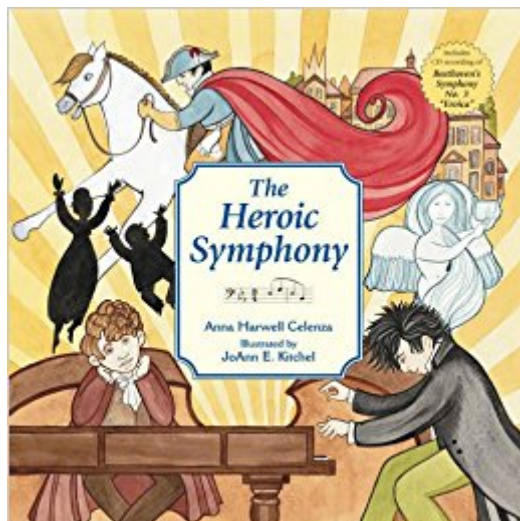


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The Heroic Symphony



Synopsis

When Beethoven learns he is going deaf, he is determined to write a great symphony. As war rages in Europe he thinks he has found his inspiration in the heroic deeds of Napoleon. But has he?

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Charlesbridge (February 1, 2004)

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #961,931 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History #66 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical #85 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 4--As in their previous collaborations, Celenza brings a famous musician to life while Kitchel provides energetic art. This time, they present the story of Beethoven's despair over his deafness and his eventual triumph as he gives himself over to the symphony that highlights his struggle to survive as a musician. Originally written as a celebration of Napoleon's victory, the four movements were meant to reflect Bonaparte's courage and heroism. Soon after Beethoven completed them, however, he discovered the great warrior's treachery in declaring himself Emperor of France. The composer ripped a copy of the score he had intended as a gift, but his friend Ferdinand Ries prevented him from destroying the composition. The Bonaparte Symphony was later renamed the Eroica, or Heroic Symphony. Celenza's research into the details of this piece of music reflects her scholarly background; she unearthed primary-source material that is described in an author's note. The stylized watercolor-and-ink paintings evoke the mood of each movement; for the first one, Napoleon's horse seems to jump right out of the musical score. To reflect the French origins of the symphony, Kitchel backs most of the illustrations with a toile design. Although there are many books on this composer, such as Barbara Nichol's *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* (Orchard,

1994) and Mike Venezia's Ludwig van Beethoven (Children's, 1996), this one, with its emphasis on one segment of his life, is a worthwhile purchase.--Laurie Edwards, West Shore School District, Camp Hill, PA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Anna Harwell Celenza is a musicologist and the author of several books for adults and children regarding music history and the history of art. Her children's books include THE FAREWELL SYMPHONY, PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION, GERSHWIN'S RHAPSODY IN BLUE, and VIVALDI'S FOUR SEASONS. Anna lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Celenza's series for children on major composers and their works is unparalleled. A fantastic classroom or family resource. My daughter uses these to teach 1st-2nd graders who will blow you away with their understanding and enthusiasm for music and music history. Highly recommended.

I am in love with this series of books for children! I own three of them and can't wait to get the rest. This is a perfect series for homeschooling families, or parents who want to supplement what their children are learning outside the home. This book not only tells the story of Beethoven's life and inspiration for writing The Heroic Symphony, but it also gives some of France's history at the time that Beethoven wrote it. The illustrations are beautiful and truly works of art in themselves. This book will be used by our family and passed down to be used again and again. The CD which accompanies it is very well done. My children love to listen to the music and love the story that goes along with it. I feel that the love of classical music is a great gift to give any child. This book is well worth the money, and hard to find at a lower price! Well done!

This is an excellent book to share with a young person - age range three to about age eight. The lesson taught is one of never giving up. Adversity may make the task more difficult, but not impossible. Telling the story of Beethoven in this way was a brilliant move. Very highly recommended.

The heroic symphony is a true story about Ludwig Van Beethoven's symphony no.3 also called the Heroic symphony. The book has cute well drawn pictures that are fun to look at. It gave good info and wasn't hard to read. It can be a book for all ages and many are sure to enjoy [this book]. It also comes with a CD which is the heroic symphony music.

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