

# BANDSTAND

## Character Breakdown & Vocal Ranges

*A Musical by Richard Oberacker & Robert Taylor*

### Please Note

Due to the complexity of this production, some principal roles have already been cast. These are marked below. We are still seeking an exceptionally talented company of actors, singers, dancers, and musician/actors.

---

## DONNY NOVITSKI

(This role has been pre-cast, but we are still looking for a stand-in. Please look at requirements below.)

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 25–35

Piano Player

**Vocal Range:** Tenor (Bb2–G4)

Ruggedly handsome with his Italian and Polish heritage. A piano (and accordion player) prodigy. He is passionate about swing music and writing his own songs. While clearly shining with that elusive star quality, he carries the dark weight of wartime experiences.

Must demonstrate fluent score reading and the ability to play piano accompaniment.

---

## JULIA TROJAN

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 20–35

**Vocal Range:** Mezzo-Soprano (G3–E5)

A talented singer whose husband was killed during the war. Intelligent, resilient, compassionate, and emotionally layered. Julia must communicate vulnerability while discovering her own strength throughout the story.

Strong actor with exceptional vocal storytelling required. Will need to learn to play one song on the ukelele.

---

# WAYNE WRIGHT

(This role has been pre-cast, but we are still looking for a stand-in. Please look at requirements below.)

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 20–30

Trombone Player

**Vocal Range:** Baritone/Tenor (A2–G4)

The band's **trombone** player is a veteran Marine Lieutenant. Warm, dependable, optimistic, and the emotional heart of the group. Recently married and trying to rebuild life after returning home. He manifests his war experiences in a severe case of obsessive-compulsive disorder. He carries enormous tension in his body and mind and maintains an aloofness that hides his emotional turmoil. He is a man that can be very intimidating in his silence.

Excellent actor with a warm contemporary Broadway voice.

---

# JOHNNY SIMPSON

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 25-35

Drummer

**Vocal Range:** Baritone (B2–G-Sharp 4.)

He is a drumming phenomenon. A returning Army Privet, he suffers from severe back pain due to an injury requiring three surgeries. He is therefore reliant on pain medication, which affects his mental clarity. He also shows signs of traumatic head injury with memory loss. But mostly this all combines to give Johnny an almost childlike and gentle personality. He is by no means stupid - he has very honest insight and he carries a charming simplicity that is in contrast to his sharp and impressive musical skills.

---

# Jimmy Campbell

((This role has been pre-cast, but we are still looking for a stand-in. Please look at requirements below.))

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 25–35

Saxophone and Clarinet player

**Vocal Range:** Baritone (A2–F4)

He is a gifted jazz reed player - predominantly saxophone and clarinet. Jimmy is very bookish, thin and well put together. He is wisely studying law, having just returned from the Navy. He has a careful and guarded personality but is fiercely loyal to Donny and the band. While the text never gives him away, Jimmy is privately gay and committed to fighting injustice in whatever ways he can.

---

# Davy Zlatic

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 25–35

Upright Bass player

**Vocal Range:** Baritone (B2–F sharp 4.)

He is a wiz on the upright bass. A recent Army veteran who served in the European theatre and liberated Dachau, Davy is modeled heavily on Shakespeare's lovable Falstaff. A large man with an appetite, he drinks to no end and maintains a consistent stream of silly jokes to entertain. He is an incredible talent and a loyal friend, playing the clown, but in reality, he's the protector.

---

# NICK RADEL

(This role has been pre-cast, but we are still looking for a stand-in. Please look at requirements below.)

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 25–40

Trumpet Player

**Vocal Range:** Baritone (A2–E4)

He is a genius trumpet player. A recent veteran of the Army who spent the last months of the European battles in a German prisoner-of-war camp. Nick is a man desperate for a career and personal security. He is outrageously confident in his gifts as a musician and is always on the lookout for those who would shortchange him of his deserved credit and compensation. Everything seems to be a personal affront to him, and he has not yet been able to stop fighting for his life every day since returning from the home front. He prides himself on his ability to play exceptionally high notes on his trumpet and sometimes has a hard time being a team player.

---

## JEAN ANN RYAN

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 45-60

**Vocal Range:** Warm Alto

**Vocal Range:** A glamorous local radio personality. Jean Ann prides herself on being the voice of several of WTAM Radio's most popular programs. She believes herself to be more worldly and sophisticated than she likely is, but her outsized persona is matched by a sentimental and dramatic heart. A voice that recalls early Judy Garland and Kate Smith, she is a warm alto.

---

## MRS. ADAMS

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 40-60

**Vocal Range:** Alto (G3 to B4.)

Julia's mother and a woman of very modest means. She has a nervous anxiety most of the time and a desire to please that belies a personal history filled with disappointment and loss. Out of this energy comes her very quirky sense of comedy. But her grounded honesty is never far away when it comes to Julia's happiness.

---

## ANDRE BARUCH

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 45-60

The real-life radio host and personality of several popular radio programs on NBC radio in New York City. Andre is debonair and sincere with a classic radio voice that has the trained mid-Atlantic accent of the time.

---

# OLIVER

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 45-60

A magnanimous owner of one of Cleveland's most popular nightclubs. The club that bears his name may not be the fanciest in town, but it is respected for its music scene. Oliver treats his guests like family and enjoys the spotlight whenever possible.

---

# AL

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 40-50

An elegant and gracious owner of the most prestigious supper club in Cleveland, The Pavilion. He is suave and attentive to his guest but carries the confidence of the upper classes of midwestern society.

---

# JO

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 35-60

The owner of the hole-in-the-wall jazz club, The Blue Wisp. Jo is a sharp woman in a man's game and has incredible confidence. She's possibly a little masculine herself and does not care who know sit. She's proud of her little club and loyal to her musicians and her decidedly blue-collar clientele.

---

# ROGER COHEN

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 45-mid 50's

A corporate businessman in the much larger entertainment machine of the National Broadcasting Company. Roger is officious, efficient, and very good at his job. While he enjoys show business and is comfortable and confident in its rarified world, he has no patience for conflict.

---

# James Haupt

**Gender:** Male

**Age:** 45-mid 50's

A successful director of radio programs at NBC Radio in New York City. He has the slickness of a New York business professional with all the charm and smarts. He always appears genuine and gracious when dealing with the talent but is all business behind the scenes.

---

# Paula

**Gender:** Woman

A woman of indiscriminate age, a no-nonsense New Yorker in the heart of the professional radio entertainment capital of the world.

---

# Betsy

**Gender:** Woman

A late teen, an excitable bobbysoxer fan of the Donny Nova band. She is all smiles and enthusiasm when meeting her favorite band. Her comic sense comes out of her blithe honesty and unabashed love of music.

# FEATURED MALE ENSEMBLE

Seeking versatile performers who can portray:

- Veterans
- Radio performers
- Contest contestants
- Stagehands
- Reporters
- Production crew
- Audience members
- Swing dancers

**Vocal Range:** All

Strong dance *and* singing ability required.

---

# FEATURED FEMALE ENSEMBLE

Seeking versatile performers who can portray:

- Contest contestants
- Nurses
- Secretaries
- USO Performers
- Audience members
- Dance ensemble

**Vocal Range:** All

Strong dance *and* singing ability required.

---

# Ensemble Expectations

This production is dance-heavy and vocally demanding. The ensemble in *Bandstand* is not background — it is an essential part of telling this story.

We are seeking performers who:

- Sing confidently in harmony
- Move well (partner- and swing-dance experience is ideal)
- Learn choreography quickly
- Commit to detailed storytelling
- Bring strong acting choices to every moment on stage