



By arrangement with Three Knights Limited, The Shubert Organisation Inc
and Robert Fox Limited



Presents

CHESS

The Musical

BENNY ANDERSON

TIM RICE

BJORN ULVAEUS

September 12 - 21 2025

BOOKINGS 9262 6555



www.theround.com.au/whats-on/nova-chess

Chess The Musical

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Audition Pack

Production Team

Director: Noel Browne

Co-Musical Directors: Amber Simm
& John Clancy

Choreographer: Wayne Robinson

Nova's production of **CHESS** will be performed at *The Round*, Nunawading from Friday 12th September to Sunday 21st September, 2025. Production week will start Monday 8th September with a call time at the theatre of 6:00pm to approximately 10:30pm. **All cast are required to attend all rehearsals in production week.** There will also be a **mandatory** publicity photo call at a day & time to be advised.

AUDITIONS

DATE: Starting week beginning 6th May.

Please arrive at least **10 minutes before** your audition time in order to complete the required paperwork. Please print and complete the audition form at the end of this pack and bring it with you with a **headshot attached! This is important used for identification purposes only!**

WHERE: Boronia K-12 College Theatre, enter from Rangeview Rd, Boronia. (Melway 65 B8)

Please enter via Gate 2 and park in the lower car park. Follow the path between the buildings. You'll see the performing arts building straight ahead. Do not park in the Albert Ave carpark.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes before your audition time in order to complete the required paper work. Please print and complete the audition form at the end of this pack and bring it with you with a headshot attached.



If you are running late or have difficulty finding the venue, please call Jane on 0420 787 281.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

Singing (all roles):

Auditionees should prepare **TWO contrasting** songs for their audition.

These songs should be from a musical (but **not from** CHESS) and in a style that is consistent with the character you are auditioning for. This should be something that you are **very** comfortable with **not** something you learned the day before!

Please **bring sheet music (in the correct key)**, printed out and in a folder. There will be an accompanist at the audition. If photo copied please have it in an interleaved folder for the pianist. **Backing recordings are not acceptable.**

We would like you to demonstrate your acting through how you interpret your songs. Please do this without moving around too much and don't use props.

Please be aware that you may not get to sing all/and/or both of your song/s due to numbers of people to audition, so if the Audition Panel feels they have heard enough to determine your vocal quality they may stop you mid note. **This should not be taken** as any indicator of whether you will or will not be cast!! It simply means that we are happy with what we have heard.

Dancing:

A separate Dance Audition will be held at Boronia K-12 College on Monday May 12, 7:30 pm. Not all roles require dance ability. You will be advised at your audition if you are required to attend the dance audition.

Call Backs:

Call Backs (recalls) will be held as required on Tuesday, May 13 in the evening. You will be notified as soon as possible after your singing audition if you will be required for a call back. **NOTE:** No call back **does not** mean that you are not in!! Simply it means that we are happy and have enough information at this stage.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL AUDITIONEES

- **Minimum age for this production is 16 years old when rehearsals start.**
- **We do not accept video auditions.**
- **It is NOVA policy to not cast people who have already committed to another show which conflicts with this production.**
- Audition time is strictly limited so use your time to show the panel what you can do. No extra time will be available. The panel will be looking for vocal quality, range and pitch as well as dramatic and movement ability.
- Audition pieces should be well prepared. Remember, it is in your own interests to present yourself well.
- An accompanist will be provided.

- Singing unaccompanied or with a CD is **not acceptable**.
- All auditions are private and may only be attended by the panel and auditionees.
- Your singing audition will take about 5 mins and consists of you singing your selected song for the panel. The panel will evaluate your song selection on what we hear. We know what we are looking for, so don't be concerned if you are not required to sing an entire song. It means that we have enough information at this time.
- Please don't apologise to the panel for the state of your health or your voice. **We do take nerves and health** into consideration!
- Please printout and complete the last 2 pages (the audition form) of this document and **attach your headshot (This is important used for identification purposes only!)** and bring this with you to your audition.
- There will be recalls as required. Those required for a call back will be notified as soon as possible after the initial round of auditions.
- **All auditionees** will be notified of the outcome of their audition as soon as possible.
- Please do not contact us, we will definitely contact you either by phone or email.

We expect all cast to be available to attend all rehearsals. **Please provide us** with any dates you are not available during the rehearsal process on the audition form.

And most of all, enjoy it!! This is your moment to shine! Remember that we are on your side! We are just as concerned as you are to have you succeed in convincing us that you are right for this production!

