

Grumpy Old Men, The Musical features a cast of eccentric small-town Midwesterners, led by two feuding aging neighbors and the free-spirited woman who disrupts their routine.

Principal Characters

John Gustafson (Senior Male, 70s):

A retired, conservative, and finicky Midwestern high school teacher who is deeply set in his ways. He carries a decades-long grudge against Max.

Voice Type: Baritone / Tenor.

Vocal Profile: Needs a solid musical theater mix. His songs rely heavily on comedic timing, but he also carries sincere, lyrical moments. He must be comfortable singing up to a sustained E4 / F4.

Max Goldman (Senior Male, 70s):

A cranky, quick-witted retired TV repairman. He is a master of insults and practical jokes, maintaining a 50-year feud with John.

Voice Type: Baritone

Vocal Profile: A conversational, character-driven voice. Max's songs are punchy, rhythmically driven, and full of bravado, staying primarily in a comfortable middle baritone tessitura. He finishes the show with a surprising, tender ballad.

Ariel Truax (Female, 50s):

A beautiful, playful, and eccentric college literary professor. She moves to town with a poetic flair, a mysterious past, and a free spirit that captures both men's attention.

Voice Type: Mezzo-Soprano / Alto Belt

Vocal Profile: Sultry, expressive, and commanding. She needs a rich lower extension and a confident, soulful belt/mix up to C5 / D5 to match her free-spirited, alluring character numbers.

Grandpa Gustafson (Male, plays 94):

John's father. He is unfiltered, hilariously blunt, and possesses a "who cares" attitude toward life. Jokes made by this character include sexual innuendo.

Voice Type: Character Baritone

Vocal Profile: Pure character singing. Vocal precision takes a backseat to extreme comedic energy, gravelly delivery, and perfect comedic pacing.

Melanie Norton (Female, 30s–40):

John's daughter. She is a real estate agent whose marriage is falling apart, and she is looking for a fresh start.

Voice Type: Soprano / Mezzo-Soprano with a strong belt

Vocal Profile: The principal female romantic voice. Needs an emotionally resonant, contemporary musical theater belt. She shares soaring harmonies and duets with Jacob.

Jacob Goldman (Male, 30s–45):

Max's son. A mild-mannered lawyer who harbors a long-time secret crush on Melanie and is ready for a major life change.

Voice Type: Contemporary Lyric Tenor / High Baritone

Vocal Profile: One of the most "legit" singing roles in the male cast. He carries traditional musical theater romance duets with Melanie, requiring a warm tone, strong vocal control, and a clean upper range reaching G4.

Chuck Barrels (Male, 45–65):

The kind, easy-going local general store and bait shop owner who loves telling stories.

Voice Type: Baritone

Vocal Profile: Warm, rich, and folky. As the friendly bait shop owner, his vocals feel approachable, grounded, and narrative-driven.

Punky Barrels (Female, 50s):

Chuck's wisecracking, loyal niece who is a relative newcomer to town.

Voice Type: Alto / Mezzo Character Voice

Vocal Profile: Quirky and conversational. Like Grandpa, her vocal tracks are comedic and require a performer who prioritizes character work and lyric delivery over pure vocal lines.

Sandra Snyder (Female, 35–50):

An unrelenting, strictly-by-the-book local tax collector.

Voice Type: Mezzo-Soprano Character Belt

Vocal Profile: Sharp, brassy, and aggressive. Her musical numbers are villain-esque and high-energy, requiring a powerful, piercing belt that can cut through the orchestration.

Supporting & Ensemble Roles (Adults all ages)

Harry: The town's accident-prone, affable postman.

Tim: The community's somewhat dubious minister.

Unis: An avid, passionate bird-watcher married to Tim.

Stan: A timid, browbeaten local polka champion.

Fran: Stan's domineering, self-righteous wife and the local town gossip.

Karla: The friendly local who runs the coffee cart (and doubles as a nurse).

Bo & Lo: Young local hockey players who also double as movers and orderlies.

Town Ensemble: Additional townspeople, moving men, and local characters of all ages.