

## What a performance february 2008

In readiness for New Zealand Music Month in May, we have reviewed books about music, dance and theatre.

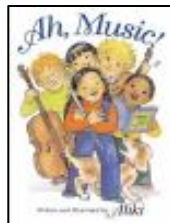
Contributors to this list are: Kerry Aluf, Sanya Baker, Joanna Baynes, Helen Beckingsale, Crissi Blair, Tina Collins, Annie Coppell, Wayne Mills, Lorraine Orman, Angela Soutar

### Picture books for 7 and under

#### *Ah, Music!*

Aliki  
HarperCollins 2003  
Pb ISBN 0064462366

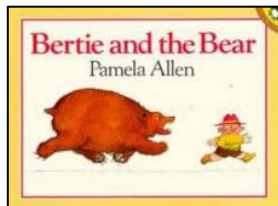
Musical terms are introduced in a fun, child-friendly way. There's a brief history of music, from a Western perspective, and an ending celebrating the many ways music can influence your emotions. 5+. AC



#### *Bertie and the Bear*

Pamela Allen  
Hodder and Stoughton 1983, Puffin 1989  
Pb ISBN 0140509724  
New Zealand book

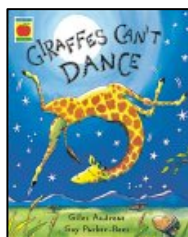
Bertie is being chased by a bear and one by one the queen, king, and various members of the army join in the chase, each adding a different musical instrument to the queen's original cry of 'Shoo, shoo, you monster you!' The bear is so taken with this hullabaloo that he begins to dance. This a great read aloud for 2+. HB



#### *Giraffes Can't Dance*

Giles Andreae, illus Guy Parker-Rees  
Orchard Books 1999  
Pb ISBN 1841215651

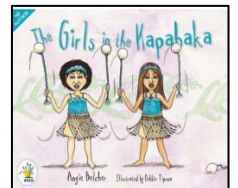
Gerald the Giraffe longs to join the annual Jungle Dance, but he is laughed off the floor. Slinking away, Gerald is comforted by a cricket who reassures him that we all have music we can dance to, it just might be different music. Boosted, Gerald returns and amazes the animals with his moves. Funny and reassuring, with bright illustrations. 3+. AC.



#### *The Girls in the Kapahaka*

Angie Belcher, illus Debbie Tipuna  
Reed 2006  
Pb ISBN 9781869485245

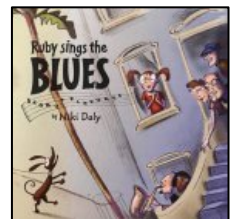
New Zealand book  
A lively story in rhyme of a group of girls – and some boys – involved in the preparation and performance for kapa haka. Angie Belcher is an experienced teacher and writer for educational publications and has produced a very appealing and relevant story for 5-8 yr olds. AS



#### *Ruby Sings the Blues*

Niki Daly  
Frances Lincoln Children's Books 2005  
Hb ISBN 1845070992

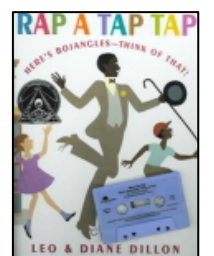
Ruby's voice is so loud it drives everyone crazy. Her parents and her teacher suggest that she turns down the volume, but Ruby switches it up instead and soon even her school friends have had enough. Ruby feels blue, really blue, and then her jazz playing neighbours have an idea to help Ruby. 5+ TC



#### *Rap a Tap Tap. Here's Bojangles – Think of That!*

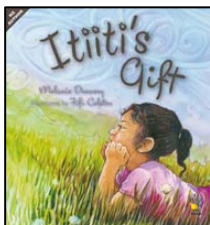
Leo and Diane Dillon  
The Blue Sky Press 2002  
Hb ISBN 9780590478830

The legendary Bojangles, arguably the most famous tap dancer ever, is brought to life for young readers. The delight Bojangles took in dance is cleverly portrayed here in illustrations that resonate with life, laughter and movement. 4+. JB



### *Itiiti's Gift*

Melanie Drewery, illus Fifi Colston  
Reed 2006  
Pb ISBN 9781869484057  
New Zealand book



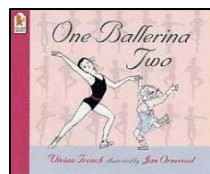
Itiiti feels clumsy, small and shy next to her large, accomplished and outgoing family. However, her mother encourages her to find her own gift and she is transformed when she discovers it is singing. An affirming and optimistic story for 4+. Also available in Te Reo. AS

### *Josephine Wants to Dance*

Jackie French, illus Bruce Whatley  
Angus & Robertson 2006; Hb ISBN 9780207200755  
Josephine is a kangaroo with a yearning to dance. Against all the odds she does learn but has difficulty getting others to believe she can do it. When her chance comes to prove herself Josephine does so with delight. Staying true to self and self-belief are strong messages from this title. 3+. JB