Please note that NOVA reserves the right, at its sole and absolute discretion, to Not cast any role from these auditions if, in the opinion of the Audition Panel, the right person for the role is not found. In this event Nova may pursue other means to fill a vacant role.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Chess: The Musical At the height of the Cold War, two chess masters meet in Bangkok to battle for the world championship, but their greatest contest is for the love of one woman. Written in 1984 by ABBA songwriters Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, and Tim Rice, Chess tells a story of love and political intrigue, set against the background of the Cold War in the late 1970s/early 1980s, in which superpowers attempt to manipulate an international chess championship for political ends. Two of the world's greatest chess masters, one American, one Russian, are in danger of becoming the pawns of their governments as their battle for the world title gets under way. Simultaneously their lives are thrown into further confusion by a Hungarian refugee, a remarkable woman who becomes the centre of their emotional triangle. This mirrors the heightened passions of the political struggles that threaten to destroy lives and loves. Includes the international hit singles 'I Know Him So Well' and 'One Night In Bangkok'. Other well-known songs from the score include 'Anthem', 'Someone Else's Story', 'Heaven Help my Heart' and 'Pity The Child'.

Character Breakdown

SEEKING A DIVERSE CAST FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLES. CHARACTER AGES LISTED ARE GUIDELINES ONLY. IF YOU'RE NOT THAT AGE, BUT CAN PLAY THAT AGE, PLEASE AUDITION! ALL ROLES ARE AVAILABLE.

CHARACTER	GENDER	AGE RANGE	ROLE SIZE
Freddie Trumper	Male	Adult	Lead
Alexander Molokov	Male	Mature Adult	Lead
Anatoly Sergievsky	Male	Mature Adult	Lead
Florence Vassy	Female	Adult	Lead
Gregor Vassy	Male	Adult, Mature Adult	Supporting
Arbiter	Male	Adult, Mature Adult	Supporting
Walter de Courcey	Male	Adult, Mature Adult	Supporting
Svetlana Sergievsky	Female	Adult	Supporting
Ensemble; Dancers, Singers, Journalists, Crowd – See below	Male & Female	16+	Ensemble

LEAD ROLES :

FREDERICK TRUMPER - American Grandmaster A gifted Chess prodigy, Trumper is probably the most talented player in the game, but an explosive temper and deep insecurities leave him vulnerable as both a player and a human being. Freddie is the 'Bad Boy' who matures and aids Anatoly a year after his own defeat.

Vocal range: Bb2 to Db5 (Tenor) Accent: American Age: Early 30s Dance Ability: Beginner

FLORENCE VASSAY - Frederick's Lover/Second A Budapest-born immigrant, she flees to England as a young girl before moving to America to pursue her dream of playing Chess. Florence is as close to Freddie as anyone can be, but despite her support, he treats her terribly and pushes her right into the arms of his Russian rival, Anatoly. Florence is a woman in a man's world continuously forced to prove her place.

Vocal range: Eb3 to E5 (Mezzo-Soprano) Accent: English (with a hint of American) Age: Late 20s/Early 30s Dance Ability: Beginner

ANATOLY SERGIEVSKY - Russian Grandmaster Anatoly is a troubled husband who despises the propaganda and politics of the tournament, eventually deciding to defect from his homeland, even at the cost of deserting his family. Anatoly's heart lies in his homeland, but his first passion is the game he loves – Chess... torn between love and duty and leaving everything behind for the woman he loves.

Vocal range: F2 to Bb4 (High Baritone) Accent: Russian Age: 35 - 40 Dance Ability: Mover

SUPPORTING ROLES

WALTER DE COURCEY - Head of the American delegation Walter is brought along by Freddie, to Florence's consternation. As a marketing consultant, he encourages Freddie's desire for money setting up multiple media and business opportunities for him. He is totally ruthless and without principles.

Vocal range: Ab2 to F4 (Baritone) Accent: American Age: 35 - 50 Dance Ability: Mover

ALEXANDER MOLOKOV - Head of the Russian delegation, Anatoly's Second. He is manipulative, dark and quite dangerous. On the surface, he is a cuddly Russian bear, but not far down he is a snake. He speaks of loyalty and dedication to Anatoly, but displays none of these qualities himself. From his position of power in the political establishment, he tries to control every aspect of Anatoly's game – and life.

