

## **"WHISTLEVILLE" CHARACTER LIST**

KATE SULLIVAN O'REILLY (20, attractive Irish immigrant, murder witness on the run, lead role, mezzo soprano)

SUZI (ZSUZSI) TOTH (25-30, former bar singer in NYC, murder witness, leading role, Kate's friend, and business partner, native of So. Norwalk, Hungarian 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, mezzo soprano)

DINAH JORDAN (30-37, preferably African American, night club singer from NYC, friend of Suzi and Kate, secondary lead role, on the run, larger-than-life personality, funny, belter)

DOYLE CALLAGHAN (35-45, villain, NYC underworld figure/Ebony Star owner who kills Timothy O'Reilly and is trying to eliminate all witnesses, small solo, baritone range)

NYPD CAPT. WILLIAM T. FLYNN (*doubles as Italian ERNESTO CASTELLANO after Prologue*) (adult any age, baritone, NYC cop then switches to Italian Singing club member)

NYPD SERGEANT DANIEL SWEENEY (adult any age, corrupt NYC cop in Callaghan's employ, baritone, switches to a "Singing club member" after Prologue)

WELLINGTON TOLLES (*Norwalk Hour Reporter*) (30's, baritone, Norwalk Hour reporter, historical character, secondary lead)

REV. CHARLES STEDMAN MACFARLAND (*historical SONO Cong. Church Pastor/Temperance League*, 35-65, baritone, primarily acting part)

SONO FIRE CHIEF WINCHESTER (adult male, acting part, historical character)

BESSIE BLANCHARD (*Schooner barmaid/singer*)

POLICE CHIEF VOLLMER (adult male, any age, baritone, So. Norwalk police person)

"SCHOONER BARTENDER" RAY (adult male, any age, acting role)

### **THE SOUTH NORWALK SINGING CLUB**

MISS MARY SEYMOUR (24-30) (singing club president, comic, soprano to a G, fiancée of Robin Brennan, leading role)

MISS FLORENCE JONES (24-55, comic role)

MISS CLAIRE COMSTOCK (24-55, comic role)

MISS EMILY NASH (23-60, comic role)

MRS. DOROTHY STERLING (23-60, comic role)

MR. ROBIN BRENNAN (25-35, baritone, romantic lead, So Norwalk businessman in commercial real estate)

MR. HARRY STERLING (businessman, any age, baritone)

MR. GEORGE HIRST (*tenor soloist who cracks*; comic role, tenor 30-40)

MR. RANDALL TAYLOR (businessman, any age, baritone)

### **THE NORWALK SINGING CLUB**

MISS JULIA LOCKWOOD (24-55, comic role)

MISS ETHEL GREGORY (24-55, comic role)

MISS IDA FOSTER (24-55, comic role)

MISS HELEN BETTS (24-55, comic role)

MRS. ALBERTINE CROWE(30-55, comic role)

MR. EDMUND E. CROWE (*egotistical super-tenor—30-55, solid high notes, comic role, secondary lead*)

REV. GEORGE D. EGBERT (Norwalk minister, group singing, adult)

MR. FREDERICK FORCE (club singer, any age)

### **THE HUNGARIANS**

CSILLA TOTH (20, soprano, Suzi's younger sister who directs the church choir, secondary lead, sings in Hungarian, we will teach it phonetically)

JOSKA KEMENY (20-30) (Csilla's Protestant boyfriend, acting role)

BERTA KAROLY (18, soprano, secondary lead, is murdered by boyfriend Endre when she rejects him, historical incident)

ENDRE ROHALY (25-33, Hungarian hot-head, murders Berta, acting role)

ERZSEBET (LIZZIE) KUTRUCZ (18-22, Csilla and Berta' friend, soprano)

MARGIT TOTH (40-55, Csilla and Suzi's mother, doesn't speak English, acting role, sings with Hungarian group)

