

MUSIC MAN: Character Breakdown

Harold Hill

Harold Hill is a great role for an actor who has charisma and charm & who is comfortable on stage. He should be a great actor, but can be an average singer, and an average mover. The actor needs to be able to memorize lines easily and have a good sense of musical rhythm. **Gender: Male** Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: B3

Marian Paroo

The role of Marian is a different twist on the traditional leading lady. The character progresses greatly during the show, starting as an uptight librarian and transforming into a beautiful and trusting young woman. Marian must have an amazing voice, be an excellent actor, and be able to move well. She must also have an air of confidence that draws Harold and your audience to her. She will also need to be comfortable performing a Starlight stage kiss with two characters-Harold and Charlie Cowell, which requires a certain amount of emotional maturity. **Gender: Female** Vocal range top: G5 Vocal range bottom: G3

Charlie Cowell (non-singing role)

Charlie Cowell is one of the premium acting-only roles. Needs to be a strong actor with a good loud voice who is a bit of a ham and likes being on the stage. He has to be comfortable performing a Starlight stage kiss with Marian, and should have a good sense of comic timing. **Gender: Male**

Mayor Shinn (non-singing role)

The actor playing Mayor Shinn certainly needs a good sense of comic timing, but should be able to perform the role very seriously. This is elemental in creating the humor of this musical., which is based in reality. Mayor Shinn does not have to sing or dance, but he is responsible for a great deal of the pacing and line pick up in the show. Make sure your actor can memorize long monologues. **Gender: Male**

Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn

Everybody wants to play Eulalie. It's a great role for a great comic actress. If Eulalie takes herself seriously, your audience will find her hysterical. Eulalie does have some singing and some dancing, or at least posing. **The leader of the Pick-A-Little Ladies.** Eulalie & Mayor Shinn need to play well off of each other. **Gender: Female** Vocal range top: D5
Vocal range bottom: D4

Marcellus Washburn

This classic sidekick to Harold has been immortalized by comedic greats like Buddy Hacket. Marcellus' big number is "Shipooopi" so the character has to act well, sing reasonably well (although a character voice is best) and be able to dance. An actor should be someone who is just funny all the time. **Gender: Male (or Female)**
Vocal range top: D#5 Vocal range bottom: E4

Ethel Toffelmier

Ethel is Marcellus's girlfriend. She's described by Marcellus as "a nice comfortable girl and the bosses' niece." Ethel has some acting, some singing, and some dancing. **Ethel is also one of the solo Pick-a-Little ladies. Gender: Female**

Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: D4

Mrs. Paroo

Mrs. Paroo is the conscience of River City. She is a great mother, stands up for what she believes in, and gently pushes Marian to think of her future. The role requires an actress who can do a good Irish Brogue, and who can sing and act.

Gender: Female Vocal range top: Eb5 Vocal range bottom: -1

Winthrop Paroo

Winthrop should be a good actor. Winthrop also needs to be able to affect a believable lisp. Winthrop has to transform from a shy child to an outspoken child who not only sings but dances! **Gender: Male (or Female)** Vocal range top: Eb5 Vocal range bottom: C4

Amaryllis

Amaryllis is the slightly bratty girl who studies piano with Marian. Amaryllis should be a good actor, and roughly the same size as Winthrop and Gracie. Just who are Amaryllis' parents is one of the great mysteries of The Music Man JR. and something for you to decide.

Gender: Female

Ewart Dunlop

Ewart is **one of the four quartet members** with the second highest voice or tenor. He is married to Maud Dunlop. Hopefully, the actor can sing but it's not a dealbreaker. Should be a decent actor. **Gender: Male** Vocal range top: F#5 Vocal range bottom: E4

Oliver Hix

Oliver is **one of the four quartet members** with the second lowest voice or baritone. He is married to Alma Hix. Hopefully, the actor can sing but it's not a dealbreaker. Should be a decent actor. **Gender: Male** Vocal range top: F#5 Vocal range bottom: E4

Jacey Squires

Jacey is **one of the four quartet members** with the highest voice or tenor. He is married to Mrs. Squires. Hopefully, the actor can sing but it's not a dealbreaker. Should be a decent actor. **Gender: Male** Vocal range top: A5 Vocal range bottom: B3

Olin Britt

Olin is **one of the four quartet members** with the lowest voice or bass. Hopefully, the actor can sing but it's not a dealbreaker. Should be a decent actor.

Gender: Male Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: A3

Tommy Djilas

Tommy is the teen heartthrob in the show. **Gender: Male**

Zaneeta Shinn

Zaneeta is the daughter of Mayor Shinn & Eulalie. One of the Wa Tan Ye girls. She gets to deliver the classic "Ye gads" line! **Gender: Female**

Gracie Shinn

Gracie is Zaneeta's little sister. One of the Wa Tan Ye girls. This role has one or two lines of dialogue and traditionally is the first soloist in "Wells Fargo Wagon." **Gender:**

Female

Vocal range top: Eb5 Vocal range bottom: B3

Alma Hix

One of the **core members of the Pick-a-little ladies**, requiring actors with strong voices and a good sense of comedy. Alma is married to Oliver. **Gender: Female**

Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: D4

Maud Dunlop

One of the **core members of the Pick-a-little ladies**, requiring actors with strong voices and a good sense of comedy. Maud is married to Ewart. **Gender: Female**

Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: D4

Mrs. Squires

One of the **core members of the Pick-a-little ladies**, requiring actors with strong voices and a good sense of comedy. Mrs. Squires is married to Jacey. **Gender: Female**

Vocal range top: D5 Vocal range bottom: D4

Conductor

The conductor has the first line in the show so this actor needs to be loud and energetic!

Gender: Male (or Female)

Constable Locke

The Constable is a quietly wise man who sees through Harold, but doesn't seem to mind. It's a nice feature for any character actor. **Gender: Male (or Female)**

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ENSEMBLE CHARACTERS

The Ensemble is comprised of Adult-types, teens and kids to play townspeople, traveling salesmen, additional Pick-a-little ladies, Farmer & his Wife, Wa Tan Ye girls and the boys' band.

Traveling Salesmen

You'll want to cast several good actors to play traveling salesmen, especially salesmen number five, number three, and number one. If you find it necessary to cast girls as traveling salesmen make sure they play the roles as men. **Gender: Male (or Female)**

Wa Tan Ye Girls

Little girls can play Wa Tan Ye Girls. They are featured during Eulalie's "Spectacle" just prior to "76 Trombones." **Gender: Female**

Boys' Band

All of your little "boys" can be in the Boys' Band provided you have enough uniforms. The Boys' Band has two main features: "76 Trombones" and the finale of the show. Make sure the boys are a part of a family. **Gender: Male or Female**