### *One Ballerina Two*

Vivian French, illus Jan Ormerod  
Walker 2002 (first published 1991)  
Pb ISBN 0744530458



Two ballerinas count down from ten pliés to one happy hug in this picture book celebrating dance. While the big(ger) ballerina can manage real steps, the small ballerina tries to imitate her with gallops and trots. The text and illustrations change, depending on which ballerina it is. A lovely addition to any small dancer's library. 4+. AC

### *The Ballet Class*

Adele Geras, illus Shelagh McNicholas  
Orchard Books 2003; Hb ISBN 1843620952  
Tuesday is Tilly's favourite day of the week because Tilly has ballet classes. From the moment Miss Anne claps her hands to start the class Tilly does her best to become a beautiful ballerina. A simple picture book, introducing positions and language for the budding ballerina while, following Tilly's preparations for her show. 4+. TC

### *Watercress Tuna and the Children of Champion Street*

Patricia Grace, illus Robyn Kahukiwa  
Puffin 1985 Pb ISBN 0140504923  
New Zealand book



A tuna (eel) with a magic throat bounces out of Cannon Creek and onto Champion Street. At each house the tuna gives something for the child to use while dancing: Roimata gets a poi, Kava a hau, Jason a paper streamer. Together they dance on Champion Street – all day and all night. A celebration of New Zealand's multi-cultural society. 3+. AC

### *Frank Was a Monster Who Wanted to Dance*

Keith Graves  
Chronicle Books 1999; Hb ISBN 0811821692  
Frank was a monster who wanted to dance... so he put on his hat and his shoes made in France and opened a jar and put ants in his pants! So begins this monstrously funny, deliciously disgusting, horrifyingly hilarious story. The gruesome illustrations and catchy verse make it a great read-aloud picture book for ages 3-8. TC



### *When Uncle Took the Fiddle*

Libba Moore Gray, illus Lloyd Bloom  
Orchard Books 1999; Hb ISBN 9780531301371  
Even though Papa, Mama, Brother, Sister and everyone else in the family are tired, when Uncle starts to play the fiddle, toes start tapping and hands start clapping. As they all join in with other instruments as varied as spoons and a jug the power of music to rejuvenate the body and soul shines through. 4+. JB

### *The Music Tree*

Catriona Hoy, illus Adele Jaunn  
Lothian Books 2006; Hb ISBN 073440851X  
A delightful story about Liam, a little boy who discovers how to make music. Liam is using a stick to hit and bash everything in the backyard. So his mother hangs a variety of junk items onto their big old tree and Liam can now safely make as much noise as he likes. Then one magical night Liam discovers the beauty of the music in each individual piece. 3+. KA

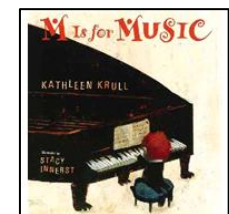
### *Igor the Bird Who Couldn't Sing*

Satoshi Kitamura  
Andersen Press 2005  
Hb ISBN 1842704249  
Igor loves to sing, but when he joins the Dawn Chorus his happy trilling is in discordant contrast to the other birdsong. Even after much practice and singing lessons, Igor is still out of tune with the other birds' harmonious sound. Dejected, he wanders the world seeking a quiet place where he can celebrate his music. Satoshi Kitamura's playful illustrations perfectly capture the joy of making music. A musical adventure for 4+. KA



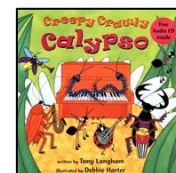
### *M is for Music*

Kathleen Krull, illus Stacy Innerst  
Harcourt 2003  
Hb ISBN 0152014381  
A fabulously vibrant alphabet introducing various musical terms. The text focuses on just a couple of terms for each letter, more are shown in the illustrations. There are explanatory notes at the back. Rendered in oil and acrylic, the illustrations are zany enough to match this romp through the varied world of music. Yes, there is a suitable lady singing at the end of the book. 4+. AC



### *Creepy Crawly Calypso*

Tony Langham  
Barefoot Books 2004  
Hb ISBN 184148699X  
A bright, colourful, lively, rhyming read aloud number picture book that uses number positions and a variety of musical instruments to make calypso music. Includes notes about the insects from the Caribbean and the instruments they play. 3+. TC



### *Stephen's Music*

Sofie Laguna, illus Anna Pignataro  
Lothian 2007  
Hb ISBN 9780734410160  
Magical things happen when Stephen hears flute music for the first time. Inspired, he asks for a flute, but flutes are expensive so they buy him a recorder. At first, learning is hard, but eventually the music comes. But still, flutes are expensive... 5+. AC

*Twist with a Burger, Jitter with a Bug*

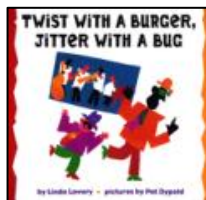
Linda Lowery, illus Pat Dypold

Houghton Mifflin 1995

Hb ISBN 9780395670224

This book delights in dance, any sort of dance from mambo to polka to jive.

