

Men's Roles

Robin Oakapple (secretly Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd) - ((character) baritone, Range: (F#2) A2 - E4): This gentleman farmer is secretly Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd, current rightful bearer of the Ruddigore curse. Fearing the curse, he faked his own death and fled, leaving his younger brother to inherit it. Robin/Ruthven shows a certain weakness of character in avoiding conflict and always taking the easy way out, his essentially weak-willed nature stands in contrast to the determined behavior one would expect from the traditional romantic hero of Victorian melodrama.

Note: Robin's Act II recitative and patter song ("Away, Remorse") will not be performed in this production.

Dick Dauntless - (tenor, Range: C3 - Bb4): Robin's foster brother, Dick likes to play the gallant naval hero, but is really a braggart, coward, liar, and flagrant womanizer. His good looks and rugged charm somehow still make him irresistible to the women around him, at least for the first fifteen minutes they know him.

Note: this character has a significant solo dance number in Act I.

Sir Despard Murgatroyd - (baritone, Range: F#2 - F#4): Robin's younger brother, Despard has upheld his family duty and been the bearer of the Ruddigore curse for several years, since his brother Ruthven died under "mysterious circumstances". Unlike his brother, Despard has found the silver lining in his current cloud, and does good deeds every day to repent for his daily, curse-enforced crime. A genuinely nice person, Despard looks like Snidely Whiplash but has the heart of Dudley Do-Right.

Old Adam Goodheart - (bass, Range: Eb2 - D4): Robin's ever-faithful retainer and the only person in the village aware of his true identity, Old Adam is a pastiche of every endlessly faithful elderly servant character you've ever encountered.

Sir Roderic Murgatroyd - (bass-baritone, Range: Ab2 - D4): The most recently deceased of the Murgatroyd clan, Sir Roderic returns from beyond the grave to remind Robin of his family duty. Unlike both Despard and Ruthven/Robin, Sir Roderic always sort of got off on scaring those around him. His only regret was losing the love of his youth, Dame Hannah.

Chorus of "Bucks & Blades"/Chorus of Ghosts - (tenors, Range: B2 - A4, **basses**, Range: G2 - D4): In Act I, the men's chorus plays rich, city-dwelling men who visit the village to enjoy the charms of its buxom bridesmaids. In Act II, the men's chorus plays the ancestors of Sir Robin as ghosts who descend from their portraits in the family gallery to enforce the dictates of the curse.

Note: we may cast some members of the women's chorus as female ancestors in Act II, depending on auditionee preference and audition turnout.

Women's Roles

Rose Maybud - (soprano, Range: Bb3 - Bb5): Abandoned as an infant in the village, Rose has grown up to be beautiful, kind, and blessed in all of the social graces; in other words, insufferably perfect and not above reminding those around her of it. In her capacity as "the woman who does everything more beautifully than you", Rose performs acts of charity around the village, but has thus far refused the advances of her many suitors, much to the disappointment of the waiting crowds of bridesmaids. Somehow, despite her chaste behavior to date, she ends up offering herself to every living male character present in Act I.

Mad Margaret - (mezzo-soprano, Range: A3 - F#5): Margaret was once a young girl in love with Despard who was cruelly manipulated and rejected by him, driving her into a frenzied parody of theatrical madness, a sort of Ophelia or Lucia who nevertheless retains her impeccable comic timing.

Dame Hannah - (contralto, Range: Ab3 - E5): The oldest woman in the village, Dame Hannah passes down the lore of the Bad Baronets of Ruddigore to all who will listen. She was greatly personally wounded in her youth by falling in love with Sir Roderic, then-bearer of the curse, and pines for him to this day. However, don't let the kindly old lady act fool you: Dame Hannah is as feisty as they come.

Zorah - (soprano, Range: D4 - A5): Perpetual Maid of Honor in Rederring's corps of endowed bridesmaids, she'd like Rose to hurry up and marry *someone* so there's a chance for her.

Ruth - (speaking role & sings with chorus): Zorah's best friend, Ruth occupies the next rung down in the bridesmaids' pecking order.

Chorus of Bridesmaids - (sopranos, Range: B3 - Bb5, altos, Range: A3 - E5): These ladies live to celebrate other people's marriages, bringing an almost military discipline to the role of bridesmaid. They're perky, charming, and more than a little unnerving in their nuptial zeal.