

CAST OF CHARACTERS FOR RUTH

- Samuel:** The prophet, the narrator and assumed author of the Book of Ruth. This male vocalist must have a commanding voice and strong stage presence.
- Boaz:** Son of Salmon and Rahab (approximately 35-55 years of age) in whose field Ruth happens to glean. Must have commanding voice and strong stage presence. Sings solos and duets.
- Tobiah:** The oldest son of Elimelech's brother Beriah. Strong character role. The nearer kinsman.
- Naomi:** The wife of Elimelech, mother-in-law of Ruth. She ages from newlywed to older widow. Her name means 'pleasant' which once characterized her demeanor (and her voice). However, a series of disappointments and the deaths of her husband and sons leave her bitter and empty. She gradually awakens to God's faithfulness and purpose through the impact of Ruth's loving loyalty and the gracious provision of a kinsman-redeemer. This part calls for a Jewish mother's humor and a pleasant singing voice (mezzo- soprano).
- Elimelech:** The prodigal potter, whose name means 'God is my king'. He loses his life and legacy by forsaking Bethlehem in time of famine and resorting to the idolatrous nation of Moab for his livelihood. Actor playing this role can also play other character roles.
- Abigail:** Friend of Naomi. This character part also sings.
- Rebecca:** A sister of Naomi. Singer-character role.
- Beriah:** His name meaning 'in trouble'. The brother of Elimelech who also leaves Bethlehem during the famine.
- Mahlon:** Eldest son of Elimelech and Naomi. Tenor. Sings solo and challenging sextet.
- Chilion:** Younger son of Elimelech and Naomi. Character part. Sings duet.
- Ruth:** Wife and widow of Mahlon. Daughter-in-law of Naomi. This central character has a strong pleasant and dramatic singing voice. Speaks with an accent distinguishing her as a foreigner. She has an innocence and earnestness as a seeker. She continually makes discoveries and cleaves to them as she seeks to know the person and plan of Yahweh.
- Orpah:** Wife of Chilion. Daughter-in-law of Naomi. Singing role.
- Shimron:** The caravan leader. Comical character role.

Members of the caravan to Bethlehem.

- Shalisha:** Another friend of Ruth. A widow. Strong character role.
- Chephirah:** Her name means young lioness. She is another widow working in the fields of Boaz. Sings and dances
- Tarah:** Another friend of Ruth. Sings and dances.
- Jabesh:** The foreman of the harvesters. Character role.
- Abiram:** His name means 'my father is exalted'. Young male. Apprentice of Boaz. Strong acting role. Sings.
- Coniah:** His name means 'Yahweh has established'. Age 7-12. Younger brother of Abiram. Strong acting role. Sings a short solo.
- Ben-Ibzan:** Friend of Elimelech.
- Jehoash:** Worker in Boaz's field.
- Abinadab:** His name means 'father of a willing giver'. One of the elders of Bethlehem.
- People of Bethlehem Judah, Priests of Tribe of Levi, Friends, and Revelers at Festival of Chemosh. Workers in the Harvest:** Singers and dancers

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email us at info@newlifefinearts.org or call New Life at (978) 369-0061.