REVIEWS WRITTEN BY STUDENT REVIEWERS

FOR THE CAPPIES PROGRAM

THESE REVIEWS WERE NOT CHOSEN TO APPEAR IN THE NEWSPAPER

BUT THEY MAKE FOR INTERESTING READING

AND GIVE US SOME GOOD FEEDBACK. ENJOY READING THEM!

Welland Centennial’s production of ‘The Music Man’ last Friday night was simply a delight! It took you back to a different time when getting a musical instrument was a wondrous event. Written in 1957 by Meredith Willson and set in 1912, the musical follows the story of a con-artist and travelling salesman named Harold Hill and his adventure as he meets an old friend, runs into trouble and finds love in the rural town of River City, Iowa. The production featured a spirited cast that was accented by the unity of the chorus and the exceptional set.

Although the opening number seemed almost timid, the actors gained confidence and the musical numbers strengthened quickly as the musical progressed. A particular highlight was the song “The Sadder but Wiser Girl” between the characters of Harold Hill and Marcellus Washburn, played by Eric Shelton and Brett Murray respectively. The comedic dancing and body language of Murray gave a favourable accent to the production. The brightness of his costume was matched by the vivacity of his performance. The lead female vocalist, Jessica Wilson (playing the part of Marion) had a strong operatic voice that brought life to the lyrics.

In certain aspects of the musical where the songs seemed weak, the unity of the chorus, both in their singing and actions, gave it strength. It should also be noted that the barbershop quartet of the River City school trustees harmonized very well together.

The musical was highlighted by the exceptional student-built set. The main set piece was a two story building that would rotate and adapt to become various places in the town, such as the city hall, gymnasium, library, bridge and a house. This main piece was accompanied by stairs that adjoined it on either side and numerous painted backdrops. The stairs and backdrops were all on wheels allowing for swift and almost seamless scene transformations. The set gave an air of professionalism to the entire production.

The enthusiasm of the cast, the high quality set and the grand musical numbers made for a night of good old-fashioned fun.

by Julianna D'Intino of Denis Morris Catholic High School

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Presented in the spacious theatre of Welland Centennial Secondary School, a 61 member cast gave a spectacular performance of The Music Man by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey.

A rendition of the hit broadway performance that won five Tony awards and ran for almost 1,400 performances was presented with an unusually large cast that gave life to the old-fashioned musical. Broadening the vocal versatility were fourteen children from Centennial’s elementary feeder schools, who topped off the show with their celestial voices. With a resonant orchestra that tied the show together, an overwhelming feeling of warmth and comfort was present in the audience by the end of the evening.

Originally written in 1957, the musical tells the tale of “Professor” Harold Hill, a con man and traveling salesman who tricks the little town of River City, promising much and delivering little...or so the town thinks. With a sparking romance between Hill and the town's very own Marian Paroo, the twists and turns the story take brought a profusion of emotions to the audience members.

Bringing the performance to life was the upbeat musical number "Rock Island," which sent the theatre into a toe tapping frenzy and was an excellent introduction to the musical wonders to come. Eric Shelton, who played Harold Hill, brought energy and an attractive combination of vitality and glamour to the show. Meanwhile, the operatic and mesmerizing vocal stylings of the graceful Jessica Wilson touched the hearts of the audience in the role of Marian Paroo, the town librarian and part-time piano teacher, as she gave heartfelt performances of "My White Knight" and "Will I Ever Tell You."

Complimenting every scene were the School Board executives; as a quartet the four men sang beautifully and unerringly, each voice complimenting the other in their many appearances throughout the night. Similar to the effect of the School Board, the entire chorus performed with solid and well-balanced vocals.

Setting a realistic atmosphere that allowed audience members to be transformed into townsfolk, the massive gazebo-type building acted versatilely throughout every scene.

