

Hello Dolly Character Description

Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi

40-65 mezzo-soprano G-G wide vocal range

In the score, Dolly's music spans a large range going into the soprano. In any scenario, character, heart and likeability should come through whenever Dolly sings. She is a widow in her "middle years", and is a meddling matchmaker. She is a strong character with commanding presence, but she must also show compassion and vulnerability.

music: Before the Parade

I Put My Hand In

Dancing

Horace Vandergelder

45-65 baritone B-E

As with Dolly, character is the key to his casting. Vandergelder is a widowed "half a millionaire", is strong and gruff, but must show a vulnerable, softer side. He and Dolly must have a wonderful 'stage chemistry'. He is the owner of a Hay and Feed store and a client of Dolly's.

music: It Takes a Woman

Ermengarde

16-25 mezzo-soprano E-G#

minimal solo singing required...dancing required.

She is Mr. Vandergelder's 17 year old niece who is very dramatic and often weepy. She is a strong dancer who wants to marry Ambrose Kemper.

music: Put on Your Sunday Clothes

Ambrose Kemper

18-25 tenor E-G#

minimal singing required...dancing required.

music: Put on Your Sunday Clothes

Cornelius Hackl

25-40 baritone Bb – F#

A relatively robust sound is required for the role. He is Vandergelder's chief clerk. He is 33 years old, charming and naïve, but not as naïve as Barnaby! Corneilus seeks the company of Irene Molloy.

music: Put on Your Sunday Clothes m. 3-m.17 and m.37-54 (high notes at end)

It Only Takes a Moment m. 19-m.34

Barnaby Tucker

16-22 baritone C-G#

Vocally lighter and less robust than Cornelius.

A 17 year old assistant to Cornelius. He is fun loving and naïve as ever. His boyish innocence must come through.

Dancing m. 90-110

Irene Molloy

30-40 mezzo soprano G-F

A classy lady, she is a millineress with a hat shop near 14th Street in New York City. Dolly "matches" her with Vandergelder, but Irene spends the evening out on the town with Cornelius, Barnaby and Minnie.

music: Ribbons Down My Back

Dancing m. 141-172

Minnie Fay

16-22 mezzo-soprano D-F

A young girl who works in Irene's hat shop. A wonderful opportunity for a good character actress.

music: Motherhood March

Elegance m. 52-m.71 – sing all parts

Chorus

music: Put on Your Sunday Clothes

Ernestina

35-50 Mezzo soprano: sings "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" any key will do

A great character role with many ways it can be played. There is a large comedic scene in Act II with Vandergelder at Harmonia Gardens.

Rudolph Reisenweber

40-60 Resonant bass.

He is the Harmonia Gardens Prussian major-domo... a strong character role that requires an accent.

Mrs Rose

50-70 Alto – ensemble singing –

A small cameo role that is quite sweet and endearing. She sells vegetables from a street cart and is an old friend of Dolly's.

1st Cook

2nd Cook

Stanley

Judge

Court Clerk

Policeman

Paperhanger – non speaking

Glee Club (in "It Takes A Woman")