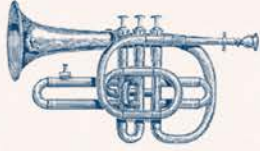


Centre/Stage



**MEREDITH
WILLSON'S**



THE MUSIC MAN

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

Supported by:



TOM



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Welcome to CentreStage!

It's time to join us in River City!

I am thrilled to announce that CentreStage will be holding auditions for the highly anticipated production of The Music Man. As Managing Director of CentreStage, I am excited to invite performers from all backgrounds to take part in this exciting opportunity.

At Centrestage, we are committed to celebrating inclusion and promoting diversity within our community theatre. As a multi-award-winning organisation, including the Geelong Business Excellence Awards, we are proud to be recognised for our efforts in creating a space where everyone is welcomed and encouraged to shine.

We are searching for talented individuals who are passionate about the arts and eager to be a part of this vibrant production. Whether you have extensive experience or are just starting out, we invite you to come and showcase your talents in a welcoming and supportive environment.

We believe that the power of theatre lies in its ability to bring people together, and we are committed to creating a production that is reflective of our diverse community. We encourage performers from all walks of life to join us for this exciting opportunity.

Thank you for your interest in CentreStage and The Music Man. We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!



David Greenwood
Managing Director



**“76 TROMBONES
LED THE BIG PARADE”**





We, CentreStage Pty Ltd, acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to the Elders both past and present. We thank the Traditional Owners for custodianship of the land and celebrate the continuing culture of the Wadawurrung people acknowledging the memory of honourable ancestors.

We also welcome all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people auditioning for CentreStage or watching the virtual information session/reading this booklet



Synopsis

"The Music Man" is a beloved American musical that takes audiences on a heartwarming journey to the small town of River City, Iowa, in the early 20th century. With infectious music and unforgettable characters, this classic tale explores themes of change, love, and the power of music to bring a community together.

The story begins as a charismatic and charming con artist, Professor Harold Hill, arrives in River City with a devious plan to swindle the townspeople by convincing them that their youth are in moral danger and can be saved through the establishment of a boys' band. He sells musical instruments and uniforms to the parents, promising to teach their children how to play, despite the fact that he knows nothing about music.

In River City, Hill meets Marian Paroo, the town's skeptical librarian and piano teacher. Marian, initially suspicious of Hill's intentions, becomes a central figure in the story as she discovers the truth about him. Despite her reservations, Marian finds herself falling in love with Hill, which adds complexity to her efforts to reveal his true nature.

As the story unfolds, the townspeople, including the Mayor and his wife, form a barbershop quartet, young lovers emerge, and the community begins to come together through their involvement in the band. Hill's plan appears to be working until the truth begins to unravel. Marian's younger brother, Winthrop, who had been struggling to speak due to a lisp, finds his voice through music, and the town starts to change in positive ways.

"The Music Man" ultimately showcases the transformative power of music, the importance of honesty and community, and the redemptive potential of love. It is a joyful and heartwarming tale filled with memorable songs like "76 Trombones," "Till There Was You," and "Ya Got Trouble."

In the end, "The Music Man" reminds us that even the most unlikely heroes can inspire positive change and that love has the ability to heal and bring people together, creating harmony in both music and life.

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman



Michele Marcu

Director
She/Her



David Greenwood

Director
He/They



Lochlan Erard

Choreographer
(He/They/Androgynous)



Gabriel Taburet

Musical Director
He/Him



Cate Dunstan

Vocal Director
She/Her

Performance Dates

Geelong Arts Centre - The Play House Theatre
Tickets at www.geelongartscentre.org.au or 1300 251 200

Friday 8th March 7.30pm
Saturday 9th March 1.00pm and 7.30pm
Thursday 14th March 7.30pm
Friday 15th March 7.30pm
Saturday 16th March 1.00pm and 7.30pm
Sunday 17th March 5.00pm
Wednesday 20th March 7.30pm
Thursday 21st March 7.30pm
Friday 22nd March 7.30pm
Saturday 23rd March 1.00pm and 7.30pm

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

Adult Audition Information

Auditions for adult roles are open to people aged 16+ at the time of auditions.

