



Music Theatre of Madison is creating a children's book entitled *The Land of the Gifted*. In it, five kids who sometimes feel like outcasts are welcomed to explore their imaginations and find their unique gifts. The book contains songs that move the narrative forward, as in a musical. You can hear a sample song, see early illustrations, and learn more [here](#).

We are seeking actors/singers to voice the characters in the book for a read-aloud audiobook version. This will be available on YouTube with illustrations from the book, as a way for kids to have the book read to them. The songs that are recorded will also be available on a playlist that is played when reading the print or e-book.

Audiobook Director: Siobhan Jackson
Music Director/Composer: Adam Qutaishat
Book Writer: Krystyn Jones
Book Illustrator: Ana Gonzalez
Producers: Meghan Randolph and Alexis O'Connell

Recording Details:

The book and music will be audio-recorded (voice only) at some point in the summer of 2021. We are still figuring out when and how this will work. If it is safe to gather and record all together, we will do that. However, we also know how to record separately from each person's home (we did it last year for an audio drama) and we are willing to do that if necessary. Your safety and health are our first priority.

Audition Details:

Dates: April 10 and 11, 2021. Time slots available from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. each day
If you are unavailable on these dates, please contact kemery@mtmadison.com to get an alternate way to audition.

How to set up an audition:

1. **Sign up online.** Visit [this link](#) to select a time slot and enter your information. You will be asked for your arts experience and a photo. Arts experience can include choirs, singing groups, pageants, arts experience through your place or worship, classes, plays, musicals, or just singing in the car! *Don't worry if you don't have a ton of experience. We're just interested in finding the perfect people!*
2. **Check your email** Auditions will be held over Zoom. You will be sent a Zoom link after you sign up. You will also receive a Google Drive link with options to short text to read. (Only the kids auditioning will need to use the Google Drive link).

3. Prepare your audition:

Kids, please prepare:

- One song you love to sing! You can have an accompaniment track or sing without one. Your song can be in English or Spanish.
- A short bit of text to show your acting abilities. Our director may have you try it several different ways. We will send a link to the options when you sign up to audition. Please allow 72 hours to receive the link. If you don't receive it after that, you can email kemery@mtmadison.com to inquire.
- Two lines from your very favorite book! This can be in English or Spanish.

Adults, please prepare:

- A one-minute up-tempo musical theatre song, preferably from a family-friendly musical. You can use an accompaniment track or pianist if you wish, or it can be a capella. This can be in English or Spanish.
- Please pick a short (30 seconds or less) passage from your favorite children's book. This can be in English or Spanish.

4. Go to the Zoom link at your audition time. You'll come into a room where you'll see Kristen, our Company Manager. She'll have you hang out until it's your turn, and then you'll be let into a breakout room to do your audition.

Roles sought:

The following roles have specific racial identities. Some also have disabilities. We are seeking to stay as true to the characters as possible for the casting, so young actors with disabilities are absolutely encouraged to audition!

The kids in the book are in third grade, but we don't necessarily need kids of the exact age to voice the roles. They just need to have the right sound. So all kids are encouraged to show us what they've got!

*Please note: The book will be recorded in English *and* Spanish. Depending on who auditions, we may have someone voice a character in both languages, or we may double cast. **Fluent Spanish speakers are encouraged to audition!!!**

Riya - To play age 8-9, Black. Riya loves nature and sports and dreams of being an Olympic gold medalist. She lives with spina bifida. She is bright and vibrant, peppy, positive, loving, and very funny.

Amina-To play age 8-9, South West Asian (Middle Eastern), North African, or South Asian.

Amina is very stylish and loves to swim. She is blind and gets around using a fabulous diamond walking stick. She dreams of joining the swim team, but is afraid that she won't get accepted. She is warm and accepting to everyone she meets.

Lea - To play age 8-9, Caucasian. Lea is a foster child and has been to a lot of schools. She's pretty shy and has a hard time building trust with new friends. She dreams of finding a place where she can really fit in and belong, so she can open up, be herself, and discover her dreams. Underneath it all, she has a great sense of humor!

Joel- To play age 9, Latin and Indigenous/Native American/First Nations.

Joel is awesome at math and really wants to be on the school math team. He is autistic and has an aide that works with him at school during the day. He really wants to be on the school math team. Joel is a little shy but is very fun and really loves to meet new people.

Narrator: A BBIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color) youth actor (14 or under)

This person will read the narration of the story and should be very expressive!

Mr. Tony: BBIPOC, to play 20s-30s. A teacher at the school the kids attend. Having lived with a disability, he understands how it can be difficult to embrace uniqueness. His classroom becomes a safe haven for the kids, and with them, they visit the Land of the Gifted in their imaginations. This is where amazing and beautiful things happen, and the kids find their confidence and unique gifts. An amazing teacher, patient, kind, and encouraging.

Joel's aide: Race, gender, and age flexible. The person at Joel's school who assists Joel throughout the school day. Kind, patient, and fun.

Ken's interpreter: Asian/Pacific Islander, gender and age flexible. Ken is the fifth child in the story, an Asian-American boy who uses sign language. We need an expressive person to voice and sing his words as they are signed in the book.

Other adults: One or two actors to voice additional adults in the story. Should be capable of doing several different voices.

Compensation

Pay: Adult actors will be paid \$100 (Approximately one rehearsal plus the recording). Kids will all receive two free copies of the book when it is finished.

Tips for an awesome audition

- **Be yourself!** Pick a song and a selection where you can really show off your personality and the strength of your singing voice. We want to get to know who you are!

- **Take a deep breath.** We know auditioning can be nerve-wracking. The audition panel promises to be friendly and welcoming. We want you to succeed!
- **Practice ahead of time.** If you can, try recording yourself with the camera on a computer or phone as you practice your audition. Make sure we can hear you well!
- **Pick a quiet space.** Pick the quietest space you can find. We know that sometimes outside noises can't be helped, cats join the Zoom, etc. We just want to make sure we hear and see you as well as possible!
- **Be expressive with your voice.** Remember, you will be doing an audio recording of the show, but not a video recording. So your voice will have to tell the story. Think of that as you practice your song and lines of text.
- **If you aren't cast, don't get discouraged.** Casting is tough because sometimes we have way more awesome people than we can use! We know it's sad when you don't get the part, but try to remember that you're amazing and keep practicing doing what you love. We will have more opportunities down the road, and so will lots of other places!

If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to email Company Manager Kristen Emery at kemery@mtmadison.com We're happy to help and can't wait to see you at auditions!

Music Theatre of Madison is an equal opportunity organization. We will consider each audition carefully. We recognize that privilege is present in all spaces including the theatre, and we actively work to dismantle barriers, prejudices, and harm in everything we do. All BBIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, People of Color) individuals are welcomed, as are people of any other identity. Before working with us, all artists sign a statement of conduct, cultural competency, and path to resolution in order to establish the most respectful working environment.

The safety, comfort, and enjoyment of our artists is our number one priority. Art is not worth doing if it is not joyous. We are happy to answer any questions and look forward to working with you!

<https://bit.ly/3qkf7Ey>