

## Synopsis

Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir is a golden ticket to adventure.

The delicious adventures of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory light up the stage in this captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film, in addition to a host of fun new songs, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. is a scrumdidilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth. Now in the updated Binder format!

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whomever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. Four of the five winning children are insufferable brats, but the fifth is a likable young lad named Charlie Bucket, who takes the tour in the company of his equally amiable grandfather. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory — or suffer the consequences.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. has a flexible cast size with many featured and ensemble roles, including the singing and dancing Oompa Loompas.

## Character Breakdown

**Cast Size:** 50

**Cast type:** Ensemble Cast

**Dance Requirement:** Standard

### Willy Wonka / Candy Man

Willy Wonka is an enigmatic character; at once mysterious and mischievous but also charismatic. There are a number of directions to take with Wonka, ranging from Gene Wilder's version in the original film, Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory, to Johnny Depp's portrayal in the recent film, Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, and everything in between. Pick a young man (or a young woman) who is charismatic, engaging and has a great voice (in the case of a young man, preferably a changed voice). The actor should be able to be funny and serious and change between the two on a dime. It is preferred that Wonka double as the Candy Man, as it helps reinforce that Wonka has staged the Golden Ticket competition and is somewhat controlling this contest along the way. Cast a fantastic actor and singer in this iconic role.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: G3

## **Charlie Bucket**

Charlie Bucket is the emotional heart and soul of the musical. The actor performing Charlie should have an unchanged voice and lots of pluck and enthusiasm. Charlie is in nearly every scene, so make sure you select an actor who can handle the demands of a sizable role. Charlie should be a great singer, excellent actor, and hopefully reads as younger onstage.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A3

## **Grandpa Joe**

Grandpa Joe is the grandfather we all wish we had when we were Charlie's age. He is caring, patient, sweet, and always reminds Charlie to look on the bright side. Cast an actor who can be kind, funny, and makes a great duo with Charlie. The role sings a bit, but the singing is secondary to the actor's solid acting skills.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: Eb5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

## **Mr. Bucket**

This is a great role for a young person who has a nice voice, and is a natural nurturer. Mr. Bucket performs the number "Think Positive" with Charlie. Mr. Bucket can double as an Oompa-Loompa in the second half of the show.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: C#5

Vocal range bottom: D4

## **Mrs. Bucket**

This is a great role for a young person who has a nice voice, and is a natural nurturer. Mrs. Bucket sings "Cheer Up, Charlie" with Mr. Bucket and Grandpa Joe. Mrs. Bucket can double as an Oompa-Loompa in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: Db5

Vocal range bottom: Bb3

## **The Candy Man Kids**

Candy Man Kids sing "The Candy Man," and their numbers may be expanded to include as many performers as you see fit and your program will allow. The names of the characters have been drawn from other Roald Dahl books. Feel free to assign additional names to match the number of performers you cast, like Sophie, Danny, Alfie, and Billy, for example. (All students like to go home and exclaim, "I'm playing Alfie in Willy Wonka JR.")

versus "I'm Kid 2 in 'The Candy Man.'") You may also cast a single class (say, the sixth grade chorus) to perform these roles, as they appear only in this number unless you choose to double them as Cooks and Oompa-Loompas.

Gender: Any

### **Grandpa George**

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Male

### **Grandma Georgina**

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female

### **Grandma Josephina**

Charlie's three grandparents are mainly non-singing character roles. Cast performers that are innately interesting, who have good comic timing and are solid actors. These actors can double as Oompa-Loompas in the second half of the show.

Gender: Female

### **Phineous Trout**

Phineous is the reporter who announces the winners of the Golden Ticket contest throughout the show. The role requires some singing, so cast a boy or a girl with a great announcer's voice and good stage presence.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: C5

Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Oompa-Loompa Chorus**

The Oompa-Loompa Chorus, including Oompa-Loompas 1-5, can be as small as a handful of performers or as large as your stage and theater can accommodate. Consider casting your youngest performers as Oompa-Loompas (like the sixth grade chorus) and augment them with a handful of older students who can take the lead and serve as Oompa-Loompa wranglers.

