# The Utile

The Story of ....

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On the morning of 4th July 1912, a train is heading for River City, a small town in the State of Iowa. On board, Charlie Cowell, one of a group of travelling salesmen, is describing the sales tactics of a Professor Harold Hill. His practise is to sell a town a Boys' Band, complete with instruments, music, uniforms, instruction books and even a guarantee to teach the boys to play. The only trouble is that Harold doesn't know a note of music, meaning he must make a sale, collect his money and leave the town with immaculate timing. Consequently the reception for the next travelling salesman is far from good — 'tarred and feathered and rode out to the city limits on a rail'. Charlie has had the misfortune to follow Harold into a town recently with precisely these results, an experience he has certainly not forgotten. A man sitting alone rises as the train pulls into River City and boldly displays his suitcase marked 'Professor Harold Hill'. The other salesmen are astounded.

With an irresistible sales technique, the townsfolk are soon eating out of Harold's hand. He convinces them that the Mayor's new pool table in his Billard Saloon is the root of all evils, whereas the team spirit as created by his vision of 'Seventy-six Trombones', will cure youthful delinquents, smooth the path of young love and heal long established feuds. Only two are unconvinced – the

Mayor, who resents the attack on his pool table and insists on the Professor producing his credentials, and Marian Paroo, the City Librarian and a music teacher. It is part of Harold's plan to win round the local music teacher, but he finds himself calmly brushed off as a fast talking, soft centred, women chasing travelling man.

With great excitement, especially amongst the boys, the instruments arrive, but Marian can't understand why Harold doesn't teach them to play. To her, his 'Think System' which doesn't bother with any notes, is highly suspicious. Harold has the boys 'thinking' the 'Minuet in C'.

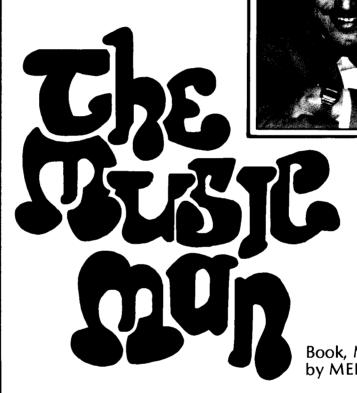
Marian discovers damning evidence against the Professor in the Indiana State Educational Journal, but after a change of heart, manages to tear out the page before the Mayor reads it.

Charlie Cowell arrives in River City determined to denounce Harold to the Mayor, but Marian outwits him by pretending to be attracted to him and so keeps him occupied until the moment his train is due. However, Charlie will not be deterred and as the whole town is enjoying a Gala Entertainment he bursts into the Ice Cream Sociable. Mayor Shinn encourages Charlie to inflame the men of the town to tar and feather Harold for having deceived them. Charlie nearly succeeds in doing so.

Things look bad for Harold even though Marian speaks in his defence, but at the crucial moment the BAND appears for the first time, in uniform, with instruments and ready to play. With no option left, Harold accepts the make-shift baton from Marian and with a 'Think men Think' to the boys he proceeds to lead them in 'Minuet in G', played 'Like it never was before'.

The effect is amazing. The noise is awful but the parents are ecstatic and the audience excited. The hero of the hour, Harold, embraces Marian while Charlie Cowell slinks away.

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Book, Music and Lyrics by MEREDITH WILLSON

Amateur performances by arrangement with Chappell Music Ltd.

