

## Character Breakdown

### **Harold Hill (strong acting, singing & dancing role)**

Harold Hill is a great role. Needs to have charisma and charm, is comfortable on stage. Requires great acting, average singer, and average mover. For Kid/Teen Casts, needs to be a boy with a changed voice. Needs to memorize lines easily and has a good sense of musical rhythm. **Gender: Preferably Male (Girls can try out, too); Vocal range top: G5, bottom: B3**

### **Marian Paroo (strong acting, strong soprano singing & dancing role)**

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. The actor as 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 needs to be comfortable doing a fake kiss with two character-Harold and Charlie Cowell, which requires a certain amount of emotional maturity. **Gender: Female; Vocal range top: G5, bottom: G3**

### **Charlie Cowell (strong acting-only role; ensemble dancing)**

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 fake-kissing Marian, and should have a good sense of comic timing.

**Gender: Preferably Male (Girls can try out, too)**

### **Mayor Shinn (strong acting-only role; ensemble dancing)**

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 The Music Man JR., 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. Needs to memorize long monologues. **Gender: Male**

### **Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn (strong acting, some singing role; ensemble dancing)**

Everybody wants to play Eulalie. It's a great role for a great comic actress. If Eulalie takes herself seriously, the audience will find her hysterical. Eulalie does have some singing and some dancing, or at least posing. She's also a Pick-A-Little lady. Eulalie must work well with Mayor Shinn.

**Gender: Female Vocal range top: D5, bottom: D4**

### **Marcellus Washburn (strong acting & singing role; ensemble dancing)**

This classic sidekick to Harold has been immortalized by comedic greats like Buddy Hackett. 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. Good for an actor who is just funny all the time which makes a great Marcellus. **Gender: Male Vocal range top: D#5, bottom: E4**

### **Ethel Toffelmier (acting & singing role; ensemble dancing)**

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. She interacts with Marcellus, think Ethel and Fred from I Love Lucy!

**Gender: Female Vocal range top: D5, bottom: D4**

**Mrs. Paroo (strong acting & singing role; ensemble dancing)**

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. She's Marian & Winthrop's mother.

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

**Winthrop Paroo (good acting, singing role; requires a believable lisp; ensemble dancing)**

Winthrop should appear to be young, as a boy actor, his voice must be unchanged and he 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: Preferably Male (Girls can try out, too) Vocal range top: Eb5, bottom: C4**

**Amaryllis (good acting, ensemble singing & dancing)**

Amaryllis is the slightly bratty girl who studies piano with Marian. Amaryllis should be a good actor. 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 (singing role 1<sup>st</sup>, then acting & ensemble dancing)**

Ewart is one of the four quartet members with the second highest voice or tenor (helpful if the actor has a higher voice). He is married to Maud Dunlop. **Gender: Male Vocal range top: F#5, bottom: E4**

**Oliver Hix (singing role 1<sup>st</sup>, then acting & ensemble dancing)**

Oliver is one of the four quartet members with the second lowest voice or baritone. He is married to Alma Hix. **Gender: Male Vocal range top: F#5, bottom: E4**

**Jacey Squires (singing role 1<sup>st</sup>, then acting & ensemble dancing)**

Jacey is one of the four quartet members with the highest voice or tenor (helpful if the actor has a higher voice). He is married to Mrs. Squires. **Gender: Male Vocal range top: A5, bottom: B3**

**Olin Britt (singing role 1<sup>st</sup>, then acting & ensemble dancing)**

Olin is one of the four quartet members with the lowest voice or bass. Cast singers who can hold their own vocal parts strongly and worry about the acting later.

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

**Tommy Djilas (acting, ensemble singing & ensemble dancing)**

Tommy is the teen heartthrob in the show. Tommy's love interest is Zaneeta so needs to be comfortable with this being played out in their roles. **Gender: Male**

**Zaneeta Shinn (acting; ensemble dancing)**

Zaneeta likes Tommy Djilas. She should be comfortable with this being played out in their roles. Zaneeta gets to deliver the classic "Ye gads" line! **Gender: Female**

**Gracie Shinn (small solo & acting role; ensemble dancing)**

Gracie is Zaneeta's little sister. 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, bottom: B3**

### **Alma Hix (good acting, strong singing is helpful; ensemble dancing)**

One of the core members of the Pick-a-little ladies, requiring girls with strong voices and a good sense of comedy. Alma is married to Oliver. **Gender: Female Vocal range top: D5, bottom: D4**

### **Maud Dunlop (good acting, strong singing is helpful; ensemble dancing)**

One of the core members of the Pick-a-little ladies, requiring girls with strong voices and a good sense of comedy. Maud is married to Ewart. **Gender: Female Vocal range top: D5, bottom: D4**

### **Mrs. Squires (good acting, strong singing is helpful; ensemble dancing)**

One of the core members of the Pick-a-little ladies, requiring girls with strong voices and a good sense of comedy. Mrs. Squires is married to Jacey. **Gender: Female Vocal range top: D5, bottom: D4**

### **Conductor (a few lines; ensemble singing & dancing)**

The conductor has the first line in the show, so cast an actor that is 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 young character actor.

Gender: Male

### **Ensemble Listed Below in Varying Groups (Some lines, Singing & Dancing)**

The Ensemble is comprised of Adult-types, teens and kids to play townspeople, traveling salesmen, teen dancers, Wa Tan Ye girls and the boys' band. Additional Pick-a-little ladies

**Gender: Any**

### **Traveling Salesmen**

Several good actors to play traveling salesmen, especially salesmen number five, number three, and number one. Ladies/Girls can be traveling salesmen playing the roles as men.

**Gender: Any**

### **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**

Little boys can be in the Boys' Band. The Boys' Band has two main features: "76 Trombones" and the finale of the show. **Gender: Any**