

Hunchback of Notre Dame Character Descriptions

QUASIMODO, the bell-ringer of Notre Dame Cathedral, has a curved spine which affects his posture and gait. A life ringing the enormous bells has given him great physical strength but has also caused a partial deafness. Quasimodo's non-normative face frightens people. Curious and intelligent, Quasimodo speaks freely and confidently with his gargoyle and statue "friends" in the bell tower, but he becomes unsure and withdrawn in the presence of his master and uncle, Frollo. A lack of social interaction due to his lifelong seclusion in the bell tower can cause nervousness and shyness around other humans – including Esmeralda, who captivates him. Quasimodo's uneasiness around his uncle can manifest, at times, in a halting speech pattern; this should not be seen as a sign of a lack of intelligence, but merely a result of his severe isolation. Vocal range top: Bb5 Vocal range bottom: Bb2

DOM CLAUDE FROLLO, archdeacon of Notre Dame, is a righteous man with a strong sense of obligation to his brother Jehan and nephew Quasimodo – but his strict devotion to the Church supersedes all. Frollo possesses a strong, imposing presence and commands attention and obedience whenever he is present. Deeply ashamed of his intense physical attraction to Esmeralda, he attempts to control his desire by persecuting her and the Romani people ("Gypsies"), whom he deems thieving, unclean, and unworthy of the Church's protection. Vocal range top: Bb4, Vocal range bottom: E2

ESMERELDA, a free-spirited shey (a young, unmarried Romani woman), uses her talent as a dancer to support herself. Independent and strong-willed, she speaks her mind and stands up for what she believes in, including fair treatment of Roma and the sequestered Quasimodo. Esmeralda falls for the charming Phoebus despite her better judgment and staunchly refuses to give herself up to Frollo though doing so would save her life. Vocal range top: D5, Vocal range bottom: E3

CAPTAIN PHOEBUS DE MARTIN, is the dashing new captain of the Cathedral Guard. Conflicted between following his duty – including Frollo's prejudiced instructions – and doing what's right, he struggles with the trauma he experienced in four years of intense battle on the war front. Charming and arrogant, Phoebus focuses on enjoying life's pleasures before quickly falling for Esmeralda and ultimately defying Frollo. Bari-tenor vocal range top: Ab4, vocal range bottom: A2

CLOPIN TROUILLEFOU, the clever and charismatic King/Queen of the Gypsies. An air of mystery surrounds Clopin, who often leaves the scene in a puff of smoke. As the master of ceremonies for the Feast of Fools, he/she is witty and playful, but boasts a darker, serious nature when not performing for the crowd. Vocal range top: F#5, Vocal range bottom: D3

JEHAN FROLLO, is Dom Claude Frollo's wild and charming younger brother and the father of Quasimodo. Though he is much less faithful to the Church than Claude, the

brothers are devoted to each other until Jehan's rebellious streak finally causes a fatal rift in their relationship. Vocal range top: Eb5, Vocal range bottom: F3

FLORIKA, Jehan's Romani girlfriend and Quasimodo's mother. Vocal range top: F#5, Vocal range bottom: E4

FATHER DUPIN, is a devout priest of Notre Dame Cathedral and stern guardian of Claude and Jehan. Vocal range top: A3, Vocal range bottom: C3

SAINT APHRODISIUS, a statue that comes to life, encourages Quasimodo to take action to help Esmeralda. Vocal range top: E4, Vocal range bottom: B3

OFFICIAL, an officer of the court of King Louis XI, declares the arrest warrant for Esmeralda to the people of Paris. Vocal range top: E4, Vocal range bottom: G2

FREDERIC CHARLUS, lieutenant of the Cathedral Guard, is a loyal friend to Phoebus.

KING LOUIS XI, though nicknamed "The Prudent," would rather act quickly than appear weak.

MADAM, is the stalwart owner of a brothel and safe haven for Roma.

CONGREGATION, of gender-flexible storytellers that help narrate The Hunchback of Notre Dame. In story theater style, each performer in the show begins as a Congregant before taking on the characteristics of their other assigned character(s), which include the principal characters, Gargoyles, Statues, Revelers, Soldiers, Gypsies, Parishioners, Priests, Choir, Prostitutes, and other citizens of Paris. This ensemble is a traditional ensemble in musical theater – they actively tell the story through movement and character work.