

Canberra Philharmonic Society Presents



The Addams Family

A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY

Audition Pack

Canberra Philharmonic Presents: The Addams Family

The Addams Family will show at Erindale Theatre

from

28 August 2025

to

13 September 2025

About Philo

Canberra Philharmonic Society (a.k.a. 'Philo') is one of Canberra's oldest community theatre companies, having fostered the love of musical theatre in the capital for over 70 years. Philo prides itself on upholding both the 'community' and 'theatre' parts of the 'community theatre' label.

Philo shows are high-quality theatrical experiences with top-tier local talent, full bands and orchestras, and impressive sets, sound, and lighting. At the same time, Philo shows are rehearsed in a fun and respectful environment open to the whole Canberra community, with a focus on developing skills and creating friendships.

Philo has a long and storied history of impressive productions with lots of opportunities to get involved, and The Addams Family The Musical promises to bring the Philo brand of fun and quality theatre to Erindale Theatre in 2025.

About the Show

They're creepy and they're kooky, and now the family that have entertained generations are singing and dancing in this original story based on Charles Addams' The Addams Family.

In their gothic mansion right in the middle of Central Park, The Addams Family live their blissfully miserable lives. Family patriarch Gomez is devoted to his wife Morticia, little Pugsley being tortured by his big sister Wednesday, Grandma with her potions, and Fester spending his time moonbathing; all looked after by their taciturn butler Lurch.

But one of the Addams has a secret: Wednesday is in love, and she has invited her new beau, Lucas Beineke and his parents over for dinner. Can the Addams Family traditions withstand their painfully 'normal' dinner guests? Can Gomez and Morticia's marriage overcome family secrets? Will Wednesday and Lucas be able to unite their families in time for a wedding? And will Grandma figure out who stole her darkness potion, Acrimonium, before it unleashes itself on the dinner guests? "Who's to say, who's to say."

With a varied Tony-nominated score by Andrew Lippa (The Wild Party, Big Fish), The Addams Family The Musical is a dark and wacky story about family, growing up, and whatever it is that makes us 'normal'.

Canberra Philharmonic Presents: The Addams Family

Vision Statement

The Addams Family is all about creating a world that is fantastical, out of reach, and yet with characters that are relatable, funny, and ultimately teach us a little bit more about what it is to be human. We want to find normalcy in the irregular, certainty in the uncertain, and breathe life into the dead.

Our Addamses follow in a long tradition of a much loved family, and will need to strike the balance between being everything a family shouldn't be: macabre, mysterious, torturous and dark; and everything the best of families are: loving, caring, supportive and accepting. We are hoping to fill our Addams Family with strong comedic actors who can bring the charisma and individuality of each of the famous characters to life. They will play opposite the Beinekes, who reflect the journey the audience will go on as they are taken out of their 'regular' lives and given the chance to question what it means to be 'normal'.

In a show that celebrates individuality, our ancestors 'ensemble' will also be given the opportunity to build unique characters and find fun and exciting ways to play in the fantastical world we aim to create.

The Addams Family The Musical relies on not taking itself too seriously. That humour will thrive when played in the most professional-looking and sounding space as possible. We aim to put together a production with an attention to detail in creative and design elements. We hope that a technically spectacular show will let the playfulness of the story shine and keep the standard of the show high.



Production

Director:
Alexander Unikowski

Choreographer:
Caitlin Schilg

Musical Director:
Darcy Kinsella

Production Manager:
Bradley McDowell

Rehearsals:

Rehearsals will be held:
Mondays: 7pm - 10pm
Wednesdays: 7pm - 10pm
Sundays: 10am - 5pm

The first rehearsals (Meet and Greet) will be
Monday 5 May.

A full rehearsal schedule will be distributed on Monday 12 May.

Tech week is anticipated to commence
Saturday 16 August.

Rehearsal Attendances

Auditionees are asked to notify the production team of all known absences when auditioning. Once rehearsals begin, cast are required to attend all rehearsals they are called for unless in exceptional circumstances.

The production team may be required to add additional rehearsals, especially towards the end of the rehearsal period prior to moving into the theatre. Cast will be given as much advance notice of possible of any additional rehearsals.

Cast attendance will be mandatory during tech week (i.e. the time between moving into the theatre and Opening Night). Tech week is anticipated to commence Saturday 16 August. A full tech week schedule will be shared with the cast at the earliest available opportunity.

Casting

Casting Statement

The Addams Family The Musical production team and Canberra Philharmonic Society are committed to creating and sharing a story that reflects the diversity of the world in which we live, work, and perform. As such, we expect our cast to represent this view and share these values.