Vocal range: F2 to A4 (Bass/Baritone) Accent: Russian Age: 30 - 50 Dance Ability: Mover/Beginner

ARBITER - President of the International Chess Federation The game's referee, ensuring that the rules of Chess are upheld whatever is going on outside of the game. Smug, self-satisfied, officious and obsessive are all words that could describe the Arbiter.

Vocal range: B2 to A4 (Tenor range) Accent: English Age: 35 - 50 Dance Ability: Mover/Beginner

SVETLANA SERGIEVSKAYA - Anatoly's estranged wife who, under Molokov's machinations, tries to persuade Anatoly to return to his homeland and family; although upset at Anatoly's betrayal, she also understands that Florence has given Anatoly something she could not.

Vocal range: F3 to E5 (Mezzo-Soprano) Accent: Russian Age: 25 - 35 Dance Ability: Mover/Beginner

ADDITIONAL ROLES MAYOR of Merano Songs: Merano/Rock Merano/Merano Reprise Accent: Italian Age: 40+ Dance Ability: Mover

REPORTERS Songs: Commie Newspapers/Press Conference, Anatoly and The Press/Anthem Accent: Multiple Age: Any Dance Ability: Beginner/Advanced

DELEGATES/CRONIES Songs: Diplomats, The Soviet Machine I & II Accent: Russian/American Age: Any Dance Ability: Beginner

MERCHANDISERS Songs: Merchandisers Accent: American Age: 18 - 30 Dance Ability: Beginner/Advanced

CIVIL SERVANTS Songs: Defection Scene, Embassy Lament (Barbershop Quartet style) Accent: American Age: Any Dance Ability: Mover/Beginner

LEONID VIIGAND - Russian Chess Champion (Act II) No singing or dancing required

Ensemble consisting of: Merano Citizens, Photographers, Interviewers/TV Personnel, Thai dancers, Night club dancers, and many Ensemble members, who also cover other diverse characters.

To give you an idea of just how much work is in this rock opera for everyone here is the song list with who is involved in each number.

As with most opera styles there is a huge amount of really good chorus numbers that require good singing and acting.

Musical Numbers

Act 1

- Prologue / The Story of Chess (Arbiter / **Chorus**)
- 2 A) Merano B) Rock Merano C) Merano Reprise (Mayor, **Citizens**, Frederick)
- 3 / 4 Commie Newspapers / Press Conference (Florence, Frederick, **Reporters**)
- 5 / 6 Anatoly & Molokov / Where I Want To Be (Anatoly, Molokov)
- 7 Diplomats (Molokov, Walter, **Delegates**)
- 8 / 9 Arbiter / Hymn To Chess (Arbiter, **Chorus**)
- 10 Merchandisers (Merchandisers)
- 11 A) Opening 1st Game B) Chess #1 (Instrumental)
- 12 Arbiter – Reprise (Arbiter, **Chorus**)
- 13 Quartet (Molokov, Florence, Arbiter, Anatoly)
- 14 Florence & Molokov (Florence, Molokov, Walter, Frederick)
- 15 (1956) Budapest Is Rising (Florence, Frederick, **Chorus**)
- 16 Nobody's Side (Florence, **Chorus**)
- 17 Der kleine Franz (**Chorus**)
- 18 Mountain Duet (Florence, Anatoly, Frederick)
- 19 A) Opening 2nd Game B) Chess #2 (Instrumental)
- 20 Florence Quits (Frederick, Florence)
- 21 Pity The Child (Frederick)
- 22 A) Defection Scene B) Embassy Lament (**Civil Servants**)
- 23 Heaven Help My Heart (Florence)
- 24 / 25 Anatoly And The Press / Anthem (**Reporters**, Anatoly)

Act 2

- 26 / 27 The Golden Bangkok / One Night In Bangkok (Frederick, **Chorus**)
- 28 / 29 One More Opponent / You And I (Anatoly, Florence)
- 30 The Soviet Machine Part I & II (Molokov, **Cronies**)
- 31 The Interview (Walter, Frederick, Anatoly)
- 32 The Deal A) Part 1 B) Part 2 C) Part 3 (Arbiter, Molokov, Svetlana, Anatoly, Walter, Florence, Frederick)
- 33 I Know Him So Well (Florence, Svetlana)
- 34 Talking Chess (**Monks**, Frederick, Anatoly)
- 35 End Game A) Part 1 B) Part 2 C) Part 3 D) Part 4 (Molokov, Walter, Florence, Anatoly, Svetlana, Frederick, **Chorus**)
- 36 A) Russian & Florence At The Airport B) Scene Change To Airport C) You And I Reprise (**Monks**, Frederick, Anatoly)
- 37 A) Walter & Florence B) Epilogue C) Anthem Reprise (Walter, Florence, **Company**)

Rehearsal and Performance Information

Location: Unless otherwise notified, rehearsals are held at the NOVA MUSIC THEATRE Rehearsal Hall, Elgar Rd, Mont Albert North

Meet & Greet: 3rd June, 7:30pm

Rehearsals will start: 10th June. All cast will be required.