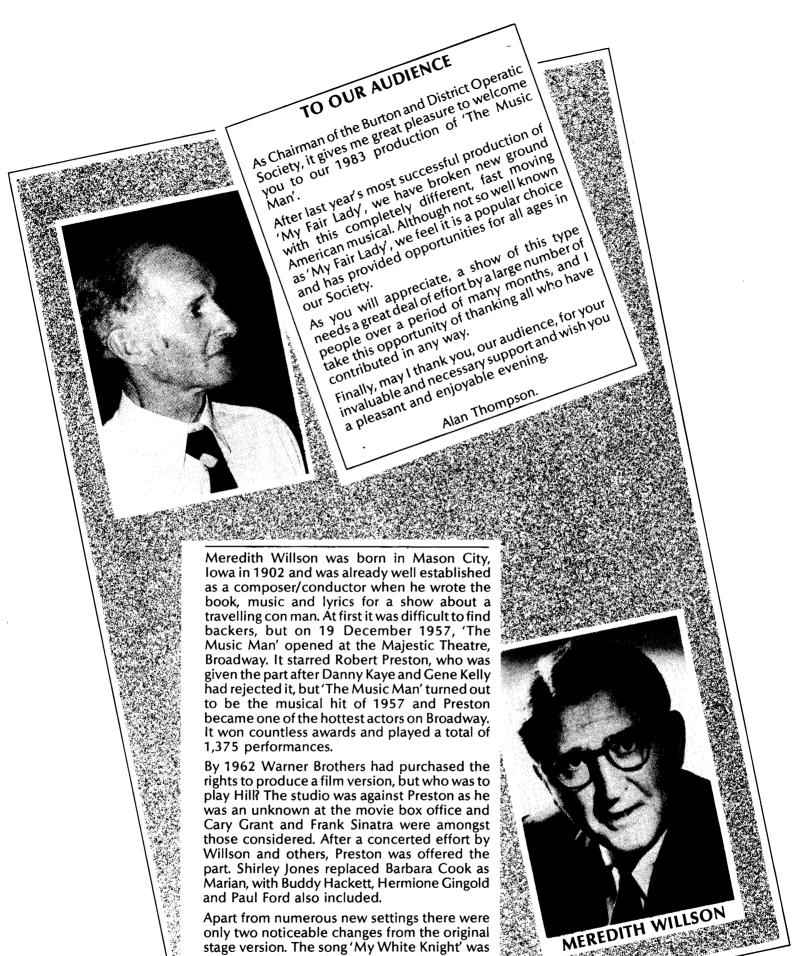
Produced by FRANK DORAN Music Directed by PETER VERNON Choreography by PRUDENCE WOLLASTON

Commencing Monday 24th October, 1983 Wulfric Lower School, Horninglow



N.O.D.A

The Society is affiliated to the Burton Arts Council and The National Operatic and Dramatic Association



dropped in favour of a new tune 'Being in Love'. There was also a booming finale – a parade marching down Main Street to 'Seventy-Six Trombones' with Preston dressed in a sparkling white bandmaster's uniform. Nominated for an Oscar in several categories, it won the trophy for the best scoring of a musical adaptation, proving that the original enchantment had not

been destroyed.

# The Man

### SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE
SCENE1A Railway Coachmorning of July 4th, 1912SCENE2River City, Iowa, Centre of Townimmediately followingSCENE3A Streetimmediately followingSCENE4The Paroo's Housethat evening
SCENE 5 Madison Gymnasium thirty minutes later SCENE 6 Exterior of Madison Library immediately following
SCENE 6 Exterior of Madison Library immediately following SCENE 7 Interior of Madison Library immediately following
SCENE 8 A Street the following Saturday noon
SCENE 9 An Impressive Doorway immediately following SCENE 10 The Paroo's Porch that evening
SCENE 11 Centre of Town noon the following Saturday
ACT TWO
SCENE 1 Madison Gymnasium the following Tuesday evening
SCENE 2 The Hotel Porch the following Wednesday evening SCENE 3 The Paroo's Porch immediately following
SCENE 4 The Footbridge fifteen minutes later
SCENE 5 " immediately following
SCENE 6 " a few minutes later
SCENE 7 River City High School Assembly Room immediately following
MUSICAL NUMBERS
OVERTURE Orchestra TRAIN OPENING Orchestra
ROCK ISLAND Charlie Cowell and travelling Salesmen
IOWA STUBBORN Townspeople of River City
YA GOT TROUBLE Harold and Townspeople
PIANO LESSON and IF YOU DON'T MIND MY SAYING SO Marian, Mrs. Paroo, Amaryllis
GOODNIGHT, MY SOMEONE Marian and Amaryllis
COLUMBIA, THE GEM OF THE OCEAN Eulalie and Townspeople YA GOT TROUBLE (reprise) Harold
SEVENTY-SIX TROMBONES Harold and Townspeople
SINCERE Olin, Oliver, Ewart, Jacey
THE SADDER BUT WISER GIRL Harold and Marcellus
PICK-A-LITTLE, TALK-A-LITTLE and GOODNIGHT LADIES Eulalie, Maud, Ethel, Alma, Mrs. Squires, Ladies of River City, Olin, Oliver, Ewart, Jacey, Harold
MARIAN THE LIBRARIAN Harold and Dancers
MY WHITE KNIGHT Marian
THE WELLS FARGO WAGON
ENTR'ACTE Orchestra EULALIE'S BALLET Orchestra and Stage Player-Piano
IT'S YOU Olin, Oliver, Ewart, Jacey, Eulalie, Maud, Ethel, Alma and Mrs. Squires
SHIPOOPI Marcellus, Harold, Marian, Tommy, Zaneeta, Kids and Townspeople
PICK-A-LITTLE, TALK-A-LITTLE (reprise) Eulalie, Maud, Ethel, Alma,
Mrs. Squires and Ladies LIDA ROSE and WILL I EVER TELL YOU? Olin, Oliver, Ewart, Jacey, Marian
GARY, INDIANA Winthrop
LIDA ROSE (reprise)
IT'S YOU (ballet)
TILL THERE WAS YOU
and Harold
TILL THERE WAS YOU (reprise) Harold MINUET IN G Stage Band and Orchestra
FINALE The Whole Company
THE THOSE COMPANY