With sparse text and vibrant illustrations this a good introduction to the endless possibilities for you to delight in dance. 4+. JB



*Kapa Haka*

Kāterina Te Heikōkō Mataira, illus Sylvia Huége de Serville

Ahuru Enterprises 1999 (dist Mallinson Rendell)

Pb ISBN 0908692056

New Zealand book

The distinguished writer and illustrator of this book have produced a sympathetic result. Kereana's dad has gone away which makes her very unhappy. However the kapa haka and Kereana's vivid imagination helped to heal the pain of separation. Also available in Te Reo. 4+. AS

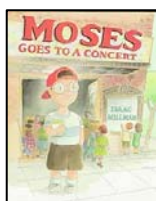
*Moses Goes to a Concert*

Isaac Millman

Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998

Hb ISBN 0374350671

Moses and his school friends are on a school trip to a concert. What is special about the event is that the children are all deaf – and so is the percussionist of the orchestra! After the concert their teacher, Mr Samuels takes them to meet his friend the percussionist who tells them how she achieved her goal. 5+. AC



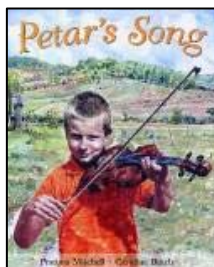
*Petar's Song*

Pratima Mitchell, illus Caroline Binch

Frances Lincoln 2005

Pb ISBN 9780711220782

Petar plays the violin and his talent is in much demand in his village. When war comes to their peaceful valley Petar, his mother, brother and sister flee across the border to safety. But Petar misses his father and finds his desire to play his violin has gone. It is not until Christmas that a new melody comes to Petar and he once again begins to play his violin. There is no happy ending but, through music, the reader is left with hope for the future for Petar and his family. 5+. JB



*Zin! Zin! Zin!: A Violin*

Lloyd Moss, illus Marjorie Priceman

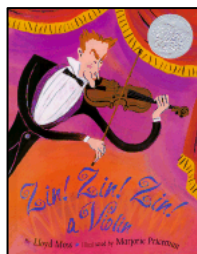
Simon & Schuster 1995

Hb ISBN 0671882392

Caldecott Honor Book

Rhyming couplets introduce parts of the orchestra, and terms for the numbers of instruments all the way to ten, and a soul-shivering orchestral performance.

Bright and twirling illustrations abound, making this a fun introduction to the orchestra and classical music. 4+. AC



*Tane Steals the Show*

Lino Nelisi, illus Gus Hunter

Scholastic 1997

Pb ISBN 186943336X

New Zealand book

Uncle Kokela is getting married on Saturday and everyone is practising singing and dancing. Tane is apparently too small, so no one will let him join in. But Tane surprises them with what he has learned from watching and listening and is brave enough to show everyone. Nice details of a Pacific-style wedding. Also available in Te Reo. 3+. AS

*The Lion and the Gypsy*

Geoffrey Patterson

Frances Lincoln 2002; Pb ISBN 0711219095

A magical tale of music and friendship, with vibrant Indian ink drawings. The gypsy sets out on a great journey. Each night he rests and plays his lute. Four beautiful animals – the lion, the grey ibis, the scorpion and the viper snake – hide in the shadows and listen to him play. One morning the gypsy does not wake up. He has been poisoned by the blower fish and is dangerously ill. The animals are worried. How can they save the gypsy whose music they love? 5+. TC

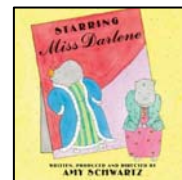
*Starring Miss Darlene*

Amy Schwartz

Neal Porter/Roaring Brook Press 2007

Hb ISBN 9781596432307

Darlene takes theatre classes, because she wants to be a STAR! Her first role leads to a rave review in the paper, and so does her second – although she didn't quite follow the director's instructions. So what will happen when she is chosen to direct – and star in – Sleeping Beauty? 5+. AC



*Play, Mozart, Play!*

Peter Sís

Greenwillow Books 2006

Hb ISBN 9780061121814

A colourful and lively introduction to Mozart's life as a child prodigy, including his unrelenting regime of practice and playing, even in his sleep. Mentioned, and shown only as a shadowy figure, is the slightly sinister figure of his domineering father. 5+. AC

*MIMI's Tutu*

Tynia Thomassie, illus Jan Spivey Gilchrist

Scholastic 2002

Hb ISBN 0590440217

MIMI loves her mama's dance class – sometimes she even gets to dance with the adults. Until Sophie arrives with a green tutu, just like ballerinas wear. MIMI's relatives have the perfect answer to her sadness and envy – a beautiful, handmade *lapa* – a traditional skirt. MIMI can now enjoy dance, and celebrate her ancestry at the same time. Although featuring Africa-American characters, the situation would be identifiable to many New Zealand children. 5+. AC

