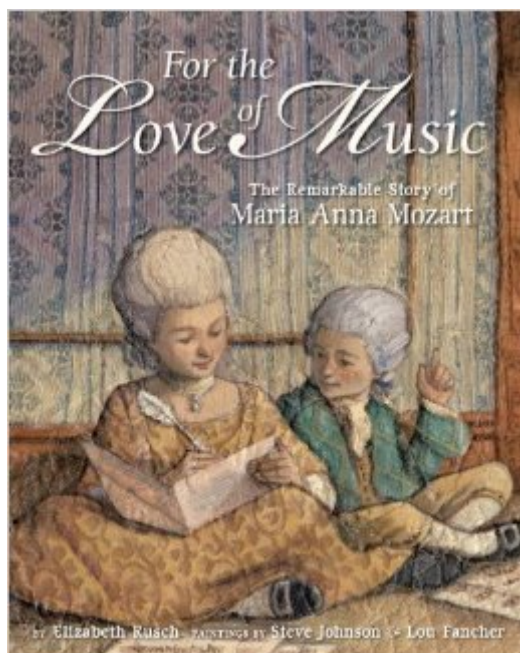


The book was found

For The Love Of Music: The Remarkable Story Of Maria Anna Mozart



Synopsis

By the time she was 12, she was considered one of the finest pianists in Europe, but today few people know her name. Maria Mozart, like her famous brother Wolfgang, was a musical prodigy. The talented siblings toured Europe, playing before kings and empresses, were showered with gifts and favors, and lived in a whirlwind life of music and travel. They were best friends, collaborators, and confidantes. As they grew older, Wolfgang was encouraged to pursue his musical ambitions, while Maria was told she must stop performing and, ultimately, marry. But she was determined to continue playing the piano every day, for the love of music

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

I'll say up front that I loved this book, so much so that I bought myself a copy. Not only are the illustrations a gorgeous combination of fabric collage, paper, and oil and acrylic on canvas, but the writing follows the parts of a piano sonata. Even those who do not particularly care for classical music know who Mozart is, but I did not realize that at first, his sister was as famous as he was. Clearly Maria had a gift for playing the piano. Unfortunately for her she lived in an era when women were expected to marry and have children, not have a career. What I especially admired about her was that she continued to play and nourish her gift and passion despite having the opportunity to

share her gift with the world taken away. This book provides a glimpse into the mind and heart of a brother and sister who not only shared a love for music, but love for each other. A great story about finding a way to pursue one's dreams whatever the limitations life puts on you. I highly recommend this book.

i found this book at the library, and decided to purchase a copy for my daughter. i like mozart, but i particularly liked this true story of his sister and her influence on him. the story is told in an interesting way, with subtle musical references that introduce these concepts, and filled with beautiful, rich tapestry and illustrations that communicate the era and the story line. it's short and simple enough for a child to read in one sitting, and with enough interesting details at the end so older kids can do more research. the writer and illustrators obviously love their subject, and it's delightful to get caught up in their presentation.

Elizabeth Rusch's new picture book biography about Mozart's gifted older sister, Maria Anna Mozart is a perfect book to share with budding young musicians. Like her more famous brother, Maria Anna (usually known by her nickname, Nannerl), showed an early gift for music. Her father was a court musician, and the house was filled with music. Her brother, Wolfgang, was born when she was five, and by the time she was ten, the two of them were giving concerts all over Europe. She, too, was considered one of the great pianists of Europe, and the family toured for three years. She was the first to write down her brother's compositions, and his first duets were for the two of them to play together. But by the time of their next tour, Maria was left at home with her mother, although she continued performing in private concerts and even composed her own music (sadly, none of her own music survives). Without saying so directly, the book makes it clear that Maria did not have the opportunities of her brother; she eventually married and moved to a tiny town far from Salzburg, taking her piano with her. At the end of her life, she moved back to Salzburg, where she taught piano to many children. The book concludes with a moving scene of Maria as an elderly lady, making music with her nephew, Wolfgang's son. Author Elizabeth Rusch, together with illustrator/designers Lou Fancher and Steve Johnson, have constructed a design for this picture book biography that pays tribute to the elegant perfection we associate with Mozart's piano music. The illustrations are collages of remnants of 18th century style fabric, reproductions of Mozart's letters and musical scores, along with oil and acrylic paintings on canvas. The elaborate fabrics in the 18th century clothing worn by the figures in the paintings is echoed in the patchwork remnants which surround the printed text. Moreover, the narrative is written in sonata-allegro form, the

musical structure which underlies classical sonatas. In other words, the narrative is divided into movements in lieu of short chapters: first movement, development, recapitulation, coda, etc. This sophistication will go completely over the heads of young children who are not immersed in classical music lessons, but is not entirely necessary to enjoy the story. This book can therefore be enjoyed on several levels, one requiring some musical knowledge and sophistication, but also just on the level of a compelling story of an unsung musical genius of the 18th century. The book includes an afterword with additional biographical information on Maria, as well as a brief bibliography. Tweens and other young readers interested in learning more about Mozart's gifted sister should seek out Carolyn Meyer's excellent novel, *In Mozart's Shadow: His Sister's Story* (Harcourt, 2008).

A beautifully told story of Maria Anna Mozart, the older sister and only sibling of Wolfgang Mozart. So little is known about Maria; her letters became lost, and although she wrote down symphonies for Wolfgang when he was too young to do so himself, no one knows if she composed her own. Brother and sister toured the world for three years, but then Wolfgang was encouraged to go solo. It may have been due to the monies needed to travel, or the fact that it was frowned upon for a woman to become accomplished in performing music. This story ends with Maria listening to Wolfgang's son play on the piano of her childhood. The rich paintings portray a loving family environment, and facial expressions perfectly enhance the story. A wonderful choice for an elementary biography report.

What a shame that girls and women did not have the opportunity to become as famous as their brothers!!! Here is a story of a very ambitious little girl who loved music...only to be placed in the shadows of her brother.

What a beautiful and creative book! Gorgeous illustrations that fit the time period setting of the book. I really loved how the book's segments were divided using musical terms. The idea of families helping and loving one another was great too. Even famous people have FAMILIES, who help and love each other. Please more outstanding picture books like this.

A colleague and I used this for our four-day summer piano camp with our elementary and middle school-age students. We also used the free on-line lesson plans and the Mozart Fur Nannerl: Piano Compositions for Two and Four Hands recording as supplements. Our students LOVED this little study!

A beautifully illustrated picture book biography on Maria Anna Mozart, Wolfgang Mozart's loving older sister. Maria's talents rivaled her brothers but due to finances her touring career ended shortly after it began. Her story is one of sadness, finding redemption in music. Elementary and middle school students will enjoy this lovely informational read, particularly if they are traveling down their own musical path.

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