The hilarious dramatics, physical gestures and general stage presence of comic thespians such as Brett Murray, the inconvenient old friend, Rob Colonico, the scatterbrained Mayor, and Darcy Feagan, the eccentric Mayor’s wife, added a certain “extra something” to the show -- without these performances the audience would have been left thinking that there should have been more.

In closing, Welland Centennial’s brilliant production of The Music Man not only connected with the audience completely, but also encompassed a perfectly casted group of talent, a tremendous stage set and a heart-warming ending to an exemplary evening.

by Vincent Atallah of Denis Morris Catholic High School

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Music Man Thrills Centennial Crowd

Music, dancing, singing, and smiles are unheard of in the dull town of River City, Iowa; it just takes a brilliantly manipulative scammer like Harold Hill to bring excitement back into this lifeless town!

Harold Hill enters town and arouses the people with the excitement of a children’s band that he, himself will conduct. His plan is to make a quick buck and split, but through the interaction with the librarian, Marian Paroo, the music man has a change of heart and has to make a tough decision.

There were so many notable components in Welland Centennial’s production of “The Music Man” that really contributed to the Show’s overall atmosphere on Friday night. The large cast and their ability to move in sync during the astounding musical numbers were incredible! The vocals of Jessica Wilson (Marian Paroo) and Eric Shelton (Harold Hill) were absolutely astonishing; these two hit more than just the high notes! Uniquely, the band was in a room down the hall. Even with this setback, it was difficult to tell if the music was a recording or live!

Although there were a few minor mishaps such as microphone muffling and line stumbles, the show was dominated with excellence in acting, singing and dancing. Also included in the list of excellence is the extravagant set! With a rotating, two-floor structure centre stage and versatile city walls, the actors had much room to move and the audience had lots to see!

Right from the opening curtain, the audience was captivated in the musical number “Rock Island” which had the cast on a train to River City. Although this train was stationary, the cast seemed to have no trouble convincing the audience that it was in motion by bouncing along together, feeling the vibration of the track.

For creating and executing such an energetic and skillful performance, the Welland Centennial Music Man Team truly deserved their standing ovation! What a highly entertaining show!

by Courtney Steingart of E.L. Crossley Secondary School

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Music Man A Symphonic Success

Cenntenial's production of The Music Man was a show with a classic flair. From costumes to set, the audience was emersed in the quaint atmosphere of Iowa's River City, circa 1912 – quaint, that is, until Professor Harold Hill decides to pay a visit.

 A music salesman – read as, con man, Hill has ambitions of starting a band....and scurry off with the profits before the town gets results. Despite not knowing the territory, the self-professed band professor seizes an oppourtunity to recruit the town's children, convincing their parents that, for a fee, he will keep them out of trouble. What follows is a tangle of love, deceit, and oh yes, music!

The timing thoughout the show, from lines to lyrics to movement, was sharp and polished. Though there were a few line stumbles, the actors brushed them aside and continued with confidence.

An impressive element of the production was the set, a piece created by the school's construction classes. It was versatile, turning from a house to a library to town hall and back, not to mention a footbridge. Scenes were enhanced with projections, such as a night sky, and a landscape rushing past from the window of a train.

The show showcased a high level of teamwork and commitment, from musical numbers to set design. Combined, these elements resulted in a vibrant, passionate performance.

by Kylee Schram of E.L. Crossley Secondary School

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Somewhere in between the dissolution of the Old West and the Roaring Twenties is a period of nomad-like con artists who are in pursuit of nothing more than a quick buck, and small, rural towns overflowing with colourful characters that would be happy to hand it over. Thankfully, Welland Centennial gives you your money's worth, delivering an energy-filled experience that does the history of 1912 utmost justice.

This is The Music Man, a once-Broadway smash, originally written by none other than the star-studded Meredith Willson. As you've probably deduced from its title, The Music Man is a musical, and fittingly so. The play follows the tale of Harold Hill, a get-rich-quick con man who travels from county to county, town to town, befriending the locals, convincing their children into starting a band, and eventually taking them for all they have. After being informed that River City, Iowa is the ultimate test of a salesman's abilities, Hill takes his leave and begins the process of charming the locals into his devilish plan; all the while singing and dancing, of course.