Gender: Any

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: A3

### **Mrs. Gloop**

Mrs. Gloop is Augustus' mother who has overindulged her son with food. She accompanies Augustus on the tour of the factory, and sings "I Eat More!" which is one of the more difficult songs in the score for young people. The role requires a character actress who isn't afraid to take positive risks both in her acting and her singing.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Mrs. Beauregarde**

Mrs. Beauregard is a teacher of geography and has invested a great deal of hard-earned money on therapy for her gum-chewing daughter, with less than stellar results. The role is virtually non-singing. Her accent should match Violet's and the two should make a good pair onstage.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: C4

### **Mr. Salt**

Mr. Salt's solution to most problems is to buy his way out. He is upper class, and usually portrayed with a high British accent. (But this accent is not necessary-just make sure Veruca and Mr. Salt sound like they hail from the same place.) He sings very little. A female actress playing male may also play the role.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: C4

### **Violet Beauregarde**

Gum chewer extraordinaire, Violet hails from Snellville, Georgia, so it's nice if she has a Southern American accent, but not necessary. Violet should stand in stark contrast to Veruca Salt. Veruca is a wealthy refined brat; Violet is more of a blue collar, middle class brat. She sings "Chew It" along with Willy Wonka. The song is a tour-de-force for the right voice, so cast a young lady with a strong voice.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: G3

### **Mike Teavee**

For this adaptation Mike is not just a TV junky. He is also addicted to video games, the Internet and any other mind-numbing technological device. Mike is bratty, loud and obnoxious. He does not understand the word

"no." Mike and Ms. Teavee sing "I See It All On TV" so he should be a reasonable singer, but does not need to be phenomenal. Mike could also be portrayed by a girl playing a boy, but generally works best with a male actor.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: G3

### **James**

James is Charlie's friend from school. He has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with Matilda and Charlie. This is a great role for a performer who is newer to the stage.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: F#4

Vocal range bottom: A3

### **Chorus Of Cooks**

Please note this is an optional chorus. The Cooks appear during "I Eat More!" presenting Augustus with a smorgasbord of food choices. (Check out the Director's Guide note in the song for more information.) Double the Candy Man Kids Chorus and Oompa-Loompa Chorus or cast a single class of kids to perform this section.

Gender: Any

### **Augustus Gloop**

Augustus is the overachieving eater. Be extremely sensitive in casting this role as it is tempting to cast an overweight young person and that can be scarring-especially if the child struggles with this issue. Consider casting a thin child and creating the illusion of size via the costume. Either a boy or a girl acting like a boy can play Augustus. Augustus sings "I Eat More!" along with his mother and Phineous Trout. The song is on the difficult side, but does not need to be sung with a polished pretty voice, in fact, the more character the better.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: B3

### **Ms. Teavee**

Ms. Teavee is a take on all television moms of the distant past. Think June Cleaver (Leave it to Beaver) or Marion Cunningham (Happy Days) or even Carol Brady (The Brady Bunch). She's perfectly put together and a bit vacant. She sings "I See It All On TV" but does not require a polished voice.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: B3

## **Veruca Salt**

Veruca is wealthy, class-conscious, and completely spoiled. She is often portrayed with a high British accent that is by no means required (brats come in all nationalities). Veruca's solo number "I Want It Now" is deceptively tricky and comes late in the show, so select a young lady with a strong voice. Veruca should contrast sharply with Violet Beauregarde in terms of look and physical type. Cast a great singer and actor in this role who can make bold choices onstage.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: A3

## **Matilda**

Matilda is also a schoolmate of Charlie's, but she's a bit of a bully. Matilda has a few lines and sings the introduction of "The Candy Man" along with James and Charlie.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: C#4

## **Squirrels**

The squirrels are non-speaking, non-singing roles and you can cast as many as necessary. This is a great part for beginning actors.

Gender: Any

## **Mrs. Beauregarde**

Mrs. Beauregard is a teacher of geography and has invested a great deal of hard-earned money on therapy for her gum-chewing daughter, with less than stellar results. The role is virtually non-singing. Her accent should match Violet's and the two should make a good pair onstage.

