

# BEYOND THE SCORE

ISSUE NINETEEN



AWARDS  
GALORE!

A MUSICAL  
TRIUMPH

MEREDITH  
WILSON AND  
MIDWESTERN  
CHARM

SHOW SPOTLIGHT:  
THE MUSIC MAN

A CLOSER LOOK AT MUSICAL THEATRE

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# SHOW SPOTLIGHT: THE MUSIC MAN



*The Music Man* is about a charming man named Professor Harold Hill who proclaims to be a music instructor, selling band uniforms and music lessons, when he is not a music instructor at all! In fact, he knows nothing about music! After getting the money, he skips town and leaves the people he left behind with broken promises and empty wallets. On the run from his previous wrong doings, Harold finds himself in the sleepy town of River City, Iowa. He continues to play out his charade of being a fake music instructor, but finds himself falling in love with the town's librarian, Marian. In the end, Harold is caught and admits to his wrong doing. In a final confrontation at the townhall, Marian asks Harold to lead the band, even though they have no idea how to play. Harold attempts leading them while squeaks and off key notes play through the air. To his surprise, the parents are thrilled to see their kids playing an instrument, no matter how loud or off key they may be. Harold reunites with Marian and the entire production sings a joyful final number.



# AWARDS GALORIE!

**This musical, which premiered in 1957, was an instant hit. It was nominated for eight Tony Awards and won five, including Best Musical. Even one of the original actors was given a Theatre World Award for outstanding debut performance in a musical. This show continues to be a favorite among high school theatres and is performed in many community theatres.**

# A MUSICAL TRIUMPH

The music and lyrics were written by Meredith Wilson. The original Broadway cast album spent 245 weeks on the Music Billboard charts. It was so popular that the album won the first ever Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album in 1959! *The Music Man* has many show stopping songs in the production, so it is no surprise that many people at the time of the premiere were immediately drawn to the music.



What is your favorite song from *The Music Man*? Click [here](#) to submit your answer on jsk stories!

# MEREDITH WILSON & MIDWESTERN CHARM

*The Music Man* was not only composed by Meredith Wilson, but also written by him, along with Franklin Lacey. Wilson's childhood in Mason City, Iowa really inspired him to write this musical. In fact, the show's location, River City, is a fictional town based on Mason City. What makes this musical even more delightful are the townsfolk that Harold Hill interacts with. People in the midwest are kind, sweet, and very friendly, making Harold Hill's lies even more tragic in the story! Meredith Wilson really captured the charm of early 1910's midwest, and made each character so unique and quirky. Not only does Harold Hill fall in love with the town, but so does the audience.



## SOURCES

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