



AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

1. **ALL PERFORMERS:** Please record yourself performing a **minimum of one and a maximum of two** audition pieces from this booklet. Your audition piece/s can be a monologue or a scene e.g. one monologue and one scene, or two scenes, or two monologues. Or just one monologue. Or just one scene. The choice is yours!
2. **OPTIONAL: If you would be interested in singing a solo** (or even a one line solo as part of a song), then you are encouraged to upload a video of you singing a Christmas song of your choice (minimum 60 seconds of singing). **If you are not interested in singing solo, you are not required to submit a singing audition.** There will be a few Christmas carols woven throughout the play and different characters will join the choir at different times. Please choose a traditional carol (the sort of carol that would have been sung at that time!). Examples of traditional carols:
 - a. Silent Night
 - b. O Come all ye faithful
 - c. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
 - d. The First Noel
 - e. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
 - f. Good King Wenceslas
 - g. We Three Kings
 - h. O Little Town of Bethlehem
3. If you choose to run a scene, please have someone read the other lines to you (they should be off camera).
4. Please learn your lines off by heart. This will demonstrate that you can learn lines well and it will give you the freedom to focus on your acting!
5. Consider the character's emotions, thoughts, personality and motivations.
6. Please use an American accent (except if auditioning for Friedrich or the Hummel family as they are German characters). It does not have to be perfect, but we would like to see an attempt! There are many resources you could study to practise your accent, including several film and TV adaptations of Little Women! You could also check out American accent tutorials on YouTube, such as this one:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc47FqB3Cw8&list=PLbM3LipspeXl2jTKVelq_etYRsxNxEO90&index=1
7. Ensure that the lighting is good and the sound is clear (please do not record outside where it is windy, for example).
8. Ensure that you name your audition video file or files with your full name and age.
9. Upload your video files to the relevant Dropbox (depending on your class time).
10. The video is due by **8pm Saturday 4th May (the day before your first class!)**

AUDITION PIECE #1

YOUNG JO

(writing a letter) Dear St. Nicholas. I don't know how to put this politely, but... Christmas won't be the same without any presents! I've tried to be patient, and yes I know there's a war, but I *really* need more ink and parchment for my writing! You see, I want to be a writer. I want to write stories and see my name in print: Josephine March! *(beat)* Great Aunt March says I can't be a writer because I'm a girl. It's not fair! I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy. If I were a boy, I would be fighting side by side with Papa right now. But I don't suppose you can make me a boy for Christmas so... I will settle for ink and parchment.

AUDITION PIECE #2

YOUNG MEG

(writing a letter) Dear St. Nicholas. I have been very good this year. I have helped Hannah in the kitchen and I have learnt so much about cooking and needlework. Therefore, I really think I deserve a pretty new dress for Christmas. A silk one. Because you know, I'm the eldest, and one day, not too far away, I will have to find a husband. But he won't want to marry me if I'm wearing rags, will he?

AUDITION PIECE #3

YOUNG BETH

(writing a letter) Dear St. Nicholas. Sorry to trouble you. I know you must be very busy. If you were planning to give me a present, please don't. Please give it to someone in need, like the poor Hummel girls who have no nice clothes or nice things. I don't need anything myself. All I want is for Father to come back from the war and for our family to always be together.

AUDITION PIECE #4

YOUNG AMY

(writing a letter) Dear St. Nicholas. I have the ugliest nose in the world. Truly. I hate my nose. I want a Grecian nose for it is far more elegant, like the fine ladies you see in old oil paintings. So what I would like for Christmas, please, is a new nose. But if that is not possible, then I would settle for some new paint brushes... I'm going to paint the most beautiful nose you've ever seen.

AUDITION PIECE #5

JO MARCH

My sisters and I remember that Christmas as the coldest of our childhood. Our family was experiencing a temporary poverty brought on by the Civil War: the great fight to end slavery. Our father was away and we missed him terribly. Marmee took care of us - indeed took care of many people for she was so charitable - with the help of our housekeeper, Hannah. Food was scarce and so was fuel for the fire, yet somehow in that dark time, our family, the March family, seemed to create its own light.

