

THE 2024 CARY-GROVE MUSICAL



THE ADDAMS FAMILY, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story and it's every father's nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family– a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn't upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before– keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents. –*Information courtesy of theatricalrights.com*

AUDITION/PRODUCTION INFORMATION

- Anticipated cast size: 60–70 students
- ALL Cary–Grove students may audition and must remain academically eligible for the duration of the production.
- This production is rated PG13 by Theatrical Rights Worldwide and parent permission is required to audition.
- Audition packets will be available online at www.carygrovechoirs.org and posted in Canvas for choir students at **3pm on Monday, November 20**. Limited hard copies will be available in the choir room as needed **after school on Tuesday, November 21**. Please look over the packets online and prepare the packet that best showcases your abilities.
- The initial vocal audition will be held on **Friday, December 15**, from 3pm–7pm (come when it is convenient for you)
- Callbacks will be **Monday, December 18**, at 5:30pm (lead and dance callbacks) and **Tuesday, December 19**, at 5:30pm (individuals called back for leading roles only).
- Cast list will be posted on **Wednesday, December 20**, at 2:00pm. There will be a read-through for all denoted leads beginning at 2:30pm in D19.
- Rehearsals begin **Tuesday, January 9**. Those cast as leads should assume a commitment of 5–6 days per week (including Sunday). Chorus members should assume 3–4 days per week with rehearsals usually in the evenings and on some Saturday mornings/afternoons.
- Production dates: Friday, March 8 (7:00 pm), Saturday, March 9 (7:00 pm), Sunday, March 10 (2:00 pm), Thursday, March 14 (7:00 pm), Friday, March 15 (7:00 pm), and Saturday, March 16 (7:00 pm)
- The Broadway cast album is very different from the current script. There will be a link to a folder of example tracks for your practice at www.carygrovechoirs.org.

CHARACTERS

- **Gomez Addams (35–55, tenor/baritone):** A suave man of Spanish descent who adores his wife and children and takes immense pride in being an Addams. Gomez finds himself trapped between his daughter and his wife, being forced to hide Wednesday's big secret from Morticia. He has great comedic timing and is a strong dancer. Spanish accent is a plus! IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Morticia Addams (35–55, soprano/mezzo):** The beautiful, leggy and mysterious head of the Addams family who believes strongly in family tradition. Morticia is unnerved thinking that Gomez is hiding something from her. She is confident and sexy with a side of dry wit. She is a strong mover (tango skills a plus!) IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Wednesday Addams (18–22, pop soprano/mezzo):** Gothic big sister Wednesday who has her father's heart and her mother's sensibility falls in love with a "normal" boy who she brings home to meet the family. Wednesday is trying to balance her relationships with "strange" family with that of her new love and his "normal" family. Wednesday showcases compassion, a bit of stubbornness and strong will. She has a strong belt. IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Pugsley Addams (10–13, unchanged/soprano/alto OR tenor/baritone):** The youngest of the Addams Family, Pugsley loves to be tortured by his big sister. He is lost trying to figure out his place now that she has a new boyfriend and family dynamics are changing. Pugsley is charming and funny. There will be audition options for unchanged/soprano/alto OR tenor/baritone voices. IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Uncle Fester (30–50, tenor/baritone):** Serving as the narrator of the show, Uncle Fester is lovable, childish, enthusiastic and highly incorrigible. Fester has great comedic timing and a tenor voice. Ukulele skills a plus! IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Grandma (102, alto/mezzo):** Fun, quirky and feisty, Grandma always has a trick up her sleeve. Grandma is wise, wacky and sometimes a bit crass. She has great comedic timing and physicality.
- **Lurch (25–50, bass)** A man of few words, Lurch is the Addams Family butler. His unmistakable commanding presence is accented by grunts, moans and deliberate movement. Must have great non-verbal story-telling abilities (think: facial expressions and sound). Lurch has a rich bass voice.
- **Mal Beinecke (40–55, high baritone/tenor)** The uptight and father of Lucas and cold-shouldered husband to Alice, cynical Mal meets the Addams with skepticism. He finds the Addams to be too bizarre for his liking and cannot fathom being related to them. IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Alice Beinecke (40 – 55, soprano/high belt)** Lucas's mother and Mal's wife, Alice is strongly devoted to her family. She presents herself as reserved and collected (even when speaking in rhyme) until she learns to unleash her wild side at dinner with the Addams. She is a strong comedic actress with a strong belt. IHSMTA eligible role.
- **Lucas Beinecke (18–22, pop tenor)** The hopeful romantic and son of Alice & Mal, Lucas has fallen in love with Wednesday and intends to marry her. He is optimistic and hopeful yet struggles to find the balance between his 'normal' family and the macabre Addams. Strong singer. IHSMTA eligible role.

