

2012 *The Mikado* - Cast Requirements and Vocal Descriptions

These descriptions will give the cast member a place to start with building their characters.

- The Mikado Of Japan:** **BASS or BASS-BARITONE** (A-a-E) One solo piece and one ensemble. The Mikado is relaxed, fun loving, bloodthirsty, loves food and thoroughly enjoys his position of total authority. Needs to show great stage presence and authority.
- Nanki-Poo:** **TENOR** (D-d-A) This is a very substantial part, one of the biggest tenor roles in G&S. One solo piece plus many ensembles. Mikado's son, disguised as a wandering minstrel. He is in love with Yum Yum. He is cunning, virile and calmly self-important. A master puppeteer of Titiputians and a primo donno extraordinaire.
- Ko-Ko:** **LIGHT/COMIC BARITONE** (C-c-E) with very flexible range for speaking and singing. A big comic role with a patter song and many ensembles. Lord High Executioner of Titipu. He's cunning but old, tired, burned out, and a coward at heart. He is completely phobic about anything to do with blood. Is known to faint at the thought of it!
- Pooh-Bah:** **BASS-BARITONE** (B-b-D) Lord High Everything Else. A comic role with much time on stage. The epitome of entitlement and etiquette. Loves money, power, and prestige. Haughty but underneath the bravado, he has low self-esteem. Loves young ladies, but thinks it's bad for his image so tries to hide it. Blows his cover under extreme stress!
- Pish-Tush:** **BARITONE** (G-g-E) A smaller role with one important song and possibly a part in a madrigal. A Noble Lord, he is calm, well seasoned, nothing much ruffles him. He is a bit of a rock but can be a bit of a nuisance too.
- Yum-Yum:** **SOPRANO** (E-e-A) A leading role with a solo and many ensembles. Ward of Koko. In love with Nanki-Poo. A lovely young lady. She is soft, gentle, every man's dream of femininity. She is not very worldly, and rather innocent and maybe not so bright!
- Pitti-Sing:** **MEZZO** (C-c-E) with lots of colour in both singing and speaking voice. Yum Yum's older sister. Feisty. Would do anything to defend her sisters. A little jealous of Yum Yum's upcoming wedding, more for the wedding itself than the marriage. Not too bright. Doesn't know how she gets entangled in things she'd rather avoid.
- Peep-Bo:** **SOPRANO** (D-d-E) A small part with some dialogue and participation in ensembles. Yum Yum's younger sister. Quite shy. Has bubbly yet quiet personality and a great sense of humour.
- Katisha:** **BIG ALTO** (G-g-F) it would be nice for her to have a high wide range for both speaking and singing. An older lady of the Mikado's court who claims Nanki-Poo in marriage. She has a complex personality. On the one hand she is hardened, bombastic, aggressive, outspoken, and not very nice to be around! On the other hand she has been romantically crushed many times, and sees Nanki-Poo as her last chance for love. This side is soft, gentle, weepy, defeated and sympathetic if not empathetic.

CHORUS Approximate numbers: Sopranos (8) C# - A Altos (8) C - F Tenors
(8) A - G Basses (8) G - Eb

Each chorus member will be viewed as if in a minor role, and will have at least one spoken line in the show. The male chorus will consist of "Nobles" and their servants ... but underneath lordly and not so lordly exteriors there simmers egos with histories and subtexts!

All female chorus members are "ladies" of Japan ... but underneath simmers a bevy of delightful characters, chomping at their bits to say their bits, and to frolic and romp in and around Titipu.

EXTRAS There will be a few Extras in the show. These will be announced at a later date.

UNDERSTUDIES We expect to cast understudies for each of the primary characters.

REHEARSALS

Mondays for chorus and Wednesdays or leads for music until Christmas is as usual. There will be times during music rehearsal when some stage direction will be given. There may also be a need for some Sunday afternoon rehearsals for some of the cast before Christmas.

Stage direction will start on Sunday afternoons after Christmas. Cast will be called only if needed in the scenes being rehearsed any particular Sunday. This schedule will continue throughout the whole rehearsal time. As we get closer to opening night all cast will be expected to be prepared to come to all Monday, Wednesday and Sunday rehearsals.

Evening rehearsals are from 7:30 - 10 p.m. Sunday afternoon rehearsals are from 2 - 5 p.m.
