

# JESTER / LORD CHAMBERLAIN Audition

Monday, May 16 3:30 HS Choir Rm  
MADRIGAL DINNER 2014

\* Be prepared to read 2 of the 4 parts. Memorization is Not necessary. 5:45 - START WATER AND LIGHT CANDLES  
\* Workshop will be offered - TBA

## THE SCRIPT

(FAIR MAIDENS, JESTERS, JUGGLERS perform quietly in the entrance of the church.  
RECORDER and BRASS groups are performing as people are entering.)

(PAGES stand inside the sanctuary in a single file line, bowing to guests and handing out programs as they enter. They remain silent and expressionless.)

(BRASS ensemble, duets, trios, etc. play preludes and carols in the church balcony...RECORDERS on the floor.)

CUE BRASS Plays - JOY TO THE WORLD - start lines

(JULE makes her entrance out of the front door...back end first. She comes in and plays with the audience, especially the children. LORD CHAMBERLAIN comes grumbling down the aisle. He inspects the audience, straightens some ties, and dusts dandruff off some of the guest's shoulders. JULE turns very business-like.)

LORD: Jule, have you seen Will or Patison?

JULE: No, my good Lord Chamberlain, and they have not helped with the preparations for this evening.

LORD: Oh Jule! You are a gracious helper and I have... (Will and Patison back in through the front doors on the floor around the Christmas tree.)

(The Lord C. sees them, and obviously perturbed, folds his arms over his chest, and with a scowl says...)

Will!!! Patison!!! You have been neglecting your duties. Our guests sit unattended. (Note: Will and Patison notice for the first time that 160 people are all watching them!!!) Did I not ask you to make the proper introductions?

WILL: (pause...stutter...) Not that I can remember my good Lord Chamberlain.

PAT: Nor I sir, and my memory is very keen. Now suppose you were to ask me to recite the first seven passages of the gospel according to Saint Luke at this very minute. (The Lord Chamberlain knows that this jester has run-on of the mouth.) Not only would I remember that you had asked me to recite but I...

WILL: And if he did forget, I would remind him...(very pleased with himself.)

PAT: ...But I could also quite easily recite those seven passages and then...(the Lord Chamberlain puts his hands over Will and Pat's mouths. They continue to mumble behind the hands.)

(New JESTER TOM has come down the side aisle of the room without the Lord Chamberlain noticing. He is reading a book quite contentedly.)

LORD: (Begins to talk directly to the guests. Several times through this section, the Lord Chamberlain may let go of Will and Pat, at which time they begin to talk again, taking up where they left off.) Please my good folk, forgive this little scene. Will and Patison are at the courtly celebration for their 20th time. Unfortunately, they act as if it was their first time. (The Lord Chamberlain lets go reluctantly, and the jesters settle down for now. They go off to find some other trouble. The Lord Chamberlain watches them go, shakes hi head, and faces the audience. After a dramatic pause for effect, he speaks slowly and proudly.) I am the Lord Chamberlain of this fair district, overseer for my sovereign King Ryan and his Queen, the fair Claire. And this, my friends, is Jule, beloved master of revelry in our court, bringer of merriment, doer of good, spreader of joy, teacher of jesters, and...(Lord Chamberlain draws a blank; Jule whispers to him.) Oh yes! And a very good person!

(Introduces Will and Pat, painfully.) And this, is Will and Patison. (Will and Pat stop their games and come front and center to take a bow, and another and another, and yet another until the Lord Chamberlain interrupts.)

LORD: Now!

WILL/PAT: Now?

LORD: Now!

WILL: (Very fast) Are they shadows that we see?

PAT: (Very fast) And can shadows pleasure give?

WILL: Pleasures only shadows be?

PAT: Cast by bodies that we conceive?

WILL: Are made the things we deem?

PAT: But these pleasures vanish fast.

WILL: Pleasures are not, if they last.

PAT: ...on their passing is their best.

WILL: Umm, umm...on their passing is their...umm...huh (obviously not knowing the next phrase. Looks at the Lord Chamberlain who promptly grabs his ears and squeezes them. Will yelps, and looks to Pat for aid. Pat is fearfully watching the Lord Chamberlain and unable to help him.)