Harold, played by Eric Shelton, does not commit his crime without resistance, however, as the paranoid, commanding, Abe Lincoln-looking Mayor Shinn (Rob Colonico) smells something foul fairly quickly and attempts to give Hill trouble throughout the play, often times failing miserably. The town librarian (exquisitely played by Jessica Wilson) is ironically named Marian - Marian Paroo, to be exact. Marian originally tries to expose Hill, but inevitably doubles as his love interest. The angelic, opera-tier vocals of Wilson poured over the audience like a smooth wave of ocean breeze, combining with Eric Shelton's suave and chivalrous singing on multiple occasions to form a contrasting harmony that set a high standard for the rest of the production.

The real charm of the show stems from how masterfully creative the use of sound is. Characters will burst out in pseudo-songs by rhyming to the rhythm of a train's engine, or the tapping of shoes, and Welland Centennial's consistency on the spontaneous fashion in which it operates is a true testament to their steadfast attention to detail. Slip-ups rarely occurred, and thanks to the extremely professional and quick-to-act cast, measly errors such as those could not trump the overall immersion.

The varied caricatures in River City are showcased to the fullest of their potential by a seamless set change that manipulates current set pieces into establishing an alternative environment. While this seems like it would detract from the experience, the speed and fluency in which it was executed actually makes the whole world feel very tangible. The quick transitions can easily transfer the audience from a solo such as “My White Knight”, to a full-fledged collaboration like “Shipoopi” without missing a beat.

The Music Man is everything good about the world of theatre. Loveable characters, unique spins on old concepts, and raw creativity focused into a world in which we can't quite visit, but can always try to recreate and peer back at.

by Jake Kivanc of Governor Simcoe S.S.

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Music Man’s Cast Captivates with Confident Acting and Stirring Vocals

Students in the cast and crew of Welland Centennial Secondary School’s production of The Music Man have audience members completely enthralled with their believable characters, beautiful voices, and intricate set.

The Music Man is set in the stubborn town of River City, Iowa in July 1912. “Professor” Harold Hill, a con artist portrayed by Eric Shelton, arrives just before the town’s Independence Day celebrations and informs the people of River City that trouble is brewing. Hill offers to keep the resident’s children occupied by forming a band, with only a small fee to cover the cost of instruments, uniforms and instruction books. The Music Man follows Hill as he slips out of sticky situations and schmoozes his way past the suspicious inquiries by River City’s residents.

The musical is brought to life by Centennial’s incredible cast. Eric Shelton’s portrayal of Harold Hill is as believable as the con’s own guise. He struts confidently across stage, commanding the attention of the townspeople and audience, selling his part with ease. Shelton easily compensates for minor mic troubles with wonderful projection.

Jessica Wilson’s portrayal of Marian Paroo has the audience laughing from her first lines. The humorous aspects of her character are balanced well with slow, emotional songs such as “Goodnight My Someone” and “My White Knight”, both of which she performs beautifully with a full tone and natural vibrato capable of eliciting tears.

A noteworthy ensemble performance is David Hart, Zachary Voth, Avery Mikolic-O’Rourke, and Mac Repovs as the members of the school board. Initially they are a group of bickering men who never see eye to eye, until Hill teaches them to sing as a barbershop quartet. Their intricate vocal harmonies and range are impressive, and their mannerisms are spot on. The smooth vocals of the quartet singing “Goodnight Ladies” over the percussive vocals of the women singing “Pick-a-Little Talk-a-Little” provides excellent contrast, and is carried out marvelously.

The two-level set allows a for a great deal of movement on stage, and precise blocking ensures that the space is utilized. The largest, hexagonal set piece rotates to reveal either the city hall or the Paroo household. The second level acts as a balcony, accessible by staircases wheeled into place. Ground rows are also wheeled in, allowing for a great deal of visual variety between scenes. The set painting is incredibly realistic and colourful, and careful attention is paid to small details.

