

Travel through the trees and

NOW IN PAPERBACK! WILD SYMPHONY

across the seas with

MAESTRO
MOUSE and
his musical



4 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS BOOK

READ ALONG! Each spread focuses on a different animal—meet a big blue whale and speedy cheetahs, tiny beetles and graceful swans—and each has special wisdom to share in the form of a lyrical poem!

DANCE ALONG! The music you envision as you read is REAL! Each animal has its own accompanying musical composition, making this an engaging story that you can listen and move to.

PUZZLE YOUR WAY THROUGH! You might spot the surprises Maestro Mouse has left for you—a hiding buzzy bee, jumbled letters that spell out clues, and even a coded message to solve!

Justrated by Susan Batori

ENJOY AGAIN AND AGAIN! This book is a uniquely entertaining reading experience that will captivate kids and adults alike and make them want to visit the characters again and again—whether through the text, the songs, or the art!





Uncover the Secrets of WILD SYMPHONY





WILD SYMPHONY IS YOUR FIRST PICTURE **BOOK! CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?**

As a child, I loved the picture books of Dr. Seuss, with their zany creatures and silly poetry. With Wild Symphony, I wanted to create a similar magical world of pictures and poetry aimed at a new generation of young people, and I also hoped to take it one step further. Wild Symphony is very much a read-aloud picture book, but it also contains a surprising musical twist. For each of the animals in the story, I composed a unique piece of modern classical music—a short, fun composition that reflects that animal's special personality—and through an exciting new technology, each animal's music accompanies the illustrations and poems to create a fully immersive storytelling experience.

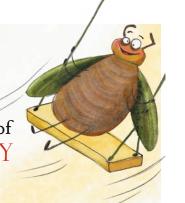
I grew up with classical music. My parents were trained musicians who chose not to have a TV, so instead I played piano, sang in choirs, and went to lots of concerts. Music was a secret sanctuary for me as a child. It calmed me when I felt frustrated, was a trusted friend when I felt lonely, helped me express my joy when I was happy, and, best of all, sparked my creativity and imagination. Even now, I play piano every day—usually after I finish a long day of writing.

YOUR PASSION FOR MUSIC BEGIN?



noto Credit: G.W. Brown





WILD SYMPHONY HAS ITS OWN APP TO PLAY THE MUSIC ASSOCIATED WITH EACH PAGE. WHY DID YOU FEEL IT WAS IMPORTANT TO INCLUDE THIS FEATURE?

I wanted to create a book that encourages young people to experience the power (and fun!) of listening to classical music. Using augmented reality, the Wild Symphony book is able to "magically" perform the specific piece associated with each animal—whether that piece is upbeat and fun like "Bouncing Kangaroo," reflective and calm like "Wondrous Whale," or zany and silly like "Dancing Boars" or "Busy Beetles." The music is also easily accessible through various streaming services so young people can listen anywhere, anytime. Ideally, the book will help spawn a new generation of people who appreciate classical music.

ITS SO RARE TO SEE A PICTURE BOOK WITH SO MANY LAYERS! HOW DID THE STORYTELLING, ART, AND MUSIC EVOLVE AS YOU DEVELOPED THE BOOK?

I love layered storytelling, and my novels always attempt to weave together varied themes. With Wild Symphony, I was excited to create a truly layered experience by using three different languages simultaneously—art, music, and poetry. In the same way that an opera captivates its audience by presenting beautiful sets, dramatic music, and lyrical drama, Wild Symphony strives to be an immersive feast for eyes, ears, and mind, all at the same time. And, of course, a HUGE part of that feast is the magical artwork of Susan Batori, whose illustrations seem to leap off the page with an irresistible sense of humor. I'm an enormous fan of Susan's work, and I imagine a lot of young people will feel the same way very soon.

THIS IS SUCH A UNIQUE PROJECT. HOW DID THE IDEA ORIGINATE?

I have always enjoyed playing and composing music. Some years ago, I was out walking near a marsh and heard many different kinds of frogs all singing together—croakers, peepers, bullfrogs—and it sounded like a classical fugue to me. When I got home, I composed a little piece called "Happy Frogs," and wrote a poem to go with it. I loved that creative process so much that I just kept going. Twenty animals later, Wild Symphony



Uncover the Secrets of WILD SYMPHONY

WHAT IS THE VALUE IN SHARING MUSIC WITH KIDS AT AN EARLY AGE?

Exposure to music at a young age has been scientifically shown to stimulate creativity, focus, and emotional intelligence in young people. When I was an infant, my parents exposed me to enormous amounts of music (including while I was in the womb!), and I believe this experience helped stimulate my imagination and creativity, which became very important to me later in life.

WE HEAR THERE ARE SOME PUZZLES IN THIS BOOK. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THEM?

As a kid, I loved puzzles—all kinds of puzzles. This is probably because on Christmas morning my parents would create puzzles for me to solve in order to find my presents. These early treasure hunts and games instilled in me a love of puzzle-solving, which I wanted to share in *Wild Symphony*. So, on every page, I've hidden a series of jumbled letters that readers can find and unscramble to spell the name of an orchestral instrument. There is also a hard-to-spot buzzy bumblebee who likes to hide in funny places, like inside a wild boar's nostril! And finally, I've hidden several other

codes and secrets
throughout the book,
but I won't tell you
where because
finding them is
half the fun.

YOU OFFER READERS A LITTLE BIT OF WISDOM WITH EACH SONG. WILL YOU SHARE SOME WITH US? ARE THERE ANY THAT REALLY RESONATE WITH YOU?

Each of the animals in Wild Symphony shares a piece of advice for navigating life. These simple tips are designed to get children thinking about the traits we all admire, such as compassion, patience, respect, and confidence, as well as bigger themes of mindfulness, taking life slowly, community, and, above all, being true to your emotions. My personal favorite is the message offered by the busy beetles, who remind us that while it is important to work hard, we must also take time out to play. (I'm still working on that one.)

WHAT IMPACT DO YOU HOPE WILD SYMPHONY WILL HAVE ON YOUNG READERS AND FAMILIES?

We live in an age of headphones and earbuds, and music is often experienced alone. My hope for Wild Symphony is that families will choose to enjoy the music together, either while reading the book or as fun background music while they're doing other things.



ADD How To



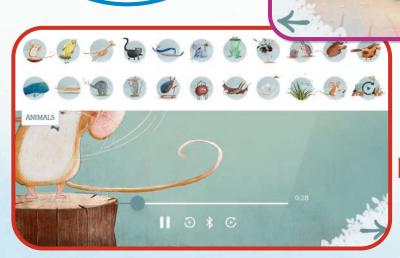
ANIMALS

11 3 * C

If you would like to hear original music compositions that pair with the animals while you read the book, open

the camera on your phone or tablet to scan the QR code (or visit wildsymphony.com) to download the free app.





Or just tap the arrows in the bottom left and right corners to switch between pages.

Revisit your favorite animal's song at any time by clicking the animal in the "animals" dropdown in the top left corner.