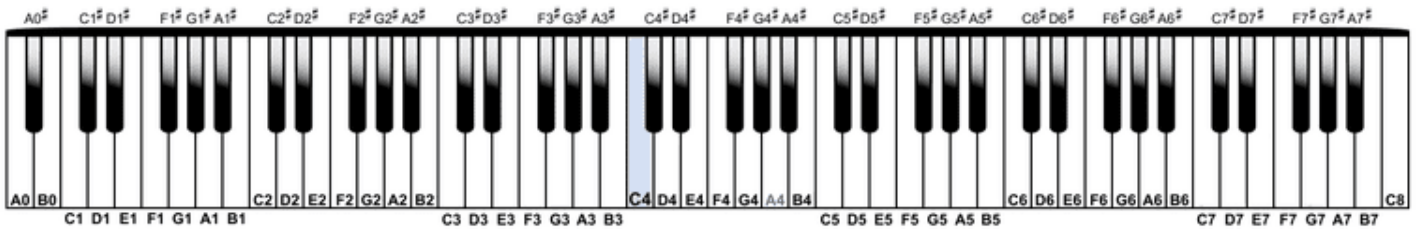
Gender: Female

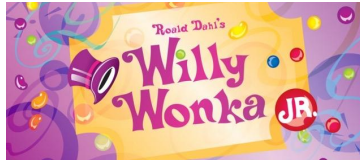
Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: C4

# Show Song List

- Pure Imagination
- Golden Age of Chocolate
- The Candy Man
- I Eat More
- Think Positive
- I See it All on TV
- Cheer Up Charlie
- Think Positive (Reprise)
- At the Gates
- In This Room
- Oompa-Loompa 1
- There's No Knowing
- Oompa-Loompa 2
- Chew It
- Flying
- Burping Song
- I Want it Now!
- Oompa-Loompa 3
- Oompa-Loompa 4
- Finale





## Auditions: What to Expect

### AUDITION LOCATION:

First Presbyterian Church  
621 College Ave, Wooster

### AUDITION DATES:

*Required: Sign up in advance to reserve your slot at [wacpac.org](http://wacpac.org)*

Monday, March 27th  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuesday, March 28th  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Wednesday, March 29th  
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Prior to audition, you must:

Complete audition form online - **INCLUDE ANY SCHEDULING CONFLICTS** - this is imperative! *If we are later informed of major scheduling conflicts (long vacations, for example) that we were not made aware of at auditions, we have the right to recast you to a different role.*

AND

Complete online, including actor and parent/guardian signatures:  
Consent & release form



You will only attend auditions during the hour you signed up for (8 auditioners per hour)! Please arrive 5 minutes early and come to the upstairs room in First Presbyterian to wait for your audition time to start. Follow the signs posted.

- **What do I do when I arrive at the upstairs waiting room?**

1. Sign in and have your picture taken. Ensure all required forms have been completed online.
2. Wait patiently until you are called into the audition area.

- **What will the audition be like?**

First, we want you to relax and have FUN! Take this opportunity to show us your personality and skills. The more confident and energetic you are, the more we can see your capabilities.

Your audition will involve two components.

You must participate in both: Vocal & Reading

## 1. VOCAL:

As part of your audition, you'll be asked to sing. You will sing individually for the directors. For this show, we'd like auditioners to choose and prepare a *well-known song* OR a song from our "Audition Song List". Go to our website at [wacpac.org](http://wacpac.org). Please provide an instrument/karaoke track (check YouTube).

- **Why should I choose a well-known song or song from the song list?**

Many times, auditioners sing a song that the directors are not familiar with, so it is difficult to gauge whether or not they are singing on pitch. The directors then ask the auditioner to sing another song, like "Happy Birthday" or "Twinkle Twinkle" in order to assess for pitch. Having auditioners sing not one but TWO songs, only adds to the length of auditions. We prefer you provide accompaniment music, as opposed to singing a cappella.

- **What if I don't get to sing my whole song?**

Don't worry if you are interrupted and don't get to finish your song. This will happen with everyone and only means that we have heard enough of your voice to give us a good idea of your sound. You may also be asked to sing some scales to give us an idea of your vocal range.

## 2. READING:

You will also be asked to read lines from the script along with other auditioners. You do not have to read a certain part in order to get that same part in the play! By just reading any character you can give us a good idea of your abilities. Remember to speak loudly, clearly and put as much expressive energy into your reading as you can.

- **When am I done with auditions?**

You are finished when you have completed the singing and acting portions of the audition.

- **Can I come back and audition for the same thing twice?**

This is not encouraged. If you feel a need to do so, speak with the director.

