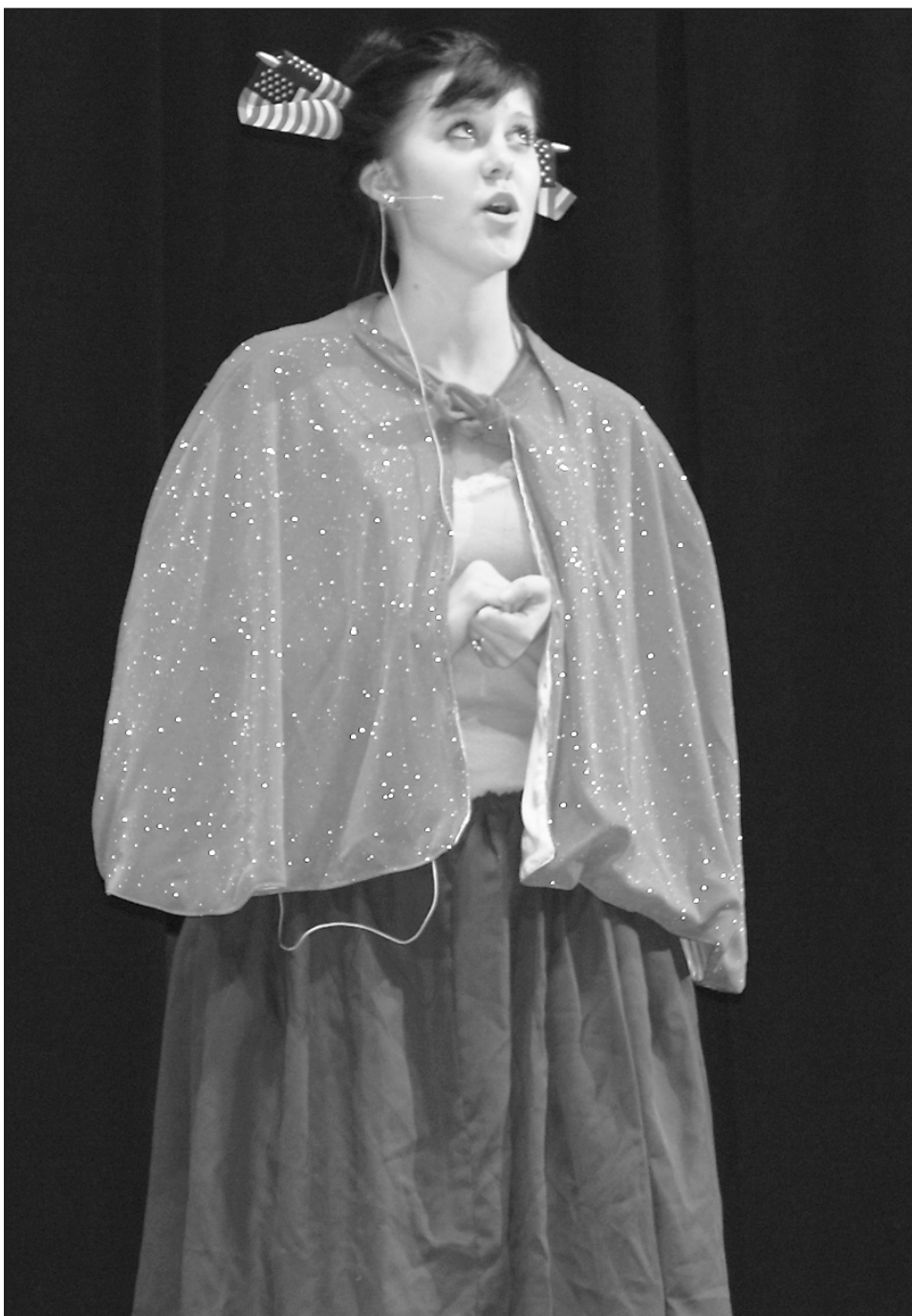


BEN GLADING (above left), Caleb Koerperich, Zach May and Matthew Helm pretend to argue during play practice last week. The four make up the school board in "The Music Man," who later become the Barbershop Quartet. Amanda Marshall (below left) play the part of the mayor's wife. Miki Dorshorst (below right) plays Winthrop.



'The Music Man' takes the stage once more

The lines are rehearsed and songs perfected, ready for opening night of "The Music Man," this year's musical at Decatur Community High School.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday in the high school auditorium.

For the last month and a half, around 65 students, including some grade-school kids, have spent hours upon hours practicing each day for the show. They have memorized their lines, learned their music and dance steps, prepared the sets and worked out the lighting.

This year's play is by Meredith Wilson. It's the fourth time it's been on the Oberlin stage in the past 40 years. Susan Nelson, director and vocal teacher, said she has directed the play three times.

Mrs. Nelson said she thought people would enjoy the musical. Each year, she said, she tries to pick a musical that will fit well with the



talents and strengths of the students available.

The first "Music Man" was in 1971 under Norlyn Izler, she said. Then it was on the stage here again

in 1981 and 1999.

The musical takes place in River City, Iowa, during the 1900s. Harold Hill (played by Nolan Henningson) comes to the town under the guise of starting a band for the town's kids, but actually just wants the town's money.

The cast includes Baron Green as Charlie Cowell, Ganon Henningson as Tommy Djilas, Elizabeth Nedland as Zaneeta Shinn, Amanda Marshall as Eulalie Mackenkie Shinn, Cassidy Shields as Amaryliss and Miki Dorshorst as Winthrop.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors.

Money from the sales help pay the royalties to rent the play, and for sets, costumes and other expenses, Mrs. Nelson said. Anything left will go into the music department account.



NOLAN HENNINGSON (above), who plays "Professor" Harold Hill, tells the audience about starting a kids' band. Elizabeth Nedland (right) plays Zaneeta Shinn.



— Story and photos by Kimberly Davis