The singing, acting and overall energy of this performance effectively captures the feeling of a small Iowa town in 1912, and pulls the audience into its believable setting.

by Dael Horhota of LAURA SECORD SECONDARY SCHOOL

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With loveable characters, bright colours, and a larger than life set, Welland Centennial Secondary School has certainly out-done themselves this year with Meredith Willson’s, The Music Man. The lively, energetic performance was clearly well rehearsed, creating a night that is anything but forgettable. Set in 1912; this tune-filled production follows the story of Harold Hill, a shady travelling salesman who goes from town to town posing as a music teacher.

Swindling the townspeople of out hundreds of dollars, Hill promises to turn the no-talented children of Iowa into band stars; although, he himself cannot not tell one note from another. But who needs knowledge of music when you have the Think Method? Yes, the brilliant think method developed by Harold Hill himself teaches the townspeople that, as long as you think you can do something, you truly can. Using the Think Method on Marian, the librarian, the underlying romance of the musical takes flight. Marian, initially repulsed by Professor Hill, slowly finds herself attracted to the dishonest man, willing to give the idea of a band a try. Low and behold, a band is formed by Professor Hill, not only in a musical fashion (the children of the city in a very amateur band), but also in the way the conservative town comes alive in their new found love of singing and dancing.

With catchy tunes like, “76 Trombones”, “Lida Rose”, “Shipoopi”, and a Barber Shop Quartet, this is definitely a show to take the family to see.

An overall spectacular performance, with this mixture of comedy and romance, you’re sure to leave the theatre with toes tapping.

by Mindy Vegter of LAURA SECORD SECONDARY SCHOOL

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To call Welland Centennial’s production of “The Music Man” a well presented and professionally executed performance would be an understatement, as the cast and crew proceeded to transport the audience to a 1912 blast from the past experience in every aspect of their show. Their nearly flawless presentation was not broken by a few nearly unnoticeable line fumbles, and the atmospheric trance of being transported nearly a decade back in time was not broken.

The production begins with salesmen on a train, in an excellently portrayed introduction which entices the audience to want to keep watching and holds the interest of the viewers. “The Music Man” tells the story of a con artist of a salesman in the small rural town of River City, as he uses his charm and wit to con the town into believing he is a music instructor and scamming money out of the townspeople in return for band uniforms and music lessons for their children. The story evolves and takes a sudden turn as a relationship is struck between Professor Harold Hill, and the town’s prude Librarian, Marian.

The character of Professor Harold Hill, phenomenally played by Eric Shelton, is charming and witty, and has you begging for more from the moment he sets foot on stage and speaks his first clever words. Marian, played by Jessica Wilson, has a similar effect, and the two together produce true chemistry and an honest portrayal in the development of their characters.

The actors, accompanied by costumes incredibly true to the time period and a set created with extreme creativity and functionality which leave you mesmerized and transfixed in a world which is entirely 1912 River City, can be labelled as having “the entire package”. Enthusiastic actors and strong vocals tie all the loose ends together.

Welland Centennial is performing their production of “The Music Man” through April 26, 27, 28, and May 3 and 4 in the Welland Centennial Auditorium.

by Daria Domagala of Lakeshore Catholic High School

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The Magnificent Musical Man

When the curtains open the audience looks to the stage to find a train car full of salesman. Song and dance begins and the train car sets the rhythm for the men speaking of their trade and their dislike for Harold Hill. Harold is a con man giving all salesmen a bad name, using a children’s music band to mooch the money from a town. As the train car reaches the stop Mr. Hill leaves the train car for River City, Iowa; the greatest challenge for a con man.

This play, Meredith Wilson’s The Music Man was written in 1957 and has won five Tony awards for its simple but funny story. The story revolves around Harold Hill as he tries to sway the town for funds to teach their children to play instruments. With a nosy librarian, an angry salesman, and an insulted mayor, Harold may have bitten off more than he can chew.