Adult vocal auditions are by appointment only and will be approximately 5 minutes in duration. Vocal Auditions will be located at 22 Princes Highway, Norlane and can be booked at www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

Please prepare one (1) audition song of up to one minute duration. Please choose a classic or golden age song in the style of Music Man that is not from the show.

Auditions are to be performed to a backing track. Auditionees are required to bring their backing track on a device with a 3.5mm head phone jack output. No sheet music required. Please choose a song that best demonstrates your vocal range and your performance ability. A separate vocal range test may also be requested.

There will be a space to warm up prior. Auditionees may not enter as a duo and must complete the audition as a solo. Please note, we may be running behind by 10 mins on some evenings.

Adult Vocal Auditions

- Monday 9th October - 22 Princes Highway
- Tuesday 10th October - 22 Princes Highway
- Wednesday 11th October - 22 Princes Highway

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

Adult Dance Audition

Message from the Choreographer:

Join us for the Adult Dance Audition on Sunday, October 8th, at 26 Rodney Rd, North Geelong. Please take note of the schedule below:

Session 1: Performance and Movement-Based Call

- Time: 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
- Attendance: Compulsory for all adult auditionees

Session 2: Dance Call

- Time: 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- Invitation Only: Participants selected from Session 1

Session 3: Further Dance Call

- Time: 4:40 pm - 5:30 pm
- Invitation Only: Participants selected from Session 2

Our team has a vision for "The Music Man" that emphasises the art of storytelling through dance and stylised movement. We will explore various physical language styles to breathe new life into this production. Your technical abilities will be essential in realising this vision.

This production features both intense dance numbers that demand precision and dedication, as well as moments where character and narrative must shine through beautiful physical language. We seek performers who can seamlessly blend both elements, creating breathtaking artistry. When executing choreography, think like an actor, as the intention behind your movements is paramount.

All cast members must participate in the dance auditions for consideration. The production team may invite some participants to stay for additional sessions, as we have diverse roles to fill, each requiring unique skills.

Please wear clothing that allows freedom of movement, and if you are scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd session, fitted attire is preferred to showcase your lines. Don't forget to bring runners and jazz shoes if available. For female-identifying performers or those who prefer them, chorus heels are encouraged.

Be advised that the session times listed above may be subject to change throughout the day. Your commitment to this audition is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing your talent and dedication on display at the Adult Dance Audition for "The Music Man."

We will be casting a "Dance Ensemble" and "Character Ensemble" respectively.

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

Youth Auditions

We're inviting youth performers to audition for The Music Man. We're looking for approximately 24 youth characters for the production. Youth auditionees will be required to attend the relevant audition below:

- **No Pre-Learning Required** You don't need to prepare anything in advance for the audition. Just bring your enthusiasm, energy, and passion for performing!
- **Knowledge of "76 Trombones"** is a Plus While it's not mandatory, having some familiarity with the iconic song "76 Trombones" will be advantageous. If you're already a fan of the music, this is your chance to shine!
- **Dance and Choreography Audition** Get ready to show off your dance moves! During the audition, we'll have a dedicated dance and choreography segment. Wear comfortable clothing that allows you to move freely, and don't forget your sneakers or dance shoes to strut your stuff!
- **Arrival Time: 9:30 AM** To ensure a smooth audition process, please arrive close to 9:30 AM. Our friendly team will be there to welcome you, sign you in, take photos, and provide you with labels. This way, we can keep everything organised and ensure you have the best audition experience possible

Junior Youth Ensemble: (age 8 -12) - 8th October

- Arrival and registration: 9.30am
- Warm Up: 10.00am - 10.20pm
- Singing: 10.20-11.30am
- Dancing: 11.30-12.30pm
- Invitation Section (selected youth auditionees): 12.30-1pm

