

Casting Call

Love Life

(boys and girls aged 9-15)

**OPERA
NORTH**

Opera North are looking for good all-round performers to take roles in our new production of Kurt Weill's musical *Love Life*, directed by Matthew Eberhardt and conducted by Jim Holmes.

Full cast rehearsals will take place in Leeds from **Monday 2nd December 2024**.

Musical preparation rehearsals are likely to be weekly from early **October 2024**. This will be confirmed upon final casting.

Please note that time off from school will be required during the rehearsal period, and that the young people will need to be free for the entire rehearsal and performance period.

There will be **3 performances** of this production on the following dates:

16 (7pm), 17 (6pm), 18 (2.30pm) January; (Grand Theatre, Leeds)

Opera North's performances will be recorded in collaboration with the Kurt Weill Foundation.

About the production:

In 1948 – the year of *Love Life*'s Broadway premiere – husband and wife Sam and Susan Cooper try to recall a time when their marriage was happy. They reckon it was in 1790... The show then follows the ups and downs of the Coopers' family life through 150 turbulent years of American history – during which they do not age – to paint the portrait of a marriage and of a nation.

Kurt Weill collaborated with lyricist Alan Jay Lerner (of *My Fair Lady* fame) to create a Broadway musical that was way ahead of its time. The score is full of hummable show tunes and tributes to various forms of American popular music, including Vaudeville.

More information about the show can be found here:

<https://www.operanorth.co.uk/whats-on/love-life/>

<https://www.kwf.org/works/love-life/>

Scroll down for a breakdown of roles and how to apply



The roles:

We will be casting for the following roles:

Johnny Cooper: (boy 11+ with an unchanged* voice) Sam and Susan's son. Confident performer, strong voice and great actor. This is a dialogue heavy role and will require an American accent. Some dancing may be required.

Elizabeth Cooper: (girl 9+) Key role- Sam and Susan's daughter. Confident performer, great This is a dialogue heavy role and will require an American accent. Some dancing may be required.

Three Tots: (boys and girls 9-15, boys must have unchanged* voices). Three triple-threats are needed to carry their own number. Extremely confident singers, who can hold tricky harmony lines. Need to be good dancers.

(*unchanged voice= a child's voice that has not yet deepened in pitch as a result of puberty).

The Audition process:

Auditions will take place on the following dates, and you will be notified if you have been invited to audition:

1st round 27th August OR 6th September **2nd round** 11th OR 12th September

Please note that audition dates may be subject to change. Opera North is eager to work flexibly with the children's availability wherever possible.

- Please send a short 2-minute audio-recording of a song you feel comfortable singing, showcasing your range and style. This can be done either accompanied with piano or a karaoke track, or unaccompanied. The panel will not judge audio quality, so please don't worry about the recording- done on your phone is more than fine!
- 1st round: The children will take part in a drama workshop, perform their own pieces, and an extract from the show (this will be sent in advance and practiced on the day).
- 2nd round:
 - Tots: The children will learn some of the harmonies needed in the show, and work with the assistant choreographer on some dancing.
 - Johnny & Elizabeth: dialogue work with the director (extracts will be sent out in advance of the recall).

If you would like to be considered for an audition, please contact Sophie **with your child's full name and their 2-minute video recording** at sophie.levi@operanorth.co.uk using the subject line **Love Life Application** to receive an initial registration form.

The deadline for applications is 10am on Wednesday 21st August.

Early application is advised.