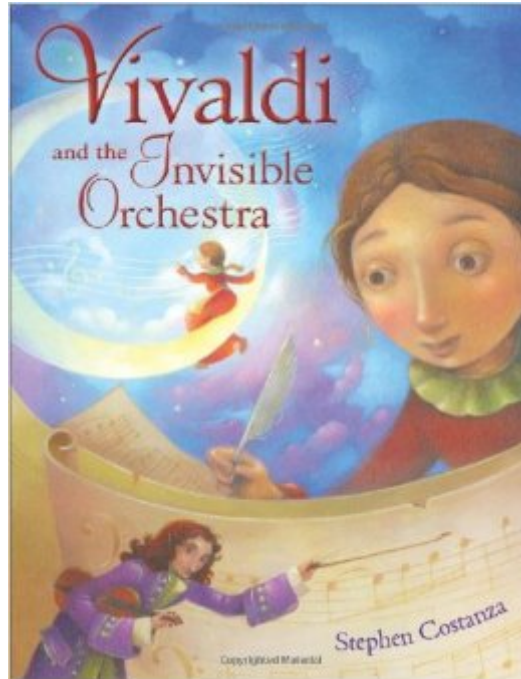


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# Vivaldi And The Invisible Orchestra (Christy Ottaviano Books)



## Synopsis

Every day, Antonio Vivaldi composes a new orchestral piece, and every day, the orphan Candida transcribes Vivaldi's masterpiece into sheet music for the Invisible Orchestra. Nobody notices Candida or appreciates her hard work. But one day Candida accidentally slips a poem she wrote into the sheet music and the girl so often behind the shadows gets recognized for her own talents. Vivaldi really did have an Invisible Orchestra made up of orphan girls he taught to play. This beautiful book pays tribute to their inspiration.

## Book Information

Series: Christy Ottaviano Books

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); First Edition edition (February 28, 2012)

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ISBN-10: 0805078010

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Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #248,496 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #228 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #301 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

## Customer Reviews

This book is lovely to look at: beautifully illustrated with lovely pastel drawings and soft outlines. It will make a nice, girl-empowering read for young creatives. Unfortunately, the story does not live up to the title. It tells of a child named Candida, a fictional music scribe who writes poetry in the margins of Vivaldi's music, poetry that is to become the four anonymous sonnets on which "The Four Seasons" are based. A lovely story of one girl's efforts, perhaps, but the book fails to delve much into the title topic, that of Vivaldi's orphan orchestra, hidden away from audiences. Very little is known about the writing of Vivaldi's Four Seasons, but for music lovers looking to introduce a child to Vivaldi, Anna Harwell Celenza's Â Vivaldi's Four Seasons, which comes with a CD of the music,

might be a better choice.

There should be more "historical novels" for children! Stephen Costanza, my favorite illustrator for children's books, has created another of his top-notch stories about famous composers. The drawings are exciting, colorful, and beautifully executed. It's an excellent way to introduce children to the life and music of Vivaldi.

My seven-year-old daughter plays the piano and we've (husband and I) been introducing her to some of the famous composers. I've always loved Baroque composer Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, and when I saw this picture book, I thought it would be a great way to introduce her to the composer, besides listening to his music. Not only is this a delightful tale but also a musical mystery which for the purpose of the story has been changed a little. There were four sonnets on the four seasons published together with Vivaldi's music in 1725. Till today, the identity of the author of those poems remains a mystery. Author-illustrator Stephen Costanza creates a fictional character, Candida, as the young authoress of the poems. Until I read this book, I was not aware that Vivaldi composed many of his pieces for the young orphans in Venice, specifically those residing at the Ospedale della Pieta, an all-girl orphanage. The girls who performed in Vivaldi's orchestra, hidden behind the curtains were known as Vivaldi's Invisible Orchestra. What is less clear is why these young musicians had to be concealed behind curtains, their identities never revealed, and only their beautiful music heard. Perhaps because of their tender age? Well, Candida may be a fictitious character created by Mr. Costanza, but she is certainly a credible symbol of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of these orphan girls with dreams of their own and a desire to have their voices heard. Each word is well-chosen and together with the accompanying illustrations which are beautiful and vivid, the story of these 'invisible children' comes alive, and both my daughter and I were incredibly touched. My daughter has been inspired by this tale and is now keen to explore poems and write poetry! A recommended read!

This lovely story with soft, dreamy and quite colorful illustrations, introduces young readers to historical fiction by introducing Antonio Vivaldi during his tenure as maestro at a girl's orphanage in Venice. The author imagines a copyist, an orphan who didn't play an instrument but served to copy Vivaldi's manuscripts, so the forty piece orchestra had enough to share. Costanza names this character Candida, and has her scribbling poetry on one of the manuscripts because she is so inspired by the music. Vivaldi is in turn inspired by her poetry, and he pens *The Four Seasons*. This

is a beautiful story with a shy, talented girl character whose modesty does not stand in the way of her gaining recognition.

My three year old loves this book. Now he is asking about Vivaldi's music all the time.

Neat Book, great price, good service.

A pretty book, but the author and illustrator get so much wrong with regards to the music, the setting and the real-life characters in their telling of the story. Too bad.

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