To this end, we are committed to diverse and inclusive casting, and aim to include and engage with diverse thinking in all aspects of the casting process. We want to encourage auditions from performers of all ethnicities, gender identities, body diversities, sexual orientations, physical abilities, neurodiversity, and political or religious beliefs.

Auditionees are invited to submit for any role they choose, regardless of traditional castings or perceived expectations around ethnicity, race, gender, body, sexual orientation, lived experience of disability, or political or religious beliefs.

The Addams Family The Musical production team and Canberra Philharmonic Society are committed to delivering a story that is as authentically cast and told as possible – within the confines of community theatre in Canberra.

Canberra Philharmonic Society and the Addams Family The Musical production team reserve the right to delay casting announcements for any roles, pending suitability and eligibility of auditionees for each role.



Casting

Gomez Addams

While not always implicit in representations of the character, Gomez Addams is traditionally understood to have Hispanic heritage. Some past castings of Gomez both on stage and in cinema have reflected this with the casting of either Hispanic, or more broadly BIPOC performers as Gomez.

The production team do not see racial or ethnic identity as central to either the story of *The Addams Family The Musical* or to Gomez's character arc. However, the team feels that casting Gomez with a preference to this historical casting is the best manifestation of the team and Canberra Philharmonic's commitment to diverse and inclusive casting.

As such, for the role of Gomez Addams:

1. Hispanic performers will be considered first, with non-Hispanic BIPOC performers also being considered;
2. Performers of other racial, ethnic, or cultural identities will be considered only where a suitable candidate has not been identified from either:
 - a performer with appropriate racial, ethnic, or cultural identity
 - a performer with the appropriate theatrical skills to carry a role as large as Gomez Addams
3. In this instance, the team may look to adapt the role so as not to misrepresent the Hispanic cultural identity.

Audition Accessibility

Ensuring the audition process is accessible to all performers and caters to the needs of all performers is implicit in our commitment to diverse and inclusive casting. Should you require any accessibility arrangements, have questions about the audition process, or wish to discuss a specific role or this casting statement in general prior to auditioning, please reach out via email at

auditions@philo.org.au.

Characters and Casting

Character	Gender presentation (as per script)	Preferred Vocal Type	Preferred Playing Age	Character Description	Performer Requirements	Casting Considerations and Violence and/or intimacy awareness
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Gomez Addams	Male-presenting	Baritone Bb2 - G4	Mid 30s - Late 50s	The Addams Family patriarch, Gomez takes great pride in his family and proudly upholds the values of being an 'Addams'. Stuck between keeping secrets from his beloved Morticia, and his daughter's coming of age story.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong character actor - Strong comedic timing - Confident stage presence <p>Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required to perform a tango with Morticia - Confident mover 	<p>Casting considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performers of Hispanic descent will be given preference - please see Casting Statement for more <p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to kiss Morticia, including on her hand and/or arm - May be required to fence with Lurch
Morticia Addams	Female-presenting	Alto/ Mezzo-Soprano G3 - C5	Early 30s - Late 50s	Despite her iconic black dress, Morticia really wears the pants in the family. Morticia knows there are secrets being passed around the family, and won't stop till she finds out just what is going on.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong character actor - Dry comedic abilities - Voice acting ability <p>Singing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comfortable in lower vocal register <p>Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required to perform a tango with Gomez - Confident mover 	<p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kisses Gomez - May be kissed by Gomez on e.g. the hand or arm

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Wednesday Addams	Female-presenting	Mezzo-Soprano/ Alto A3 - E5	18 - late 20s	The perfect blend of her father's noble heart and her mother's dry wit and love of darkness, Wednesday has fallen in love with a 'normal' boy who she is bringing home to meet the family. Wednesday's is a coming of age story told in a shocking yellow dress.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are many ways to play Wednesday - someone who can build a strong, layered character <p>Singing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confident belter preferred <p>Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confident mover 	<p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kisses Lucas - Tortures Pugsley - Fires crossbow
Uncle Fester	Male-presenting - however character makes reference to having 'no specific sexuality'. Non-binary and gender diverse encouraged to audition.	Tenor C3 - G4 (optional C5)	Late 20s - Late 50s	The child-like but loveable narrator, Fester is the energetic conduit between the characters, the spooky ancestors, and the audience.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High-energy vaudevillian-style comedian - Strong character actor with voice acting optional - Ability to play ukelele considered favourably <p>Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical theatre moments - Some movement skills preferred 	<p>Casting considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Character makes reference to having 'no specific sexuality' - Actor may be required to shave head - Character refers to self as 'fat'

