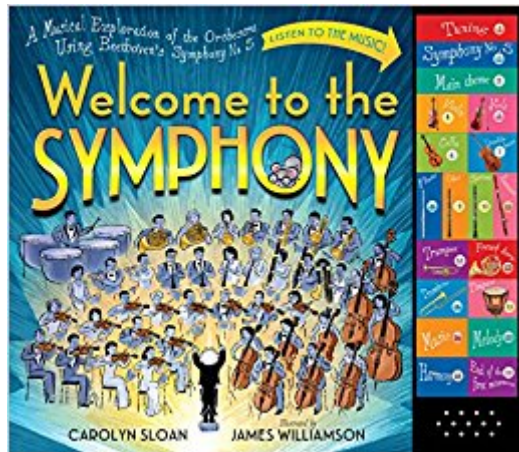


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Welcome To The Symphony: A Musical Exploration Of The Orchestra Using Beethoven's Symphony No. 5



Synopsis

Using one of the most famous works in classical musicâBeethovenâs Fifth Symphonyâhere is the perfect way to introduce a young child to the world of classical music. This charming and interactive picture book with its panel of 19 sound buttons is like a ticket to a concert hall, taking readers on a journey from the exciting first moment when the musicians begin tuning up to the end of the first movement (attention newcomers: donât clap yet!). At each step of the way, readers learn the basics of classical music and the orchestra: What is a conductor? What is a symphony? Who was Beethoven? The different aspects of music: melody, harmony, tempo, theme. And the families of instrumentsâstrings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. But the best part is that every critical idea is illustrated in gorgeous sound. The sound panel allows readers to hear the different parts of the symphony and voices of the musicâthe famous beginning of the Fifth, what a clarinet sounds like, the difference between a violin and a viola, what a melody is, and what harmony is. Kids will want to match their voices to the A note that tunes the orchestra, dance to the rhythmic passagesâand, of course, sing along to da-da-da-daah! Â

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company; Nov edition (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761176470

ISBN-13: 978-0761176473

Product Dimensions: 11.9 x 0.5 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 116 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #15,529 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 inÂ Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Forms & Genres > Symphonies #3 inÂ Books >

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

âAn ideal way to introduce children to the magic of musicâdelightful, charming, wonderfully entertaining, beautifully illustrated.â • âGerard Schwarz, Music Director, the All-Star Orchestra

"Welcome to the Symphony [lives] up to the publisher's promise that children will enjoy it . . . it passed the 4-year-old test with flying colors." "The Washington Post" "An ideal way to introduce children to the magic of music" "delightful, charming, wonderfully entertaining, beautifully illustrated."

• "Gerard Schwarz, music director, The All-Star Orchestra and music director laureate, Seattle Symphony" (Gerard Schwarz) "A delight for kids of any age! Educational, fun, a visual and aural treat, this book introduces children to the wonderful world of symphony music. With gorgeous illustrations, clear and straightforward descriptions of the instruments, and interactive buttons that play beautiful Beethoven, this will have your kids dragging you to the symphony! I simply adored it."

• "Terry Kinney, director, actor, and co-founder of the Steppenwolf Theatre Company." (Terry Kinney) "Lively, beautifully written" "a charming way to educate the next generation of concert-goers."

• "Orin O'Brien, double bassist, The New York Philharmonic (Orin O'Brien)" "This beautiful book appeals on so many levels...The charming illustrations and brilliant musical recordings provide the perfect sensory stimuli, while the text illuminates every question a child might have about the experience in the most natural and satisfying way."

• "Dorothy Lawson, artistic director, Ethel String Quartet (Dorothy Lawson)" "An introduction to one of the greatest of all classical works that quite wondrously includes not just words and pictures, but some of the music itself. And to think that the musicians playing the excerpts are young people as well, members of the New York Youth Symphony! What could be more inspiring?"

• "Ted Libbey, author of The NPR Listener's Encyclopedia of Classical Music (Ted Libbey)"

Carolyn Sloan is a music educator at the Berkeley Carroll School in Brooklyn, New York, and the author of *Finding Your Voice: A Practical and Spiritual Approach to Singing and Living*. A songwriter and musician, she has been writing music for theater, television, and children for the past 20 years. She lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.

• James Williamson is an illustrator, designer, and artist whose work has appeared in *The New York Times* and numerous children's books. He lives with his wife in Brooklyn, New York.

This is a wonderful book for children to learn all about music--from terms, instruments, how an orchestra is put together and what it sounds like. My 16-year old cello playing teen thought it was great. I wish I had this book when he was little. I highly recommend this for any children, especially those who are musically interested or are taking lessons.

Excellent book to get children introduced to the symphony orchestra and its instruments. I gave it to

my 8 year old nephew and he was thrilled with how the books worked with the recorded examples that he could touch-n-play. And as a music teacher for over 42 years I was glad there was a marvelous tool like this available.

This book is so cool. I read it twice myself! It follows three mice who visit the symphony for the first time and everything they learn. I love that you can hear the different instruments play individually. The only improvement I would make is a few more options to hear the orchestra play together, and also a button to adjust the volume. The volume level is ok in a quiet room, but when my niece opened the book on Christmas Day, it was difficult to hear over the other chatter in the room.

Great book for young beginning musicians! The one problem (and the reason for only 3 stars) was that the batteries were dead when the book arrived, so before I even wrapped it up for Christmas I had to buy 3 AG13 button cell batteries and replace them. Apparently that's not uncommon, because the instructions on the back of the book note "malfunctioning sound unit may indicate that batteries require replacement." Kind of a drag, but a good book otherwise.

Although I returned this book because it was too advanced for my grandchildren, I think it is a wonderful book to introduce children to symphonic music. I would suggest the recommended age for this book be 6+. My grandchildren are toddlers and I didn't think it would hold their interest yet. I will reorder in a few years.

I bought this for my two boys(2 and 4). They both have an interest in music. They love pushing the buttons and it keeps their interest as they listen to the story. I now play classical music in the car and the kids really enjoy trying to pick out the different sounds from the instruments that they know from the book. Then we talk about the new sounds they hear and what those instruments are called. Really a great way to introduce your kids to music. Cute story about mice attending the symphony, Beethoven's fifth. They talk about what happens along the way and the different part of the music and the different instruments being played and there is a corresponding button with sound. I wish there were more like this with different composers. I think Beethoven is definitely the way to start. My boys love the dramatic sound.

Baby (11 months) is too young to "get" this book BUT I knew that before I ordered it. She loves music toys and can press the buttons. Her 3 year old cousin loves it and so do all the adults. I

ordered this book knowing she can play with the buttons and understand the concepts later as she gets older. I think this is a GREAT book about classical music! I imagine this would be an awesome book for homeschooling and preschools too!

The age of child who enjoys pushing the audio buttons may be too young to hear the entire text. But it's good to read to a mixture of ages. Older kids can understand what the text says, while younger ones can push the buttons to hear the instruments. When I read it to my 2-year old, I just read the main parts and summarize.

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