

The Cast

In Shakespeare's play, there is no 'chorus', so we have added a talkative and busy group of Spirits to work with Prospero and Ariel.

- Prospero** A powerful sorcerer. An important part with lots of lines; needs to have a commanding stage presence. Sings a short **solo** in 'My Milan' (optional).
- Miranda** Prospero's daughter - sweet and innocent. Must be confident enough to act the romantic scenes with Ferdinand, which are played as comedy in our version.
- Ariel** A spirit of the air, and Prospero's servant. A lively role with lots to say and do.
- Caliban** Prospero's wild, unruly slave; a key role with lots of Shakespearean lines, and some knockabout comedy. Short **solo** in 'Raise a Glass with Caliban.'
- The Spirits:** On stage a lot, acting out stories, singing songs, and sharing Ariel's tasks. The top four have the most lines:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Shrimp | Whimbrel | Zephyr | Urchin |
| Juniper | Briny | Whelk | Coral (the smallest) |

...and any number of extra **Spirits**.

- Master, Boatswain and Mariners** Dramatic, brief roles. As they only appear in the first scene, it's best if they are played by The Spirits
- Trinculo, the Fool** Trinculo and Stephano have lively, knockabout scenes with lots of lines. The comedy is fun but tricky to get right; these two need to be good! **Solos** in 'Raise a Glass with Caliban' (optional).
- Stephano, the Butler**
- Ferdinand** The Prince. Has some light-hearted romantic scenes with Miranda. Sings **solo** in 'Full Fathom Five (optional)

Smaller Roles:

- Alonso** The King of Naples
- Gonzalo** His oldest servant
- Antonio** Prospero's brother - a villain
- Sebastian** Alonso's brother - another villain
- Adrian**
Francisco Friends of the King.

The Tempest

Scene 1: The Shipwreck

(Enter the Boatswain, Master and Mariners: they are struggling to sail the ship through a terrible storm. As the passengers King Alonso, Ferdinand, Gonzalo, Antonio and Sebastian appear, it is clear they are getting in the way. Lightning flashes and thunder rolls throughout. Lots of dramatic movement, as the mariners mime hauling on ropes, steering the ship, and being swept from side to side.)

Song 1: Save Us!

All

CD track 1/8

**Save us, save us
Save us from the tempest
Save us save us
Raging all around us
Whirling, swirling
Surely it'll send us
Down to a watery grave**

**Thunder, lightning
Crashing all around us
Waves like mountains
Rising up to swamp us
Whirling, swirling
Surely it'll send us
Down to a watery grave**

**Monstrous and unnatural storm
Can you hear the sea, roaring?
Never saw such waves before
Save us, save us, save us, save us...*SAVE US!***

**Save us save us
Water all around us
Save us save us
Rising up to drown us
Save us save us
Surely it'll send us
Down to a watery grave**

Heave-ho, heave-ho x 6
Heave-ho, heave-ho - arrrrggghhhh!

[Repeat from top]

Save us
From a watery grave
Save us!

Master: Fall to it, or we run ourselves aground!

Mariners: Aye aye, Captain!

Boatswain: Take in the topsail!

Mariners: *(running to seize ropes)* Take in the topsail!

Boatswain: Tend to the master's whistle!

Master: Heave! *(blows whistle)*

Mariners: *(hauling on ropes)* Heave!

(The group of Nobles, hanging on to each other, stagger towards the Mariners)

Alonso: *(struggling to stand)* Good Boatswain, take care!

Francisco: Where is the Master?

Boatswain: Keep to your cabins! You do assist the storm.

Gonzalo: *(trying to protect King Alonso)* Remember whom you have aboard!

Boatswain: These waves care nothing for the name of King. Get out of our way!

Antonio: You insolent noise-maker!

Sebastian: A curse upon you, dog!

Master: Down with the topmast!

Mariners: Down with the topmast!

(More thunder and lightning)

Nobles: *(Screaming in terror)* Aaagh!
Boatswain: A plague upon this howling!
Master: Lay her a-hold! Off to sea again!
Mariner 1: All lost! All lost!
Mariner 2: Mercy on us!
Mariner 3: Farewell, my wife and children!
All Mariners: We split! We split!
Adrian: We'll sink with the king.
Nobles: The King!

Song 2: Save Us (reprise)

All

CD track 2/9

**Monstrous and unnatural storm
Can you hear the sea, roaring?
Never saw such waves before
Save us, save us, save us, save us...*SAVE US!***

*(As thunder crashes, the ship sinks; with screams and shouts, the characters sink down to the stage and are still.
Exit in blackout, if possible).*

Scene 2: Prospero's Island

(Enter Prospero, who sits down to read a large book. Miranda rushes in)

- Miranda: Father! Did you see? Did you hear? There was a terrible storm. It came out of nowhere!
- Prospero: Indeed.
- Miranda: There were huge waves -
- Prospero: I know.
- Miranda: *(Suspiciously)* Did you put the wild waters in this roar? With your magic?
- Prospero: Daughter -
- Miranda: I saw a brave vessel dashed all to pieces
- Prospero: There's no harm done. *(He puts down his book)*
- Miranda: *(Crying)* Poor souls, they perished!
- Prospero: I made it perfectly safe: no-one is harmed. So dry your eyes, and pay attention.
- Miranda: *(Blowing her nose)* Well?
- Prospero: Can you remember a time before we came to this island?
- Miranda: No....
- Prospero: It's time you knew. Come, Spirits! Help me tell the tale!

Sound effect: Magic

(Enter the Island Spirits, talking excitedly as they prepare to perform)

- Spirits: A play/ Let's do a play!

