



Books about Music and Musicians

Ackerman, Karen. Song and Dance Man. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.
Grandpa demonstrates for his visiting grandchildren some of the songs, dances, and jokes he performed when he was a vaudeville entertainer.

Adoff, Jaime. The Song Shoots Out of My Mouth. New York: Dutton, 2002.
24 poems about music, from hip hop to classical to reggae to gospel; all are in free verse and are extremely rhythmic.

Aliki. Ah, Music! New York: HarperCollins, 2003.
Surveys the history and components of music, concentrating on Western musical traditions.

Battle-Lavert, Gwendolyn. The Music in Derrick's Heart. New York: Holiday House, 2000.
Derrick's Uncle Booker T. makes magic by playing his harmonica music from his heart and spends the summer teaching Derrick how to play.

Burleigh, Robert. Lookin' for Bird in the Big City. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 2000.
A fictionalized account of teen-age music student Miles Davis trying to find Charlie Parker in New York City.

Colón-Vilá, Lillian. Salsa. Houston, TX: Pinata Books, 1998.
Rita, a young girl living in New York City, describes the Salsa and its Afro-Caribbean origin, imagines being a salsa director.

Cox, Judy. My Family Plays Music. New York: Holiday House, 2003.
A celebration of music and a musical family, each of whom plays one of 10 different styles of music, narrated by the youngest girl, a percussionist so she can play with all of them.

Ehrhardt, Karen. This Jazz Man. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, 2006.
Transposing the song "This Old Man" into "This Jazz Man" who counts to nine and introduces famous African-American jazz musicians along the way. The poetry and colorful illustrations evoke the joy and sound of jazz.

Francis, Panama and Reiser, Bob. David Gets His Drum. New York: Cobblehill/Dutton, 1998.

Based on the life of drummer David "Panama" Francis, this is the story a little boy named David who dreams of getting his own drum and marching in the Sunday parade.

Gerstein, Mordicai. What Charlie Heard. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002.
Describes the life of American composer Charles Ives, whose music was not well received during his life, and which expressed the variety of sounds he heard in the world. A marvelous attempt at showing what sound looks like.

Gollub, Matthew. The Jazz Fly: starring the Jazz Bugs, the jazz fly, Willie the worm, Nancy the gnat, Sammy the centipede. Santa Rosa, CA: Tortuga Press, 2000.
A fly seeks directions to town and picks up the rhythm of the answers he gets from a frog, a hog, a donkey, and a dog, and then uses these sounds to jazz up his band's music.

Igus, Toyomi. I See the Rhythm. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 1998.
Chronicles and captures poetically the history, mood, and movement of African American music.

Johnson, Angela. Violet's music. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2004.
Violet makes music every day of her life, first banging a rhythm out on her crib bars and then making instruments out of everyday things. Upon arriving at Kindergarten she's disappointed that no one else is similarly enthralled by music, but as she grows and follows her passion she finds kindred spirits.

Johnson, James Weldon. Lift Every Voice and Sing. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2000.
Black-and-white photographs accompany this version of the song that has come to be considered the African American national anthem.

Koscielniak, Bruce. The Story of the Incredible Orchestra. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000.
Describes the development of the modern orchestra, starting with instrumental groups at the beginning of the 17th century up to the present day; also explains the evolution of musical styles and how various instruments have changed over the centuries, examining such intriguing instruments as the sackbut and shawm as well as familiar ones. Lots of information and wonderful illustrations.

Krosoczka, Jarrett. Punk Farm. New York: Knopf, 2005.

At nightfall, after Farmer Joe goes to bed, Cow, Goat, Pig, Sheep, and Chicken get out their instruments, put on their shades, and become the rock-and-roll band Punk Farm and put on a concert for all the animals.

Kushkin, Karla. The Philharmonic Gets Dressed. New York: Harper Trophy, 1982.

The 105 members of the Philharmonic Orchestra get ready for a performance and we learn what and who make up an orchestra.

Let's Sing! Japanese Songs for Kids. New York: Kamishibai for Kids, 1998.

Music and lyrics, in English and Japanese, for 28 songs. Background notes on each song are included, as is a CD of the songs being performed.

Littlesugar, Amy. Shake Rag: from the life of Elvis Presley. New York: Philomel Books, 1998.

The story of 11-year-old Elvis, lonely and living on the wrong side of the tracks in Shake Rag, and the influence of the people he meets, both black and white, after his mother gives him a second hand guitar.

London, Jonathan. Hip Cat. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993.

Hip Cat journeys to the city by the bay to live his dream of being a jazz musician.

Marsalis, Wynton. Jazz ABZ: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2005.

The famous and the not-so-famous are all here, celebrated with alliteration and poetry and imagery to suit each musician.

Martin, Bill. The Maestro Plays. New York: Henry Holt, 1994.

A new version of the old classic with wonderfully vibrant illustrations by Vladimir Radunsky.

Miller, J. Philip; Greene, Shep & Meisel, Paul. We All Sing With the Same Voice. New York: HarperCollins, 2001

This Sesame Street song joyfully embraces the idea that no matter where children live, what they look like, or what they do, they're all the same at heart.

