

Santa Margarita's *The Music Man* is Celebratory as 76 Trombones!
written by Leilani Obana, a senior at San Juan Hills High School

Santa Margarita exhibits a joyous adventure when the infamous con-man, Harold Hill, tries to artifice a small town into purchasing an abundance of instruments. With unexpected love and a town-turned-hopeful, Santa Margarita brings this golden age masterpiece to life.

Ethan Diaz captures every fiber of Harold Hill's charisma. Charming a smirk upon his face, Diaz saunters across stage, enamoring River City with an unfalteringly rich tone. As he trails after Marian Paroo (Sarah Clarke), he embraces a more genuine vocal quality. Clarke's voice floats and flutters as she sings "Goodnight My Someone", gazing upwards at the dreamy sky. Clarke portrays the intricacies of Paroo; the soothing romanticism in her vocal quality completely contrasts her piercing glares at Diaz when storming through the library.

The Pick-A-Little Ladies entertain a high-perched posture. With heads cocked, they appear to cheep at one another, desperate to ruffle their feathers in giddy gossip. Charlie Goubran as Alma Hicks bubbles with enthusiasm. Eyes widened in intrigue, Goubran flits her hands and dances across stage in a nimble fashion. The ensemble, namely the townspeople of River City, radiate an exuberant liveliness. They merrily clutch each others' hands while giggling at the thought of a possible band.

Costumes designed by Sarah Atia illuminate the vivid whimsy of this production. With bright patterns and shorter skirts for the Teen Dancers, and more restrictive and tasteful garments for the older women, Atia distinguishes the different communities within River City. With period accuracy, Atia grounds the story within the 1910s, while placing emphasis on vibrant color characterization and relationships. For example, Marian and Harold counterparts in soft blues to show unity in a blooming relationship.

Hair and Makeup by Ava Miller works in tandem alongside costumes to materialize imaginative characters. Zaneeta Shinn (Brianna Velez) wears an adorable white bow atop the ringlets of a half-up half-down hairstyle. This youthful hairstyle reflects Velez' giggly and girlish nature. The Barbershop Quartet sports iconic handlebar mustaches, uniting the four in gleeful harmony.

With the collaboration of Stage Management (Alyssa McCarty, Amber Breit, and Maggie Thilken) and deck crew, scene transitions are swift and timely. The speed and organization by which set pieces flowed on and off stage immerses audience members into this magical world.

Treasured and timeless, *The Music Man*'s story is exalted with Santa Margarita's exuberant acting and vivacious technical elements.