

# Music Man Sparkles!

By William Gravert

Port has a fine track record placing its talented youth in the ranks of professional performing arts, thanks to training in the schools and various community theatre groups. Witness singer Sue Quittmeyer at the Metropolitan Opera, Hollywood character actor and writer Bob Fieldsteel or screenwriter John Fasano, among others.

This tradition continues with the Summer Show's production of Meredith Willson's *Music Man* last weekend at Schreiber H.S. Though they might not be ready for B'way, director Pamela Meadows and musical director David Barnett have tailored Port's young singers, actors, dancers and technicians into a snappy, up-tempo production of the classic musical.

A turn-of-the-century slickster charms a small Iowa town into buying uniforms and instruments and promises music lessons even though "he don't know one note from another." As Harold Hill smooth-talks the townfolk, he sweet-talks the local piano teacher, Marian, into covering for him.

A Port institution since 1972, this year's Summer Show featured over 70 junior and senior high students as cast and crew.

As the fast-talking huckster Hill, Andrew Ullman was well in command of this substantial role, with a vivacious Mike McCollum as his sidekick, Marcellus.

Sue Blumlein, a veteran of many H.S. and summer shows, was polished as the coy Marian Paroo. Especially moving was the pining "Goodnight My Someone" and "My White Knight".

Jen Goldberg was very convincing as Mrs. Paroo, the doting Irish mother, with Stan Markowsky as Winthrop, singing the popular "Gary, Indiana".

Matthew Epstein huffed and puffed as the blustery Mayor Shinn joined by Heather Scheiber as his society matron wife, Eulalie. Scheiber's fine acting seems to sharpen with each role she takes on.

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## Music Man

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The Ladies' League: Diana Johanson, Dana Spincola, Ariel Nazryan and Courtney Egleston were fun as the town busybodies, especially on the tongue-twisting "Pickalittle Talkalittle". Nazryan's re-active ability stood out as a nit-picking biddy.

Hats off to Barnett and the "School Board" barbershop sextet: Nathaniel Hodes, Karin Johnson, Jordana Glantz, Matthew Sadowsky, Matthew Dallesandro

and Michael Johanson on "It's You" and "Sincere" (with Dallesandro pulling double-duty as the excitable whistle-blowing salesman, Charlie Cowell). The difficult polyphony of the 4-part "Lida Rose" juxtaposed against Blumlein's solo "Will I Ever Tell You" brought roars from the crowd.

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