FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 9, 2003

WHAT: The Music Man

WHEN: Thursday, October 9, 2003 at 7:30 pm

WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go on-line to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets

The Music Man Brings Its Particular Brand Of “Trouble” To The Fine Arts Concert Hall.

Strike up the band! Traveling salesman and smooth talking con-artist Professor Harold Hill is coming to Amherst and we got trouble. At long last the smash hit musical, Meredith Wilson’s The Music Man arrives at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall on Thursday, October 9th for a 7:30 curtain. Tickets are on sale now. This new production features choreography from 5 time Tony-Award Winner, Susan Stroman and direction by Ray Roderick who is adapting Stroman’s Broadway direction for this tour.

Follow the antics of con-artist turned conductor, Harold Hill, as he convinces the citizens of River City, Iowa that he can teach their children to play in a marching band. Only after the town librarian discovers his secret does the plot thicken. Classic songs such as “Till There Was You,” “Gary, Indiana,” and “Seventy Six Trombones” round out this all-American salute to music, romance and fast-talking flim-flam.

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This best-loved piece of Americana that The Chicago Sun-Times describes as “first-rate” and sparkling “with a youthful and talented cast-whose big voices, distinctive characterizations and splendid dancing are ideally suited to this re-envisioned but unquestionably old-fashioned musical.”

The recent Broadway production of The Music Man opened April 27, 2000 at the Neil Simon Theatre. The New Yorker called the show “Wonderful! It puts music in its place, right up there with all the other miracles of life. The audience practically leaps for joy!” The original production of The Music Man originally opened on Broadway in 1957 winning 8 Tony Awards beating out West Side story for the coveted Best Musical Award. In addition, the cast album winning the first Grammy Award for a Broadway Musical Score.

In addition to Ms. Stroman’s choreography, the creative team includes J. Branson (scenery), Charlie Morrison (lighting), Tom Reiter (costumes), and Lucas Corrubia (sound). Meredith Willson’s The Music Man is produced by Big League Theatricals.

Tickets for The Music Man are $45, $35 and $15; 17 and under are $15; Five College students are $15. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or check out our website at www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries. The Music Man is sponsored, in part, by the The Recorder and Valley Kids.

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