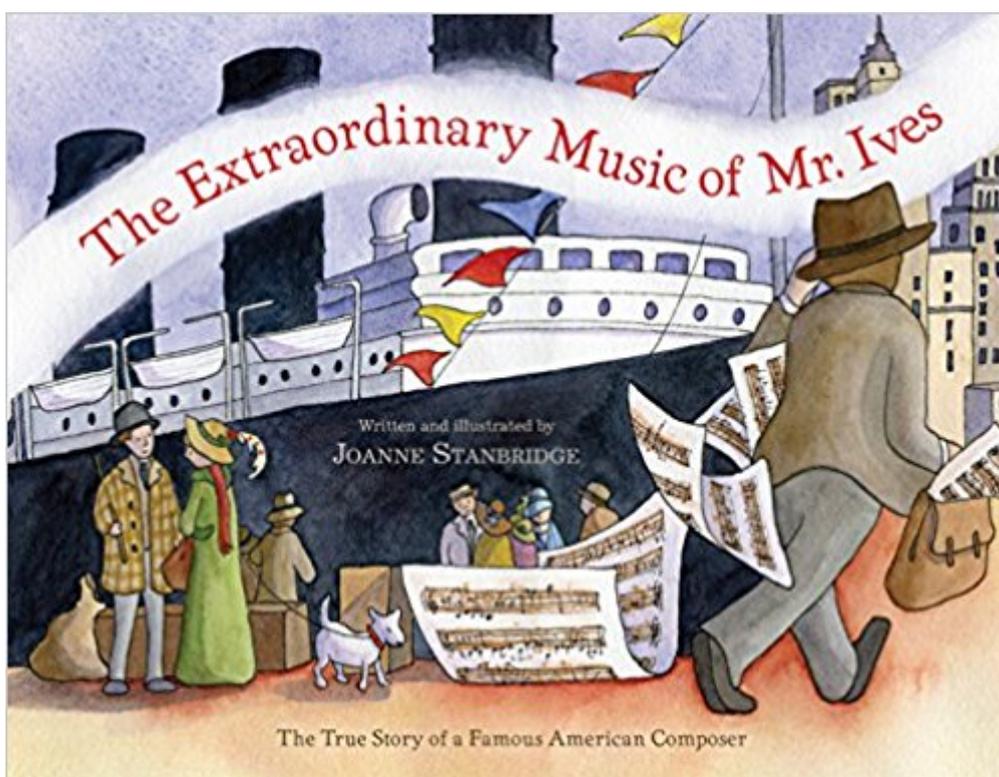


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The Extraordinary Music Of Mr. Ives: The True Story Of A Famous American Composer



Synopsis

When the Lusitania was attacked in 1915, the American composer and New Yorker Charles Ives transformed the experience of this heartbreaking news into a musical piece. It begins with a jumble of traffic noises, then the hurdy-gurdy swells into the lovely old hymn "In the Sweet Bye-and-Bye." In lyrical text and watercolors—sometimes in dramatic wordless spreads—this thoughtful picture book reveals not only a wartime tragedy, but a composer's conviction that everyday music can convey profound emotion and help heal a city. Young readers will understand that if they listen, music can be heard in the unlikeliest of places, from the busy chatter of a market to the wail of a fire engine.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 9, 2012)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Although the subtitle calls Charles Ives a famous American composer, few children will be familiar with his music, an experimental sound that took inspiration from everything: city noise to amateur musicians to sporting events. This book focuses on a particular moment in Ives's life, when he was moved to create music after learning about the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. Readers follow Ives as he hears the newsboys hawking the headlines. A series of wordless panels follow that capture the terror of one small girl (identified in the notes as Helen Smith) who was saved from the

sinking ship. Back in New York, on a subway platform, a hurdy-gurdy player cranking out the hymn "In the Sweet By-and-By" ignites the commuters to sing. At home, Ives mingles the old tune with street sounds, and the music eventually becomes part of his Orchestral Set No. 2. Without an accompanying CD, this will touch readers more because of the events than through any connection with the music. But the almost cartoon-style watercolors have a poignant pull that should also draw children. Grades 1-3. --Ilene Cooper

"Unthreatening despite its subject matter, yet impressively moving." •Kirkus
"Stanbridge writes well for young children, with a straightforward but absorbing text." •New York Times Book Review
"Stanbridge's work is its own curious, yet quietly inspired composition, a meditative ode to an artist." •Publishers Weekly

My father told me about Charles Ives. I remember his story about a church choir and the one member who sang off key. The other choir members complained about her. Mr. Ives told them to look at the rapture in her face as she sang with them; music is in everything around you, what you hear and what you see. Father told me when we listened to Charles Ives music pick a theme and follow it as it wove through everything surrounding it. This little book captures the beauty of Charles Ives' difficult music, both to play and to listen to. In particular Ms Stanbridge focuses on the tragedy of the Lusitania and how it affected the country and the world when civilians were targeted during a war. She has done an excellent job of capturing the essence of a great man as members of his family described him and his music, My father was Charles Ives' nephew.

This is a picture book biography of composer Charles Ives. Mr. Ives loved to compose music but others around him were not fond of his work. He did not let this stop him. Creating music made him happy so he just followed his heart. His music was not popular until after his death. Our family had never heard of Charles Ives before. The book included a list of resources for further reading as well as listening. We would recommend this to others who are interested in learn more about the life of Charles Ives.

A fun little story about an American composer - the middle of the book is "silent" with no words but lots of fun pictures for my daughter to point at glance through.

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