

Mary Poppins Character Description

Mary Poppins

Jane and Michael Banks's new nanny. She is extraordinary and strange, neat and tidy, delightfully vain yet particular, and sometimes a little frightening but always exciting. She is practically perfect in every way and always means what she says. A mezzo soprano with strong top notes, she should be able to move well. She can have a more traditional soprano sound, but precision and diction is the key.

Role: Lead, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 20 to 30, Vocal range: Gb3-C6

Bert - The narrator of the story, is a good friend to Mary Poppins. An everyman, Bert has many occupations, including hurdy-gurdy player, sidewalk artist and chimney sweep. Bert watches over the children as well as the goings on in Cherry Tree Lane. He has charm, speaks with a Cockney accent and is a song-and-dance man.

Role: Lead, Presenting Gender: Male, Age: 30 to 35, Vocal range: B2 - F#4

George Banks - The father to Jane and Michael Banks, is a banker to the very fiber of his being. Demanding "precision and order" in his household, he is a pipe-and-slippers man who doesn't have much to do with his children and believes that he had the perfect upbringing by his nanny, the cruel Miss Andrew. His emotional armor, however, conceals a sensitive soul. A baritone, George may speak-sing as necessary.

Role: Lead, Presenting Gender: Presenting Male, Age: 40 to 50, Vocal range: Bb2 -Eb4

Jane Banks - The high-spirited daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Banks, is bright and precocious but can be willful and inclined to snobbishness.

Role: Lead, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 10-12, Vocal range: A3 -F#5

Michael Banks - The cute and cheeky son of Mr. and Mrs. Banks. Excitable and naughty, he adores his father and tries to be like him. Both he and Jane misbehave in order to get the attention of their parents.

Role: Lead, Presenting Gender: Male, Age: 8-10, Vocal range: A3 -E5

Winifred Banks - George's wife and Jane and Michael's mother. A former actress, she is loving and distracted homemaker who is busy trying to live up to her husband's desire to only associate with "the best people" as well as be the model wife and mother. She suffers from the conflicting feelings that she's not up to the job of "being Mrs. Banks," yet, she is, and more. She has great warmth and simplicity to her tone.

Role: Supporting, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 40-50, Vocal range: A3 -D5

Bird Woman - Covered in a patchwork of old shawls, and her pockets are stuffed with bags of crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell her crumbs for the birds. She tries to sell her crumbs to passersby, who ignore her as if she doesn't exist. Sings "Feed the Birds." There can be a gruff, folksy quality to her voice that reflects the hardness of her life.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 50-70, Vocal range: Gb3-C5

Miss Andrew - George's overbearing and scary nanny. With her bottle of nasty-tasting brimstone and treacle to keep naughty children in line, she is a bully who only knows one way of doing things - her way. A soprano with an alto belt, there can be some heaviness to her voice along with range.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 40-60, Vocal range: Gb3-F5

Admiral Boom/Bank Chairman - A retired Royal Navy man and neighbor of the Banks family. A physically large man with a loud and booming voice, he speaks in Navy jargon and has a soft spot for his neighbor, Miss Lark. Can be any vocal range as needed. Admiral Bloom doubles as the Bank Chairman, the head of the bank where Mr. Banks is employed and is an Edwardian stuffed-shirt.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Male, Age: 50-70, Vocal range: D4-C3

Mrs. Brill - The housekeeper and cook for the Banks family. Overworked and harrassed, she's always complaining that the house is understaffed. Her intimidating exterior is a cover for the warmth underneath. Mrs. Brill doesn't have a high opinion of nannies in general and Mary Poppins in particular. She does not have to be a strong singer.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 50-70, Vocal range: D#5-F#3

Robertson Ay - The houseboy to the Banks family. Lazy, sleepy and grumbling, he never gets things right and believes himself to be useless. He doesn't do a lot of singing, but his "Spoonful" solo can be a fun surprise.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Male, Age: 20-30, Vocal range: G#4-F3

Katie Nanna - Jane and Michael's nanny at the beginning of the show. Overwhelmed and upset, she has absolutely had her fill of the Banks children.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 30-40, Vocal range: non-singing

Mrs. Corry

Owns a magical gingerbread shop. She is a mysterious woman of great age who speaks with a Caribbean accent (or any accent that would make her seem exotic).

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 40-60, Vocal range: non singing

Miss Lark - The haughty next-door neighbor of the Banks family who treats her dog, Willoughby, as if herwere child.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Female, Age: 30-50, Vocal range: non-singing

Park Keeper - Uniformed and officious, he makes sure no one breaks park regulations. His life is defined by rules, but he secretly hankers after his childhood.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Male, Age: 40-60, Vocal range: non singing

Neleus - The statue of a young boy posed with a dolphin in the park. Neleus was separated from his father, Poseidon, and misses him very much. A small and lonely being, he is very happy to

befriend Jane and Michael. This role is a wonderful opportunity to feature one of the strong dancers in your ensemble.

Role: Featured, Presenting Gender: Male, Age: 16-30, Vocal range: non singing