Main characters

Character	Description
Professor Harold Hill	A confidence man who pretends to be a traveling salesman
Marian Paroo	The town librarian and part-time piano teacher
Marcellus Washburn	Harold's old friend and former shill, who now lives in River City
Mayor George Shinn	A pompous politician who is suspicious of Hill
Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn	The mayor's wife
Mrs. Paroo	Marian's widowed, Irish immigrant mother
Winthrop Paroo	Marian's shy, younger brother who lisps

Secondary characters

Character	Description
The School Board (Barbershop Quartet)	Four bickering local businessmen united as singers by Hill (Olin Britt, Oliver Hile, Ewart Dunlop and Jacey Squires)
Pickalittle Ladies	Eulalie's four gossipy friends (Alma Hix, Mrs. Squires, Ethel Toffelmier and Maud Dunlop)
Tommy <mark>Dji</mark> las	A young man "from the wrong side of town"; secretly dating Zaneeta Shinn
Zaneeta Shinn	The mayor's oldest daughter; secretly dating Tommy Djilas
Charlie Cowell	An anvil salesman who tries to expose Hill as a fraud and con man
Constable Locke	The town peace officer
Amaryllis	Marian's young piano student