

41 - *Ice Cream Sociable*

(Orchestra)

(MARCELLUS EXITS with suitcase, as HAROLD stands - not moving.)

CURTAIN.

"Rustle of Spring" in ORCHESTRA takes us to next scene)

END OF SCENE FIVE

SCENE SIX

(TIME: A few minutes later.)

AT RISE: Madison Park. The *Ice Cream Sociable*. The last strains of "Rustle of Spring" are heard as the LADIES are concluding their Grecian Urn presentation)

EULALIE

Two Grecian Urns! And a fountain—

(There is mild applause. CHARLIE COWELL and MAYOR SHINN burst in among the LADIES)

SHINN

Stop, stop. Listen to this man!

CHARLIE COWELL

You gullible green-grass goats! Can't you get it through your heads that you're being swindled out'a your eye teeth right now - this minute? There's a burglar in the bedroom while you're fiddling in the parlor! I'm talking about Harold Hill - road agent - highwayman - pickpocket.

MAN #1

Pickpocket?

CHARLIE COWELL

Same thing! He's had his hand in your wallet, Mister, and yours, Madam, and yours, little lady, ever since the first moment he came to this town! There's more documented evidence than you'll ever have time to read! There isn't any band, there never has been any band and there never will be any band! And if you don't hunt this man down right now like a mad dog, there won't be any Harold Hill either! He'll be on the next train out of town.

SHINN

Now will you believe me?

MAN #2

Well what are we waiting for?

WOMAN

I want my money back!

MAN #1

Money back — I want his hide!

SHINN

After him! And when you find him bring him to the schoolhouse. After him!

42 — Chase Music

(Orchestra)

(Dispatches various GROUPS)

Try the low road! Look by the crick! Try the mill! Back a' the privy!

(The PEOPLE all rush OFFSTAGE. The TRAVELLER CLOSES. We see WINTHROP alone before the TRAVELLER. Three BOYS cross RIGHT to LEFT. The GRECIAN LADIES cross from LEFT to RIGHT behind TRAVELLER. WINTHROP breaks down and runs OFFSTAGE LEFT. MARIAN rushes across from RIGHT to LEFT. Two GROUPS cross each other behind TRAVELLER, one GROUP going LEFT, one GROUP going RIGHT. HAROLD and MARCELLUS rush across from LEFT to RIGHT in front of the TRAVELLER. Another GROUP including the QUARTET rushes across after him, LEFT to RIGHT, in front of the TRAVELLER. HAROLD and MARCELLUS reappear crossing from RIGHT to LEFT in front of the TRAVELLER as MARIAN crosses from LEFT to RIGHT in front of the TRAVELLER. THEY pass each other. HAROLD stops abruptly, and calls her)

HAROLD

Marian! I've been looking all over for you! Where've you been?

MARIAN

(Rushing to him)

Harold! I've been looking for Winthrop — he's run away! Please go! Please Harold, they're even talking about tar and feathers!

HAROLD

I had to see you, Marian —

MARIAN

It's all right! Don't you know that? You don't owe me a word — not a word —
Please, hurry, please —

MARCELLUS

(Rushing to HAROLD)

Greg —

(Attracted by OFFSTAGE activity, desperately calls in OFFSTAGE direction)

He isn't anywhere around here! Let's try down by the crick!

(HE EXITS and WINTHROP rushes through looking over his shoulder)

MARIAN

Winthrop!

(Grabbing him.)

WINTHROP breaks away but HAROLD grabs him)

HAROLD

Hey, wait a minute here, son.

WINTHROP

(Struggling)

I'm not your thon! Leave go me!

HAROLD

Not till I talk to you for a minute.

WINTHROP

(Trying to fight loose)

I won't lichen! You wouldn't tell the truth anyway.

HAROLD

I would too.

WINTHROP

Would not.

HAROLD

Would too! Tell you anything you want to know.

WINTHROP

(Holding still for a minute)

Can you lead a band?

HAROLD

No.

WINTHROP

Are you a big liar?

HAROLD

Yes.

WINTHROP

Are you a dirty rotten crook?

HAROLD

Yes.

WINTHROP

(Bursting into tears, kicking)

Leave me go, you big liar!

HAROLD

What's the matter? You wanted the truth, didn't you? Now I'm bigger'n you and you're going to stand here and get it all so you might as well quit wiggling.

(WINTHROP finally stops exhausted, stands panting)

There's two things you're entitled to know. One, you're a wonderful kid. I thought so from the first. That's why I wanted you in the band, just so you'd quit mopin' around feeling sorry for yourself.

WINTHROP

(Sarcastically)

What band?

HAROLD

... I always think there's a band, kid.

WINTHROP

What 'th the other thing I'm entitled to know?

HAROLD

Well — actually the other thing isn't any your business now that I think of it.

WINTHROP

I with you'd never come to River Thity!

MARIAN

No you don't, Winthrop.

43 — *Till There Was You. (Reprise)*

(Harold)

WINTHROP

Thithter! You believe him?

MARIAN

I believe everything he ever said.

MARIAN

But he promised uth —

MARIAN

I know what he promised us and it all happened just like he said. The lights. And the flags and the colors. And the cymbals.

WINTHROP

Where wath all that?

MARIAN

(Hotly)

In the way every kid in this town walked around here all summer, and looked and acted. Especially you! And the parents, too. Does Mama wish he'd never come to River City?

WINTHROP

Well you do, don't you?

MARIAN

No, Winthrop. Now go, Harold — please.

WINTHROP

(Bursting into tears)

Go on, Profethor, hurry up.

HAROLD

I can't go, Winthrop.

WINTHROP

Why not?

HAROLD

For the first time in my life I got my foot caught in the door.

(To MARIAN)

THERE WAS LOVE ALL AROUND,
BUT I NEVER HEARD IT SINGING.
NO I NEVER HEARD IT AT ALL,
TILL THERE WAS YOU.
(THEY embrace)

MARCELLUS

(ENTERING)

Greg!

(Desperately)

Greg, they're here! That way -- that way!

WINTHROP

Go on, Profethor That way -- that way.

(HAROLD stays where he is as the MEN surround him. CONSTABLE
LOCKE takes charge with handcuffs.)

CURTAIN)

END OF SCENE SIX

SCENE SEVEN

(TIME: Immediately following.)

AT RISE: The River City High School Assembly Room. TOWNSPEOPLE
assembled. In evidence are the DEL SARTE LADIES and the other program
participants, their costumes begdraggled by the storm)

SHINN

(On the podium)

-- which is why I interrupted the program at this point. Rest assured this snake in
our bosom would have been misapprehended by this time. Yes! And always
remember --