

## **MUSIC MAN SYNOPSIS**

There's trouble in River City! When smooth-talking con man Harold Hill arrives in a small, tight-knit town in Iowa, he expects to dupe its residents with his elaborate moneymaking scheme: Despite his complete lack of musical literacy, he will convince everyone that he is a brilliant bandleader and recruit all the kids in town to form a band, pocketing the cash for instruments and uniforms. The problem? Some of the town members, especially the stern librarian, Marian Paroo, don't quite buy Harold's story. As Harold struggles to keep his scheme afloat, he also finds himself increasingly attached to the townspeople, who have all experienced a positive change since Harold came to town. Complicating matters even more, Harold is also falling head-over-heels for Marian the librarian. As All-American as apple pie and as charming as can be, *The Music Man* is a crowd-pleasing show with a great number and range of roles!

## **CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Harold Hill**

Our story's unsuspecting protagonist. A con man, traveling under the auspices of a salesman, he eventually falls in love with Marian Paroo. Charismatic and charming. Passionate and sly. A big personality who rarely leaves the stage. A song and dance man!

### **Marian Paroo**

A Daughter of Mrs. Paroo, sister to Winthrop. She is the stuffy, conceited librarian and piano teacher in town. At first, after meeting Harold Hill, she dislikes him but then gets to know him better and we see a transformation in her while she falls in love. She realizes that like her, in spite of their reputations, he is earnest in wanting to make a difference. Legit Soprano vocals throughout the show.

### **Marcellus Washburn**

Marcellus works in town and is dating Ethel Toffelmeir. He knows Harold from a long time ago. When they are reunited in River City, they become fast friends again. Always ready for a laugh. He is fun and boisterous. Sings "Shipooopi".

### **Mrs. Paroo**

Widowed, Irish mother to Marian and Winthrop. Sweet homemaker who wants the best for everyone. Gives Marian a lot of advice about finding a man. Dotes on Winthrop. Falls for Harold's con. Always keeps her hands busy.

### **Winthrop Paroo**

Marian's little brother. Does not talk because he misses his deceased father and is embarrassed by his noticeable lisp. Learns to trust again and fully embraces Harold and the band by the end of the show. Sings "Gary, Indiana".

### **Mayor Shinn**

The Mayor of River City. Somewhat blustery, pompous, not terribly intelligent. Gets a lot of things wrong! Listens to wife. Protective of daughter, Zaneeta, who he thinks is dating the wrong boy in town. Stereotypical small-town politician.

### **Eulalie Shinn**

Mayor Shinn's wife. Definitely a society lady. Knows everyone in town. Struts like a peacock. Somewhat snooty. Member of every auxiliary organization in town. Has some strange ideas and doesn't think she looks as ridiculous as she really is. Keeps husband in line.

### **Zaneeta Shinn**

Mayor's & Eulalie's bubbly teenage daughter. Has a crush on the "bad" boy in town, Tommy. Not rebellious but learning to stand up for herself. Dancing skills a plus!

### **Gracie Shinn**

Mayor's and Eulalie's younger daughter. Somewhat of a troublemaker and a bit devilish.

### **Olin Britt, Oliver Hix, Ewart Dunlop, Jacey Squires**

Members of the School Board who do not get along with each other. However, once Harold gets them to sing together, they are inseparable and not only learn to sing in harmony but behave in harmony.

**Ethel Toffelmier**

Plays the player piano. Is jolly and friendly. She is dating Marcellus. She does gossip, however, with the other ladies in town. Vocally featured in “Pick-a-Little, Talk-a-Little”.

**Alma Hix, Maud Dunlop, Mrs. Squires**

Gossip ladies in town who are best friends with the Mayor’s wife. Vocally featured in “Pick-a-Little, Talk-a-Little”.

**Tommy Djilas**

A teenager who has a crush on Zaneeta. Wants to do the right thing but is shunned by all because he comes from the “other” side of town so he is considered the “bad” boy in town. Harold befriends him, makes him useful and gives Tommy self-confidence and trust. Dancing skills a plus!

**Charlie Cowell**

A rival traveling anvil salesman. First seen on train at the start of the show. Returns to town to warn them about Harold and, hopefully, make themselves a hero. Loud and determined.

**Constable Locke**

Town policeman. Always ready to do as instructed. Handcuffs Harold.

**Amaryllis**

Young piano student of Marian’s. Sweet, but playful. Has a crush on Winthrop.

**Conductor**

Conductor on train. Very business like. Intent on collecting tickets and doing their job.

**Traveling Salespeople**

Various business types on train that warn each other about what they’ve heard about Harold Hill. None of them have ever met him but all know about his

reputation. They do not realize that he is there among them and can hear everything they are saying. They have a syncopated song in the beginning of the show – no singing but patterned to sound like a moving train.

### **River City Townspeople**

These are small town folks who are proud of their town. Extremely serious until Harold brings a joy to their lives they have never known. They consist of parents, teenagers and children- of all ages!