

COSTUME DESIGN

Successful costume design enhances a character's personality to convey particular people, class, or period.

FAIRYTALE LAND

You have a wide range of costume options for Musicville because it takes place in a "fairytale" type land.

Costumes can be simple or elaborate as long as they do not resemble contemporary clothing. Since Musicville is an imaginary world you have wide room for costume creativity.

Melody Meadows has a regal town atmosphere so use clothing and accessories to portray that feeling: crowns, tunics, berets, belts and scarves.

COSTUME QUICK CHANGES

There is a good chance many of your actors will be cast in multiple roles for this show. Try having your actors wear a "neutral" base costume where you can layer character costumes on top. An all black base costume consisting of a black t-shirt and top or shorts works well.

For example for the Melody Meadows scene, have each actor wear a white tunic with a musical note on their chest

over their base costume. When its time to change for the Doo Wop scene they can quickly remove the tunic and slip on their colorful skirt and scarf. Then for the Orange ocean of Opera scene they can layer over their orange poncho. They can remove all their layers for the Tangueros scene where the girls can slip into tango skirts while the guys put on sombreros and scarves.

MUSIC NOTATION INSPIRED COSTUMES

If you find inspiration from the inherit design and qualities of a musical notation in a character feel free to incorporate it into the costume. Below is a helpful website to find the definition of every musical term in the play.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_musical_symbols

Panel tunics are easy to make. Use a durable cheap material like white felt to cut the panels. Then create a music note stencil to cut out the notes from black felt and sew or glue on the tunics.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

MAIDEN MELODY - princess dress, tiara, pastel ribbon in her hair

RADICAL RHYTHM - cap with musical notes by taking a white painters cap and painting the notes on; black top; pants with vertical lines to represent staff lines by sewing black fabric on white baggy pants

GRANDSTAFF - crown, robe

QUEEN GLISS - Crown, dress

MOTHER RHYTHM - long house dress, apron with a musical note

OFF-BEAT - Pinwheel hat

TOWN PEOPLE - Panel tunics with large musical note in the chest. Use various accessories to represent all types, barets, farmers hat, guitars, backpacks, satchels

SORCERER OF SILENCE - Wizard-like costume: robe, hat, shiny materials

BREATH-MARK - White collared shirt, black bow tie, black pants

HALF-REST and EIGHTH-REST - Matching gypsy costumes (girls) or wizard costume (boys); sheep costume: sheep mask, white puffy material

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COSTUME SUGGESTIONS (cont'd)

TANGY ERROR - all black outfit

COUNTERPOINT, BITTY BASS, TALENTED TENOR AND ALL DOO WOPS - Girls: white tops, poodle skirts or tutus, scarf in hair; Boys: white t-shirts black pants; Differentiate the lead Doo Wops by having them wear larger skirts or adding accessories like bracelets

PIANO, FORTE - matching orange costumes: orange dresses or orange tops and pants with the symbols for "piano" and "forte" sewn on the chest.

TRILL, ACCENT, FERMATA, REPEAT and ALL ORANGE OCEAN OF OPERA - Orange shawls cut from fabric

SYNCO and TANGUERROS - girls - white tops, black skirt below the knee, matching shawls, rose behind the ear or in hair; boys - black pants white shirt, sombreros (if possible without covering face)

SOLO OF SOUL and STOCKY - knit, "earthy" shawl. Brown top and brown pants.

COMPOSER OF "AHHS" - colorful sunglasses, colorful suit or dress. Think Elton John.