Teen Youth Ensemble: (age 13-16) - 8th October

- Arrival and registration: 9.30am
- Warm Up: 10.00am - 10.20pm
- Dancing: 10.20-11.30am
- Singing: 11.30-12.30pm
- Invitation Section (selected youth auditionees): 12.30-1pm

Winthrop and Amaryllis Auditions (age 8 -12) - 8th October

Children applying for the roles of Winthrop (male) and Amaryllis (female) will audition in a group workshop setting as per above with the Junior Youth applicants. Students who demonstrate excellent ability, will be invited to audition for the leading youth roles on Monday 16th October from 7pm

We ask parents to remain at the venue for this period, as your child will not be required for the full duration. However, parents will not be permitted in the audition space. We encourage your child to familiarise themselves with song from the show, which will be explored in the audition.

Callback Auditions

Sunday 15th October at 26 Rodney Rd, North Geelong

After the completion of vocal auditions, you may be asked to attend a callback. You will be notified by email if you are required and callback material will be sent to you via email. Not all roles will be called back, and if you are not required for a callback it does not mean you aren't being considered for a role.

Rehearsal Information

- Sundays 12pm-5pm
- Mondays 7:30pm-10:30pm
- Selected Tuesday Evenings on 7th Nov & 20th Nov
- Wednesdays 7:30pm - 10:30pm
- Rehearsal Weekend Saturday 13th Jan and Saturday 20th Jan
- Youth rehearsal session January school holidays (date TBA after 12th Jan)

No rehearsals between Thursday 14th December to Friday 12th January

*CentreStage also has the opportunity to provide 1:1 private vocal lessons for cast members to work on solo's or harmonies within our education program. Those opportunities will be discussed directly with the relevant individuals.

Rehearsals will take place at 26 Rodney Rd, North Geelong and 22 Princes Highway, Norlane during peak rehearsals.

Our strongest advice is to block out the Monday, Wednesday and Sunday rehearsal times throughout the rehearsal period as best you can and assume you will be required most rehearsals. A full rehearsal schedule will be provided at time of casting for the entire run.

Accommodations will be made to those who record known absences on their audition forms. In fairness to everyone, it is expected that you will be available for scheduled rehearsals. Melbourne-based performers are invited to audition and consideration will be made to the travel commitments you may experience in scheduling.

Rehearsals will commence Monday 30th October

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman



The Characters

**Please note ages reflect onstage ages (not actual ages). We encourage you to read the initial audition notes to help you select your song. We have provided Call back materials at www.centrestage.org.au/musicman for those individuals that have been called for a callback. You are not required to learn these for the initial audition*

Marian Paroo

(She/Her, Age 35 - 45, Vocal Range: G3 - A5)

River City librarian and music teacher; lives with her widowed mother and younger brother. Has become guarded and defensive as a result of being at the epicenter of town gossip; has been hyper-focused on raising her younger brother, and fears her chance for romance may have passed her by. Utterly un-charmed by Harold.

Initial Audition:

We encourage you to select a classical musical theatre piece that demonstrates your ability to tell a story. We encourage booking auditions on the first nights of adults auditions.

Callback Material

- My White Night
- Till There Was You

Harold Hill

(He/Him, Age 35- 45, Vocal Range: Ab2 - F4)

A traveling con-man; hops around the country “selling” band uniforms and instruments to a town, skims most of the money off the top, and hops onto the next. Charming, charismatic, fast-talker - incredibly suave, has a “song and dance man” energy - walks the walk, so to speak. Is getting a bit too old to be a con-man; guarded and defensive as a result of never allowing himself to become close to anyone. Marian is the first person he’s discovered that is immune to his charm.

Initial Audition:

We encourage you to select a classical musical theatre piece that demonstrates your ability to tell a story. We recommend ballads and songs that show tempo/rhythm. We encourage booking auditions on the first nights of adults auditions.

Callback Material

- Seventy - Six Trombones
- Till There Was You
- Marcellus and Harold Scene

“You pile up enough tomorrows, and you’ll find you’ve collected nothing but a lot of empty yesterdays.

