



Media Contact: Dawn Kellogg
Communications Manager
(585) 232-1366 ext. 3059
dkellogg@gevatheatre.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEVA THEATRE CENTER PRESENTS

The Music Man

“The Big Parade” comes to a rousing conclusion with one of the most beloved musicals of all time.

Rochester, N.Y., April 12, 2011 – Geva Theatre Center’s 2010-2011 Mainstage season has been a “Big Parade” of incredible productions and epic performances. The “Parade” comes to a rousing conclusion with one of the world’s most beloved musicals – Meredith Willson’s *The Music Man*.

Con man Harold Hill arrives in River City, Iowa with a plan to swindle its stubborn but unsuspecting citizens out of their hard-earned cash. Marian, the town’s prim librarian sees right through him. Will Harold succeed in his scheming plan, or will he risk getting caught to win Marian’s heart?

All of the musical magic of Meredith Willson’s classic musical will ring through the Geva Mainstage. *The Music Man* is a joyful shout to the power of music in the human heart. A great show for the entire family!

Meredith Willson’s 1957 musical became a hit on Broadway winning five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and running for 1,375 performances. The cast album won the very first Grammy Award for “Best Original Cast Album.” The show’s success has led to revivals in 1980 and 2000, and a popular 1962 film and 2003 TV remake.

Meredith Willson worked on *The Music Man* between 1951 and its premiere in 1957 as a “Valentine” to small-town Iowans. He set it in 1912, in a time when audiences of the day could still remember the innocence of that era and revel in the nostalgia of small-town life. Director Mark Cuddy has chosen to set Geva’s production of *The Music Man* in 1954, in a simpler time which can be remembered by today’s audiences. “In searching for a new approach to a play that had been done ten thousand times and to make it our own ... I realized that we just don’t have the same nostalgia for 1912 as [Willson’s] peers did in the 1950s,” commented Mark Cuddy. “So I thought, it’s better set in the time he wrote it so that we can enjoy a sense of nostalgia for a period that we can relate to as well.”

This production of *The Music Man* will go down in history as the largest musical ever produced at Geva Theatre Center. The statistics are staggering: a cast of 46 (nearly doubling the number of Geva employees); 250 hours of rehearsals; over 1,000 costume pieces (including over 100 pairs of shoes); hundreds of light and sound cues and

over 115 gallons of paint and texturing products. Nearly 300 loads of laundry will be done over the run of the show.

Geva's production features Broadway stalwart (and Rochester native) **John Bolton** (*Curtains, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*,) as Harold Hill and **Analisa Leaming** (national tours of *Annie* and *The Sound of Music*) as Marian Paroo. With Broadway veteran (and Rochester native) **Cass Morgan** (Broadway's *Mary Poppins, Beauty and the Beast, Capeman, Pump Boys and Dinettes*) as Mrs. Paroo; **Andre Garner** (Broadway's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas, The Music Man, Marie Christine*) as Marcellus Washburn; Geva Artist-in-Residence **Skip Greer** as Mayor Shinn; **Jennifer Smith** (Broadway's *La Cage Aux Folles, The Producers* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*) as Mrs. Shinn; **Melissa Steadman** as Zaneeta Shinn and **Justin Urso** as Tommy Djilas. The ensemble features **Larry Bull, Jon Clunies, Rayanne Gonzales, Susan Jacks, Roy Lightner, Sarah Kay Marchetti, Robin Masella, Kristen Mengelkoch, Kilty Reidy, Jerrod Royster, Jeff Salisbury, Johnny Stellard, Trevor Strader** and **Stephen Wilde**. Completing the ensemble are **Jessica Azenberg, Lucas Brown, Henry Clapp, Max Coller, Sawyer Duserick, Gavin Flood, Gerard Floriano, Sophia Louise Fusilli, Kelley Hamilton, Sean Jernigan, Brandon La, Jordan McNees, Kyle Mueller, Megan Mueller, Brittany Murchie, Chloe Phelps, Adriana Scalice, Rachel Solomon, Emma Sykes, Daniel Vito Siefring, Allie Waxman, Patrick Willaert, Alizabeth York** and **Annaleigh York**.