Rehearsals are held at the following times. A detailed schedule will be provided and in the early stages of rehearsal you may not be required for all rehearsals.

Tuesday nights - 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Thursday nights – 7.30pm to 10.30pm

Sunday afternoons - 1.00pm to 5.00pm

Weekend Rehearsal: Boronia K-12 College, Saturday & Sunday, 16th & 17th August.

Theatre Rehearsal Dates:

Sitzprobe: Sunday, 7th September at Elgar Rd Hall 2pm Start.

Production Week Rehearsals: (Cast required for all rehearsals) at the theatre – “The Round”.

8th September – Tech Rehearsal

9th September – Run with Piano

10th September – Dress Rehearsal with orchestra

11th September – Dress Rehearsal with orchestra

Performances: Total of 8 performances with 4 matinees

- Friday, 12th September 7:30pm
- Saturday, 13th September 1:30pm
- Saturday, 13th September 7:30pm
- Sunday, 14th September 1:30pm
- Friday, 19th September 7:30pm
- Saturday, 20th September 1:30pm
- Saturday, 20th September 7:30pm
- Sunday, 21st September 1:30pm

Call times in the theatre will be 1.5 hours prior to start times (6:00pm evenings and 12:00pm matinees) unless otherwise notified.

Cast members are expected to attend for the **photo call, costume fitting, publicity and promotional events** as required. These dates will be notified asap.

Bump Out: Sunday, after final performance – all cast are expected to help with this.

Show Fees: Adult Fees for cast are set at \$150. Those who paid the membership fee for “The Music Man” only pay the show fee not the membership fee. The fees cover NOVA Music Theatre membership, Show Fees, Insurance, Tea & Coffee during rehearsals, Dinner between shows on Saturday 20th September, a show mug & certificate, Production Photos & Headshots for the program. Fees are payable at the Meet & Greet.

Song 1 _____
Song 2 _____

CHESS

**Attach Photo Here
Please**

Name

Address:

Phone: Mobile: E-Mail

Role you are auditioning for:

Will you accept another role: Y N Will you work in chorus: Y N

Do you read music: Y N Play an instrument: Y N Dance: Y N

List your experience & training here or attach CV.

Are you auditioning for another production: Y N Are you in another production: Y N

Are you available to Rehearse on Tuesday & Thursday evenings & Sunday PM: Y N

We may also call rehearsals at other times in necessary.

Please list any dates you are unavailable:

Please be sure that you are prepared to give this production your **FULL commitment!** In order to present a professional standard production, **we expect the cast to approach it professionally, in every way!**

We require you to **attend all rehearsals** as called and devote time to develop your Acting, Singing & Movement skills in order to convincingly portray your character. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be issued regularly giving adequate notice of your required rehearsal calls attendance.

Initial music calls will be held for the first few weeks Tuesday & Thursday & choreography will follow on Sunday afternoons. Setting scenes (blocking) will commence as the music is learned.

All scheduled rehearsals MUST be attended! Absences disrupt the rehearsal process.

****NOTE! Absences may necessitate replacing you in the production!****

To meet the above criteria the following must be agreed to:

- Attend rehearsals as called.
- Contribute to the production enthusiastically.
- Take direction.
- Wear costumes, wigs & makeup as directed.
- Attend publicity/photo calls.
- Attend working bees as rostered.
- Supply footwear as directed by wardrobe coordinator.
- Give **full co-operation** at all times to the production team.
- Attend costume calls.
- Arrive **on time (10 minutes before start time)** in order to start promptly.
- Do not miss **any** rehearsal calls.
- **Maintain a positive and supportive attitude towards the company and the production team!**
- **Sell tickets to the show.**
- **Inform the Production Secretary as early as possible of any absences from rehearsals.**

I have read the above and, if accepted into the production, I agree to abide by these criteria.

I agree to have my name and image published on the cast list on the NOVA website, Social Media Platforms & used for other publicity.

YES NO

Signed **Date**

Print Name