love. She is determined to marry Motel and knows how to manipulate her father. She has a desperate crying scene with Tevye. Strong dramatic actress. Ensemble dancing and two scene dances with sisters.

Yente (*pronounced "yen-ta"*) F 50-60 Mostly Ensemble singing with a few solo lines Speaking F3 - F5 The meddling matchmaker. She is a widow and village busybody who knows all of the town gossip. The comedian of the show. A Yiddish accent would be helpful. In Yiddish, Yente means gossip. Ensemble dancing.