The audience quickly gets involved in the relationship between Eric Shelton who plays Harold Hill, and Jessica Wilson who plays Marion the librarian. While at first Marion is reluctant and independent, both she and the audience become wooed by Mr. Hill. It’s hard to remember you are watching a performance at times, and the more stage time this couple has, the more you will fall in love with them.

During the performance it’s hard not to feel engaged with characters, a barber shop quartet with laughs around every corner, adorable children whose silence, or lack of it, capture the audience’s hearts; a young couple who can’t find a father’s approval, and finally the group musical scenes which impress and leave the audience hanging on every skillfully hit note. Each character brings a lot to the show.

The set in this show surprised many because it was very versatile and impressive, with the main piece having the ability to turn 360 degrees, with a balcony on top. This combined with other pieces in the set, and a well coordinated stage crew, made the show flow flawlessly. The sound for each character equalized well. Other than occasional microphone misplacement, the sound went on without a hitch.

 Welland Centennial’s production of The Music Man astounded with the sweet romance, comedic cast, and brilliant musical numbers which made a beloved story come to life.

by Josh Paschert of Lakeshore Catholic High School

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Welland Centennial’s production of The Music Man was as witty as it was intriguing. The plot followed Harold Hill, a traveling salesman who made a living by jumping from town to town convincing the townspeople to let him lead a children’s band. He then would abscond with the money he colleted for the uniforms, and instruments. He made his way to River City, Iowa, and his emotions were soon tied into a knot after meeting the town’s uptight librarian and music teacher Marian Paroo.

The entire cast did a wonderful job of bringing these characters to life. Memorable characters included Rob Colonico as Mayor Shinn, and Darcy Feagan who portrayed Eulalie MacKeknie-Shinn. They added comic relief throughout the entirety of the musical. The chemistry between Eric Shelton who played Harold Hill, and Jessica Wilson who played Marian was convincing and realistic. Both students portrayed their characters in a way that was impressive, and outstanding.

Other memorable students included Bradley Doyle, Cole Fast, Jack Lambert, Tim Campbell, and Erroll Bokma as the salesman in the first act. Their accents provided the audience with a clear understanding of where they musical takes place, and they did great with keeping the accents consistent. Savannah Prokopetz did a fantastic job at an Irish accent, and kept it consistent thought the entire night.

The choreography of all of the dances, particularly “Seventy-Six Trombones” was well thought out, and timed perfectly. Every student seemed to be in step with one another, and they were constantly smiling and enjoying themselves. The students kept the audience enthralled and interested. Also, when the dancers exited down the aisles of the theater, it was a way of including the audience in the musical, and was a very nice bonus.

The set was amazing, and such a sight to behold. The main set piece that was used was very versatile and worked really well. Although at points the smaller set pieces took a while to get in place, the overall effect was mesmerizing and gorgeous.

The vocals were great, and many students hit the right notes. At the beginning of the musical, the microphones sounded a bit muffled, but it was caught almost immediately, and fixed. After that, all sounds were perfect, and there was no other vocal problems, with the exception of a few stumbled lines, which the students perfectly rebounded from it was almost unnoticeable.

The Music Man put on by Centennial High School was a great, entertaining experience that left you feeling happy for hours after.

by Samantha Charette of Lakeshore Catholic High School

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On the morning of the 4th of July, right in the middle of rural Iowa, lays the stubborn town of River City. For an hour and a half, the audience becomes part of this little town in Welland Centennial’s production of The Music Man.

This classic American play written by Meredith Wilson in 1957 takes place in a little American town in 1912. Harold Hill is a restless salesman according to his competitors. He takes on the ultimate challenge and heads to River City, Iowa, a town with a record of hostility towards outsiders. However, Harold Hill has a trick up his sleeve. He pretends to be a music professor, and he convinces the town parents that he can teach their children his musical talent. The problem is that he himself can’t tell one music key from another.