*The Ballet Class*

Gwenda Turner

Puffin Books 1997; Pb ISBN 0140562575

New Zealand book

Gwenda Turner's soft and realistic illustrations perfect complement this gentle story of Elle and her friends learning ballet. 3+. AS

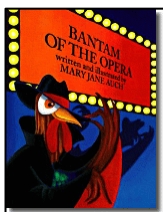
*Rock Star* (Boyz Rule! 10)  
Felice Arena & Phil Kettle, illus Gus Gordon  
Macmillan Education 2003  
Pb ISBN 0732989663

Sam and Billy form their own rock group, the Nits, with Billy as lead singer and Sam on guitar. When the boys start acting like rock stars their mums pull the plug on their ambitions. 6+. AC

*Bantam of the Opera*  
Mary Jane Auch

Holiday House 1997  
Hb ISBN 0823413128

Luigi had been born a bantam but always knew he was destined for greater things. When he overheard the farmer and his wife planning on going to the Cosmopolitan Opera he hitched a ride. During the opera he hid in the chandelier but the music overcame him and he joined in with the performance of *Rigoletto*. He got his command performance the night the stars had chicken pox. Humorous and great for 8+. WM



*The Worst Band in the Universe*  
Graeme Base

Viking 1991

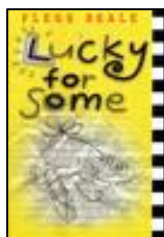
Hb ISBN 0677086566  
Sprocc leaves the Planet Bipp in search of musical freedom and enters the 18th annual Worst Band in the Universe Competition. The book comes with a CD of songs ostensibly recorded by the bands in the story. A rollicking rhyming text is accompanied by suitably alien and outrageous illustrations. 9+. AC.



*Lucky for Some*  
Fleur Beale

Scholastic 2002  
ISBN 1869435214  
New Zealand book

Lacey is a talented ballet dancer who is horrified when her parents decide to go and live in the country where she is the only girl in her class and all the boys are obsessed with rugby. Her efforts to be accepted by the boys and to persuade them to dance with her in the annual school concert make a very entertaining story. As well as a story about dancing and rugby it includes themes of tolerance, sexism, friendship and personal growth. 11+. HB



*Flying Feet: A Story of Irish Dance*

Anna Marlis Burgarda  
Chronicle Books 2005  
Hb ISBN 0811844315

A picture book inspired by a true event, about two master dancers competing for the chance to teach the people of Ballyconneely, Ireland, how to dance. This lively tale of spirited competition illustrates the enduring traditions of Irish dance. Includes notes about Irish dance and a short pronunciation guide for Gaelic words. 7+. TC



*King of Shadows*

Susan Cooper  
Puffin 2000  
Pb ISBN 0141307994

Nat Field is part of a theatre company of boys, from schools all over the United States, who perform Shakespeare's plays, authentically. The height of their season is when they cross the Atlantic to perform at the new Globe Theatre in London. Just when he has completed his first full rehearsal in London, Nat begins to feel dreadfully ill. He is tucked into bed at the home of his billet and wakes in the morning to find himself transported back to the time of the bard – due to give the performance of his life on the stage of the original Globe! This is a charmer of a historical fantasy recommended for children aged 10+. SB



*Mind-blowing Music* (The Knowledge series)

Michael Cox, illus Philip Reeve  
Hippo 1997

Pb ISBN 0590195700

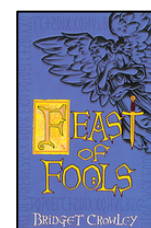
Non-fiction

A fun introduction to music history and superstars – from Mozart to Oasis. A great dip-into book for fans of the Horrible Histories style of books. 8+. AC

*Feast of Fools*

Bridget Crowley  
Hodder Children's Books 2005  
Pb ISBN 9780340850824

Crippled in the accident that killed his father, John is taken in by the canons at the Cathedral of Saint Aelred. Due to his disability John is treated as an outcast. While conditions are harsh, John knows he is lucky that his musical abilities have saved him from the orphanage. When the pre-Lenten Feast of Fools ends in a gruesome double murder John is determined to discover the murderer. There are some dark themes here including anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism and thinly veiled paedophilia but an exciting mystery set in a medieval choir school. 10-13 years. JB



*The Peasant Prince*

Li Cunxin, illus Anne Spudvilas  
Penguin/Viking 2007

Hb ISBN 9780670070541

A picture book version of the author's story, first told in *Mao's Last Dancer*. He tells of the grinding poverty of village life in China, his escape through dance and his eventual defection to the west, all told in a manner suitable for this age group. Spudvilas' illustrations are beautiful and perfectly capture the emotion. 7+. AC



*Number 8*

Anna Fienberg  
Puffin 2006  
ISBN 0143004042

Jackson is obsessed by numbers and thinks eight is the best number in the universe, hence the title of this exciting adventure story. His mother used to sing at the casino and his new friend Esmerelda really wants to sing but her parents are only interested in her maths results.