Millman, Isaac. Moses Goes to a Concert. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002.

Moses and his schoolmates, all deaf, attend a concert where the orchestra's percussionist is also deaf. Includes illustrations in sign language and a page showing the manual alphabet.

Moss, Lloyd. Zin! Zin! Zin!: a Violin. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995.

Ten instruments take their parts one by one in a musical performance.

Myers, Walter Dean. Blues journey. New York: Holiday House, 2003.

Poems capture the spirit and feeling of the blues.

Myers, Walter Dean. The Blues of Flats Brown. New York: Holiday House, 2000. To escape an abusive master, a junkyard dog named Flats runs away and makes a name for himself from Mississippi to New York City playing the blues on his guitar.

Nichol, Barbara. Beethoven Lives Upstairs. New York: Orchard Books, 1994. Ten-year-old Christoph exchanges letters with his uncle about Mr. Beethoven, the eccentric boarder that shares his house. Over the course of the correspondence Christoph's feelings slowly change from anger and embarrassment to admiration.

Raschka, Christopher. Charlie Parker Played Be Bop. New York: Orchard Books, 1992. Introduces the famous saxophonist and his style of jazz known as be bop through exuberant words and pictures.

Raschka, Christopher. John Coltrane's Giant Steps. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2002. Illustrations interpret Coltrane's music, using some familiar objects, such as a kitten and a snowflake, and capture the feel of the jazz great.

Raschka, Christopher. Mysterious Thelonious. New York: Orchard Books, 1997. Illustrations match the tones of the diatonic scale to the values of the color wheel in presenting a portrait of Thelonious Monk.
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Ryan, Pam Muñoz. When Marian Sang. New York: Scholastic, 2002. An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist.

Rylant, Cynthia. Mr. Putter & Tabby Toot the Horn. San Diego: Harcourt Brace, 1998. Mr. Putter and his neighbor, Mrs. Teaberry, decide to join a band, but they (and their pets, Tabby the cat and Zeke the dog) have trouble finding the right instruments to play. Arthur Howard's illustrations make this series absolutely delightful.

Sabbeth, Alex. Rubber-band Banjos and a Java Jive Bass: projects and activities on the science of music and sound. New York: Wiley, 1997. The science of sound and music, including how sound is made, how the ear hears, how musical instruments are made. Simple illustrations and directions for activities are included.

Schaefer, Carole Lexa. Two Scarlet Songbirds: the story of Anton Dvorak. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001. While visiting the Czechoslovakian-American community of Spillville, Iowa, in 1893, Dvorak hears a Scarlet Tanager and is inspired to write his "American Quartet." Based on fact, the embellishments bring to life the creative process and connection to the larger world.

Spotted Eagle, Douglas. Voices of Native America: Native American Instruments and Music. Liberty, UT: Eagle's View Publishing, 1997.

An in-depth look at Native American music and the instruments used by indigenous peoples both past and present. Each instrument is accompanied by a description of how the instrument is played and for what purpose. Instructions and descriptions of how to make many of the instruments is included.

Taylor, Debbie A. Sweet Music in Harlem. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2004.

Inspired by Art Kane's famous 1958 photo *Harlem* (of more than 50 jazz greats on a Harlem stoop) this story follows a young boy as he searches for his jazz musician uncle's lost hat all over Harlem and inadvertently gathers the crowd for the photo.

Thaler, Mike. The Music Teacher from the Black Lagoon. New York: Scholastic, 2000.

A young boy describes all the dreadful things he has heard about Miss LaNote, the new music teacher.

Velasquez, Eric. Grandma's Records. New York: Walker & Co., 2001

Eric spends every summer with his grandma in New York City where they listen to her salsa, merengue and mambo records while he learns about Puerto Rico and her favorite song.

Williams, Sheron. Imani's Music. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000
Imani, an African grasshopper, brings music to the new world when he travels aboard a slave ship.

Williams, Vera. Music, Music for Everyone. New York: Greenwillow, 1984.

Rosa plays her accordion with her friends in the Oak Street Band and earns money to help her mother with expenses while her grandmother is sick.

Especially for Teachers

Anderson, William M. Integrating Music into the Elementary Classroom. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2001.

Haines, B. Joan E. Leading Young Children to Music: a resource book for teachers.

Columbus, OH: C.E. Merrill, 1984.

Out of print; check local libraries.

Levene, Donna B. Music Through Children's Literature: theme and variations.

Englewood, CO: Teacher Ideas Press, 2001.

Painter, William M. Musical Story Hours: using music with storytelling and puppetry.

Hamden, CT: Library Professional Publications, 1989.

Out of print; check local libraries.

Silverman, Jerry. Just Listen to This Song I'm Singing: African-American history through song. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 1996.

Out of print; check local libraries.

Vernazza, Marcelle. Complete Handbook Of Kindergarten Music Lesson Plans And Activities. West Nyack, N.Y.: Parker Publishing Co., 1981.

Wills, Peter. Music for All: developing music in the curriculum with pupils with special educational needs. London: David Fulton, 1996.

Out of print; check local libraries.