JANCSI (JOHNNY) TOTH (13) (*Norwalk Hour newsboy, alto range, Hungarian solo and sings in English as well*)

LACI TAKACS (12-13, alto range) (*SONO Sentinel Newsboy*)

### **THE ITALIANS: SOCIETA CASTELNUOVESE SINGING CLUB**

ALDO SALVATORE (22-30, Italian super tenor, leading role, speaks with an accent, large character role but excellent singing ability a must)

BRUNO SALVATORE (*his father, baritone or tenor, 45-60*)

FEDELIA SALVATORE (*Aldo's younger sister, can be a teenager, belter*)

PAOLO SALVATORE (*kid brother, hoodlum type, 13-16, acting role*)

GINA SALVATORE (*kid sister, teen-ager, soprano*)

CARLOTTA SALVATORE (*mother, 40-60, acting role*)

TITO FANZILLI (30-65, *pres. of S. Cast Singing club, acting and singing with the group*)

LORENZO TUCCI (*Aldo's friend, 20-35, acting role, sings with group*)

ERNESTO CASTELLANO (18-45, sings with club)

BIANCA SCALZI (teen-age girl, friend of Gina, soprano or alto)

SOFIA DEMEGLIO (teen-age girl, friend of Gina, soprano or alto)

ITALIAN MALE SINGER

**ADDITIONAL PARTS: POLICEMEN, MEN AT BAR, MAHACKEMO HOTEL WAITER, MAHACKEMO HOTEL CLERK**

## #1 LACI, JANCSI, PAOLO

LACI: Hey, Johnny, why don't you sell that yellow journal on your side of town?

JANCSI: This is my side of town!

LACI: This is Sentinel territory. It's right across the street, for cripes sake!

JANCSI: Watch your language, kid!

PAULO: *(sneaking on)* Hey, boys! Come `ere!

LACI: *(suspicious)* Whaddya want, Pauli?

PAULO: See for yourself! I got real gold cufflinks for sale here.

JANCSI: What are we gonna do with gold cufflinks? Wear `em to the mayor's ball?

PAULO: I'll let you have `em for two bucks.

LACI: Gold cufflinks for two bucks? Who'd ya rob, Pauli?

PAULO: None o' your business. Do ya want `em, or not?

## #2 SWEENEY, CALLAGHAN

SWEENEY: Callaghan?

CALLAGHAN: Yeah.

SWEENEY: You got a problem.

CALLAGHAN: I know.

SWEENEY: Two eye-witnesses. We had `em at the station.

CALLAGHAN: Why'd you let `em get away?

SWEENEY: There was nothin' I could do. Flynn's watchin' me like a

hawk. Don't worry. We'll track 'em down and get rid of 'em nice and quiet.

CALLAGHAN: The sooner the better.

### **#3 ALDO, CARLOTTA**

ALDO: Buona natale, mama! *(handing her the present and kissing her)*

CARLOTTA: *(grabbing his face and kissing both his cheeks energetically)* Caro, Aldo! Lemme kiss you! *(noticing gift)* Che cosa qui?

ALDO: It's-a for you, mama. Open it.

CARLOTTA: *(shaking her head & protesting the gift is too lavish)* No, no, no.

ALL: Open it! Open it!

CARLOTTA: Va bene! Va bene. *(SHE makes a big deal of opening the box. SHE lifts out the hat and everyone gasps as SHE holds it up. Then SHE starts to cry.)*

ALDO: Why you crying, mama? You no like?

CARL: Is too beautiful for old lady! What-a you thinking, Aldo?

ALDO: You not-a old, mama! You wear-a to church.

CARL: Where you get-a such a t'ing?

ALDO: At-a d'a store, mama. My english is good. I go to store and buy.

CARL: You too good to me, figlio mio. But, you know what-a I really want?

### **#4 BERTA, SUZI, CSILLA**

BERTA: *(almost crying)* Suzi? Suzi, I sorry. Can I come in?

SUZI: Come in, come in! You look like you've seen a ghost.

