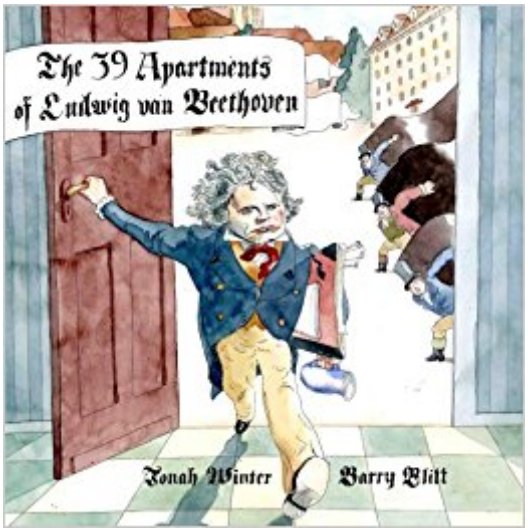
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The 39 Apartments Of Ludwig Van Beethoven



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Synopsis

How hard is it to move 5 legless pianos 39 times?Beethoven owned five legless pianos and composed great works on the floor. His first apartment was in the center of Vienna's theater district... but he forgot to pay rent, so he had to move. (And it's very hard to move a piano. Even harder to move five). Beethoven's next apartment was in a dangerous part of town... so he moved, and the pianos followed on a series of pulleys. Then came an apartment with a view of the Danube (but he made too much noise and the neighbors complained), followed by an attic apartment (where he made even MORE of a rukus), and so Beethoven moved again and again. Each time, pianos were bought, left behind, transported on pulleys, slides, and by movers, all so that gifted Beethoven could compose great works of music for the world.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 9 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 4

Customer Reviews

Grade 2-5Ã¢â ¬â œThis offbeat picture book blends facts with bits of quirky, occasionally amusing speculation. Beginning with the composer's birth in 1770 (the wild-haired infant cries to the tempo of his famed Fifth SymphonyÃ¢â ¬â œWah Wah Wah Wah), Winter reveals that the adult Beethoven lived in 39 different apartments in and around Vienna. If readers wonder why he relocated so often, the tongue-in-cheek text cites such reasons as forgetting to pay rent, the hideous stinky smell from a nearby cheese shop, and noise complaints from other residents. Beethoven brings his five legless

pianos to each new abode, a constant headache for his movers, who always find the most roundabout and preposterously difficult way of transporting the instruments from place to place. Silly examples of evidence (e.g., we know that Beethoven played his pianos loudly because of the Hundreds of cotton balls with traces of dried earwax found in neighbors' homes) are mixed with nuggets of truth (the maestro's increasing deafness). The pen-and-ink and watercolor cartoon illustrations depict the frazzled-looking composer and play up the text's humor. Unfortunately, the joke begins to wear thin, and the abrupt, anticlimactic conclusion may disappoint readers who manage to stick with the book until the end. There is not much here to capture the interest of those unfamiliar with Beethoven's life and work. While young classical music buffs might enjoy this banal tale, it won't have much to say to most children.Ã¢â ¬â œJoy Fleishhacker,School Library Journal Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 3-5. Winter first states the basic facts: Ludwig van Beethoven was born in Germany, owned five legless pianos, and moved 39 times. From there, "things get fuzzier" about the life of the wild musical genius. Why did he move? Did his tormented neighbors drive him out because of the noise? Did they really write him a note telling him to "Shut . . . up"? It's not clear who the audience is for this mock picture-book biography; Winter's wry send-up of scholars' pretentious attempts to document the "facts" about the situation is strictly for adults. But Blitt, who illustrated Geoffrey Kloske's Once Upon a Time, the End (2005), uses his line-and-watercolor cartoons to extend the great parody of the tormented-genius stereotype, and the picture-book crowd will surely relish the humor of the famous, noisy neighbor and the furniture movers schlepping all those pianos. A good companion to Barbara Nichol's Beethoven Lives Upstairs (1994). Hazel RochmanCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

This book is fun, especially for a classical-music-lover like me, and beautifully illustrated. It would have been better to skip the academic/historical preambles, since it's just a silly kids book anyway ("It is believed that"/"the evidence indicates that", etc.) I often just skip those phrases when reading it to my son. Still really good and he likes it.

I love this book! I bought this for my 4 year old son, and upon first reading the book myself, I thought it might be too long/too advanced to hold his interest yet. Boy was I wrong! He loves the story, loves the pictures, and loves the idea of the movers having to move all those pianos from place to place! He doesn't yet grasp the concept of what a composer is or that Beethoven was actually a real

person, but as he does, I am sure that will only make the story more enjoyable for him! Heck, I like to read this myself! It is a great book, well written, with an engaging story line and illustrations. We read this every night before bed!