TRAVELLING SALESMEN ..... Adrian Bader; John Biddle;

Gary Blackman; Richard Dean; Ian Harris; Steve Hickman; Bob Hughes; Alan Thompson;

William Poole

CHARLIE COWELL..... Gordon Fry CONDUCTOR ..... Alan Argent HAROLD HILL ...... Steve Dunning MAYOR SHINN ...... Gordon Head **EWART DUNLOP** Ian Harris **OLIVER HIX** Steve Hickman **JACEY SQUIRES** Adrian Bader OLIN BRITT Alan Thompson

MARCELLUS WASHBURN..... Malcolm Worton

### RIVER CITY

Glenise Blant; Linda Chidley; Stella Hambleton; Ann Holmes; Ca Linda Stuart; Anita Taylor; Ro Mabel 1

John Biddle; Richard Dean; Mauric Willia

# CHI

Group (a) will be performing Mon Group (b) will be performing Tues

(a) Amelia Clark John Evanson Lynne Goodhead Martin Louch Jonathan Oldham

DAN

Gary Blackman; Annabel Clark; Lou Diane Louch; Donna Moffatt

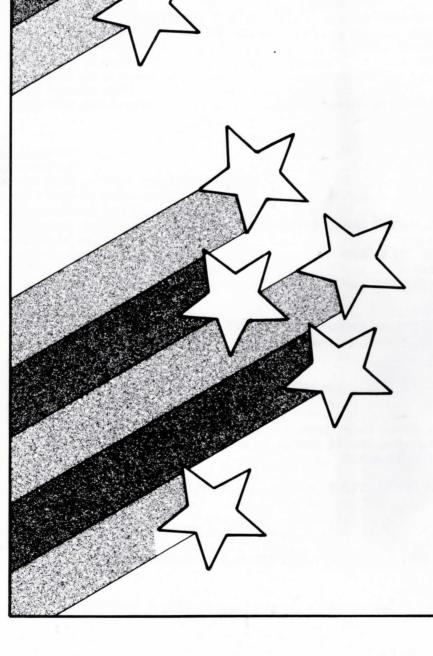
## ORCI

VIOLIN .... How

CLARINET/SAXA

CLARINET..... DOUBLE BASS.. FLUTE..... TRUMPET .....

TROMBONE ... PERCUSSION... CONTINUO ...



TOMMY DJILAS	. Andrew Last
MARIAN PAROO	. Ann Oakley
MRS. PAROO	
AMARYLLIS	. Amelia Clark (a) Kim Lakin (b)
WINTHROP PAROO	. Jonathan Oldham (a)
	Andrew Booth (b)
EULALIE MACKECKNIE SHINN	. Anne Dunning
ZANEETA SHINN	. Debbie Roseway
ALMA HIX	
MAUD DUNLOP	. Betty Booth
ETHEL TOFFELMIER	. Joan Burman
MRS. SQUIRES	. Joyce Burton
CONSTABLE LOCKE	Ken Redfern
GRACIE SHINN	. Philippa Saunders
	• •



uise Evanson; Beverley Green; Hussey; Diane Land; Jean Rogers; nary Taylor; Monica Welton; itelánd.

loodhead; Bob Hughes; Stan Hunt; Poole.