Around sixty talented students brought this little town to life. Eric Shelton, who portrayed Harold Hill himself, kept a solid and memorable performance in his role of a tricky salesman. Even the audience wanted their children to join a marching band with songs such “Ya Got Trouble” among many others. Another outstanding performance came from Jessica Wilson playing Marian the Librarian, who discovers the truth about Herald Hill, but at the same time falls in love with him. She also captivated the audience with her solo “My White Night”.

Other memorable characters were Mayor Shinn (Rob Colonico) and his wife Eulalie MacKecknie-Shinn (Darcy Feagan). They had both good and solid performances that brought variety to the play with their stage presence. Last but not least, the quartet served as the cherry on top of the play, by giving the play a comical approached by causing the audience to burst with laughter on more than one occasion.

In the technical aspect, The Music Man surpassed all expectations with the incredible set the students constructed. They created an actual town with a variety of different locations. The band also had a praiseworthy performance. The production crew did a very good job of making this play believable for the audience.

Overall, The Music Man left the audience with a smile on peoples’ faces as they were leaving the theatre. It was hard to believe that the production was student made. Welland Centennial did a great job bringing River City to life. Each one of the songs was memorable and flawless. The Music Man is definitely worth watching.

by Luis López Guzmán of Ridley College

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Get ready to dance in your seat as Welland Centennial’s production of The Music Man puts everyone in a good mood. The extraordinary large and versatile set combined with the incredible coordination of all the cast members throughout each dance number made this musical entertaining to watch.

Set in River City, Iowa in 1912, The Music Man is about a travelling salesman who tries to start a band with all the children in the town. To do so, he convinces the town that the new pool table will corrupt the goodness of the town and starting a band will save this town from the impending corruption. This quirky, old fashion musical is filled with corny jokes and catchy tunes that add to the overall pizzazz of this production.

Having to choreograph a cast of 61 people including 14 children, must have been rather difficult but to add to it all, the band was not even in the same room as the performance. The band was down the hall with the sound being transferred via video link, but judging by the timing of all the cues, you would have thought the band with right there in the theatre.

Harold Hill, the lead actor, who was played by Eric Shelton put on an incredible performance as a travelling salesman. He had that salesman charisma down pat and it looked as though he was made to wear that pin-striped suit. His performance was very convincing and all the other actors played off of him rather well.

Eulalie MacKecknie-Shinn, played by Darcy Feagan, was comical in every way. The way she sucked in her cheeks throughout the entire performance and just the way she carried herself on stage was quite amusing. She added comic relief to every scene that she was in and added to flow of the performance.

Although, there were a few dark spots on stage and sometimes there were shadows on the actor’s faces, the background screen alongside the different lighting helped to set the atmosphere for each individual scene. The set pieces were quite large which made it surprising as to how silent and quick the set changes were. Also, the costumes were accurate as to the time period for which this musical was set in.

Welland Centennial’s production of The Music Man was very cheery and entertaining to watch. The large cast of 61 sung the multiple harmonies simultaneously without a hitch. Alongside with the breaking of the fourth wall when the band was walking through the aisles of the theatre for the finale and the spectacular set. All of these factors, among many more, made the overall performance a privilege to watch.

by Alexandria Jeanneret of Saint Paul High School

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Meredith’s Willson’s, The Music Man, was written in 1957 and was a hit Broadway show. The Music Man won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and ran for 1,375 performances. The musical takes place in River City, Iowa, where a con man and traveling salesman, Professor Harold Hill (Eric Shelton) falls in love with a beautiful librarian and part time piano teacher, Marian Paroo (Jessica Wilson). Through all of the suspicion and chaos in the town, Marian still seems to be able to find the truth behind Harold Hill.

