



AUDITION NOTICE

July 15, 2024

Crescendo Operatic Society is currently accepting applications for new singer membership for their 2024/2025 upcoming season, which consists of two main performances –

- December 2024 A Dickens Christmas. A reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* with traditional English carols sung throughout. Speaking roles of all characters are open for casting.
- June 2025 Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow* for COS' 20th Anniversary Gala. All roles are open for casting which include:
 - Hanna (Madame Glawari) – “The Merry Widow.” Young; pretty; vivacious. High soprano Bb4 – Bb6 (optional high C).
 - Danilo (Count Danilovitsch) – aristocratic flirt – attaché at the Pontevedrian Embassy in Paris. Debonair: irresponsible; very handsome; loves wine. High baritone A3 – F4.
 - Baron Zeta – Pontevedrian Ambassador in Paris. Middle aged; a little pompous; comic when trying to be a dutiful official; a bit of an old rogue but very likeable; over-confident of his wife's virtues. Baritone A3 – E4 (optional F).
 - Valencienne (Baroness Zeta) – the Ambassador's rather foolish but would-be-faithful wife. Naïvely romantic, lacking the courage to stray from her marriage vows but cannot dismiss the young man who tempts her. Soprano Bb4 – Bb6.
 - Camille (Count de Rosillon) – The ardent young Frenchman in love with Valencienne. Light Tenor. C3 – Ab4 (optional Bb)
 - Njegus – Baron Zeta's factotum. Sly; amusing; a “character.” Baritone Bb3 – C4. Very little singing (possibly only speaking TBD). This character is not restricted to being cast male only.
 - St. Brioche and Cascada – Two diplomat guests at the Embassy. Rivals for the hand of the Widow, but flirt with everyone. Conceited; shallow; ridiculous. Baritones: St. Brioche D3 – F4; Cascada C3 – F4
 - Kromov – an attaché who is forever nagging his wife for being a flirt; self important with an absurdly over-punctilious manner. Baritone Bb3 – Eb4
 - Olga – wife of Kromov. Contralto D4 – Eb5
 - Bogdanovitsch and Pritsch – attachés at the Embassy. Baritones C3 – Eb4

- Sylvia and Pratzkovia – Lady guests at the Embassy. Sylvia, mezzo soprano D4 – Ab5. Pratzkovia, contralto D4 – D5.
- Lolo, Dodo, Jou-Jou, Frou-Frou, Clo-clo, Margot – “Grisettes” at Maxim’s. Soubrettes C4 – F5. Dance experience an asset but not required.

The opera is about an enormously rich Pontevedrian widow who is being wooed by every male compatriot, to keep her wealth in their country, but she is only interested in one man and their love story is fraught with hilarious mishaps.

All auditions will be considered for general membership. All solos, lead roles, speaking roles and chorus parts are cast from the COS ensemble of members, and are non-paying, and require a nominal monthly fee to participate. Singers with professional experience may be accepted into the COS Mentorship Program, which allows a limited number of singers to participate and their fees are fully waived, in exchange for volunteer hours. Bursaries that waive half the fees are also available with proof of financial need.

COS rehearses on Sunday afternoons at Trinity Lutheran Church 11040 River Road, North Delta. Additional online rehearsals may be called at times suitable for singers who are called. COS also gives masterclasses, classes in music reading and makeup, and individual coaching to any members in need of extra instruction at no extra cost. However, singers are encouraged to take their own private voice instruction.

To audition, send a link to a video of yourself singing any song of your choice and your resume to dolores@crescendooperatic.org. Singers who are unable to send an online video link may audition in person, by special request.

Deadline for submission is midnight September 12, 2024.

Call backs will be Sundays September 15 and 22, 5PM – 9 PM