AUDITION PIECE #6

BETH MARCH

And so the March family lived on and changed and grew, Their experiences made them deeper, more tender - strong and wise. They learnt that beauty, youth, good fortune, even love itself, cannot prevent pain, loss and sorrow, for into each life some rain must fall; some days must be dark and sad and dreary. But there is always light, and the kind eyes of someone who loved and goes on loving you, watching over. I will always watch over my sisters; I hope they see my face in their dreams, tranquil and smiling forever.

AUDITION PIECE #7 (Choose one character)

YOUNG LAURIE

Sorry, miss! I could have broken your...tea pot.

YOUNG JO

It's true, I'm clumsy. I'm also very hungry so it's amazing I haven't drunk it all yet.

YOUNG LAURIE

Should I ask why you're carrying a teapot in the snow on Christmas day?

YOUNG JO

You mean people don't usually do that? *(Laughs)* We're giving our Christmas breakfast to a poor family we've never even met.

YOUNG LAURIE

Was that your idea?

Come forward!

MAY CHESTER

(Innocently) It was Amy March, sir!

YOUNG AMY

No it wasn't!

MAY CHESTER

It was! *(Dramatically)* I'm traumatised.

SUSIE PERKINS

It wasn't Amy, sir.

MAY CHESTER

She's got Christmas cards, sir! She brought them for everyone!

AUDITION PIECE #9 Note: we may change Mr Davis to Mrs Davis depending on the cast!

MR DAVIS

Christmas cards! Oh, Christmas cards again! What have I told you stupid girls about Christmas cards! I forbid them. You know, I forbid them in my school! Did I not forbid them? Contraband! I banished St Valentine's Day cards, I had a bonfire with your sentimental novels, and I stamped out the abhorrent practice of giving people *nicknames*. And now: *(loudly, enraged)* CHRISTMAS CARDS! *(Dangerously)* Do you mock me, Amy March? You, Amy March, are a good example of what I have been saying all these years to *(with disgust)* progressive types: it is a waste of time to educate a woman.

AUDITION PIECE #10 (Choose one character)

JO

Meg and John Brooke! What is happening to the world? He's so dull I almost fall asleep listening to him.

MARMEE

Jo, you must learn that not everyone has the same nature and though he bores you, Meg likes him very much.

JO

I can't believe she's marrying him. Why can't we go back to

being children again? I much preferred those days. When I used to play soccer with Laurie...

MARMEE

Come, here, my darling.

(JO approaches) Jo, you have so many precious gifts and you have a free spirit. Perhaps it's time for you to spread your wings.

JO

And do what?

MARMEE

You remember my friend, Mrs. Kirke, in New York? She wrote to me this morning.

JO

Mrs. Kirke who runs a boarding house?

MARMEE

Yes. She's looking for a respectable young person to teach her children.

JO

You mean, I could move to New York? That would be an adventure... I would like that very much. I could write in the evenings! I'm sure I'd meet interesting characters at the boarding house. It would help with my stories!

MARMEE

So I shall tell her you're interested?

AUDITION PIECE #11

MRS KIRKE

Now, my dear, you must make yourself at home, I'm busy from morning to night, as you may suppose with running a boarding house, and Christmas is so soon! But a great anxiety will be off my mind if I know the children are safe with you. My rooms are always open to you, and your own shall be as comfortable as I can make it. There are some pleasant people in the house if you feel sociable, and your evenings are always free. Come to me if anything goes wrong, and be as happy as you can.

AUDITION PIECE #12

LAURIE

Amy, I know it must seem strange. But, I have reflected and... that first love for Jo - it was true but it was tempestuous - like a storm: one of those bitter-sweet experiences of life that - when the pain is over - one is grateful for. On the other hand, my love for you is calm - it is peace itself. The peace of a happy life. And I wish that you and I will always travel over calm waters, together, in the same boat. (*LAURIE kneels down to propose*).

AUDITION PIECE #13

AUNT MARCH

Very good reading, Josephine.

YOUNG JO

Thank you Aunt March, but you know I prefer Jo.

AUNT MARCH

You are not a boy and your name is Josephine.

YOUNG JO

Yes, Aunt March.

AUNT MARCH

Why do you wear your hair like that, Josephine?

YOUNG JO

I like it out of the way.

AUNT MARCH

Little girls should have long hair. It's your one beauty! Really, Jo, your only one.

YOUNG JO

(*Unenthusiastically*) Thanks.

AUNT MARCH

Thanks? It's *thank-you*. I'll not have slang in this house!