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Pugsley Addams	Male-presenting	Alto (for male-identifying performers: unchanged male voice) A3 - F5	8 - 14	When faced with no longer being tortured by his beloved older sister Wednesday, Pugsley has to get crafty to turn dinner into a night of chaos.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking for a child actor with strong character-building ability and an ability to play both earnest and playful. 	<p>Casting considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The production team may double-cast the role of Pugsley <p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is tortured on a torture device by Wednesday - Detonates a bomb
Grandma	Female-presenting	Any	Late 50s - Late 150s	The oldest of the Addams (although where she fits on the family tree, no-one seems really sure), Grandma is the feisty, quirky, potion-making lady in the attic ready with a quip or some sagely advice.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong character actor - Will likely have to play older 	
Lurch	Male-presenting	Bass G2 - Eb4 (down to Eb2 preferred)	Must present as adult	Lurch is the Addams butler - he looms over the family with his giant stature and expresses himself in little more than grunts and moans... that is, until love triumphs!	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tall and/or lanky actors preferred - Strong physical acting and/or physical comedy abilities <p>Singing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong bass (almost always stays below middle-C) 	<p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to fence with Gomez

Characters and Casting

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Lucas Beineke	Male-presenting	Tenor C3 - G4	18 - late 20s	Lucas is the starry-eyed daydreamer secretly engaged to Wednesday. On his own coming-of-age arc, Lucas is finding balance between his 'normal' upbringing and the 'crazy' darkness of the Addams.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Charisma: someone even the audience can fall in love with <p>Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confident mover 	<p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kisses Wednesday - May be fired at by crossbow (faked)
Alice Beineke	Female-presenting	Soprano/ Mezzo-Soprano Ab3 - Eb5 (optional G#5)	Mid 30s - 50s	Lucas' mother and Mal's wife, Alice is quiet, collected, and positive, seeing the world through rhyme and showing up to dinner in her sunny yellow dress. That is, until a sip of Acrimonium unleashes her wild side...	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires performer comfortable with wide and dramatically changing emotional range <p>Singing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confident singer with powerful mixed voice <p>Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confident mover 	<p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to kiss Mal - May be required to put her hands on the ancestors during "Waiting"
Mal Beineke	Male-presenting	Tenor/ Baritone C3 - F#4	Mid 30s - 50s	Lucas' father and Alice's wife, Mal is the epitome of the straight-laced mid-Westerner: sensible, job-focused and ambitious for his son. Mal's life is turned upside down at the Addams' dinner, where he finally gets to find the wild Mal of the old days.	<p>Acting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Receptive actor with 'salt-of-the-earth' on-stage character 	<p>Violence and/or intimacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be required to kiss Alice

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The Ancestors (Ensemble)	Any	All	All (over 16)	The deceased Addams Family ancestors of the past, who have been drawn into the evening's events and cannot go back into their crypt until love triumphs!	<p>Acting</p> <p>This production is looking for ensemble members that can sing, dance, and act - or are willing to develop those skills.</p> <p>The ancestors will be required to develop characters that will be used in their performances and in the blocking of certain scenes, and may also be required to perform auxiliary duties during the show (e.g. scene changes).</p>
Pit Singers	Any	All	All (over 16)	Strong vocalists may be sought for pit singing. Enjoy the excitement and comraderie of a show without the full on-stage commitment!	

Characters and Casting

What is the Production Team Looking For?

At the heart of The Addams Family The Musical is the message that there isn't one right way to look, act, or feel. This production wants to reflect that with a cast that is diverse, open and inclusive, and enthusiastic about making great theatre in a positive community.

In terms of **who you are**, we are looking for performers from all backgrounds and walks of life, who can share their perspectives and life experience in order to bring these very malleable characters to life. No matter who you are (or what you know about historical casting of The Addams Family The Musical), don't let what you think the production team will want get in the way of auditioning for the role and story you are most passionate about presenting. We want to create our own unique Addams Family!

In terms of **what you can do**, performers with strong singing, dancing, and acting ability are the ideal. However, if you're a performer who can embrace new challenges and are eager to develop your on-stage skills, a positive and proactive attitude will always beat theatre experience.

The Addams Family The Musical requires lead actors with strong comedy acting ability. Make sure to show your comedic timing during your audition!

Age Requirements:

All performers (with the sole exception of Pugsley) must have reached the age of 16 at the time of auditioning.

Auditionees under the age of 18 will require parental permission to attend an audition.

What if I don't have Music Theatre Experience?

Amazing! We would love to see you, and will be looking to cast a range of skills within the show, incorporating as much of your experience and talents as possible.

