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My First Orchestra Book



Synopsis

A delightful and colorful introduction to the orchestra, aimed to fire the imagination of children aged 4-9 years. There is a special guide in the book: a little green creature called Tormod. He is a troll who has come all the way from the top of a mountain in Norway to discover music. As he searches for the music that will help him to find his way home, readers learn about the different instruments - what they look and sound like, and how they belong in different musical families. Throughout the book, children are referred to the accompanying CD so they can hear examples as they read. There is a musical quiz at the end, with multiple choice answers. 37 classical music tracks on the CD include: Sarasate's Carmen Fantasy, Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute, Tchaikovsky's 'Russian Dance' from The Nutcracker, Copland's Clarinet Concerto, Wagner's Overture to Tannhäuser, Grieg's 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' from Peer Gynt and many more.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (20 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

My First Orchestra Book is the "sequel" to [My First Classical Music Book](#). It too is written by Genevieve Helsby, but the illustrator for this volume is Karin Eklund, not Jason Chapman. This book begins a bit odd. Your child is introduced to a troll named Tormod who travels down from his mountain to discover more types of music. In his travels, he discovers the orchestra and serves as your guide through the book. The primary focus of this book is families of instruments. Where My

First Classical Music Book gave you a brief introduction to these families and instruments, this book provides you with more details. Also, unlike the first book, only the string, woodwind, brass, and percussion families are discussed. There is no mention of the keyboard family. Like the first book, though, there is an accompanying CD with tracks to play corresponding to different pages. Every section begins by describing the common characteristics of a particular family. For example, in the woodwind family, the instruments they all have a long tube-like shape and they all have reeds. Each of the instruments detailed in each family is given two pages with details on how the instrument sounds and how many are generally found in an orchestra. At the end of the book are details on what a conductor is as well as some "part-time" orchestra instruments like the harp. This was a good follow-up book, and leaves me wondering if there will be a third in the series or just these two. I have some minor gripes about this book. I didn't like the troll story/guide, but that could just be me being a stodgy adult. I also preferred the illustrations in My First Classical Music Book better. They just felt a little more whimsical and inviting to me. Those complaints aside there were parts of this book I really loved. I particularly appreciate the way the author presents the material to children. She makes it fun and easily understood. She also does a masterful job picking out the appropriate songs for each instrument. What I really appreciated related to the CD and the song choice was that you get 2 tracks for almost every instrument. You get to hear what the instrument sounds like by itself, and then you get to hear what a group of the same instrument sounds like together. This creates a lasting impression on the reader, and will hopefully build a love for music and the orchestra in them that they want to take up an instrument, or at the very least go see some shows.

I used this book to teach 4/5/6 year olds about the orchestra. They LOVED it! It captivated their attention which is always a good thing for this age group and they learned simple, but yet important details about the orchestra. A good seed has been planted for further learning! The story line behind this book, a troll, make it more interesting than just learning about the orchestra itself.

I have used this book and CD Rom in my classroom successfully. Interesting and fact-filled drawings fill this book about musical instruments. (See my photos). I recommend this for elementary K-5 classrooms!

My 6 year old granddaughter just loved the book and CD. It kept her entertained throughout her entire car trip from Michigan to New York. I did not actually read it or listen to the CD prior to giving it to her but the reports are very positive, especially for the child who enjoys music and is curious

about musical instruments.

After enjoying the My First Classical Music Book and My First Classical Music App, this was a natural progression and I'm not disappointed. My son and I have already gone through the instruments of the orchestra and enjoyed it. A great educational tool that should be returned to regularly. Some terrific music here from the Naxos catalog as well. Don't miss it.

This book a fun way to introduce children to classical music. The accompanying CD samples a bunch of classical favorites, which adds a cool multi-media experience. And the illustrations are adorable and informative! Perfect for gifts!

This book was awesome. The students could actually pick out the different instruments without being told what was on the different tracks.

A great book for my little orchestra enthusiast! The accompanying CD helps explain the text, and I particularly like how we can introduce the instruments in families or on their own.

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