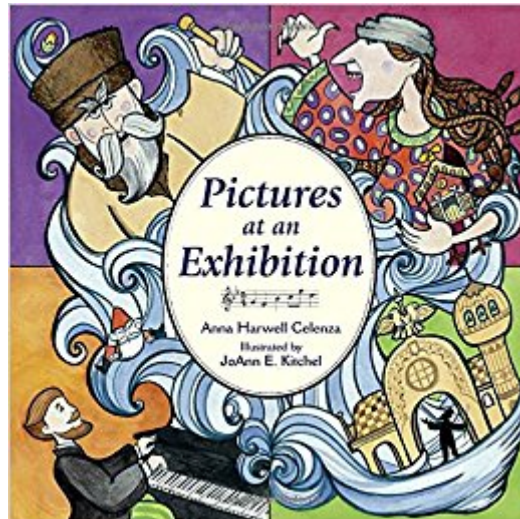




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Pictures At An Exhibition



Synopsis

When his friend Victor suddenly dies, composer Mussorgsky is deeply saddened. But, with the help of his friends, and through his own music, Modest finds a way to keep Victor's spirit alive. Readers of all ages will enjoy the inspirational story behind the composition of *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Bright, colorful illustrations incorporate elements of Russian folk art and traditional symbols. View pages from artist JoAnn Kitchel's notebook for explanations of the symbols and see her pencil-sketch research of the Russian culture. This handsome book and CD recording provide enrichment for the whole family.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 4-From the author and illustrator team of *The Farewell Symphony* (Charlesbridge, 2000) comes a new gem for music lovers. Celenza brings to life three Russian friends-composer Modest Mussorgsky, architect Victor Hartmann, and art critic Vladimir Stasov. When Hartmann dies, Mussorgsky is plunged into despair and cannot create music. Concerned about him, Stasov prods him into attending a posthumous exhibit of Victor's artwork. The paintings inspire the composer's musical tribute to his friend, "Pictures at an Exhibition." The story is based on many primary-source documents-correspondence, an autobiographical essay, and an obituary-but Celenza weaves in a depth of emotion that makes these individuals' lives unforgettable. This same

attention to detail is evident in Kitchel's illustrations; not only does the artist capture the energy and movement of the music in her vibrant watercolor-and-ink illustrations, but she also confines them within symbolic borders of traditional Russian and Ukrainian folk-art motifs. They harmonize well with the accompanying CD recording that includes both piano and orchestral versions of Mussorgsky's famous composition. Laurie Edwards, West Shore School District, Camp Hill, PA
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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.

This is the second book by Celenza and Kitchel that I have purchased (the first was about Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue). The illustrations are beautiful and the story is well written. My complaint is that although it was advertised that a CD recording comes with the book, and the book has a star on the front that says "Includes CD recording," there was no CD. I purchased it at the bargain price, and for \$8.78 I will keep the book alone, especially since others have said that their replacement books also did not include a CD. I will use YouTube or other free services for recordings of the music. I recommend the book itself, and I would have been happy to pay \$8.78 for a book without a CD if it had been described that way, but I'm annoyed by false advertising. It should not be described as including a CD if, in fact, there won't be one because you purchased a bargain hardcover or a paperback copy.

This book is yet another treasure in this series for children. The vivid illustrations are so beautiful and they complete the story well. The author gives a good accounting of the story here, without going too far into the details that would be unpleasant for young children. This story is full of passion and the music CD that accompanies it is wonderful. My children love this series and beg to listen to the music from each book. What a great gift to give any child; the love of music! I love that my young children know the stories behind great compositions and enjoy listening to them. I have learned a thing or two from reading these books as well! Definitely worth five stars!

Many times what appears to be a children's book is infinitely more valuable. The illustrations are superb and text outstanding. Look beyond the cover presentation here and find a carefully drawn

path to the essence of a wonderful piece of music....regardless of your age.

This is a wonderful read for 7-9 yr olds, although I would recommend taking your kid to a museum first and/or a concert. My son had some exposure to both, we talked about Impressionists, had read other books about artists of that era, and he'd attended several classical music concerts. I think the background helped, and he liked the book. It was too difficult for him to read on his own; we read it together, then he "leafed through it" again on his own.

I've just got my TWO ordered hardcover copies (one of the copies is supposed to be a gift to a friend). For now I give this item only 1 star, because both books come WITHOUT CDs! Both copies though have stickers on them saying the CD comes with the book. So I guess I will only be able to review the item after I get the set completed...

I bought this book planning to use it as part of a literacy through music appreciation unit. In most ways I like the book, but it devotes four pages of text to the death of Victor Hartmann and the guilt that Mussorgsky felt over his death. This is something that can be easily handled in a one on one "read to me" situation at home, but in a classroom like mine, there are always children who are coping with the recent loss of a close friend or family member and do not handle the subject of death well. Guilt just adds to the burden. Otherwise it is a great book and will make an excellent classroom unit. I might have to edit it a bit.

Pictures at an Exhibition~ I liked the book very much, as well as the colorful illustrations. I bought it for my elementary school students. Most third graders could stay with the story without more pictures breaking up the text. (I wouldn't recommend going lower.) My main disappointment was with the accompanying CD. It was a recording of the piano music, all good and well, but there was only one band so hearing the different musical "pictures" was difficult. My students cannot stay focused on a thirty-minute piece. I purchased an orchestral recording (on it each section had a separate band) for my students to hear much of the music. Other than this, I would recommend the book highly. I'd give it a FIVE if the piano recording had the bands separating the selections.

A wonderful picture book which brings true story, art and music together I have ever read. They harmonize well. Reading this book with the accompanying Mussorgsky's music is one of my greatest enjoyment, especially when in late afternoon. I highly recommend this book to the students

who now are learning art or music but do not have much time for reading. It is a good opportunity for them to get started from it and will bring in something for them.

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