

Auditions for *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812*

Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812 will be staged during the Fall 2023 semester as part of a Theater and Performance Studies production seminar, THST 344, meaning that there will be a class dedicated to the production of the musical. **The class meets Fridays from 12:30-4:30pm; additional rehearsals outside of class begin about a month into the term.** The course is open to performers, designers, and artistic/production staff.

This sung-through musical by Dave Malloy is adapted from an enticing slice of *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy. *The Great Comet* is an electro-pop opera that expands the genre of musical theater with its varied, dynamic score and theatrical, bold storytelling. The show features an ensemble cast with numerous rich roles.

The seminar will be taught by TAPS professor Annette Jolles, who will also serve as the director of the production. The show is a TAPS Senior Project for Malia Munley and Zach Redhead-Leconte. Music direction is by Nicole Lam. Produced by Ava King and Prentiss Patrick-Carter.

Performances are tentatively scheduled for December, 2023. *Please note: in order to rehearse and tech in an efficient and healthy manner, performers may not be in tech or performances for other productions after November 6, 2023.*

Auditions will be held on:

Sunday, April 16 from 9:30am – 4:30pm

Additional audition slots for those who cannot attend on Sunday:

Monday, April 17 from 4-6:30, 8:30-10:00pm

Auditions on April 16 and 17 will be held at **Stoeckel Hall, 269 College Street, Rm. 210**

Callbacks will be scheduled on Wednesday, April 26.

For the audition, **prepare one song (at least 32 bars) and bring printed sheet music in your preferred key to the audition.** An accompanist will be provided.

If possible, audition songs should be from the musical theater canon, but given the eclectic nature of the score, other styles are acceptable.

Please schedule your audition slot through the SignUp Genius link below:

[AUDITION SIGNUP](#)

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We would love to see you at auditions!

For questions about the course or audition materials, please reach out to Annette Jolles at adjolles@gmail.com.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

NOTE: ages are for reference purposes, as the cast will consist solely of undergraduate students.

The roles of Natasha and Pierre are cast as Senior Projects in the Theater and Performance Studies major.

Any genders suggested in the following descriptions represent the gender of the character as indicated by the script. With that said, we welcome and encourage actors of all gender identities to audition for all roles.

ANATOLE

Aristocratic, rakish, seductive, hedonistic. High operatic tenor (B2-C#5). Late 20s to 30s. *(Not required, but playing violin a plus.)*

SONYA

Natasha's dear friend (and cousin) and confidante. She is passionate, selfless, loyal, and devoted to her friend. Mezzo-soprano (G3-E5, belt to A4). 20s.

HELÈNE

Aristocrat, the queen of society. Deceptive and amoral. Highly sexualized and possessing of a strong sense of humor. Chesty Alto (E3-F5, belt to B4). Late 20s to 30s.

MARYA D.

The grande dame of Moscow, a mother figure, old fashioned and chatty but kind. Strong sense of humor, self-awareness. Glamorous. Cabaret Alto (F3-B4, belt to B4). 30s-50s.

DOLOKHOV

An enigmatic officer, pleasure-loving, self-indulgent and a bit of a sociopath. Fiercely intelligent with a droll sense of humor. Alternately remorseless and regretful. Baritone (D3-F4). Late 20s to 30s.

PRINCESS MARY

Lonely, plain, spinster daughter of a wealthy prince. She is cut off from the world in her father's grand old house and resigned to his cruelty. Mezzo (A3-Eb5, belt to C5, plus operatic soprano to C6). 20's to 30s.

PRINCE ANDREY (may be double cast with OLD PRINCE BOLKONSKY)

Prince Andrey is the finest catch in all of Russia. A handsome and noble officer, very serious, a touch gloomy after years at war, plus his difficult family. Old before his time, he carries a weight on his heart and mind. Baritone (F2-Eb3). Early 30s to 40s.

OLD PRINCE BOLKONSKY (may be double cast with PRINCE ANDREY)

A conservative, old-fashioned aristocrat whose dementia causes him to be alternately nasty and incapacitated. Lives with his still unmarried daughter, whom he torments but also relies on to take care of him. Growly Baritone-Tenor (G2-Eb4). Late 50s to 70s.

BALAGA

A Russian troika driver, a wild, mystical character. Has supernatural abilities with his troika and can drink incredible amounts. Lower class. Bold. Dripping with energy. Ragged and raw but warm. Whiskey Baritone (A2-E4). Late 20s-40s.

ENSEMBLE

4-6 performers will be cast across a range of vocal types. The ensemble is integral to the show. Strong singer/actors, with dance experience a plus, but not required.