ENSEMBLE

- The Addams Ancestors

PLOT SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Hundreds of years ago, the Addams family ancestors came from the old country and settled on a plot of land in what is now New York's Central Park. This was, of course, long before it was a park, when it was still wilderness. The family flourished for many generations, and eventually, a huge house was built where a great Spanish oak, the Addams Family Tree, had been planted to protect the ancestral graves from such annoyances as sunlight and tourists.

As the curtain rises, the last dead leaf of autumn falls from the Family Tree, and all's right with the morbid, macabre world of Gomez, Morticia, Fester, Grandma, Wednesday, Pugsley and Lurch. They've gathered – where else? – in the family graveyard, to celebrate life and death in a yearly ritual to connect with their past and ensure their future (*When You're an Addams*). They seem at peace, not just with each other and their inimitable, unchanging Addams-ness, but with their dead ancestors, too – who emerge from their graves on this

night each year to join in this celebration of continuity. But, at the end of the ritual, Fester blocks the ancestors' return to their graves. Those unchanging Addams family values are about to be tested (*Fester's Manifesto*).

Fester enlists their help to set things right, just in case a new family secret goes terribly wrong. What's the secret? Wednesday Addams, that irresistible bundle of malice, has grown up and found love. So what's the problem? The young man, Lucas Beineke, is from Ohio, and his parents are coming to dinner to meet the family. Two different worlds are about to collide. Will love triumph, or will everyone go home vaguely depressed? Wednesday confesses to her father that Lucas has asked her to marry him and that she plans to say yes. She asks him to keep the secret from Morticia and he agrees (*Trapped*). However, Morticia's suspicions bloom when she and Gomez eavesdrop on Wednesday, who, in the midst of her afternoon play-date with Pugsley, refuses to torture her brother and involuntarily bursts into song – extolling all things bright and beautiful as love pulls her in an entirely new, and cheerful, direction (*Pulled*).

Morticia instructs Gomez to cancel the dinner to protect their daughter. Wednesday begs her parents not to cancel, and exhorts the entire family to act as 'normal' as possible when Lucas and his parents arrive (*One Normal Night*). She loves her family just the way they are, but they clearly fall outside the realm of what the Middle-American Beinekes are used to, and Wednesday's afraid that, if his parents don't approve of her, they'll take Lucas back to Ohio, and she'll never see him again. Like any unconditionally loving family, the Addams' promise to do their best to oblige while, lost somewhere in Central Park, young Lucas asks his parents to resist any judgments and all catastrophic conflicts, so both families can enjoy one normal night. Fester and the ancestors watch their arrival and make plans to help love win out. When they arrive at the house, the Beinekes are introduced to the peculiar Addamses and welcomed in.

