

Youth Musical Theater Company
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YMTC to Present Musical Classic *The Music Man*, March 7–15 in El Cerrito
Berkeley, California, January 22, 2020—Youth Musical Theater Company (YMTC) will continue its 15th season of acclaimed regional theater with *The Music Man*. The show opens Saturday, March 7, at the El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Ave. Its run consists of three 7:30 p.m. performances (3/7, 3/13, 3/14), and three 2:00 p.m. matinees (3/8, 3/14, 3/15).

Romantic, sparkling, and toe-tapping, *The Music Man* is the story of Harold Hill, who uses his wit, charm, and intellect to con small towns by posing as a music teacher selling instruments to organize boys' bands. However, when he gets to River City, Iowa, there is one person he can't fool—the sharp, discerning librarian and piano teacher Marian Paroo—and a classic love-at-first-sight story ensues. Winner of six Tony Awards, family-friendly, and consistently entertaining generations of audiences since 1957, *The Music Man* will feature a full, live 26-piece orchestra.

According to Musical Director David Möschler, "*The Music Man* is one of those rare perfect examples of a musical with a perfectly integrated book and score. Composer, lyricist, and book writer Meredith Wilson created a heartfelt ode to his native state of Iowa, featuring some of the gold standards of the Great American Songbook. The score moves deftly between well-known ballads, rousing dance numbers, and unforgettable barbershop quartet music, creating a perfect score. I'm thrilled to bring this to life with Don Walker's original orchestration for 26 musicians.

Director Jennifer Boesing adds, "*The Music Man* is more than an old-fashioned romantic comedy. It is a story in which people and things are not always what they first seem. And throughout the evolving story, ordinary things become transcendent. An arguing city council becomes a barbershop quartet; an awkward, sad little boy becomes an exuberant musician; a defiant, lonely piano teacher becomes a passionate ingenue; and an oily con-man becomes an inspiration and a hero."

The Music Man features a cast and crew of over 40 performing arts students from cities throughout the Bay Area. The students, ages 12–21, work on stage and off, as actors, musicians, and technical theater apprentices. They are led by a team of professional directors and designers including Director Boesing, Music Director Möschler, and Choreographer Pam Crane.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.ymtcbayarea.org> and at the door one hour before curtain. Ticket prices are \$16–32, with discounts for students, seniors,

military, teachers, and groups. YMTC offers one “pay-what-you-can” performance to provide affordable musical theater to everyone in the Bay Area community. This performance will be on Friday, 3/13, at 7:30 p.m., when seats will be offered for cash-only at the box office. Reserved seats can still be purchased online.

COMPANY’S 15th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

YMTC’s 2019–20 season continues with *The Music Man* (March 2020) and *A Little Night Music* (July 2020). Two-show subscriptions can be purchased online at <https://www.ymtcbayarea.org>.

ABOUT YMTC

YMTC provides exceptional training to young theater artists through the production of exceptional musical theater. The organization brings together the Bay Area’s most talented and dedicated young singer/actors—as well as technical and orchestral apprentices—with professional directors, actors, designers, choreographers, and musicians. They take on challenging, sophisticated musical and dramatic themes, and productions are always accompanied by a full, live orchestra.

CALENDAR LISTING

YMTC presents *The Music Man*, a “love at first sight” story about a con-man, a small Iowa town, and the librarian who steals his heart.

Show Run: March 7–15, 2020

Opens on Saturday, March 7, 2020, 7:30pm.

Performances:

Saturday, 3/7, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 3/8, 2:00 p.m.

Friday, 3/13, 7:30 p.m. (Pay-What-You-Can Performance)

Saturday, 3/14, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, 3/14, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, 3/15, 2:00 p.m.

Where: El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater, 540 Ashbury Avenue. Near El Cerrito Plaza BART.

Ticket Prices: \$16–32. Student, senior, teacher, military, and group discounts are available. Purchase tickets at <https://www.ymtcbayarea.org> or at the door, which opens one hour prior to performance.