

# Who's Who in *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*

CHARACTER	VOICE TYPE	THE LOWDOWN
<b>Charles</b> A young man, 20 years old	baritone	Charles is the central character of the opera, and we view all the action through his eyes.
<b>Char'es-Baby</b> The younger version of Charles, 7 years old	treble (a child with a soprano range)	Sweet, bookish, and small for his age, Char'es-Baby is adored by the adults of his town but picked on by his brothers and other kids.
<b>Billie</b> Charles's mother	soprano	Billie loves her son, but the day-to-day challenges of her life leave her with little energy to take care of his emotional needs.
<b>Nathan, William, James, and Robert</b> Charles's brothers, between two and six years older than him	tenor, baritone, and bass	Charles's brothers are his closest friends, but they also pick on him, taunting his feelings and questioning his "manliness."
<b>Spinner</b> Charles's father	tenor	Although he is officially a musician, Spinner's main pastime is flirting with women. He does almost nothing to help out around the house.
<b>Uncle Paul</b> Charles's uncle	bass-baritone	While his brothers are at school and his mother is at work, Char'es-Baby spends the day with his Uncle Paul. Paul can neither read nor write, but he possesses other kinds of knowledge—like how to garden—that Char'es-Baby admires.
<b>Destiny</b>	soprano, all performed by the same singer	Described by the libretto as "both friend and foe," Destiny pushes Charles toward actions that may help him feel better—or may make him more miserable in the long run.
<b>Loneliness</b>		Loneliness is one of the few constants in Charles's life, an embodiment of his feelings of not fitting in.
<b>Greta</b> Charles's girlfriend		When Charles falls in love with Greta, he thinks he has finally found someone with whom he can truly connect. Unfortunately, Greta already has a boyfriend whom she will choose over Charles.
<b>Chester</b> Charles's cousin	baritone	At first, Char'es-Baby looks up to his friendly older cousin. But Chester's horrible betrayal will leave Charles feeling confused and alone.



CHARLES



CHAR'ES BABY



BILLIE



CHARLES'S BROTHERS



SPINNER



UNCLE PAUL



DESTINY  
LONELINESS  
GRETA



CHESTER