



*saltwater performing arts*

# Les Misérables

SCHOOL EDITION

NOVEMBER 4, 2023

12:00 - 2:30 pm

Musical/Director: Megan Kaufman

Choreography: Elisha Cauthen

Technical Director: Claire Reeves

**SUMMARY:** Les Misérables is the world's longest running musical. Set in 19th century France, Jean Valjean is released from an unjust imprisonment, to nothing but mistrust and mistreatment. He breaks his parole to start a new life, but is relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert. Finally, during the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his biases after Valjean spares his life and saves that of the student revolutionary whom his daughter loves. This operetta packs an emotional wallop that has thrilled audiences all over the world.

**WHO:** Middle/High School - No experience required!

**WHEN:** Saturday, November 4, 12:00-2:30 pm

(video auditions due by Nov. 4 at noon to [Mainstage@SaltwaterPAC.org](mailto:Mainstage@SaltwaterPAC.org))

**WHERE:** The Friese Studio of Music, 204 Arnow Drive, St. Marys, GA

**WHAT:** Prepare a 45 second monologue & a 45 second a cappella musical theatre song

**HOW:** Bring a completed audition form. Slate first by introducing yourself and telling us something about yourself. Then, perform your prepared items. Dress professionally but comfortably as a group dance combination will be taught.

**SHOW DATES:** April 12, 13, 14 and 10, 20, 21, 2024

**REHEARSALS:** Begin 1st week of January (date/time TBD)

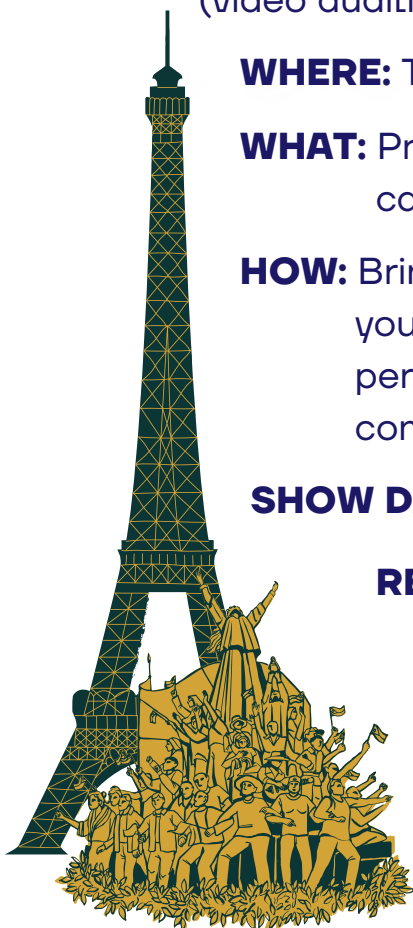
Example of past schedule:

Dance - Mondays 5:30-8

Vocals - Thursdays 5:30-7

Blocking - alternating Fridays & Saturdays

**TECHNICAL CREW:** Seeking crafters & technicians age 12-18



# CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

**Jean Valjean** is the hero of the show. It is his journey we follow. Jean Valjean is supposed to be stronger than other men, and so he should physically appear robust. He should carry himself confidently onstage and come across to the audience as mature. The key to his character is his great humanity and compassion. Jean Valjean is a vocally demanding role, so cast your best male singer and actor. Gender: male, Vocal range top: A4, Vocal range bottom: G#2

**Javert** is the inspector who serves as antagonist to Jean Valjean. Javert is unswerving in his belief that men cannot change for the better. "Once a thief, always a thief" is his mantra. Javert's attitudes are rigid and unmovable. He is stern, forbidding, and lacking in compassion. Your Javert should be a talented actor who can convincingly stand up to Jean Valjean. Javert should have a rich baritone voice and be a good singer. Gender: male, Vocal range top: F#4, Vocal range bottom: F2

**Fantine** is the beautiful, young girl who, is left to fend for herself and her daughter, Cosette. She is rejected by society and forced through circumstances to sell herself. She is a brave woman defeated by life who clings to her dignity and is sustained by her love for her daughter. The audience witnesses her descent through a series of terrible events and ultimately her death. Cast a performer with a powerful voice that is more mezzo (or alto) than soprano. Gender: female, Vocal range top: Eb5, Vocal range bottom: F3

**Bishop Of Digne** is a good man who saves Valjean's soul through showing compassion. Don't overlook the importance of this role. His kindness carefully establishes the premise of the show by literally buying Jean Valjean's soul for God. This powerful role requires a nice baritone voice and a good actor. G Vocal range: E4 to bottom: A2

**Cosette** is Fantine's strong-willed, loving daughter. She is an intelligent, inquiring, personable girl. Once she is adopted by Jean Valjean, Cosette lives a comfortable life. She falls instantly in love with Marius, changing her world and her priorities. The role calls for an excellent singer with a lovely, lyrical soprano voice., Gender: female, Vocal range top: C6, Vocal range bottom: Bb3

**Young Cosette** is Fantine's daughter and the Thénardiens' ward. She has been forced into child labor. She is underfed, beaten, and bullied by Eponine. Make sure your Young Cosette is small and looks properly pathetic yet warms the audience's hearts. Young Cosette sings "Castle On A Cloud," so make sure she has a nice voice and can tap into the emotions. Gender: female, Range: C5-A3

**Madame Thénardier** and Thénardier con the world as partners in crime. She is coarse and vulgar, unhappy in her existence without knowing why. She is romantic, greedy, manipulative, evil, and larger than life. She is mean and nasty to Little Cosette. You need an actress with excellent physical comedy skills who is also a good musician with a good sense of rhythm. Gender: female, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: G#3

