

## **Orland Park Theatre Troupe Hosts Winter Auditions for Spring Musical**

*“The Music Man” Slated for Sandburg’s Performing Arts Center*

ORLAND PARK, IL – A timeless Broadway classic is coming to the Orland Park stage. The Village of Orland Park Theatre Troupe has secured the performing rights for Meredith Willson’s “The Music Man” for its spring production.

“We invite everyone to audition in January for the show that will be performed at the end of April,” said Executive Producer Irene Buikema, program supervisor for the village’s Recreation Department. “We’ve always had a great response with people auditioning for our musicals and we’re hoping to reach as many people as possible,” Buikema added.

“The Music Man” is based on a story by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey. Harold Hill, a con man, poses as a boys’ band organizer and leader, selling band instruments and uniforms to naïve townsfolk in River City, Iowa before skipping town with the cash.

“We’ve wanted to perform ‘The Music Man’ for a long time,” said Producer/Director Frann Carnivele-Sidlow. “This is a wonderful show with songs that are familiar to everyone,” she added.

In 1957, the show became a hit on Broadway, winning five Tony Awards, including best musical. The cast album won the first Grammy Award for “Best Original Cast Album.” The show’s success was followed by the 1962 film adaptation and Broadway revivals in 1980 and 2000. Robert Preston and Shirley Jones starred in the 1962 film version, along with rising child star Ronny Howard. The Disney Company produced a 2003 television remake starring Matthew Broderick.

Familiar songs from the production include “Seventy-six Trombones,” “Gary, Indiana,” “Wells Fargo Wagon,” “Ya Got Trouble” and the classic re-released by the Beatles, “Til There Was You.”

“The Chicago area is rich with theatrical talent. We invite everyone to come out to audition in January. This will be our own reprisal of an American classic and we want everyone who enjoys community theater to be a part of it,” Carnivele-Sidlow said.

Auditions will be held Sunday, January 10 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Monday, January 11 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Old Orland Park Village Hall, 14413 South Beacon Avenue. Tuesday, January 12 is reserved for call backs only.

Auditions are open to those age seven and older. Those trying out must sing sixteen measures of a prepared song from the show, be prepared to read from the script and learn and perform a dance. Dance attire is recommended for auditions and those cast must pay a registration fee.

Performances will be April 30, May 1 and 2 in the Performing Arts Center at Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park.

Further information is available with the Orland Park Recreation Department at 708/403-7275.