As experienced community musical theatre performers will be able to tell you, there is always a range of skill levels in any show, and if you are the person with the right potential and attitude, we want to work with you.

Philo offers a comprehensive Auditioning 101 guide that will answer most of the questions you might have. This can be found at www.philo.org.au/auditions.

Auditions

**Auditions will be held on the
5th and 6th of April.**

**Callbacks will be held on the evening of the
7th of April.**

**Auditions will be held at
The Philo Hut, 18 Collie Street, Fyshwick**

Auditions will consist of an individual singing audition (up to 15 mins), and a group dance audition (up to 45 mins). Auditionees will be allocated one singing audition time, and one dance audition time, at the time of audition registration.

Callbacks will only be held where necessary and are at the discretion of the production team. Callbacks will most likely include an acting audition, and may also include further singing or dance requirements. Please note that callbacks will not necessarily be held individually/privately.

Video auditions will not be accepted except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the production team or Canberra Philharmonic Society.

Initial auditions and callbacks **may be filmed for casting purposes**, and will only be viewed by the production team and Canberra Philharmonic Society Committee during the casting process, after which all videos will be deleted.

Auditions

Singing: What to Sing

The singing in The Addams Family The Musical calls for a breadth of different voice types. As such, please bring something that shows off your full vocal abilities.

Requirements for your singing audition is as follows:

Own-choice song

- Please prepare no more than **2 minutes** of **1 song** in the style of *The Addams Family* (contemporary Musical Theatre)
- While you are encouraged to sing a song from the musical theatre canon, if there is a song in another genre that you think shows off your voice better, sing it!

Show excerpt

- If you are auditioning for a named lead, please prepare the relevant excerpt for your character found at: tinyurl.com/AddamsAuditionExcerpts
- Auditionees for Fester, Grandma, and Mal will present a spoken script excerpt. All other leads will present a sung song excerpt.
- Auditionees are encouraged to memorise their excerpts, but it is not mandatory.
- Auditionees for Ancestors/Ensemble or Pit Singing are not required to prepare an excerpt.

Singing: What to Bring

If you are singing with the **in-person accompanist/piano player**:

- You must bring sheet music in your chosen key
- Your sheet music should be taped correctly
(if you are unsure how to do this, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JymkiBDF3IU>)
- If you have made cuts/edits to your sheet music, please mark them clearly
- Take the time to talk your accompanist through your sheet music before you start singing - especially the tempo! Don't be afraid to tell them if they are going too fast or too slow!

If you are singing with a **backing track**:

- You must bring a backing track that is **instrumental only** - backing tracks with guide vocals will not be permitted
- The production team will have 3.5mm, USB-C and Lightning Port accessibility for the sound system - if you have other requirements (including CD), please provide the relevant adaptors

Auditionees are not permitted to sing unaccompanied.

Auditions

Singing: What to Know

The panel may not need you to sing the whole song you have prepared and may stop you during singing - this has nothing to do with the quality of your performance, and is usually because the panel have all the information they need.

The Music Director may ask you to repeat a small section of your song or test your vocal range to get a better understanding of your voice.

Dance

Dance auditions **will take place in groups**. Our choreographer will teach you a short excerpt from one of the numbers in the show. You will initially be given the opportunity to learn the choreography by following the choreographer, and there will be ample time to practise and ask questions. The choreography will be demonstrated multiple times. Once learned, the large group will be split, and auditionees will perform for the panel and for each other in smaller groups. At the end of the dance, the choreographer will invite you to showcase any dance abilities or tricks you may wish to highlight before leaving.

To ensure you set yourself up for success, please wear **clothing that is comfortable and easy to move in**, and **appropriate shoes**. Due to timing constraints, auditionees are encouraged to warm up themselves before entering the space. Auditionees are encouraged to bring water bottles which can be brought into the space.

Before starting the choreography, please inform the choreographer of any injuries or any considerations, all abilities are welcomed within the space and accommodations can be made.

Book Your Audition

Audition registration closes on **Monday 31 March**.

To book your audition, please visit <http://philo.org.au/auditions> and complete the online form and nominate your preferred audition date/time.

Upon completion of the online registration form, a representative of the production team or Canberra Philo will be in touch with **your precise singing and dancing audition times**. Please note that while preferences will be considered, the production team cannot guarantee audition slots to individual auditionees, and audition slots will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

All auditionees will be required to **submit a headshot** to confirm their audition booking. This will be used for identification purposes only, and for successful auditionees may also be used in social media marketing materials. Unsuccessful auditionees' headshots will be deleted immediately at the time of the decision being made, and successful auditionees' headshots will only be held for the duration of the production of The Addams Family The Musical.

We can't wait to see you at auditions!