When the curtains opened at Welland Centennial on April 27, 2012, a train traveling to River City, Iowa was filled with a number of singing salesmen including Harold Hill. They opened the night on a whole different level. They created the movement of the train by bouncing and singing to the beat creating a very effective look. Once the train reached Iowa the town awaited in very still tableaus. It gave the audience a chance to get a closer look at the cast and appreciate the outstanding set and beautiful costumes. When the cast began to sing, you were blown away by the harmony of their voices and just wanted to sit back and listen.

The set for the town of River City, Iowa was very detailed and well built. It was very interesting during set changes when they didn’t use black outs, but instead they played with the set and made it look natural to be moving a giant set of stairs off stage. It was well executed and was not distracting. However, the smaller painted buildings were not painted to scale, so it looked like the actors were giants of the town, but they still managed to use them exceptionally well and they were painted beautifully.

The voices and dancing on stage caught the attention of the audience and received continuous applauds. The vocals of Jessica Wilson were phenomenal. She managed to hit every note with little effort which made her very enjoyable to watch. Her younger brother, Winthrop (Isaac Bandi) stole the audience’s heart and had an adorable voice. The Welland Centennial dancers completed their simple choreography with great execution. The School Board Quartet not only gave the musical comic relief, but also sang with great harmony.

The night was one to remember. The cast and crew did an outstanding job and keeping the audience pleased and entertained. They certainly put a lot of time and effort into this production. The Music Man was definitely a great musical for these students to perform, well chosen by the director, Mrs. I. Neufeld. Wonderful job Welland Centennial.

by Cobie Wilson of Saint Paul High School

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For many years, music has been the one thing that has gotten people through many challenges and obstacles. Even though the genres of music have changed, the affect it has on people hasn’t changed. To some it’s a dream, and for others it’s a getaway but for Welland Centennial High school music is the one thing that brought everyone together. On Friday, April 27th, 2012 students of Centennial High school presented the musical of “The Music Man.” From the catchy songs to the captivating dance moves, Centennial helped the audience what music can actually do to a person.

The music Man Harold Hill played by Eric Shelton goes to the rural town of River City to start a band for the kids to participate in. He managed to convince many people to allow their kids to be in the band. He meets many interesting and unique people along his journey and manages to fall in love with local librarian and piano teacher Marian Paroo played by Jessica Wilson. These characters overcame many challenges and obstacles to help turn their town into a better place. This resulted in creating a children’s band and bringing everyone closer together.

Centennial students showed a variety of different talents including acting, singing, dancing and playing musical instruments. The audience was always on the edge of their seats wanting to know what happens next. Their costumes and hair/makeup looked incredible and was such an amazing touch to the performance. Welland Centennial brought their talents to their community and did an amazing job. Everyone realized how important music is to the world and all generations.

by Samantha Antonio of Saint Paul High School

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On April 27th, 2012, Welland Centennial put on a spectacular performance of Meredith Wilson's, The Music Man. Taking place in River City, Iowa in 1912, Harold Hill takes on the challenge of trying to start a kids band in town to earn a small profit. In the end we find out that the the small town of River City, along with their piano teacher, Marian Paroo, couldn't resists the Music Man's considerable charm for long.

Mrs. I. Neufeld, the musicals director, left no small details overseen. She worked effortlessly with the schools construction classes, tech team, talented artists, actors, singers and dancers to pull together this stunning performance. The sets were constructed solely by students at Welland Centennial and were breath- taking! A two-story city square surrounded by gorgeous brick buildings and houses that perfectly complimented the feel of being in a small town. The cast's harmonies and chemistry onstage were seamless and all the characters were fun-loving and spunky. The audience was immediately drawn in and it was hard to leave during intermission while your sitting there craving more.

It was sad to see the musical come to an end, but they definitely went out with a bang! The last production number of the musical had you feeling butterflies, happiness, and romance all at the same time. Harold Hill and Marian Paroo finally got the kiss the audience was waiting for, and the lanterns hanging from the sky made the scene seem magical.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of The Music Man. All your hard work and dedication really showed through in your performance on Friday night.

by Sara Janzen of Saint Paul High School