

The Mikado - Principal characters

Yum-Yum – Soprano D4-A5, Large role

Audition dialogue page 1

Engaged to Ko-Ko but in love with Nanki-Poo. Sings one of the most famous arias in the canon, “The Sun, whose rays are all ablaze”, a duet and several featured solos in chorus numbers. A fair amount of dialogue as well. The role is something of an emotional rollercoaster as she pivots from delight to despair and back again, so a great opportunity for showing off your acting chops.

Pitti-Sing – Mezzo-soprano or alto G3-F5, Medium role

Audition dialogue page 2

Best friends with Yum-Yum and Peep-Bo. Pretty gutsy, stands up to Katisha and actively mocks Pooh-Bah. Has the best of intentions but ends up ‘encompassing the death of the heir to the throne’ nevertheless. Has solos in a variety of ensembles.

Peep-Bo – Soprano D4-D5, Small role

Audition dialogue page 2

Some ensemble singing including the classic “Three little maids from school are we”, and in act 2, some of the most gloriously snarky dialogue in all of G&S.

Katisha – Contralto G#3-F5, Large role

Audition dialogue page 3

A fearsome lady of the Mikado’s court, betrothed to (and probably genuinely in love with) Nanki-Poo. Can be viewed as the villain of the piece but is one of the most emotionally complete characters in G&S, with two surprisingly moving arias about her broken heart. Sings in some fun duets and ensembles as well.

Nanki-Poo – Tenor C3-A4, Large role

Audition dialogue page 1

Romantic tenor. The son of the Mikado of Japan, in disguise as a travelling musician. In love with Yum-Yum, loved by Katisha, wanted dead by Ko-Ko. Sings the famous aria “A wand’ring minstrel, I” and features solo lines in many ensembles and chorus numbers.

Ko-Ko – Baritone, G2-E4, Very large role

Audition dialogue pages 4 & 5

The Lord High Executioner of Titipu, and won't let people forget it. A former commoner elevated to nobility by sheer chance. Madly scheming but forever thwarted, he has lots of comic opportunities in scenes throughout the opera. Two big songs, a duet, numerous featured solos in ensembles and chorus numbers.

Pooh-Bah – Bass-baritone G2-D4 (optional F#4), Large role

Audition dialogue page 5

Lord High Everything-Else. A pompous aristocrat and bureaucrat, possessed of great dignity and oblivious to his own ridiculousness. Quite a bit of dialogue, a solo number in Act 1, and featured in ensembles and chorus numbers.

Pish-Tush – Bass-baritone F2-Eb4, Medium role

Audition dialogue page 6

A noble Lord. Responsible for a big exposition-dump solo aria at the beginning of the opera, and featured in a handful of ensemble numbers, including the madrigal.

The Mikado – Bass F2-D4, Medium role

Audition dialogue pages 7 & 8

A terrifyingly amiable despot with avant-garde ideas about crime and punishment. Doesn't appear until the last half of Act 2, reasonable amount of dialogue, one big song, a few solo lines and a quintet. Note: if you accept this role you will also be needed to appear in the chorus in act 1.