(Juniper, Whimbrel and Shrimp are narrators: the others act out the story)

Whimbrel: The story begins in Milan, a proud city in Italy.

Zephyr: *(picking up Prospero's book)* I am Prospero - Duke of Milan!

Miranda: You were the Duke of Milan?

Prospero: Sh!

Spirits: *(bowing)* Hail, Prospero! Duke of Milan!

Zephyr: Leave me to my studies.

(Coral, the smallest Spirit, comes forward)

Miranda: Is that meant to be me?

Prospero: Sh!

Coral: *(Tapping Zephyr's shoulder)* Daddy?

Zephyr: I'm busy!

Urchin: *(Leading Coral away)* Poor motherless child!

Shrimp: Prospero spent more and more time in his study.

Juniper: Meanwhile, nobody was ruling Milan.

Briny: *(With an evil laugh)* Ha ha! Don't worry! Help is at hand!

Shrimp: This is Prospero's brother, Antonio

(Spirits boo and hiss as Briny paces up and down)

Briny: Carry on reading, brother. Leave everything to me.

Spirits: *(Bowling)* Hail, Antonio! Acting Duke of Milan!

Briny: I could get used to this.

Whimbrel: Antonio decided to get rid of Prospero. But how?

Briny: I'm going to have a word with King Alonso of Naples.

Whelk: *(Stepping forward)* My royal majesty!

Spirits: *(Bowling)* Hail, King Alonso!

(Whelk and Briny huddle together, looking villainous)

Juniper: Together, they plotted and planned....
Shrimp: They didn't dare to kill Prospero.
Whelk: I know! Let's put him out to sea in a boat.
Briny: A leaky boat, with no sails.

(Whelk and Briny seize Zephyr)

Zephyr: Hey! What's going on?
Whelk: Fetch his daughter!
Urchin: Here she is, poor little thing. *(Coral is pushed forward)*
Coral: What's happening, daddy?
Briny: Get in the boat!
Coral: I hate you, Uncle Antonio!

(They mime bundling Zephyr and Coral into a boat)

Whimbrel: Enter Gonzalo, a kind nobleman.
Urchin: I've brought you food and water - and your precious books.
Juniper: The boat was swept out to sea on a mighty wave.
Coral: Help!
Spirits: Whoooosh!

(Coral and Zephyr are swept around the stage)

Shrimp: At last, the wind blew the boat to this island.

(Spirits blow Coral and Zephyr around again. They kneel)

Zephyr: Here we shall live, daughter, and I shall practice my magic!

Whimbrel: The End.

Spirits: Ta daaaa! (*Spirits applaud each other enthusiastically*)

Miranda: But father... what about the storm? And the shipwreck?

Prospero: For twelve years I've been waiting for revenge. At last, today, a ship came sailing by, with all my enemies on board!

Miranda: So you wrecked the ship?

Prospero Of course. Now, sleep!

(The Spirits surround Miranda, who magically falls asleep)

Prospero: Come, servant! Ariel! Come!

(Ariel enters with a flourish/cartwheel: whoops and high-fives from the other Spirits. They group around Ariel)

Ariel: All hail, great master! I come to fly,
To swim, to dive into the fire, to ride
On the curled clouds.

Prospero: The tempest?

Ariel: I boarded the King's ship.
On the deck, the mast, in every cabin
I flamed amazement.

Prospero: And the men aboard?

Juniper: They plunged in the foaming brine, and quit the vessel!

Prospero: The King's son, Ferdinand?

Shrimp: He was the first man that leaped: he cried out,

Spirits: (*mocking*) 'Hell is empty,
And all the devils are here!'

Ariel: But they are safe: Not a hair perished.

Prospero: Ariel, there's more work.
Ariel: *(Angrily)* Is there more toil?
Prospero: How now? Moody?
What is it you demand?
Ariel: My liberty.
Prospero: Before the time be out? No more.

(Ariel sulks - the other spirits follow suit. After a pause)

Ariel: Remember I have done you worthy service -
Prospero: *(Angry)* Do you forget
From what a torment I did free you?
Ariel: No.
Prospero: You think it much to tread the ooze
Of the salt deep
And run upon the sharp wind of the North?
Ariel: I do not, sir.
Prospero: Have you forgot
The foul witch, Sycorax?

(He waves his staff and the Spirits sing and act during the song)

Song 3: Sycorax

Prospero, Ariel, Spirits & All

CD track 3/11

**VERSE 1: Hast thou forgotten
The foul witch Sycorax
Vile and rotten
Rotten through and through**

**Dumped here by sailors
With her baby Caliban
Ruled this isle, and
She had it in for you**

Song continued

**She made you do
Things you didn't want to
Things that made you tremble
Horrible things!**

Ariel: Horrible things!

Terrible things!

Ariel: Terrible things!

**CHORUS: Never forget the evil witch,
The awful witch, the foul and beastly Sycorax!
(Sycorax!) Sycorax! (Sycorax!)
Never forget the man who found you
Freed you from the hag who bound you,
Sycorax! (Sycorax!) Sycorax! (Sycorax!)**

**If you know what's good for you
Ariel... never forget!**

**VERSE 2: Then in a rage she
Locked you in a cloven pine
Trapped you forever
Howling in a tree**

**So I/he released you
Ariel could fly again
Ride on the clouds and
Dance across the sea**

**But if you like
I/he could put you back there
Put you back inside there
Back in a tree!**

Ariel: No!

Shut in a tree!

Ariel: No!

REPEAT CHORUS

**Never forget her, never forget her
Never forget her, never forget her
Never forget her, never forget her
Never forget her, never forget her
Sycorax! *Ha!***