

# *Christchurch Music Society*

*(Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association)*

## **Hairspray 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

### **Synopsis**

It's 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen Tracy Turnblad has only one desire -- to dance on the popular Corny Collins Show.

Every day after school, she and her best friend Penny run home to watch the show and drool over the hot Link Larkin, much to Tracy's mother Edna's dismay. After one of the stars of the show leaves, Corny Collins holds auditions to see who will be the next person on the Corny Collins show. With the help of her friends, Tracy makes it on the show, angering the evil dance queen Amber Von Tussle and her mother Velma. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight, and meets a colorful array of characters. With the help of her father, mother and newfound friends she decides its time to integrate the TV network.

### **Diversity**

A strong component of the Hairspray story revolves around race in the 1960's, as well as specific body types and ages, which we will do to the best of our ability and the available cast. We will be using blonde and black wigs in 1960s styles together with light and dark foundation as a way of interpreting the difference.

Christchurch Music Society is an Equal Opportunity society and encourages everyone to audition for appropriate roles.

### **Characters that appear white:**

Tracy and Edna Turnblad  
Penny Pingleton  
Velma and Amber von Tussle  
Corny Collins  
Council Members Gilbert  
Male and Female Authority Figures  
Cindy Watkins  
Duane  
Lorraine

### **Characters that appear black:**

Seaweed J. Stubbs  
Motormouth Maybelle  
Little Inez  
The Dynamites (Judine, Kamila, Shayna)

### **Characters that must be plus-sized:**

Tracy and Edna Turnblad

### **Characters that must be notably thinner than plus-sized:**

Velma and Amber von Tussle  
Council Members

“Student” or “Council Member” roles are intended for stage age 16-19 years old. Stage age is the age you look on stage. For example in the original ‘Grease’ Movie Oliver Newton John (Sandy) was 30!

You must be at least 14 years old to audition.

Little Inez is the only exception. You must be at least 11 years to audition for Little Inez.

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## Hairspray Character Descriptions

**Tracy Turnblad** - A pleasantly plump teenager with a big heart who has dreams of being a dancing star ... as soon as she's out of detention for her big hair. Tracy isn't afraid to be herself and stand up for what she believes in. She must be friendly, relentless, and goodhearted with a vibrant, lovable personality and love to sing and dance.

Tracy is on stage for a LOT of the show so she must have stamina and talent – she performs in 10+ numbers including “Good Morning Baltimore,” “I Can Hear the Bells,” and many more! It is truly a BIG role! Mezzo-Belt

Stage Age: 16-19

**Edna Turnblad** - Tracy's kind, plus-sized mother; runs a laundry business out of her home but hasn't been out in a while. Played by Harvey Fierstein on Broadway, and John Travolta in the movie, this drag role requires a strong comic male performer who is ready for his inner woman to take the spotlight **Edna is not a man pretending to be a woman**, she is all woman! Just, you know, with a distinctive voice. Performs in 5+ numbers including “You're Timeless To Me.” Tenor.

Stage Age: 40+

**Wilbur Turnblad** - Tracy's goofy father, who owns the Har-De-Har Hut joke shop and is still madly in love with his wife, Edna. He encourages Tracy to follow her dreams. Performs in 2+ numbers including “You're Timeless to Me.” Baritone. Stage Age: 40+

**Corny Collins** - the exciting, confident dancing and singing host of his own TV dance show (think American Bandstand at its inception). Corny is in favour of Tracy and racial integration. Performs in 4+ numbers including “Nicest Kids In Town” and “Hairspray.” Tenor.

Stage Age: 25+

**Penny Pingleton** - Tracy's slightly dorky, but lovable best friend who is often by her side (when not grounded for life by her mother, Prudy). Falls head over heels for Seaweed. Performs in 4+ numbers including “Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now” and “Without Love.” Belt. Stage Age: 16-19

**Amber von Tussle** - bratty, selfish resident princess of The Corny Collins Show. Her mother's daughter through and through, she is willing to do anything to win the Miss Teenage Hairspray pageant. Council Member. Performs in 7+ numbers including “Cooties.” Belt. Stage Age: 16-19

**Velma von Tussle** – Amber's slim and attractive but overbearing mother who pushes her daughter to seek stardom. Velma is the scheming producer of The Corny Collins Show who tries to steer it in the “white” direction. Her sensitivities are offended at the very sight of Tracy. A great villainess role. Performs in 4+ numbers including “Miss Baltimore Crabs”. Belt. Alto Stage Age: 40+

**Link Larkin** - Teenage heartthrob, aspiring young Elvis, and male lead dancer on The Corny Collins Show. Falls in love with Tracy (Amber is soooo jealous!). Council Member. Performs in 7+ numbers including “It Takes Two.”