**Thénardier** is the true villain of Les Misérables School Edition . He is the embodiment of evil. That said, he should also possess a wicked sense of humor. He delights in cheating, robbing, defrauding, and blackmailing, and relishes every aspect of his schemes with glee. He is tough, greedy, brutal, lowbrow, crafty and yet irresistible. He is also the comic relief of the production. However, his comedy is based in reality and shouldn't be too exaggerated. Cast an excellent comedic actor who can portray a nasty edge. Vocally, the role is not incredibly demanding; a character voice is best. Gender: male, Vocal range top: G4, Vocal range bottom: C2

**Eponine** is the Thénardiens' daughter. Living hand to mouth, she survives by helping her father in his life of crime. She is a young girl who is streetwise and tough but also sensitive and lonely. This tragic character is hopelessly in love with Marius, knowing that he will never love her. She bravely follows Marius to the barricades in the hope that they will die there together. She sings one of the most famous numbers in the show, "On My Own," and should be an excellent actress and singer with a contemporary edge to her voice. Gender: female, Vocal range top: E5, Vocal range bottom: F3

**Gavroche** is Thénardier's son. He is left to fend for himself and lives by his wits in the streets of Paris. His archenemy is Javert, the policeman. Gavroche is brave, witty, and arrogant, with a fantastic, unchanged voice. Gavroche is best played by the smallest boy available. Gavroche has a very dramatic death a, so good actor to believably die onstage. Gender: male

**Young Eponine** is the pampered daughter of the Thénardiens. She does little except taunt Young Cosette. The role requires no singing or speaking. She should be a smaller version of grown Eponine and resemble Eponine in appearance and features., Gender: female

**Enjolras** is the student leader. He is handsome, brave, and daring, although youthful. He combines his revolutionary ideals with strong, charismatic leadership. He should dominate everyone else physically and vocally. Enjolras is one of the more difficult roles to cast. He should be a natural leader oozing with charisma and have a very strong high baritone or a tenor voice. (The original Enjolras won a Tony Award® for his performance.) His death at the barricade is one of the dramatic highlights of the show. Gender: male, Range : G4- A2

**Marius** is the romantic hero of the story. He is impulsive, passionate, willful, and headstrong. His moods change according to his circumstances. He is sweet and tender but also capable of great courage and compassion. In Act I, Marius plays Romeo to Cosette's Juliet. Marius matures after "The Café Song" as a result of his experiences on the barricade. Marius should have a lovely, lyrical voice with a contemporary edge., Gender: male, Vocal range : Ab4 - A2

**Montparnasse, Babet, Brujon and Claquesous** are members of Thénardier's gang of thieves. Brujon is physically very strong, stupid and evil. Babet is physically frail but lean and cunning. Claquesous is tough, dangerous, and secretive. Montparnasse is a teenager who is handsome and dangerous. He is well dressed, strongly built, and agile.

**Members of the ABC society: Combeferre, Feuilly, Courfeyrac, Joly, Prouvaire, Lesgles, and Grantaire.**

These characters compose a secret society of students and workers. The letters A, B, and C, as pronounced in French, make the word "abaisse," which means "the underdog" or "the people below." The members are drawn from wealthy families and have chosen to fight for freedom, in stark contrast to the poor who have no choice due to their downtrodden circumstance. Additional characters in the ABC Society, besides Enjolras and Marius, include **Combeferre** is the philosopher and believer in peace. He is gentle, humane, strong, and brave. **Feuilly** is a worker who is a self-educated orphan. He is an affectionate, warm, and poetic believer in "nationality.

**Courfeyrac** is a youthful, passionate, and fearless student. **Joly** is an eccentric and light-hearted (although sometimes morbid) medical student. His name is derived from the English word "jolly." **Prouvaire** is a kind, soft-spoken, and, at the right moments, strong and masterful poet and student of social studies. **Lesgles** is a cheerful, laughing-at-life (but unlucky) student. He is a close friend of Joly. **Grantaire** is the opposite of Enjolras. Witty and drunken, Grantaire is happy being with the group, and they put up with him because of his good humor.

**Major Domo** is a great role for a young person with little performing experience; the role only requires one spoken line. He does not have a solo singing line.

**The Foreman** begins Fantine on her desperate, downward spiral. He should be virile, commanding, and a bit sleazy around the edges. Gender: male, Vocal range top: D4, Vocal range bottom: D3

**Fauchelevant** is the victim of the cart crash, a few solo lines and some painful yelps. Gender: any

**Bamatobois** is the customer who taunts Fantine into violence. He chauvinistically feels it is his right to buy anything, even Fantine. Gender: male, Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: D3

- **Chain Gang** consists of Jean Valjean's fellow prisoners.
- **Constables 1 & 2**
- **Laborer**, many but only one has [difficult] solo line.
- **The Farmer** has solo lines that are a bit difficult to sing.
- **Factory Workers & Girls**
- **Prostitutes (1-4)** Fighting for survival
- **The Old Woman** is a nice featured role
- **The Pimp** controls the prostitutes, mean, aggressive
- **Onlookers and Bystanders**
- **The policeman**
- **The Judge or Judges**
- **Mistaken Jean Valjean And Family**
- **The Two Nuns**
- **Sentries 1 and 2**
- **Army Officer**
- **Gavroche's Gang**
- **Wedding Guests**