

Auditions for leading roles in the 2026 Schmeckfest musical “Bright Star” will be held on December 8th 2025 in Music Hall on the Freeman Academy campus. Actors will be asked to prepare song and dialogue excerpts that are available at the Freeman Public Library. A sign-up sheet will be available to indicate your preferred time slot beginning at 6:30 pm.

The following roles will be considered:

Alice Murphy: Alice is portrayed both as a late teenager in the 1920s and an older version of herself in the 1940s. As a young woman, she constantly works to create her own powerful voice despite being stifled by gender norms in her town. In her thirties, she is hilariously blunt and honest, demanding respect both because of her intellectual capacity and confident attitude. She is more reserved than her romantic younger self, but she still retains her caring spirit and adventurous side. **Vocal Range: G3-E5**

Jimmy Ray: Jimmy is a late teenager in the 1920s and an adult in the 1940s. As a teenager, Jimmy Ray is eager to explore the world, learn, and find something meaningful to do with his life. He is confident and witty, matching Alice’s adventurous spirit as their love for each other grows. In the 1940s, Jimmy Ray still has his confidence and playfulness but is filled with guilt and a fear that he can’t fix what has been broken in his life. **Vocal Range: B2-F#4**

Billy Cane: Billy is a young man who has just returned home from World War II. He is filled with an energetic optimism and youthful passion for life, determined to see beauty in the world despite the hardships he faced in the war. At times naive and idealistic, Billy’s energy propels him to follow his aspirations. He is self-assured and remains hopeful that his eloquent writing can contribute something important to the world. **Vocal Range: C3-G#4**

Mayor Dobbs: Mayor Dobbs is a powerful man consumed by his ideas of tradition and structure. He wants the best for his son, Jimmy Ray, and believes in the power of consistency, however, he is willing to do anything to keep the image of his perfect life. He acts as a counterpoint to Alice’s core beliefs and the messages of the show, demonstrating how societal pressures can infringe upon doing what’s best for loved ones. **Vocal Range: Bb2-F4**

Auditions for all other roles including chorus parts will be held on January 5th 2026. More information in the coming weeks! Please contact Artistic Director Will Ortman [willortman@yahoo.com or 605-660-5472] for any questions, concerns, or more information.