

# *The Cast*

## The Lovers

All four need to be confident actors and singers, especially Hermia. There is a minimum of 'soppy' stuff, mostly light hearted, but they'll need to be prepared to deliver the odd 'I love you!'.

<b>Hermia</b>	Sings solo in <b>Dutiful Daughter</b> and <b>A Million Tricks</b>
<b>Helena</b>	Taller than Hermia (see p24) Sings solo in <b>A Million Tricks</b>
<b>Lysander</b>	Sings solo in <b>A Million Tricks</b>
<b>Demetrius</b>	Sings solo in <b>A Million Tricks</b>

## Fairy Characters

**Puck** A key role: can be a boy or girl. Needs to be able to cope with some Shakespearean language, lots of lines, and be a mischievous, comic yet graceful character. Sings solo in **Abacadabra**

**Oberon** King of the Fairies. This part is almost all in Shakespearean verse. An important role, lots of lines. Sings solo in **Abacadabra**

**Titania** Queen of the Fairies. Some Shakespearean language. A good part without solo singing.

**Peaseblossom, Cobweb, Mustardseed, Moth, Fairytale, Thistledown, Ladybird, Acorn, Dewdrop, Beeswing, Cuckoo**

Titania's fairies. (They are not all in Shakespeare!) Small but enjoyable roles; Fairytale has most lines. ('Fairy' in Shakespeare)

**Changeling** Not essential: the script works without him, but this very small boy is the reason for Oberon and Titania's row. Two brief non-speaking appearances.

**Mechanicals** The comic workmen who put on the play, 'Pyramus and Thisbe'.

**Bottom** Bossy, foolish and vain, Bottom has most to do of the Mechanicals

**Quince** Also an important role, as he is the organizer of the group

**Flute** Needs to be a boy who is prepared to dress up as a girl/wear a wig for the play at the end (see Scene 13)

**Snug, Snout, Starveling** All lively comic parts.

## Other Characters

**Theseus** Duke of Athens - an authoritative figure

**Hippolyta** His fiancée

**Egeus** Hermia's father. Has important scene-setting lines in Scene 1

**Attendants** As many as you like: two have small speaking parts

## Scene 1: The Palace of Theseus

*Enter Theseus, Hippolyta and Attendants.*

Theseus: Now, fair Hippolyta  
Four days until our wedding!

Hippolyta: Four days will quickly turn to nights  
Four nights will dream away the time.

*(Enter Egeus, Hermia, Demetrius and Lysander. Hermia and Lysander look cross and sulky, Egeus angry, Demetrius relaxed and confident. They all bow to Theseus)*

Theseus: Egeus! What's the news with you?

Egeus: Full of vexation come I, with complaint  
Against my daughter, Hermia.  
Stand forth, Demetrius!

*(Demetrius steps forward)*

My noble lord, this man has my consent to marry her.

*(Demetrius shakes hands with Theseus).*

Stand forth, Lysander!

*(Lysander slouches forward rebelliously)*

And this man has bewitched my child. Yes, you, Lysander!  
So if she will not here and now  
Consent to marry with Demetrius  
I beg to use the ancient law of Athens  
And as she is mine, *(he pulls her forward)* I may dispose of  
her.

Theseus: What say you, Hermia?

Hippolyta: Be advised, fair maid  
To you your father should be as a god.

Theseus: Demetrius is a worthy gentleman.

Hermia: So is Lysander!  
Tell me, your grace  
The worst that may befall me in this case  
If I refuse to wed Demetrius.

Theseus: Either to die...(*Hermia reacts with horror*) or swear you'll never see another man again.

Hippolyta: Take time to think.

Demetrius: Forget about it, Lysander!

Lysander: Demetrius, you have her father's love.  
Let me have Hermia: you can marry him!

*(Demetrius goes to fight with Lysander - attendants hold him back)*

Lysander: I am, my lord, as good as Demetrius.  
And, which is more, Hermia loves me!  
He loves Helena!

Demetrius: I do not!

Theseus: Demetrius, come with me. Come, Egeus.  
And you, fair Hermia,  
Should fit your fancies to your father's will.

## *Song 1: A Dutiful Daughter*

(Hermia & All)

CD track 1/8

**A dutiful daughter will do as she's told  
Do as she's told,  
Do as she's told,  
A dutiful daughter will do as she's told  
Do as she's told to do**

**There's going to be a wedding  
A fine and grand affair  
They say the whole of Athens will come  
To toast the happy pair**

Hermia: **No they won't!**                      Others: **Yes they will!**  
Hermia: **No they won't!**                      Others: **Yes they will!**

**A dutiful daughter will do as she's told...etc**

Hermia: **My heart adores another  
A fine and worthy man  
I cannot marry somebody else**

Others: **We think you'll find you can**

Hermia: **No I can't!** Others: **Yes you can!**

Hermia: **No I can't!** Others: **Yes you can!**

Others: **And if you won't do it then you're for the chop!  
You're for the chop!  
You're for the chop!  
Yes if you won't do it then you're for the chop!  
That's what your father says**

[Pianist plays Wedding March]

Hermia *(to pianist, spoken:)* **Hey - cut that out!**

Others: **A dutiful daughter will do as she's told...etc**

Others: **She'll do as she's told** Hermia: **No I won't**

Others: **She'll do as she's told** Hermia: **No I won't**

Others: **To do.**

Hermia: **No I won't**

Others: **Yes you will**

Hermia: **No I won't**

Others: **Yes you will! So there!**

*(Exit Theseus and Hippolyta with Attendants and Egeus. Demetrius follows, watching Lysander and Hermia suspiciously as he goes).*

Lysander: **Cheer up, love! What's up?**

Hermia: **It's not fair! They get on my nerves!**

Lysander: **The course of true love never did run smooth.**

Hermia: **It's all right for you!**

Lysander: **Tell you what, Hermia. Let's just run off in the woods and get married somewhere else.**

Hermia: **That's a great idea! I'll meet you tomorrow night.**

Lysander: **Promise?**

Hermia: Cross my heart! I love you, Lysander!

*(Enter Helena)*

Lysander: Hi, Helena!

Hermia: Hello, love!

Helena: *(Crossly)* Love? You're calling me love? Demetrius doesn't love me, though, does he?

Hermia: It's not my fault!

Helena: But it's you he fancies! What have you got that I haven't?

Hermia: I know! The more I turn him down, the more he follows me!

Helena: And the more I like him, the more he hates me!

Hermia: } *(together)* MEN!!!  
Helena: }

Hermia: Well, I'm not going to be around much longer. Am I, Lysander?

Lysander: Tomorrow we're running off to get married in secret. But don't tell anyone!

Hermia: We're meeting in the woods. I can't wait! But remember - it's a secret.

Hermia: } SSHHHHHHHHHHHHHH! *(They exit, separately)*  
Lysander: }

Helena: It's not fair! Everybody says I'm just as pretty as Hermia. Why does Demetrius like her? Huh!

I know... I'm going to tell Demetrius about their little plan. And then maybe he'll like me!

....well, even if he doesn't, it'll make me feel better!