Mal Beineke and Gomez have cigars in the Grotto while Morticia and Alice Beineke share a bottle of wine in the Boudoir and discuss marriage (*Secrets*). Later, Gomez, Lucas and Wednesday make plans to tell Morticia about the engagement, but she sees them and her suspicions grow (*Gomez's What If*). In yet another part of the house, Pugsley, having witnessed Wednesday and Lucas making out, worries that he's lost his best friend to her new, disgustingly sunny disposition (*What If*). Plotting to break up the happy couple, Pugsley steals a volatile potion from Grandma's private stash – Acrimonium – one swig of which is guaranteed to bring out the dark side in anyone who drinks it. After what is likely a less-than-normal meal, Morticia suggests that it's time for the traditional Addams family game, "Full Disclosure" – during which everyone takes a sip from a sacred chalice and reveals something they've never told anyone (*Full Disclosure*). Gomez uses his Disclosure to try, again in vain, to calm Morticia. Fester announces that he's in the throes of a most unlikely love – with the moon. When it's Wednesday's turn, Pugsley seizes his chance! He secretly pours the Acrimonium potion in the chalice and passes it to his sister. But his plan to awaken the dark side in Wednesday goes horribly wrong when Alice, coughing, intercepts the chalice and downs the potion instead. A whole new Alice, very dark and uninhibited, is born. The powerful poison prompts her to reveal the long-buried problems with her marriage, humiliating Mal, who, fed up with all the weird and creepy events of the evening, makes to leave, with Alice and Lucas in tow. Wednesday blurts out the news: "Lucas and I are getting married!" Chaos engulfs both families like a tidal wave, and Fester, ever-helpful, urges the Family Ancestors to work some magic – whipping up a sudden, terrible storm and trapping the Beinekes with the Addams family for the night.

ACT II

While the storm rages, Wednesday packs a bag, but Lucas has no appetite for running away and getting married without his parents' blessing. Wednesday, furious at everything it means to be normal, and furious at herself for trying so hard to become somebody his parents would accept, leaves alone. One more of Gomez' episodes prompts Morticia to throw him out of her boudoir. Her world is changing and she's not ready, and her only comfort is knowing that death is waiting for her, just around the corner (*Just Around the Corner*). But it is very cold comfort indeed. In the guest room, Alice, under the influence of the darkness potion, can no longer rhyme. Neither can she tolerate her husband's cynical attacks on Lucas and love. She packs him off with a pillow and blanket to sleep somewhere else, as the storm inside her heart, and outside in the park, rumbles to a conclusion.

Once the rains have stopped, Fester heads outside for a couple of hours of moon-bathing, realizing – after observing the three couples fighting – the sheer luck of being in a long-distance relationship, with the distant silver orb in the sky that smiles down on him from the heavens (*The Moon and Me*). Sitting under the family

tree, contemplating the twists and turns of this most unusual night, Gomez stops Wednesday on her way out of the park. He realizes the thing he was most resistant to – his baby girl’s growing up – is inevitable, and proper. He sees that she’s a young woman in love. And that makes him happy. And a tiny bit sad (*Happy Sad*). With her father’s blessing, Wednesday offers Lucas one test to prove that he’s The One. The test involves her skills with a crossbow, an apple, and Lucas standing with said apple on his head in front of the family tree. The boy is afraid of death, but even more afraid of losing Wednesday. He chooses the possibility of death over the certainty of loss – and wins (*Crazier Than You*). Meanwhile, Fester convinces Mal to tell Alice how he truly feels about her while Morticia comforts Pugsley and then makes plans to leave. Far below, in the grotto, Gomez plans to make it up to Morticia by taking her on a trip (*Not Today*) until Fester warns him that Morticia is leaving and he goes to stop her.

Gomez woos his wife (*Let’s Live Before We Die*), as he first did one night many years before, with the promise to “laugh and cry and dance until the very gods weep with envy.” The mournful strains of a bandoneon waft up on the breeze, entwining with the tempting wail of a violin – and a tango begins – the Tango de Amor, the quintessence of Eros, the dance that makes men weep and women cry out in the night (*Tango de Amor*). The irresistible expression of love between husband and wife. And Morticia cannot resist. With all three couples reunited, Fester is emboldened to make his move, and launches himself to the moon (*Finale: Move Toward the Darkness*). Landing safely, his face appears – the man in the moon – and, love having emphatically triumphed in heaven and on earth, the gate to the family crypt swings open, allowing the spirits of the ancestors to rest for another year. It’s been a night of darkness. Everything’s changed. And the new, extended family understands: The unknown may be frightening, the darkness overwhelming, but if we don’t run from it, we may see our mysterious, miraculous lives finally illuminated. If we move toward the darkness, we might find love and acceptance. For when it is dark enough, we can see the stars.

– Rick Elice (Book)