

MALICE IN THE PALACE

(“THE STORY OF ESTHER”)

Here is what Tom Long and Allen Pote say to describe this musical:

“The story of Esther has all the ingredients for a great Hollywood thriller—a beautiful and spirited heroine, a dark-hearted villain, a twisting plot full of danger and intrigue, and a cliffhanger of a climax. And in the midst of this excitement we find a powerful message—the smallest person acting bravely can make an enormous difference, for God has placed us where we are for a reason.”

Auditions will be held from 3:00-4:30, during rehearsals.

Cost:

\$85 per month for 9 months, due on the 1st of each month.

\$337.50 per semester, due on Aug. 15th & Jan. 1st, or

\$630 up front, annually, due on Aug. 21st.

Cost includes props and costumes and music. A listening CD may purchased for an additional \$10.

Rehearsals are from Sept. 5th 2017- May 22nd 2018.

Performance Dates:

Sunday, May 6th and Friday, May 11th.

CHARACTERS

The Narrator: An animated reader, trying hard to do his/her best. The person playing this role may double in the chorus.

King Ahasuerus: The ruler of Persia—a proud but sometimes-foolish man, full of self-important bluster and false humility. He can be fiercely commanding, but is easily led. He loves to quote proverbs (*optional solo*)

Queen Vashti: The King's wife—banished at the beginning of the story. (*one line*)

Esther: One of the People of Israel living in Persia—a brave, down-to-earth heroine. (*solo*)

Mordecai: Esther's guardian—a wise father figure with grit and determination. (*solo*)

Haman: A smooth and flattering advisor to the king. He is smugly superior, good with words, and has the charm of a weasel. (*solo*)

Harem Keeper: An energetic comic character, with the manner of a schmoozing Hollywood assistant. The role was originally performed with a broad, east coast New Jersey accent. (*Can be male or female.*)

Beauty Candidates 1–5: Esther's competition for the position of queen, they behave like a group of vain and catty Vegas showgirls. (*Sing as a group.*)

Record Keeper: A prim and officious announcer of documents. *Guard Captain:* The leader of the Guards—an intimidating presence. *Zaresh:* Haman's Wife—a fawning woman who can be sweetly vicious.

(*solo*) *Incidental lines:* Speakers 1–8, Advisors 1–3, Young Woman, Servant 2,

Crowd 1–12, Haman's Friends 1–2. *Chorus:* Persian Citizens, Guards, Haman's Friends, and The People of

Israel. May include the Narrator.