

GRAND OLD PLAYHOUSE MUSIC HALL

COMPANY AUDITIONS

Kia ora!

The Dunedin Repertory Society is excited to stage the Grand Old Playhouse Music Hall from 12-14 June 2026.

We are auditioning for Company roles and we would love to hear from you. If you'd like to take part, please read this pack carefully and complete [this Google Form](#) to book your audition.

Kā mihi nui

The Dunedin Repertory Society

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ABOUT MUSIC HALL

Music Hall was a popular form of British theatrical entertainment from early Victorian times until around World War I. It was aimed at working-class audiences and was performed in halls where people could eat, drink and smoke while watching the jolly show.

Programmes were presented in a concert format, with a mixture of songs, comedy and variety acts. A Chairman acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, introducing each act and holding banter with the audience.

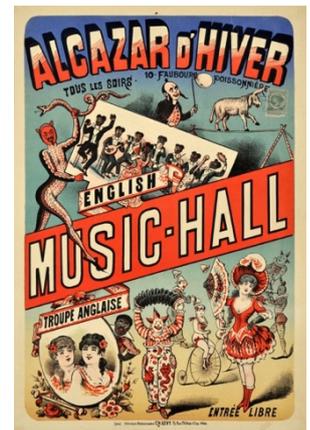
Classic Music Hall songs range from sentimental ballads to bawdy comedy pieces. They are often recognisably British and celebrate working class and regional accents and culture. If you're not familiar with the style, the video links on the audition information page will give you a feel for it.

ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION

The Grand Old Playhouse Music Hall will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Playhouse Theatre building opening (which was 24 May 1876). The show will also help us raise money towards the saving of the building – see more about that project [here](#).

The Company (which this audition is for) will perform the opening and closing numbers for each act, as well as some additional songs, sketches and readings throughout the show. It will mainly be ensemble work, with opportunities for solo moments and numbers.

The show will be hosted by a Chairman, accompanied by a Maestro on piano, and will also feature about 8x Guest Artist solo acts. Jemma Adams is directing.





IMPORTANT DATES

Auditions: Saturday 18 April 2026, from 1pm

Draft rehearsal schedule:

Prelim	Saturday 9 May Whakawhanaungatanga & music familiarisation	2.00-3.30pm
Week 1	Monday 11 May	7.00-9.30pm
	Wednesday 13 May	7.00-9.30pm
	Saturday 16 May	1.00-4.00pm
Week 2	Monday 18 May	7.00-9.30pm
	Wednesday 20 May	7.00-9.30pm
	Saturday 23 May	2.00-4.00pm
Week 3	Monday 25 May	7.00-9.30pm
	Wednesday 27 May	7.00-9.30pm
Week 4	Monday 1 June (King's Birthday)	12.00-4.00pm
	Wednesday 3 June	7.00-9.30pm
	Sunday 7 June	Time TBA – tech
Production week	Monday 8 June	7.00-10.00pm
	Wednesday 10 June – Dress Rehearsal	6.30-10.00pm

Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals. We'll confirm a final rehearsal schedule once the cast and programme is finalised.

Performances

- 7.30pm Friday 12 June
- 7.30pm Saturday 13 June
- 2.00pm Sunday 14 June

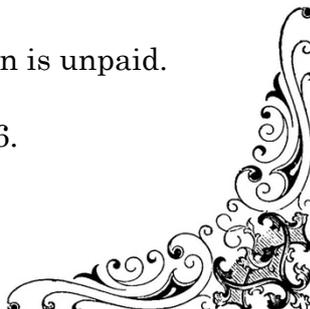
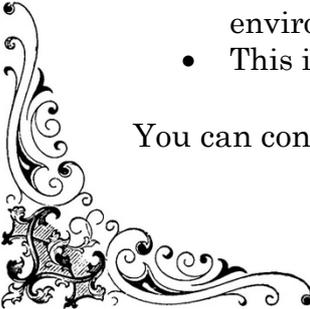
All rehearsals and performances will be at the Playhouse Theatre, 31 Albany Street Dunedin.

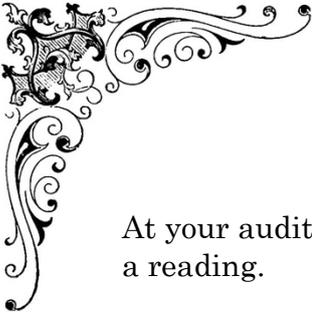
IMPORTANT FINE PRINT

We're delighted you're auditioning and hope this is a fun and positive experience for everyone. Just a few points to be aware of -

- The production team will make all casting decisions, and these are final.
- By auditioning, you're confirming you can commit to the rehearsal and performance schedule and make this show a priority.
- We ask everyone to help create a friendly, respectful and collaborative environment, and to follow the theatre's health and safety rules.
- This is a community production and a fundraiser, so participation is unpaid.

You can contact us on playhousedunedin@gmail.com or 021 055 3086.





YOUR AUDITION

At your audition we would like to hear you sing a Music Hall song, and recite part of a reading.

THE SONG

We would like to hear you sing **one** of the following four Music Hall songs (you choose!).

You only need to sing **one verse and one chorus**. You don't have to learn the words off by heart, although we will want to be able to see how you connect with an audience. Don't worry about being perfect—we're much more interested in seeing your personality and how you tell the story of the song.

Song	YouTube link for inspiration
<i>Don't Dilly Dally On The Way</i> (Charles Collins & Fred W. Leigh)	See here
<i>The Boy I Love Is Up In The Gallery</i> (George Ware)	See here
<i>Where Did You Get That Hat?</i> (James Rolmaz)	See here
<i>On Mother Kelly's Doorstep</i> (George Stevens)	See here here (at 40m:30s) Or also here

Note: Just the chorus of this one will be plenty!

Sheet music for all four songs is available [here](#). Our pianist will be at the auditions to accompany you. If you wish to sing a different Music Hall song and bring your own accompaniment please let us know.

THE READING

We would also like to hear you read the first four stanzas of Lewis Carroll's poem *Father William*, from *Alice in Wonderland* (see next page). You don't have to learn this by heart. We will have print copies at the audition you can read from.

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FATHER WILLIAM

By Lewis Carroll

'You are old, father William,' the young man said,
'And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your head -
Do you think, at your age, it is right?'

'In my youth,' father William replied to his son,
'I feared it would injure the brain;
But now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again.'

'You are old,' said the youth, 'as I mentioned before,
And have grown most uncommonly fat;
Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door -
Pray, what is the reason of that?'

'In my youth,' said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,
'I kept all my limbs very supple
By the use of this ointment - one shilling the box -
Allow me to sell you a couple.'

Extract only. Full poem available [here](#).