Crooning Baritone.

Stage Age: 16-21

**Seaweed J. Stubbs** - Motormouth Maybelle's son and a talented dancer on The Corny Collins Show, but only allowed on “Negro Day.” Ends up in detention with Tracy. Falls in love with Penny.

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Performs in 4+ numbers including "Run And Tell That." Tenor. Stage Age: 16-19

**Motormouth Maybelle** - the sassy Corny Collins "Negro Day" DJ. Owner of a record store and mother to Seaweed and Little Inez. Plus-sized, she helps Edna find pride in herself. Performs in 3+ numbers including "Big, Blonde & Beautiful" and "I Know Where I've Been." Soulful Alto.  
Stage age 40+

**Little Inez** – Seaweed's little /brother? sister and just as talented a dancer. Tries to audition for The Corny Collins Show but is turned away because he/she is black by Velma. Performs in 3+ numbers including "Run and Tell That." Belt.  
Stage Age: 13-15

**The Dynamites** - Judine, Kamilah, and Shayna – Talented vocal trio a la The Supremes. Featured in many numbers together and usually in tight harmony. May double for other ensemble roles like 'Cindy Watkins,' etc.  
Stage Age: 25+

**Council Members** - Tammy, Brad, Fender, Brenda, Sketch, Shelley, IQ, Lou Ann – Dancers and singers on The Corny Collins Show. Perform in 5+ numbers including "Nicest Kids In Town" and "You Can't Stop The Beat."  
Stage Age: 16-19

**Other Students** - Gilbert, Duane, Lorraine, Stooie, Thad – Kids we find in detention, and most in Motormouth Maybelle's record shop. Perform in 4+ numbers including "Welcome to the 60's" and "You Can't Stop The Beat."  
Stage Age: 16-19

**People of Baltimore, TV studio staff, Mr Pinkys shop staff, and Motormouth Mabelle's friends** perform in 4 + numbers including " Good morning Baltimore", "Welcome to the 60's" and "You Can't Stop The Beat."

## **Female Authority Figures –**

Prudy Pingleton (Penny's uptight mother) sings in 'Momma I'm a big girl now'

Sadistic gym teacher

Prison matron.

Stage Ages: 40+

## **Male Authority Figures**

Mr. Pinky (owner of a plus-sized dress shop) involved in 'Welcome to the sixities'

Harriman F. Spritzer (President of Ultra Clutch cosmetics, Corny Collins show sponsor),

the high-blood pressure principal,

Stage Ages: 40+

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Audition Pieces Music	
Character	Song number, page and bar numbers
Tracy Turnblad	Tracy, Penny, Amber Edna, Velma and Prudy no.4, page 134, start to 58 Edna and Tracy no.12, page183, bar 130 the the end. Link and Tracy no.18, page 232, start to 44
Edna Turnblad	Wilbur and Edna, no. 17, page227, bar 77to the end Tracy, Penny, Amber, Edna, Velma and Prudy no.4, page 134, start to 58 Edna and Tracy no.12, page183, bar 130 the the end.
Wilbur Turnblad	Wilbur and Edna, no. 17, page227, bar 77to the end
Corny Collins	No.9, page166, bar 48 to the end
Penny Pingleton	Tracy, Penny, Amber, Edna, Velma and Prudy no.4, page 134, start to 58 Seaweed and Penny no. 18, bar 54 to 73
Amber von Tussle	Tracy, Penny, Amber, Edna, Velma and Prudy no.4, page 134, start to 58 Amber no.21 page 263, start to 32
Velma von Tussle	No.11a, page 176 Tracy, Penny, Amber, Edna, Velma and Prudy no.4, page 134, start to 58
Link Larkin	Link and Tracy no.18, page 232, start to 44
Seaweed J. Stubbs -	No. 13, page 193, start to 36. Seaweed and Penny no. 18, bar 54 to 73
Motormouth Maybelle	No. 14, page203, start to 32, no. 19, page 247, start to 12
Little Inez	No. 13, page 197, bar 78 to 94
Prudy Pingleton	Tracy, Penny, Amber, Edna, Velma and Prudy no.4, page 134, start to 58