I don't know about you, but I'd like to make today worth remembering.”

The Characters

Marcellus Washburn

(He/Him, Age 40 - 45, Vocal Range: G2 - A4)

Former con-man; used to run grifts with Harold Hill. Decided the high-risk lifestyle was no longer worth it, and settled down in River City with a nice, comfortable girl. Still has a mischievous streak and a love of the game.

Initial Audition:

We encourage you to select a comedy musical theatre piece that demonstrates your ability to set up a punch line. We recommend shows like "Funny Thing Happened on the way to the forum".

Callback Material

- Shipooopi
- Marcellus and Harold Scene

Mrs. Paroo

(She/Her, Age 55 - 65, Vocal Range: Ab3 - Eb5)

Mother to Marian and Winthrop; Irish immigrant who has carved out a life for herself in River City. Widowed, sassy, and wants love for the people she loves.

Initial Audition:

We encourage you to select a traditional musical theatre piece that demonstrates your ability to show passion and love. Think 'As long he needs me' from Oliver

Callback Material:

- Piano Lesson and If You Don't My Saying So
- Seventy - Six Trombones
- Marian and Mrs. Paroo Scene

Winthrop Paroo - (Youth Role) - Attend the Junior Youth Audition Process

(He/Him, Age 7 - 10, Vocal Range: C4 - Eb5)

Marian's younger brother; incredibly shy because of his lisp. Becomes a whole new person when Harold shows him acceptance and care.

Youth Audition Tip:

Practice a lisp or audible speech impediment (but we still want to hear the words). Song and Movement will be taught on day.

Callback Material:

- Gary Indiana
- Marian, Mrs. Paroo, and Winthrop Scene

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

The Characters

Mayor Shinn

(He/Him, Age 45 - 55)

Blustery, pompous, not terribly intelligent. Big fish in a small pond; inactively misogynist in his desire to be viewed as formidable, and overprotective of his business, daughters, and town.

Callback Material:

- Seventy - Six Trombones

Eulalie Shinn

(She/Her, Age 45 - 55, Vocal Range: D4 - D5)

The Mayor's wife and the engine of town gossip. Proud, a 1912 mean girl; dictates the social hierarchy of the women in town. Tolerates and manages her handful of a husband with varying degrees of patience and success.

Callback Material:

- Seventy - Six Trombones

Zaneeta Shinn

(She/Her, Age 14 - 18, (Attend the Teen Youth Audition)

The Mayor's oldest daughter; is aware she should present a shiny and clean public image for her father's sake, but can't help having feelings for Tommy, the town rebel.

Callback Material

- Seventy - Six Trombones
- Dance Combination

Gracie Shinn

(She/Her, Age 10 - 14)

The Mayor's youngest daughter; a bit of a tattletale and a stickler for the rules.

No Callback required

Tommy Djilas

(He/Him, Age 16 - 18)

The town troublemaker, who happens to have a big crush on the Mayor's daughter; Harold finds a way to channel Tommy's energy into productivity.

Callback Material

- Seventy - Six Trombones
- Dance Combination

Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman

The Characters

Charlie Cowell

(He/Him, Age 40 - 50)

A traveling anvil salesman - sees himself as an honest and hardworking man, and despises Harold Hill for the reputation he is giving to the rest of traveling salesmen. Comes to River City to get Harold arrested and driven out of town. Lecherous and inappropriate with women.

No Callback required

Amaryllis - (Youth Role) - Attend the Junior Youth Audition Process

(She/Her, Age 8 - 10, Vocal Range: C4 - E5)

Piano student of Marian's; has a crush on Winthrop, but doesn't know how to express it.

Callback Material

- Goodnight My Someone
- Amaryllis, Winthrop, Marian, Mrs. Paroo Scene

Olin Britt - QUARTET

(He/Him, Vocal Range: B2 - F4)

A citizen and businessman of River City and member of the quartet formed by Harold Hill.

