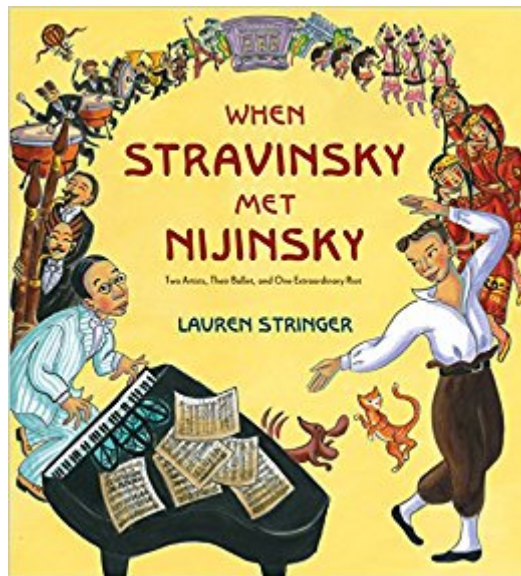


The book was found

When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky: Two Artists, Their Ballet, And One Extraordinary Riot



Synopsis

The Russian artists Igor Stravinsky and Vaslav Nijinsky were popular in their time: Stravinsky for music, Nijinsky for dance. When their radically new ballet, *The Rite of Spring*, was first performed in Paris on May 29, 1913, the reaction was so polarized, there were fistfights and riots! Brilliant or disastrous, the performance marked the birth of modern music and dance. Stringer's rhythmic text and gloriously inventive, color-rich paintings capture the wild and imaginative collaboration of composer and choreographer. The fascinating author note includes photos of the dynamic duo and *The Rite of Spring* dancers.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 5, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547907257

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,179,532 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical](#) #79 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History](#) #104 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3-Composed with much alliterative, musical language, and onomatopoeia, this narrative flows beautifully, telling the story of the friendship and collaboration between composer Igor Stravinsky and dancer Vaslav Nijinsky. Focusing on the changes to their work and personal styles that resulted from their meeting to the culmination of their efforts, the ballet *The Rite of Spring*, the story conveys their composition process in a lively, upbeat fashion, with a percussive vocabulary. This book would be the perfect accompaniment in music lessons exploring the 100th anniversary of the famous work, and may inspire young musicians to create their own and definitely different work. Children

may be surprised to learn about the commotion the composition caused, and the riotous ballet is sure to catch their attention. Vibrantly colored illustrations, inspired by Matisse and Picasso, of the musical notes, instruments, and dancers depicted, enhance the tone of the story and complement the text well. A detailed note from the author, complete with photographs, provides interesting background information about Stravinsky, Nijinsky, and The Rite of Spring.-Alison Donnelly, Collinsville Memorial Public Library, IL
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Starred Review One of the problems with musician biographies for younger kids is that they are usually not familiar with the artists or their sounds. Words and art have to work together to give a sense of the music and be invigorating enough that readers will want to seek it out themselves. That's where this book excels. The title and the bright cover will initially grab kids: Stravinsky at the piano; Nijinsky posing; both framed by a rainbow of musicians, dancers, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and more. Inside, the text has a beat all its own as it first introduces the two men and how they worked alone, while noting that they both dreamed of something different. Their collaboration brought the world The Rite of Spring (They took Russian folk dances and Russian songs / they squared them and flattened them, twisted and cubed them / turning them into something different and new), which opened to a riot in Paris during its premier. The acrylic artwork captures the innovation, the noise, and the excitement in swirling, whirling images crowded with color and movement. Jumbled faces and bodies, reminiscent of those found in Toulouse Lautrec's posters, add to the mix. This one will make kids want to sit down and listen to the music for themselves. Grades 2-4. --Ilene Cooper

This is a great little book. At first it seems advanced for young children, but the story is simple and the illustrations are excellent. This is going to my 4 yr. old grandson. Though his favorite composer is now Mozart, it may change to Stravinsky!

I read this book to my 6th grade music students. It tells the story of Stravinsky's collaboration with Nijinsky with beautiful prose and lovely illustrations. I love it. My students loved it.

If you are a Nijinski fan you will enjoy this book, even if you already know the story.

Love the incorporation of all the arts; music, visual and dance! Illustrations are colorful and beautiful

and very well done.

This is a great book to use in the music classroom. My students love learning about people in history that made beautiful music!

The story can be enjoyed on so many levels, child to adult, it is a great addition to a household or classroom library!

Besides the beautifully flowing and whimsical illustrations, this story shares a historical leap in music and dance that is easily understood by our youngest readers. I love how Lauren presents in words and pictures the importance of thinking differently, together.

At the American Library Association's mid-winter Conference last month I spotted this new book on the famous Russian composer and choreographer and their collaboration for "The Rite of Spring" in the children's section and recently got a copy. The author who wrote both the text and did the colorful illustrations comes from a musical family. Her husband is a composer and her daughter is a choreographer. (I got this info from the inside back flap of the book jacket.) There are not many words (barely 200) in the core text in this slim 32-page book. The author is trying to point out that both these famous early-20th century Russians were pushing the boundaries of art in introducing the "new" sounds and dance styles to a new audience in Paris. Two pages at the end of the book are all text and include a "Note from the Author" explaining why she chose the subject (she was at a concert of "the Rite of Spring" and saw a photo of the two Russians), as well as bios of both men. She goes on to explain that the colorful illustrations on the previous pages were inspired by famous art works of the period. There is also a list of "Sources". For someone who wants to introduce their young children to the arts, this could be a good incentive, though I have to admit that it Stravinsky's music is not the most "accessible" music for children. I hope that you found this review both informative and helpful. Steve Ramm

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