When Esmerelda and the school bad boy are mistakenly kidnapped, and Jackson has a hand in their rescue, old enmities are abandoned and the book concludes with a rousing rock concert. This is a humorous story which includes themes of friendship, family and teen relationships, as well as those of difference and of immigration. 11+ HB

*The Diamond of Drury Lane*

Julia Golding  
Egmont 2006  
ISBN 1405221496

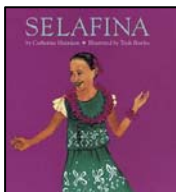
Cat Royal is an abandoned child living behind the scenes of the Royal Theatre in Drury Lane in 18th Century London and earning her keep by running messages. This book paints a vivid picture of theatrical life 200 years ago and also presents a mystery – who or what is the diamond of Drury Lane? This is the first in a series about Cat. 10+. HB



*Selafina*

Catherine Hannken, illus Trish Bowles  
Mallinson Rendel 2003  
Hb ISBN 0908783744  
New Zealand book

Selafina is about to turn ten and her Nana is coming from Samoa especially to be with her on her special day. Selafina hasn't seen her much-loved Nana since she was six, and is too shy to express her feelings. Selafina decides to surprise her Nana by learning the traditional siva for her. A touching story of genuine family affection and the transmission of culture between generations. While Trish Bowles' beautiful, down-to-earth illustrations of Samoan family life in New Zealand will provide pleasure and interest for younger children, the story is of more interest to children 7+. Highly recommended. Storylines Notable Book and short-listed for the New Zealand Post Book Awards. SB



*Barefoot Kids*

Steve Hawke  
Fremantle Arts Centre Press 2007  
Pb ISBN 9781920731533

Cousins Janey, Jimmy, Tich, Buddy and Dancer are in a band. Their favourite, special place is under threat by developers so they start a campaign to save the beach. What follows is an action-packed treasure hunt. 9+. AC



*Forbidden*

Anthony Hill, illus Mark Sofilas  
Puffin Books 2002; Pb ISBN 0141311258

A haunting story of bravery, friendship and the healing power of music. When Angus moves to a remote Scottish island where music has been banned for a hundred years, he meets old Malcolm who secretly teaches him to play the fiddle the way it had been played in the distant past. Angus decides to bring the music back to the people, but he doesn't realise it will take all his courage to fight against fear and the consequences of defying the elders who control the island. 9+. TC

*Dancing Queen* (Go Girl, book 10)  
Thalia Kalkipsakis, illus Ash Oswald  
Hardie Grant Egmont 2006  
Pb ISBN 1921098910

Charlie had not expected modern dance class to be easy, but she also hadn't expected to feel so very new and utterly, completely different. Nothing Charlie did seemed good enough for the trendy girls. At first Charlie was happy that it was too late for her to fit into the concert as she still had so much to learn! But as she gets better and better, Charlie wonders if maybe she could be the dancing queen! 8+. TC

*A Mouse called Wolf*

Dick King-Smith  
Random 1999  
Pb ISBN 9780375800665

A mouse called Wolfgang Amadeus Mouse shares his musical gift with a widowed concert pianist called Mrs Honeybee. He also shows he has more skills when he rescues her at the end of the book. A beginner chapter book for 7+. AS

*Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought)*

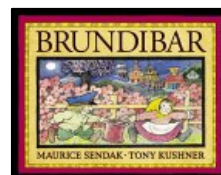
Kathleen Krull, illus Kathryn Hewitt  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1993  
Hb ISBN 0152480102

Non-fiction  
Humorous biographical sketches of 20 musicians, from Vivaldi to Woodie Guthrie. The illustrator's caricatures echo the quirkiness of the text. A playful introduction to some famous musical characters. 8+. AC

*Brundibar*

Retold by Tony Kushner, illus Maurice Sendak  
Based on the opera by Hans Krása and Adolf Hoffmeister  
Walker Books 2004

Hb ISBN 1844280284  
When Aninku and Pepicek go to the market to get milk for their sick mother, they must first earn some money. Brundibar, a grumpy hurdy-gurdy man, sings loud enough to drown out their own attempts to sing. They are helped by a talking cat, dog, and sparrow plus 300 friendly school children, but Brundibar steals their money. After a chase the children are finally able to take the milk home. A Czech opera that was performed 55 times by the children of Terezin, a Nazi concentration camp. 9+. KA



*Marie, Dancing*

Carolyn Meyer  
Harcourt 2007  
Pb ISBN 9780152058791

Marie is a dancer in the Paris Opéra corps de ballet when the artist Degas needs a model for a new project – a statue – and he chooses Marie. Her life is difficult – poverty is always close, and Marie tries to hold her family together. Marie is 16 when the sculpture is finally revealed to the public An insight into the hardships – and joys – of being a professional dancer in the late 19th century. 10+. AC



*The Mozart Question*

Michael Morpurgo, illus Michael Foreman  
Walker Books 2007  
Hb ISBN 9781406306484