### REN

, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday y, Thursday and Saturday matinee

Lindsey Biddle Sarah Biddle Andrew Booth Bridgette Fry Kim Lakin **Kevin Store** 

### ERS

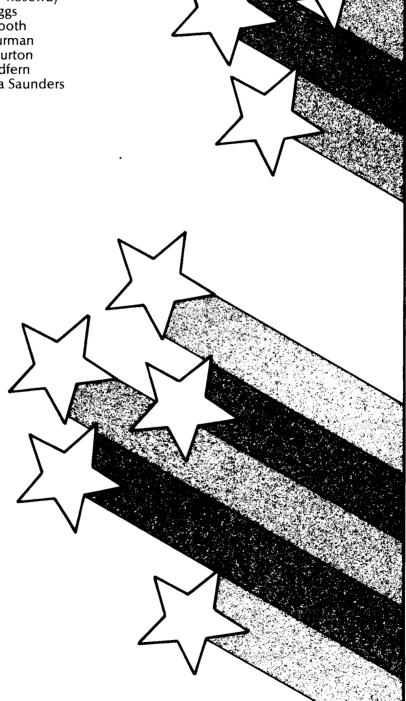
Evanson; Gordon Fry; Andrew Last; bbie Roseway; Anita Taylor.

### **TRA**

I Jones (leader) Peter Lawson **DNE Tony Reynolds** Arthur Jones istine Crochett **Tony Mortimer** 

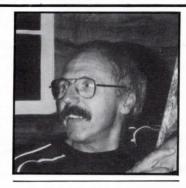
... Vic Benson

. Susan Barratt **Paul Thursfield Howard Smith** .. David Bozon





ANN OAKLEY



**GORDON HEAD** 



SHELIA WEBBER



**GORDON FRY** 



STEVE DUNNING



ANNE DUNNING



a) JONATHAN OLDHAM AMELIA CLARK



MALCOLM WORTON



b) ANDREW BOOTH KIM LAKIN



DEBBIE ROSEWAY, ANDREW LAST



Producer FRANK DORAN



Musical Director PETER VERNON



Choreographer PRUDENCE WOLLASTON



Continuo VIC BENSON

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"The Mikado"	November 1952	"The Gipsy Baron"	1971
"Patience"	October 1953	"Princess Ida"	1972
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1954	"Pink Champagne"	1973
"Pirates of Penzance"	1955	"The Land of Smiles"	1974
"Iolanthe"	1956	"Iolanthe"	February 1975
"Yeoman of the Guar	d" 1957	"La Belle Helene"	1975
"Princess Ida"	1958	"Patience"	February 1976
"The Vagabond King"	1959	"Summer Song"	1976
"Merrie England"	1960	"The Merry Widow"	1977
"The Gondoliers"	1961	"Oklahoma"	1978
"The Rebel Maid"	1962	"Kismet"	1979
"Song of Norway"	1963	"H.M.S. Pinafore"	February 1980
"Pirates of Penzance"	1964	"Carousel"	1980
"The Merry Widow"	1965	"Ruddigore"	February 1981
"Yeoman of the Guar	d" 1966	"The Vagabond King"	1981
"White Horse Inn"	1967	"The Sorcerer"	February 1982
"The Mikado"	1968	"My Fair Lady"	1982
"The New Moon"	1969		

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The COMMITTEE, on behalf of the Society, wishes to express thanks to the following who have given help in so many different ways:

The Wulfric School
East Staffordshire Education Committee
Normans Music Shop
Allied Breweries
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Lloyds Bank

'Jackets' Waterloo Street Sorby and Foster Ltd. Bee-Wise Ltd. Bridge Street Jewellers Burton Music Centre

The audience is respectfully requested not to smoke in the Auditorium. The Society cannot accept responsibility for any articles left in the cloakroom

### **NEXT PRODUCTION**

'Trial By Jury' (Gilbert and Sullivan)

and

"A Music Revue"

Directed by Peter Vernon and Produced by Frank Doran
22nd - 25th February, 1984

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