YOUNG JO

Yes, Aunt March.

AUDITION PIECE #14

MEG

I must admit that being married isn't as easy as I thought. In fact, we had our first dispute recently. I know John's income, of course, and I love that he trusts me not only with his happiness but with his money! He said I was free to take what I liked but that I should remember I am a poor tutor's wife. I kept an account book and I was so good at the start. He was proud of how sensible I was. But then Annie - she never has to economise - Annie had been buying silks and well, the shopman held up the lovely, shimmering folds, and he said, "A bargain, I assure, you, ma'am." Something came over me and I just said, "I'll take it!" Then I took it home and it didn't suit me and didn't shimmer like before, and Jo - I spent fifty dollars!

AUDITION PIECE #15 (Choose one character)

FRIEDRICH BHAER enters and helps JO collect them.

FRIEDRICH Please, miss, let me assist.

JO I'm sorry, I'm so clumsy.

FRIEDRICH Please, allow me.

FRIEDRICH gently passes her some papers.

JO Thank you, Mr er...

FRIEDRICH Bhaer, but please call me Friedrich.

JO Oh, you're Professor Bhaer! I'm Jo, I look after Mrs Kirke's children.

FRIEDRICH Yes, I've seen at you at breakfast at the boarding house, but you are usually writing.

JO Oh, yes.

FRIEDRICH What do you write?

JO Um, at the moment, some ghost stories. Sometimes adventure stories.

FRIEDRICH I see.

JO And you're a professor of literature?

FRIEDRICH I was a professor in Germany but here... I'm just a humble tutor. Americans don't like my accent.

AUDITION PIECE #16

MARMEE *(Hesitantly)* My darlings, I want to say one word before we sit down. Not far away from here lies a poor woman in great need. Her children are huddled into one bed to keep from freezing, for they have no fire. There is nothing to eat over there, and the oldest girl came to tell me they were suffering hunger and cold. My girls, will you give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?

AUDITION PIECE #17 (Choose one character)

The HUMMEL family cower and shiver in the cold. MRS HUMMEL cradles her little children, MINNA & GRETEL. GRETEL is very small and very ill.

MRS HUMMEL *(To her daughters)* If only your father hadn't left us. I'm so sorry this is your Christmas. I don't know what to do.

MINNA HUMMEL Don't be sad, mother. We'll be alright. We have each other.

GRETEL HUMMEL Mumma, I feel so cold. May I lie down?

MRS HUMMEL (*Cradling Gretel*) Oh, my love. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry.

THE SOUND OF SINGING is heard in the distance.

MINNA HUMMEL What's that, mother?

GRETEL HUMMEL It sounds like angels. (*The MARCH GIRLS enter.*)

YOUNG MEG Merry Christmas, Mrs Hummel!

MRS HUMMEL Oh! The March girls! Merry Christmas!

AUDITION PIECE #18 (Choose one character)

AMY Laurie! I can't believe you're here! What a small world to bump into you in Paris! Are you here on business?

LAURIE Umm, more pleasure, to be honest. Certainly pleasure now that I've seen you. You look lovely.

AMY Thank you.

LAURIE Have you always been this lovely?

AMY Excuse me?

LAURIE I just mean, I can see you clearly.

AMY (*Smiling*) Perhaps this is the first time you've seen me when you were really looking at me, and not at someone else. Did you see much of Jo before you left?

LAURIE Ah, no. I hear she has moved to New York and made *friends* with a professor.

AMY

You don't sound bitter at all.
Shall we walk?

AUDITION PIECE #19

JO MARCH

I think that families are the most beautiful things in the world! I love my family dearly. Society, however... They say, 'Jo, you must stop being wild! Give up this writing nonsense and find yourself a husband!' No thank you! Every family has an old spinster, and I mean to be the spinster in this family! That's what I thought, until I met Professor Bhaer. He had the kindest eyes I ever saw and more books than I could count. I didn't have to hide my opinions or my wildness. Bhaer had a friend who said, 'Well, yes, women ought to be able to vote because they're good!' And I said, 'I find it poor logic to say that because women are good, women should vote. Men do not vote because they are good; they vote because they are male, and women should vote, not because we are good but because we are human beings and citizens of this country.' Bhaer looked at me and I knew I had found a man who wasn't afraid of a strong woman. Perhaps I won't be an old maid after all.