The two Michaels – Morpurgo and Foreman - share a harmonious relationship as author and illustrator of a number of titles and again provide just the

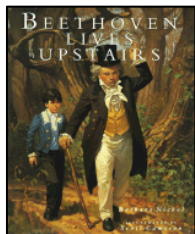


right atmosphere in this thoughtful book about a musician and his WW2 family history. Cub reporter Lesley goes to Venice to interview a famous violinist. She can ask anything, except she is told never to mention the Mozart question. But Paolo has decided it is time to tell the story of his early musical life, his parents and their experience as musicians in a Nazi concentration camp, and why he has never performed Mozart in public. Simply told, revealing the pleasure and transformative power of music and the sharing of long-held secrets. 8-12 years. CB

*Beethoven Lives Upstairs*

Barbara Nichol; illus Scott Cameron  
Orchard Books 1994  
Hb ISBN 0531068285

The final year of Beethoven's life is explored through the letters his ten-year-old son exchanges with an uncle, a music student in Salzburg. Beethoven is increasingly tortured by headaches and failing eyesight, frustrated as his body lets him down. Embarrassed, at times, by Beethoven's behaviour, Christoph gains an appreciation of the composer's greatness and the two become friends. A beautiful sophisticated picture book for 7+. AC.

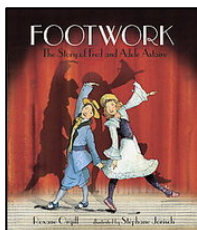


*Footwork: The Story of Fred and Adele Astaire*

Roxane Orgill, illus Stéphane Jorisch  
Candlewick 2007

Hb ISBN 9780763621216  
Non-fiction

In 1905, at four-and-a-half, Fred Astaire put on a pair of ballet shoes, while watching his older sister's dance class. Adele is so talented she, Fred and their mother, go to New York for classes. This beautifully illustrated book charts the siblings' rise – and fall – in the vaudeville circuit, and their eventual return. Highly recommended for ages 8+. AC



*The Christmas – Hiccup – Play* (Kiwi Bites)

Elizabeth Pulford, illus Liam Gerrard.  
Puffin 2003

Pb ISBN 0143318101  
New Zealand book

Abbey's wish has come true and she is going to be Angel Gabriel in the school's Christmas play. But on the night of the performance she has a terrible fright. An enjoyable, affirming story. 7-9 yrs. AS



*Ballet Shoes*

Noel Streatfeild  
Dent /Random House 1937, Puffin 2002  
ISBN 0140300414

The story of three adopted sisters who go to stage school is a perennial favourite loved by several generations. When their adoptive great uncle disappears and money is tight the girls want to help out and Pauline finds she has a talent for acting and Posy, the daughter of a ballerina, for dancing. Believable characters and an engaging story make this a book not to be missed. 9+ HB



*Theater Shoes* (also published as *Curtain Up*)

Noel Streatfeild  
Dent 1944, Random House 1995  
Pb ISBN 0679854347

This is the story of three motherless children whose father goes missing in action during World War II. They are sent to London to their mother's family where they are surprised to find that they come from a line of well-known actors and actresses and that they are expected to follow the family tradition. All of them prove to have particular talents, but Mark, who expects to follow his father into the Navy is not at all pleased to find himself singing solos in his beautiful soprano voice. There is a glimpse of the Fossil sisters from Ballet Shoes, now established in their adult careers, and as usual Noel Streatfeild's characters are well drawn and engaging. 9 + HB

*The Violin Man*

Colin Thompson  
Hodder Children's Books 2003  
Hb ISBN 0733614000

A quirky picture book for older primary-aged children, this introduces readers to Oscar, an elderly gentleman who plays his violin to the queues outside the theatre. He's feeling his age and misses his daughter who died when she was a child. She used to dance while he played. While talking to his friend the doorman they discover that each dreams of being someone else – Oscar wants to play on the stage, the conductor wants to play outside, the doorman wants to work front of house... Oscar's dream comes true and he plays in a concert. It's very exciting but there's something missing, and when he returns to his position out in the snow Oscar sees the shadow of his daughter dancing while he plays, his eight-year-old companion forever. Dreamy illustrations, capturing the character of the old man and the splendour of the theatre, are augmented by the many added details Colin Thompson is renowned for. The intriguing computer-generated images repay close study and would generate lots of discussion in art classes. CBCA Honour Book 2004. CB & LO



*The New Policeman*

Kate Thompson  
Random House 2006  
ISBN 0370328787

You and your family can kick up your heels with this lovely Irish tale. While surely for everyone, those with a musical bent will get the most out of this fantastical story of how the Irish got their music from the faeries. Every chapter begins with the music for a jig appropriate to the events being told, so dust off that fiddle and get playing! 10+. SB



You can listen to the tunes at

[www.katethompson.info/childrens\\_books.asp?id=7](http://www.katethompson.info/childrens_books.asp?id=7)