CSILLA: Berta, what's wrong?

BERTA: Is Endre (Ehn-dray). He follow me. I afraid from him.

SUZI: *(goes out door and looks around)* I don't see him.

BERTA: He give me dis (this). *(SHE hands CSILLA a rumped letter.)*  
He say he want me back. He can no live without (veed-out) me. What I gonna do, Csilla?

CSILLA: Oh Berta, I'm so sorry.

SUZI: Can't Joska speak to him?

CSILLA: He's tried. But, Endre's drinking all the time now. And he hasn't been at work for two days.

BERTA: I'm so afraid.

SUZI: It doesn't help matters that he lives upstairs from you.

BERTA: What I gonna do?

CSILLA: I'll walk home with you.

SUZI: I'll come, too. And Berta? Don't worry. He'll get over it in time.

BERTA: *(shaking her head)* I don't know.

## **#5 BRUNO, FEDELIA, ALDO AUDITION**

BRUNO: Fedelia! What-a you doing? We look for you everywhere!  
You in trouble now!

FEDELIA: Perdoni, papa! I been-a following Aldo.

BRUNO: Why you follow Aldo?

FEDELIA: Papa, Aldo been singing wit' dee Americani.

BRUNO: What you saying? Aldo, he sing-a wid us.

FEDELIA: He sing-a wid dem too!

BRUNO: *(to ALDO)* What she saying, Aldo? You sing-a wid dee americani?

ALDO: *(hangs his head and remains silent.)*

BRUNO: Why you no answer me? E vero? No. No! I don' believe.

FEDELIA: E vero!

## **#6 BRENNAN, MARY SEYMOUR**

BRENNAN: Mary, please sit down. I have something very difficult to say to you.

MARY: Oh, fiddle dee dee! Sometimes you're too serious, even for me! So what is it you wish to say to me?

BRENNAN: Mary, I think we've made a mistake.

MARY: A mistake about what?

BRENNAN: About us.

MARY: About us? What do you mean, dear?

BRENNAN: I mean – I'm having second thoughts about our engagement.

MARY: *(silent pause)* And – exactly what are these second thoughts?

BRENNAN: Let me just say it. I'm not ready for marriage.

MARY: *(pause)* Not ready? And when did this "brain storm" hit you?

BRENNAN: I've been feeling this way for several weeks now.

MARY: Several weeks, you say? (*getting angry*) And what am I supposed to say? Are you ending our engagement?

BRENNAN: Yes.

MARY: How dare you!? What am I going to say to my friends? You're humiliating me in front of the entire city! I'll have to leave town. I'll have to move! (*SHE throws herself into the chair and starts sobbing.*)

## #7 NORWALK LADIES AUDITION

(*The NORWALK CLUB LADIES gradually move DOWNSTAGE as their lines come up.*)

IDA F.: (*seeing ALDO, to JULIA*) Julia! Julia! Isn't that Mr. Salvatore with that hat store owner?

JULIA: Why, yes, it is.

IDA: She's wearing the South Norwalk Club hat. You don't think?

JULIA: Oh, no. He sings with the Italians. Those people stick together. His father would never let him sing with them.

ALBERTINE: (*running up to them with ETHEL in tow*) Ladies! I just saw Aldo Salvatore warming up with the South Norwalk Club.

ETHEL: I saw them, too! What are we going to do?

JULIA: It can't be! It can't be!

ALBERTINE: (*spying FEDELIA, CARLOTTA, GINA & FRIENDS in the crowd*) Look! There's his sister. Do you think they've come to see him sing?

IDA: You'd think they'd be angry.

HELEN: (*running up to them*) Ladies, ladies! I just saw . . .

LADIES: We know.

HELEN: Well, what are we going to do about it?

ALBERTINE: Take a deep breath, everyone. One of us needs to go over there and find out what the story is.

JULIA: The girl cleans house for you. **You** should go over there and speak to her.