I teach middle school music and use this book to introduce the video "Beethoven Lives Upstairs" to my students. The text and illustrations wonderfully depict for students some of the idiosyncracies of the great composer. Much of the same ideas are then shown in the video through the eyes of a boy their same age. This book is a wonderful addition to anyone, young or old, wanting to learn insights about Ludwig vanBeethoven.

My 5 year old and I enjoy this book, it’s funny, quirky and cute. It’s not entirely factual, but that’s obvious enough not to be confusing. Highly recommended as a way to "get to know" Beethoven without turning to Groves!

I got this because we love "The Garbage Barge"- but this is so made up it is a little confusing having to explain the actual history as opposed to what is in the book. The book negates actual history and the facts are barely on the surfacerather annoying. I wanted to teach my child about LVB and Vienna and music and apartment leases and eviction! What up with that?

A hilarious "mockumentary" and introduction to Beethoven. A few facts and a lot of silly antics. ÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã Å Ã Â #kidsbooks #kidslit #kidsbooksworthreading #kidsbookstagram #beethoven #ludwigvanbeethoven #composer #childrensliterature

This book begins with a musical score in Beethoven’s own hand. The end papers are an actual photograph of Beethoven’s working manuscript for the Grosse Fuge in B flat major, Op. 134.Jonah Winter recounts the story of Beethoven’s pianos and the thirty-nine apartments where he lived in Vienna. So often children’s "non-fiction" blurs the line between fact and speculation. Not so in this book. Winter clearly identifies what is fact and what is conjecture and does so with great humor.Diaries, eviction notices, physical evidence and piano movers’ notes are used as a basis for the story he tells. Why did Ludwig change apartments so frequently? Well, there is some evidence to suggest the neighbors complained. As Beethoven moves from place to place, Winter chronicles the music that was composed there. An author’s note at the end gives additional information about his deafness and the amazing fact that he composed his magnificent Ninth Symphony after he had

completely lost his hearing.Barry Blitt’s illustrations lift the story to a new level. We first see Beethoven as a baby crying in Gothic letters, "wha wha wha WHA." He accurately and humorously depicts the difficulties and incredible logistics involved in moving pianos to the new apartments, over rooftops, through windows and through walls. The composer’s effect on his neighbors is depicted in a cross-section where we see the neighbors living above, below and next door to him reacting to the noise coming from his apartment in the middle. Babies cry, dogs bark and people pound on the floor, ceiling and walls as Beethoven plays.This book is a must have for music teachers, piano teachers and students of music. What a treat!

"The 39 Apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven" is one clever picture book. Jonah Winter structures the story in such a way that you only get the joke at the end. Barry Blitt’s illustrations are drop-dead funny, with a cranky Beethoven juxtaposed with beautiful Viennese cityscapes on each page. (As you can tell from the cover illustration, Blitt’s Beethoven looks just like the ubiquitous statuette of the great composer that glared down at you during weekly piano lessons.)"The 39 Apartments of Ludwig von Beethoven" begins with three facts. The first of these is:"FACT: Ludwig van Beethoven was born in the town of Bonn in the country of Germany in the year 1770."We then learn that Beethoven composed on five legless pianos and "FACT: Ludwig van Beethoven lived in 39 different apartments--which is of course the subject of our story. (See book title.)"Then the story begins. Beethoven’s move from apartment to apartment is "documented" with complaints from neighbors, what he composed where, and details on how movers transported the five legless pianos. Here’s a mover’s lament:"In the diary of one Anselm Schwartz, we find the following translated here into modern English: ’After this move, I’m out of here. That dude is WHACKED in the head! Yow...My back is, like, REALLY messed up!’"After the first three FACTS of the book, there are only three to follow--two in the story of the moves: "FACT: It is very difficult to move a piano. FACT: It is even more difficult to move five pianos." These two FACTS are self-evident and are easily overlooked amongst the evidence of cotton balls with earwax found in neighbors’ apartments.It’s only when you read the last FACT on the final page that you get the joke: "FACT: That’s all we know of the 39 apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven." In other words, absolutely nothing--but a good story results nonetheless."The 39 Apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven" is a stunner of a picture book and definitely makes my 2006 favorites list. Read it aloud to a group just for the experience of watching kids get the joke. "The 39 Apartments of Ludwig van Beethoven" is highly recommended for children ages 5-10.

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