*War for the Oaks*

Emma Bull  
Tom Doherty Associations 2001  
Pb ISBN 9780765300348

This combination of rock music and fairytale has an eerie fascination. Eddi is a rock singer, but her boyfriend has split and the band has broken up. One night Eddi is accosted by a large dog (which turns into a man) and a glaistig (a water sprite). They draft Eddi into the war for territory between the Seelie and Unseelie Courts. Eddi ends up challenging the evil queen to a battle of rock music versus magical power. Sensuous and dark reading for older teens. LO



*Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*

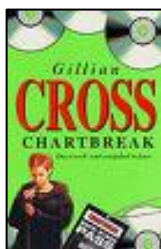
Rachel Cohn and David Levithan  
Knopf 2006; Pb ISBN 9780375935312

Nick's ex-girlfriend arrives at his band's show – with a new guy. So Nick asks Norah to be his girlfriend, just for five minutes, just to avoid the ex. This he said/she said alternating-chapters book tracks the course of their night, their obsession with music, and growing relationship. Older teens. AC

*Chartbreak*

Gillian Cross  
Oxford University Press 1999  
Pb ISBN 0192750437

Janis leaves home in the midst of a family row, ends up in a motorway café, and gets talked into joining an unknown rock band, Kelp. HB.



*Just Listen*

Sarah Dessen  
Penguin 2007  
Pb ISBN 9780141322919

A year ago Annabel had the perfect life. Looking into her house from the outside, she has the perfect family. But underneath it all, she – and they – are falling apart. The only one who seems to understand, who seems to help, is Owen. Owen whose anger management classes, and life experiences, have given him ways of dealing with problems. He guides Annabel through, making her just listen – first through the music he is obsessed with, then with her heart. AC

*The Queen's Soprano*

Carol Dines  
Harcourt 2006  
Hb ISBN 9780152054779

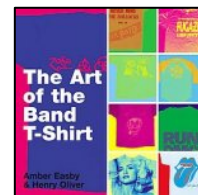
Based on the life of Angelica Vogila who lived in Rome under the role of Pope Innocent XI, who had banned women from singing in public. Angelica has the voice of an angel, and her safety is threatened because of it. Her mother is obsessed with Angelica marrying a nobleman, and is prepared to go to any lengths for this to happen. To avoid her mother's machinations – and the convent – Angelica escapes to the court of the Queen Christina, the former Queen of Sweden. AC



*The Art of the Band T-shirt*

Amber Easby & Henry Oliver  
Simon Spotlight Entertainment 2007  
Pb ISBN 9781416937937  
Non-fiction

A visual history of the evolution of band t-shirts, accompanied by nearly 200 photos. A must for fans of fashion, social history and music. AC



*The Red Necklace*

Sally Gardner  
Orion 2007  
Hb ISBN 9781842555743

From the author of the enchanting *I, Coriander* is this sinister tale of a young gypsy growing up in the French theatre before the revolution. His mother dead, Yann Margoza is raised by Têtu the dwarf who loves him and teaches him yet reveals almost nothing about his own past. But as revolutionary Paris bathes in blood, the past is about to catch up with them both – with perilous consequences. Recommended for older teens, including the male variety. SB

*Pictures of the Night*

Adele Geras  
Harcourt 2005  
Pb ISBN 9780152055431

Bella escapes her stepmother Marjorie by running to Paris and joining a band of seven, always under threat by strange women, who all look remarkably similar to Marjorie. Last in a trilogy about three boarding school friends. AC

*Fat Kid Rules the World*

KL Going  
Corgi 2004  
Pb ISBN 0552551805

This strong punchy novel that celebrates punk rock is about two social misfits and their unlikely friendship. Depressed and isolated, Troy is also grossly overweight and sweaty. He's about to jump on the subway lines and end it all, when he is befriended by Curt, a malnourished, dirty, self medicating homeless youth. Curt is also a very talented punk guitarist. He enlists Troy in his new band and as Troy struggles to learn the basics of drumming, and come to terms with his self-image, he realizes that Curt also needs to be rescued from his self-destructive lifestyle. Older teens. KA



*Duet*

David Hill  
Mallinson Rendel 2007  
Pb ISBN 9781877423062  
New Zealand book

15-year-old Kallum plays blues guitar and thinks classical music is for nerds. But when he joins the local youth orchestra he finds he's enjoying it. Part of his enjoyment is because of Paige - who plays the flute and is Kallum's duet partner. Kallum and Paige are deeply attracted to each other and their relationship becomes sexual. The inevitable happens and Paige becomes pregnant. How are the pair going to cope? Heartily recommended for teens, both boys and girls. LO

*Heavy Metal and You*

Christopher Krovatin

Push 2005

Pb ISBN 9780439743990

Sam falls for Melissa, straight-laced and disapproving of his lifestyle. So Sam tries to change for her – give up getting wasted, give up heavy metal. Sam has an encyclopaedic knowledge of metal and an admiration for Holden Caulfield. It was metal that got him through the bad bits of his past, but does it have relevance for his future? Older teens. AC

*Fairest*

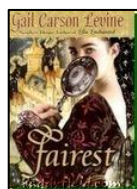
Gail Carlson Levine

Harper Collins 2006

Hb ISBN 9780060734084

In this re-telling of Snow White Aza has black hair, white skin and red lips. However she is not considered fair but awkward and gawky.

