

OPEN CALL

AUDITION NOTICE: PINOLE COMMUNITY PLAYERS' PRODUCTION OF

Stephen Sondheim's
*Merrily
We Roll Along*

PERFS **JUNE 6–28, 2014**

DIRECTED BY **PETER BUDINGER & DC SCARPELLI**

MUSIC DIRECTED BY **PAT KING**

AUDITIONS TO BE HELD **SUNDAY, MARCH 30 @ 6PM**

MONDAY, MARCH 31 @ 7:30PM

AT **PINOLE COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE**

601 TENNENT AVENUE, PINOLE

Please prepare one song. Broadway, 1930–1970 (“Golden Age”) preferred. Up-tempo preferred. If you’re specifically auditioning for **Franklin, Mary, Beth, or Gussie**, please also prepare 16 bars of a song that showcases your belt and legato notes. You’ll also be doing cold readings from the script.

Accompanist will be provided. No tapes please. Casting breakdown on next page.

ABOUT THE SHOW: *Merrily We Roll Along* is probably best remembered as one of Stephen Sondheim’s glorious flops. Its 16-performance run on Broadway was only underperformed by *Anyone Can Whistle*’s 9. Despite this, it’s remembered for its fantastic, energetic score—the closest Sondheim has come in style (along with *Follies*) to musicals of the Golden Age. From 1994 onward, *Merrily* has been rewritten in book and score several times, culminating in the 2013 West End premiere of the show that sold out its extended run and was hailed a triumph by the English press. That’s the version we’ll be putting on.

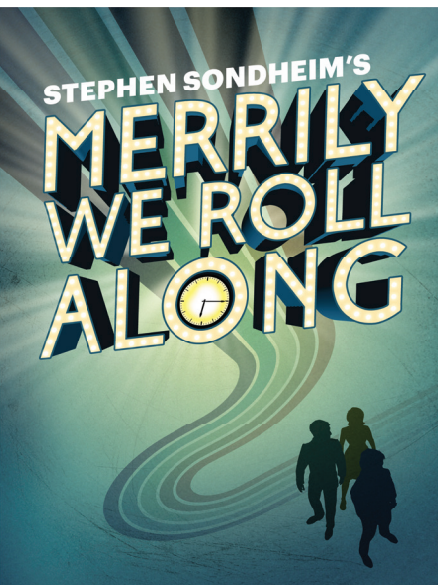
NON-EQUITY. NO PAY.

MORE INFO: DREMILE@TREMENDO.ORG

AUDITION BY APPOINTMENT:

EMAIL **AMY.PINOLEPLAYHOUSE@YAHOO.COM**

OR CALL **510.724.6413**



CASTING

Merrily is the story of a friendship and how it evolves and disintegrates as time goes by. The friendship in question is a trio:

FRANKLIN SHEPARD *Male, 20s–40s, Range: A2–B♭4*

Franklin is in many ways the heart of the trio—its soul. He goes from wide-eyed optimism to success-driven hardness as time goes by. Think of him as the all-American boy next door. The one everyone wants for a friend.

MARY FLYNN *Female, 20s–40s, Range: G3–G♭5*

Mary is the mediator and Girl Friday of the central trio. Completely in love with and devoted to Franklin, she transforms with the years from young go-getter to bitter alcoholic. Needs a vulnerable comedienne. Think Elaine May meets Dorothy Parker.

CHARLEY KRINGAS *Male, 20s–40s, Range: A#2–G#4*

Charley is difficult, stubborn, and intensely devoted to his friends and family. He's the moral compass of the trio, and remains truest to his original trajectory over the 20-year course of the musical.

Joining and shaping the paths of our central trio are the other central figures in their lives:

BETH SPENCER *Female, 20s–40s, Range: A3–G5*

Beth is an all-American girl-next-door, and the “obvious” choice for Franklin. She’s warm and loving if a bit insecure. *Though not technically part of the “central trio,” Beth is very much a principal role.*

GUSSIE CARNEGIE *Female, 20s–40s, Range: G3–C5*

Gussie is a Broadway star and very much acts the part. She’s funny, full of charisma, and extremely self-indulgent and hard to resist. *Though not technically part of the “central trio,” Gussie is very much a principal role.*

JOE JOSEPHSON *Male, 30s–50s, Range: A2–F#4*

Joe is a Broadway producer of the Golden Age. Expansive and very New York.

FRANKLIN SHEPARD, JR. *8–10*

Frank’s son. May be played by a boy or a girl.

MEG KINCAID *Female, late teens–20s, Range: D4–G♭5*

Meg is the star of Franklin’s big movie. She’s young, self-centered and very Hollywood.

THE ENSEMBLE of *Merrily* is crucial to the show. They create the entire world of the play—they comment on the action, they set the tone and period of the scenes, and they sing some of the greatest musical theater songs ever written. As much as possible, ensemble roles will be contiguously cast—you’ll be playing the same part throughout the piece. We’re looking for great character actors who can sing. Ensemble roles include:

K.T. LEWIS, pert newswoman

TYLER, Frank’s friend and benefactor

SCOTTY, Frank’s crusty (female) agent

RU, Frank’s starry-eyed (male) hanger-on

JEROME, Frank’s lawyer

MR. AND MRS. SPENCER, Beth’s stodgy parents

ON AGE AND RACE: Race is not an issue—this show will be cast colorblind. Age, however, is an issue. *Merrily* is a show that spans 20 years. More than that, it runs backwards. We first meet the central figures in the mid-1970s, when they’re around 40. We travel backward in time with them to 1957, when they’re around 20. We’re looking for a mix of actors who can convincingly pull off that age range and mix seamlessly with their onstage contemporaries.

We can’t wait to see your audition!

Peter & DC