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<b>Libretto - Audition Pieces</b>		
<b>Character</b>	<b>Page number, start and finish points</b>	<b>Other Characters involved</b>
Tracy Turnblad	P38 – 39 (bottom of 38 Tracy’s first line to ‘Tracy hangs up the phone’) P11 – 12 (Wilbur’s first line at top of page to Tracy’s “But Mama I want to be famous”) P79 – 81 (Links line at very bottom of 79 to Link’s “I think I do” before song)	Edna  Edna, Wilbur  Link
Edna Turnblad	P38 – 39 (bottom of 38 Tracy’s first line to Tracy hangs up the phone) P11 – 12 (Wilbur’s first line at top of page to Tracy’s “But Mama I want to be famous”) P75 – 76 (top of 75 to Wilbur’s line before song)	Tracy  Tracy, Wilbur  Wilbur
Wilbur Turnblad	P11 – 12 (Wilbur’s first line at top of page to Tracy’s “But Mama I want to be famous”) P75 – 76 (top of 75 to Wilbur’s line before song)	Edna, Tracy  Edna
Corny Collins	P36 – 37 (Corny’s line starting with “Negroes and chubby girls...” to Corny’s line before song)	Velma, Spritzer
Penny Pingleton	P50 – 51 (Top of 50 to Seaweed’s line before song)  P5 – 6 (all dialogue between songs)	Tracy, Link, Seaweed Prudy, Edna, Tracy
Amber Von Tussle	P48 – 49 (Amber’s line starting “Hey thunder thighs...” to Amber’s exit)	Tracy, Seaweed, Gym teacher, Link
Velma Von Tussle	P36 – 37 (Corny’s line starting with “Negroes and chubby girls...” to Corny’s line before song)	Velma, Spritzer
Link Larkin	P79 – 81 (Links line at very bottom of 79 to Link’s “I think I do” before song) P50 – 51 (Top of 50 to Seaweed’s line before song)	Tracy  Tracy, Link, Seaweed
Seaweed J. Stubbs	P50 – 51 (Top of 50 to Seaweed’s line before song)	Tracy, Link, Penny
Motormouth Maybelle	P88 – 89 (Top of 88 to Motormouth’s line at top of 89)	Penny, Little Inez, Seaweed, Link, Tracy, Gilbert
Little Inez	P53 (Dialogue leading into song)  P88 – 89 (Top of 88 to Motormouth’s line at top of 89)	Seaweed, Tracy Penny, Motormouth, Seaweed, Link, Tracy, Gilbert
Prudy Pingleton	P5 – 6 (all dialogue between songs)	Prudy, Edna, Tracy
Mr. Pinky	P42 (Dialogue in the middle of the song)	Edna
<b>Other Parts NOT Being Auditioned:</b> The Dynamites; Council Members; Other Students; Sadistic Gym Teacher; Prison Matron; Harriman F. Spritzer		

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## **Some additional useful Information**

- The audition panel are looking for characterisation and the relationships between characters ( as well as you individual talents ☺) and so the audition pieces have been specifically chosen to allow us to see these relationships:
  - Tracy and Edna
  - Tracy, Edna and Wilbur
  - Edna and Wilbur
  - Tracy and Link
  - Tracy and Penny
  - Penny and Seaweed
- The character you are auditioning for may also be involved in other audition pieces for other characters so please look at those too.
- Not everyone can be successful in getting his or her first choice, so please consider auditioning for more than one part.
- The audition panel reserve the right to cast auditionees in parts they may not have auditioned for – an individual will be consulted prior to any full cast announcement.
- There are a number of parts not being auditioned for but if you have an interest in one of those parts please let Mike (audition panel chair) know so that you may be considered.
- Any questions please speak to Jan, Katie, Ellen, Hollie or Amy.