What she does have is a beautiful singing voice and this leads her into subterfuge and trickery in a neighbouring kingdom. The story illustrates the importance of staying true to yourself and those who enjoyed *Ella Enchanted* will appreciate the link between the two books. HB



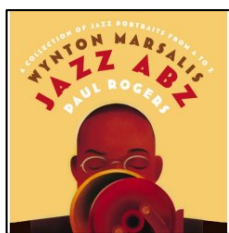
*Jazz ABZ*

Wynton Marsalis and Paul Rogers, biographical sketches by Phil Schaap

Walker 2005

Hb ISBN 0744557992

Wynton Marsalis, jazz trumpeter and composer, has written 26 poems to match Paul Rogers' art deco inspired art. Each letter of the alphabet celebrates and commemorates a jazz great – from Louis Armstrong to Dizzy Gillespie. Each poem is in a different form, with notes in the back explaining the form and how it relates to the jazz great. There are also biographical notes for each person. A stylish production which oozes class and charm. AC



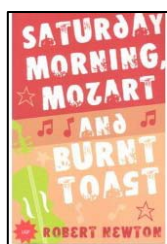
*Saturday Morning, Mozart and Burnt Toast*

Robert Newton

University of Queensland Press 2004

Pb ISBN 0702234362

Wolfgang is obsessed with Mozart (hence the name change from Edam) and the trumpet. He bonds with a girl from Tasmania, via the internet, who is also musically obsessed. When things go badly with his mother's boyfriend, he heads to Tasmania to meet up with Sal. Along the way he runs into the Russian mafia, a religious sect and Sal's favourite violinist. AC



*John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth: A Photographic Biography*

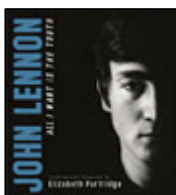
Elizabeth Partridge

Viking 2005

Hb ISBN 0670059544

Non-fiction.

Richly accompanied by photos, some full page or spreads, this biography chronicles the highs and lows of Lennon's life and career. An honest look at one of rock's icons. AC



*Galax-Arena*

Gillian Rubinstein

Puffin 2001

Pb ISBN 0141310243

A science-fiction thriller set in a future Australia. Joella lives in the shadow of her older brother Peter, a golden-boy with star-power and a phenomenal talent for gymnastics, and, to some extent, her younger sister Liane, who is a talented dancer and gymnast in her own right. In an atmosphere of climatic disaster and global paranoia, with their mother gone wandering and their father behaving increasingly erratically, the children are sent to live on a farm with their Aunt Jill. They never make it. Instead they are kidnapped, drugged and delivered to a rocket in the desert – transported as slaves to perform in an alien circus, the Galax-Arena. In the arena they are treated like animals; put in shows with other young people from all over Earth, and forced to perform ever more dangerous and daring feats in order to impress their alien audience and earn their survival for another day. Their situation is desperate, but is it everything they have been told? A chilling story. SB

*Spider*

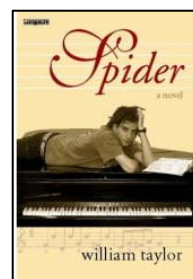
William Taylor

Longacre Press 2002

Pb ISBN 1877135607

New Zealand book

Spider's facing his sixth form year. A year of exploring his identity, and his future. Will it be music, as guided by his eccentric music teacher – and the ghost of his idol, Beethoven? Or something else. Older teens. AC



*The Next Big Thing*

Judy Waite

Oxford University Press 2005

Pb ISBN 0192753932

Elliot is the next big thing. He's been signed with a major record company and everyone wants a piece of him. But Elliot just wants to sing. Elliot doesn't want to be a brand. Struggling to get his life back Elliot hopes he still has a place there, and that everyone will understand. AC

*Beautiful City of the Dead*

Leander Watts

Houghton Mifflin 2006

Hb ISBN 9780618594436

Zee doesn't fit in at school – especially when she's running a fever on her first day. She hits it off with Relly and she joins his band, Scorpio Bone, and plays experimental 'Ghost Metal'. Somehow their music signals otherworldly forces and they end up in the middle of a battle of the gods. AC



*Gangsta Rap*

Benjamin Zephaniah

Bloomsbury Children's Books 2004

Pb ISBN 9781582348865

Ray and his friends Prem and Tyronne are given a second chance by their head-master. Attendance in a specialised programme gives them the knowledge of the music industry, allowing them to form Positive Negatives and become a successful rap band. But gang violence is ever present in London's East End, threatening their careers and their lives. Older teens. AC