TOM: (Reading the latest self help book for jesters..."The One Minute Jester"...notices the altercation, stands and comes across in front of the stage and says) Glory is most bright and gay, in a flash and so away. Feed space then greedy eyes on wonder you behold. Take it sudden as it flies though you take it not so bold. When you're eyes have done their part. Thou must lengthen it in your heart. (He finishes with a flourish of his hand and a slight bow. Jule smiles hugely at him, obviously very pleased with her latest creation. She comes to Tom and hugs him and both smile. Will and Pat look on in frustration and are wondering who this upstart is.)

(The Lord Chamberlain is especially puzzled?)

LORD: Jule, Jule, who is this lowly inhabitant of the court?

JULE: I beg the Lord's pardon, Sir. This is Tom, Sir. He wishes to learn the fine art of being a jester. He is our apprentice fresh from jester college..."Fool U."

LORD: (Thinks a while...then, in approval) Well done, Tom. (Pause) Oh, and welcome.

LORD: And now let the festivities begin!!! It is a fine wintry eve, church bells chime in the clear air and this house, the royal white hall, glistens with frost in the bright moonlight.

JULE: Our good King Ryan, descending from the best of kings has sired a daughter, Princess Alyssa who has been spoken for by a handsome suitor...

WILL: Prince Donaven of \_\_\_\_\_.

LORD: (Smiles with only half approval)...And to celebrate his triumphal return from the holy lands where he took part in the crusades, our gracious King Ryan has ordered a noble feast.

PAT: (Starts after a pointed look from the Lord Chamberlain.) He has ordered as much singing and merriment as this hall can afford. And you will be a part of that merriment. As the evening progresses, if you hear a joke or comment you approve of, we ask that you would express your approval loudly with "Hip, Hip." Let's try it...I will say something funny and you will like it...you will respond by loudly saying "Hip, Hip!" (pauses for dramatic effect) Something funny. (Waits for audience to respond in the appropriate manner. Nods in satisfaction and Will takes over...)

WILL: And if you do not like a joke or comment, we ask that you say very kindly..."Oofda." Now let's practice. I will do something you will not like and you will very loudly but kindly say..."Oofda." (He sticks out his tongue and makes a face at the audience. They shout, "Oofda." Will nods in approval if it is loud enough.)

LORD: (Speaking to Will and Pat) We thank you for that thorough explanation.

LORD: (Turns to audience) And now let me tell you...

STOP

FANFARE (Interrupts the Lord Chamberlain.)

LORD: And now good folk, I beg you take leave of this chamber and follow me as we make our way to the grand banquet hall. (All actors get excited...cause the audience to get excited...it should be contagious.) I request that you stand at your table until all are within the banquet hall. With haste now!!! Let us enter!!!

(The Lord Chamberlain leads the way proudly...Jule follows him, but the other jesters have trouble getting started because they are so excited/nervous. The Lord Chamberlain becomes disturbed, halts the procession to get them organized, then starts off again.)

BRASS (In the basement...play music while guests are filing in...approximately 10-12 minutes.)

(Will, Pat, Jule, Tom and the rest of the cast entertain and play with the audience as they come in...they also help direct the people to the proper aisles. Keep them standing.)

LORD: Was hale, good lords and ladies fair; we bid thee welcome, we bid thee share our feasting and our revelry, our music and our company.

JULE: But, — seeing this is an elegant feast, there are certain rules: the most and least being, the baggage that thy mind hath brought must be left outside and not be sought.

PAT: What baggage travels with thy mind? Look closely, friend, and thou wilt find inflation for which there seems no cure, with exorbitant prices we all must endure.

WILL: A boss that's mad, a wife that's sad, a feeling at stores that you've been had. The affairs of state that have come of late must be put like water behind the gate.

TOM: So un-clutter your mind and come with me. Let's cast a spell, and we shall see if we can traverse five hundred years to an age bereft of modern fears.

LORD: So let's close our eyes and open our hearts, for that is the way our magic starts. (Jesters scan the crowd and indicate a person whose eyes stayed open...then make sure his/her eyes close.) A-ha, good sir, thine eyes did not close. Ah, that's better, now our vision grows. Men, we dub thee each "royal knights." Women, we dub thee "ladies,