Jacey Squires - QUARTET

(He/Him, Vocal Range: C3 - C5)

A citizen and businessman of River City and member of the quartet formed by Harold Hill. Married to Mrs. Squires.

Oliver Hix - QUARTET

(He/Him, Vocal Range: F2 - C4)

A citizen and businessman of River City and member of the quartet formed by Harold Hill. Married to Alma Hix.

Ewart Dunlop - QUARTET

(He/Him, Vocal Range: F3 - F5)

A citizen and businessman of River City and member of the quartet formed by Harold Hill. Married to Maud Dunlop

Alma Hix - PICK A LITTLE

(She/Her) - one of Eulalie's gossiping friends, married to Oliver Hix

Mrs. Squires - PICK A LITTLE

(She/Her) - one of Eulalie's gossiping friends, married to Jacey Squires

Ethel Tofelmier - PICK A LITTLE

(She/Her) - one of Eulalie's gossiping friends, in a relationship with Marcellus Washburn

Maud Dunlop - PICK A LITTLE

(She/Her) - one of Eulalie's gossiping friends, married to Ewart Dunlop

The Characters

The creative team are looking at casting two key parts of the Adult Ensemble. They Are:

Dance Intensive Ensemble:

- We are looking for performers who understand how to make stylistic choices with exceptional stage presence.
- Performers who have excellent technical ability.
- Performers who are strong in 2 or more of the following styles: Broadway Musical Theatre, Characterised Theatrical Jazz, Contemporary, Fosse, Ballet.
- Attend the Performance and Movement Based Call for The Music Man and be prepared to participate in session 2 and 3 if invited.
- Vocal Audition: All candidates for the Dance Intensive Ensemble will be required to complete a private vocal audition. Prepare a one-minute musical theatre song that showcases your vocal range.

Character Ensemble:

- We are seeking performers with strong acting abilities, distinctive character choices, and the versatility to bring a variety of roles to life.
- Attend the Performance and Movement Based Call for The Music Man. A number of tracks in the Character Ensemble may be required to do movement and stylised character moments in the production. We are looking for performers who understand how to make stylistic choices with exceptional stage presence.
- Vocal Audition: All candidates for the Character Ensemble will be required to complete a private vocal audition. Prepare a one-minute musical theatre song that showcases your vocal range.

Youth Ensemble

Various “kid” and family roles will be included. Please note children under 14 will be dual cast (i.e., two youth casts) due to Child Safe legislation and safe working practices, but will be required to attend late evenings.



Cast Fees

To ensure the success of our shows and provide you with a fantastic experience, we have outlined our membership fees and volunteer commitments below:

Membership Fee:

- Upon successfully securing a role in our production, each cast member will be required to pay a membership fee of \$125 per person. This fee includes several benefits:
 - Insurance Coverage: You will be covered by our insurance during rehearsals and performances.
 - Cast T-Shirt: You will receive a commemorative cast T-shirt to proudly represent CentreStage.
 - Afterparty Supplies: We will organise a post-show celebration, and your membership fee contributes to the supplies and festivities.

Volunteer Commitment:

- As part of our commitment to building a strong community, each cast member is expected to nominate a person aged 18 or older to support various activities, including Bump In, Bump Out, and other volunteer tasks. This commitment entails dedicating 10 hours of volunteer work throughout the production process.

Option 1 - Waive Volunteer Commitment:

- If you wish to be exempt from the 10-hour volunteer commitment, you may choose to pay an additional fee \$100. By doing so, you remove this obligation and solely focus on your performance.

Option 2 - Waive All Fees and pay nothing

- Alternatively, we offer a second option to waive all membership fees listed above. However, there is a catch. To qualify for this option, you must be willing to contribute 15 additional hours of volunteer work to CentreStage. Once you complete these hours, you will not be required to pay any membership fees.

We believe that both options offer flexibility to our cast members, allowing you to tailor your involvement to your preferences and schedule. We highly encourage active participation in our vibrant community, but we understand that personal circumstances may vary.



Audition Bookings at
www.centrestage.org.au/musicman