The Music Man is directed by **Mark Cuddy**. **Peggy Hickey** will choreograph and musical director is **Don Kot**. The design team includes **G.W. Mercier** (scenic design), **Pamela Scofield** (costume design), **Thomas Munn** (lighting design), **Will Pickens** (sound design) and **Dan Roach** (Video Animation).

The production is further enhanced by the participation of local school and community bands which will make a grand entrance at the finale of some performances with a rousing rendition of "76 Trombones." "The Music Man Band Project" has attracted over 24 local bands including Albion High School, Brighton 12 Corners Middle School, Brockport High School, Churchville-Chili Senior High School, East High School, Eastman Wind Ensemble, East Ridge High School, East Rochester High School, Fairport Fire Department Band, Gates-Chili High School, Greece Odyssey Academy, Greece Marching Band, Hilton Cadets, Hochstein School of Music and Dance, Jon Seiger and the All Stars, Leroy Central School, New Horizons, Palmyra-Macedon High School, Pittsford Fire Department Band, Victor Jr. High School, Warsaw Central School, Webster Marching Band, Webster Schroeder High School and Webster Thomas High School.

The Music Man is co-produced by Flaum Management Company, Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, HSBC Bank USA, N.A. and WARM 101.3; with additional support by Rochester Software Associates, Inc. and Tasteful Connections.

**For further information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact:
Dawn Kellogg, Communications Manager, (585) 232 1366 x 3059**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Previews: Wednesday, April 27 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, April 28 @ 7:30pm
Friday, April 29 @ 8pm
Saturday, April 30 @ 2pm

Opening: Saturday, April 30 @ 8pm

Performances: Sunday, May 1 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, May 3 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 4 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, May 5 @ 7:30pm
Friday, May 6 @ 8pm
Saturday, May 7 @ 3:30pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, May 8 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, May 10 @ 6pm
Wednesday, May 11 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, May 12 @ 7:30pm
Friday, May 13 @ 8pm
Saturday, May 14 @ 3:30pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, May 15 @ 2pm (Audio-described) and 7pm
Tuesday, May 17 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 18 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, May 19 @ 7:30pm (Sign Interpreted)
Friday, May 20 @ 8pm
Saturday, May 21 @ 3:30pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, May 22 @ 2pm (Sunday Salon) and 7pm
Tuesday, May 24 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 25 @ 2pm and 7:30pm
Thursday, May 26 @ 7:30pm
Friday, May 27 @ 8pm
Saturday, May 28 @ 3:30pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, May 29 @ 2pm and 7pm
Tuesday, May 31 @ 7:30pm
Wednesday, June 1 @ 2pm and 7:30pm
Thursday, June 2 - NO PERFORMANCE
Friday, June 3 – NO PERFORMANCE, SUMMER CURTAIN CALL
Saturday, June 4 @ 3:30pm and 8:30pm
Sunday, June 5 @ 2pm and 7pm

TICKET PRICES: \$28 - \$65.

RESERVATIONS: (585) 232 GEVA (4382), Website: www.gevatheatre.org

LOCATION: Geva Theatre Center, 75 Woodbury Blvd, Rochester, NY 14607

GEVA THEATRE CENTER

Geva Theatre Center is Rochester's leading professional theatre and the most attended regional theatre in New York State. Founded in 1972, Geva attracts over 170,000 patrons annually, including more than 16,000 students. The 552-seat Elaine P. Wilson Mainstage offers a wide variety of shows, from musicals to American and world classics.

The 180-seat Ron & Donna Fielding Nextstage is home to Geva's own series of cutting-edge drama, comedy and musical theatre; Geva Comedy Improv; Geva's New Play Reading Series and the Hornet's Nest - an innovative play-reading series facilitating community-wide discussion on controversial topics. The Nextstage also hosts visiting companies of both local and international renown.

Geva Theatre Center offers a wide variety of educational, outreach and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Since 1995 the organization has been led by Artistic Director Mark Cuddy.

ENDS