

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC – Character Breakdown

Sondheim creates a stunning tour de force when he takes Ingmar Bergman's comedy of manners, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, and turns it into a musical where confusion rules, jealousies flair and sexual passions reign. Winner of four Tony Awards, *A Little Night Music* explores the tangled web of affairs centered around actress, Desirée Armfeldt, and the men who love her: a lawyer by the name of Fredrik Egerman and the Count Carl-Magnus Malcom. When the traveling actress performs in Fredrik's town, the estranged lovers' passion rekindles. This strikes a flurry of jealousy and suspicion between Desirée; Fredrik; Fredrick's wife, Anne; Desirée's current lover, the Count; and the Count's wife, Charlotte. Both men – as well as their jealous wives – agree to join Desirée and her family for a weekend in the country at Desirée's mother's estate. With everyone in one place, infinite possibilities of new romances and second chances bring endless surprises. This dramatic musical is a celebration of love full of hilariously witty and heartbreakingly moving moments of adoration, regret and desire.

Please note: That this production involves both kissing and some simulated sexual activities with no nudity. Some of the roles could appear on stage in period undergarments in different states of undress. An intimacy director will be employed by the department in the staging of these scenes.

All roles are open except for the role of **Desire and Henrik**.

We are seeking actors and understudies to play 18 roles:

- **Fredrik Egerman:** A successful widowed middle-aged lawyer. He is married to the 18-year-old Anne and has one son from his previous marriage, Henrik. In the past, he and Desiree were lovers. Baritone A₂–E₄
- **Anne Egerman:** 18-year-old; Fredrik's new, naive wife, who is still a virgin after 11 months of marriage. Soprano G₃–A₅
- **Henrik Egerman:** Fredrik's son, 20 years old and Anne's stepson. He is serious but confused; he reads the works of philosophers and theologians whilst studying for the Lutheran priesthood. His sexual repression is a great cause of his turmoil: he lusts after Anne and attempts to have a sexual encounter with Petra. Tenor G₂–B₄
- **Petra:** 18 – 23-year-old. Anne's maid and closest confidante, brash, bold and flirtatious. She has relations with Henrik. Mezzo-soprano F₃–F₅
- **Desiree Armfeldt:** Self-absorbed, once-successful actress, now touring the countryside in what is clearly not the "glamorous life". Harbored love for Fredrik for years since their affair. Mezzo-soprano F₃–E₅
- **Fredrika Armfeldt:** Desiree's thirteen-year-old daughter, who may or may not be the product (unbeknownst to Fredrik) of the actress's and Fredrik's affair. Soprano C₄–E₅
- **Madame Armfeldt:** Desiree's mother, a former courtesan who has had "liaisons" with royalty. Contralto C₃–F₄
- **Count Carl-Magnus Malcolm:** A military dragoon who is Desiree's latest lover. Hypocritically places value on fidelity, being hugely possessive when it comes to both his wife and mistress. Comedic role. Operatic Baritone G₂–F₄
- **Countess Charlotte Malcolm:** Carl-Magnus' wife, to whom he flaunts his infidelities. She despises her husband for his behavior, but obeys his orders due to her hopeless love for him. Self-loathing and borderline alcoholic, yet the more intelligent half of the Malcolm couple. Mezzo-soprano G₃–F₅
- **Frid (SPEAKING ROLE):** Madame Armfeldt's manservant. Has a tryst with Petra.
- **The Quintet:** Mr. Lindquist, Mrs. Nordstrom, Mrs. Anderssen, Mr. Erlanson and Mrs. Segstrom. A group of five singers that act as a Greek chorus. Sometimes referred to as the Liebeslieder Singers (love song singers) although Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler did not script them to have that

title, using Quintet instead. Prince said that these characters represent "people in the show who aren't wasting time ... the play is about wasting time."

- Mr. Lindquist *Baritone* G₂–G₄#
- Mr. Erlanson *Tenor* G₂#–A₄#
- Mrs. Nordstrom *Soprano* G₃#–E₆
- Mrs. Anderssen *Soprano* G₃#–A₅#
- Mrs. Segstrom *Mezzo-Soprano* G₃#–G₅#

Additional Roles:

- **Malla:** Desiree's maid, who is with her constantly. *Silent part*
- **Osa:** Maid at Madame Armfeldt's manse. *Silent part*
- **Bertrand:** Page at Madame Armfeldt's manse. *Silent part*