## **#8 KATE, DINAH, SUZI**

KATE: *(looking around, nervously)* Do you think we'll be safe here?

DINAH: Honey, we might as well be in Morocco. He ain't never gonna find us here.

KATE: I don't know. Callaghan told me he has connections everywhere.

DINAH: That's just him braggin'.

SUZI: So, what are we going to do now?

KATE: I have an idea.

DINAH: Let's hear it, girl.

KATE: You know how I told you I've got money? Well, Daniel slipped me Timothy's share of the winnings before the cops arrived.

DINAH: How much did you get?

KATE: *(quietly)* Five thousand.

SUZI: *(shocked)* Five thousand?!

KATE: Not so loud.

DINAH: Who said violence don't pay?



**#9**

**ENDRE, BERTA, LIZZIE, JOSKA, SUZI**

- ENDRE: *(to BERTA in a mean tone of voice)* Sies! Te, igen lassu vagy. *(Shee-esh! Teh! Ee-gen luh-shoo vuhgy!)*
- BERTA: *(annoyed)* If you think I'm so slow, why don't you find someone else?
- ENDRE: *(backing off)* Csak viczelek. *(Chuk veetz-eh-lek.)* I only kidding.. *(grabs her from behind – she looks annoyed.)* Gyerre mar. What for you mad at Endre?
- LIZZIE: *(trying to smooth things over)* Endre, ki az? *(indicating JOSKA, she asks "who's that?")*
- ENDRE: A barátom. *(uh buh-rah-tum)* He use to be live by my sister. Meet my friend, Jöska. *(yohsh-kuh)*  
*(HE slaps JOSKA on the back.)*
- JOSKA: Kemény Jöska a nevem Jo estét kivánok. *(Keh-mayny Yohsh-kuh uh nevem. Yoh esh-tayt kee-vah-nok.)*
- LIZZIE: Kutrucz Erzsébet, de mindenki Lizzinek hivnak. *(Koo-trootz Air-zhay-bet heev-nuhk. Deh meen-den-kee Lizzee-neck heev-nuhk.)*
- JOSKA: *(to CSILLA)* És maga? Mi a maga neve? *(Aysh muh-guh? Mee uh mug-guh neveh?)*
- CSILLA: Tőth Csilla.
- JOSKA: Csilla. Nagyon szep. *(nuh-jiyon sayp)*
- SUZI: And I'm her older sister, Suzi. How's your english, Jöska?
- JOSKA: My english is perfect. I've been here since I was five.
- SUZI: How come we've never seen you around?
- JOSKA: I just moved here from Bridgeport. I got a job at Crofut & Knapp.
- CALLAGHAN: Dinah! *(grabbing her arm & shaking her)* Wake up.

**#10**

**DINAH, CALLAGHAN**

DINAH: What? Mr. Callaghan?

CALLAGHAN: Has anyone been here lookin' for me?

DINAH: For you? No. No one's been here.

CALLAGHAN: Good. If Kate or Suzi come in, don't let 'em leave.

DINAH: What do you mean?

CALLAGHAN: Lock 'em in a room if you have to. Then come get me. I'll be upstairs packing. I gotta leave town for awhile.

DINAH: Lock 'em in a room? Why do you want me to lock 'em in room?

DOYLE: Don't ask questions. *(turns to go)* No. Wait a minute. First, I want you to find Darby and tell him to meet me at the safe house. Then, go to the precinct and tell Sergeant Sweeney that Mr. Smith needs to see him immediately.

DINAH: Mr. Smith wants to meet him. Where?

CALLAGHAN: He'll know. Now, get going. Wait *(grabbing her arm)*. Go to the precinct first. And don't mention my name to anyone – no matter what you hear.

DINAH: What about Kate and Suzi?

CALLAGHAN: I'll worry about them.

DINAH: Are you all right, Mr. Callaghan? You look like you're hurt.

CALLAGHAN: Don't worry what I look like. Get going!