- **What if I get “called back”?**

Callback auditions mean that we would like to see you audition again for some reason. It does not necessarily mean that you are guaranteed a part. We just need to find out more before we make our casting decisions. Callbacks are Saturday April 1st from 10am – 12:30pm and chosen auditioners will be notified by directors by email.

- **What if I am not “called-back”?**

It does not necessarily mean you haven't been cast. You could not be called back and still be cast in the show. *Please do not contact the directors to inquire if you've been cast or called back.*

- **When will I know if I have been cast in the show?**

- The cast list will be posted by Monday April 3rd on the WaCPAC Facebook site and at [wacpac.org](http://wacpac.org). YOU MUST CONFIRM THAT YOU ACCEPT YOUR ROLE, by sending an email to [wacpactheater@gmail.com](mailto:wacpactheater@gmail.com) by end of day Friday April 7th. Once you accept, you are committed and we will be counting on you!
- If you are not cast in the show, you will likely be disappointed. Please consider becoming involved in the production in some other way. No production is successful without the work of the crew! We will need help with lights, sound, props, make-up, costumes, backstage crew, publicity, tickets, set-building, etc. We hope that Willy Wonka Jr. will be a fun and

meaningful experience for everyone involved, in whatever capacity they participate.

- If you are cast, but not in the role you wanted, please continue with the production. Unfortunately, some people take these decisions very personally and leave the production entirely. The directors must always do what is best for the success of the show and although we wish we could give everyone a speaking role, it's just not possible! Chorus members are integral to a show and still have an AWESOME theatre experience. We hope that cast members will support each other and choose to be happy and supportive of their castmates.

### Special notes:

Attendance is mandatory for all of Tech Week (June 12-15) and all performances (June 16-17, 23-25). **If you have a conflict during those dates, you will not be cast.** If you are unaware of a conflict and it arises after the show has been cast, you may be asked to leave the production. This is not to be mean, but it is ESSENTIAL to have the full cast present for tech week and performances!

If you accept your role as an actor in the cast, you will be asked to put in a minimum of four hours working backstage, with set building, painting, costumes, or wherever you are needed most. We will need this commitment from every actor. If you are not willing to put in this extra time, please do not audition. Parent volunteers are also an essential part of our productions' success.

- **When will the first meeting be held?**

All PARENTS/GUARDIANS & CAST MEMBERS will be expected to attend a Parents' Meeting on Thursday April 13th @ 6:00pm. If you have a conflict and cannot attend, let us know at [wacpactheater@gmail.com](mailto:wacpactheater@gmail.com) or call Olivia @ 330-347-5159. A non-refundable participation fee is required for each actor. The cost is \$50, and if multiple siblings participate, each additional sibling may participate at the discounted rate of \$25. The participation fee includes the cost of a script, t-shirt, and costume materials. Participation fees will be collected via online purchase unless by special request. Scholarships are also available via online application, with a minimum contribution of \$10. Participation fee is due by **Friday April 14th**, prior to the cast read thru, which will be held Saturday April 15th at 10:00am at First Presbyterian Church.

Parents will be required to sign up for at least one committee and at least one rehearsal monitoring slot. These will be available via SignUpGenius.

- **When will I receive a complete rehearsal schedule?**

A finalized rehearsal schedule will be posted once the directors have had time to take all scheduling conflicts into account. A tentative rehearsal schedule will be provided at the first parent meeting. We will be holding most rehearsals from 6:00-8:00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; and on Saturdays from 10am-12:30pm. It depends on the role which days/dates you'll be required to attend. You may have some conflicts along the way, but starting June 12th at the absolute latest, **everyone** must be at every rehearsal through the run of the shows, which are scheduled for June 16, 17, 23, 24, and 25, 2023 at Fisher Auditorium (OARDC).

Thank you for sharing your talents with WaCPAC! Break a Leg!

#### Overview of Important Dates:

March 27, 28, 29 - Auditions

April 1 - Callbacks (by invitation only)

April 3 - Cast list posted online

April 7 - Deadline to confirm acceptance of role by email

April 13 - Mandatory Parent Meeting

April 14 - Participation fee due online

April 15 - Full Cast Read Thru

April 15 - June 10 - Rehearsals

June 12-15 - Tech Week

June 16-17, 23-25 - Performances