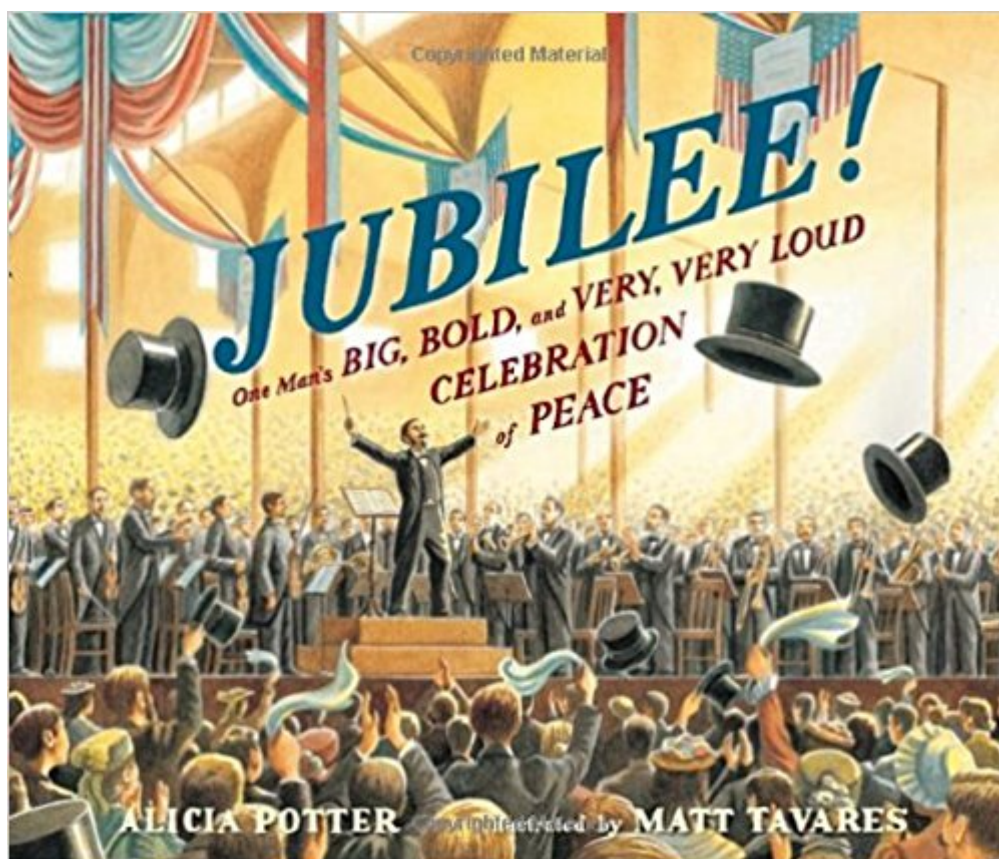


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Jubilee!: One Man's Big, Bold, And Very, Very Loud Celebration Of Peace



Synopsis

An exuberant picture book applauds the man behind the 1869 National Peace Jubilee, the largest and loudest concert the world had ever seen or heard. As a young boy growing up in Ireland, Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore loved music the louder, the better! This love of music followed him to Boston in 1849, where he became a bandleader. During the brutal Civil War, it was music that kept up his spirits and those of his fellow soldiers. So when the war ended and peace was restored to the country, Patrick had an idea. He would create the biggest, boldest, loudest concert the world had ever known to celebrate. A peace jubilee! But with twelve cannons, forty church bells, one thousand musicians, and ten thousand singers, just how would all of this sound? Matt Tavares's spirited illustrations burst with sound words in perfect harmony with Alicia Potter's triumphant story of the joy of music.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Gr 2-4 • After experiencing the horrors of the Civil War firsthand, one man was determined to celebrate the beauty of life through music. A native Irishman, Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore came to America in search of a better life. His deep love and appreciation of music led him to such an influential career as a bandmaster, composer, and musical arranger that he is credited

as "Father of the American Band." At the war's end, Gilmore returned to Boston, welcoming the troops home with concerts, but none seemed grand enough—hence, his idea to organize a five-day music festival, the National Peace Jubilee of 1867, commemorating the end of the war and celebrating the power of music to unite people. Though most thought it overly ambitious, Gilmore felt too strongly about his idea to give up, proving how a little determination and hard work can make a seeming impossibility a reality. While Gilmore is not well-known among today's audiences, Potter offers a refreshing and episodic view of his life and contributions to American culture. An extensive author's note provides more depth to the legacy left by such an influential figure, whose musical contributions have unfortunately been overshadowed by the accomplishments of his contemporaries. Tavares's bright and cheerful artwork illustrates Gilmore's inspiration from everyday sounds while evoking the lighthearted ebullience of the power of music. This is both a tribute to one man's talent and an insightful look at a different period of history. —Rebecca Gueorguiev, New York Public Library

You may have heard of the famous band leader known as the Great Gilmore. This title's closing author's note provides the full scoop: Patrick Gilmore wrote *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again* and instituted Boston's annual Fourth of July concert. But readers of this lengthy, satisfying picture book will experience Gilmore's greatness more gradually. Potter centers her book on Gilmore's mission to have a four-day jubilee concert at the end of the Civil War encompassing 10,000 singers, 1,000 musicians, 12 cannons, 40 church bells, and the world's largest pipe organ, all held in the largest public building yet erected in the U.S.: the Temple of Peace. Potter maintains suspense throughout—no concert this large had ever been attempted, and critics were vehement that it could only produce cacophony. Tavares's watercolor-and-gouache paintings magnificently capture crowds, street scenes, and individual expressions, while the typeface makes the individual instrumental and street sounds leap from the page. It's just as Potter writes at the book's end: So very, very LOUD! And so very, very beautiful. Grades 2-5. --Connie Fletcher

An inspiring, entertaining, witty and beautifully written and illustrated story about a little known historical figure whose passion and message is more relevant now than ever.

As a journalist who has circled the globe in my reporting, I am always amazed to discover enormous, inspirational gatherings of people. Vast inspirational movements of men and women

have been a part of American life since the First Great Awakening arose in the 1730s. Thanks to Alicia Potter and the folks at Candlewick Press, we all are now discovering another in the pages of Potter's delightful children's book about musician Patrick Gilmore. Patrick Gilmore was a complex man. He was one of the greatest military musicians in U.S. history, AND he was the architect of two of America's largest peace festivals. During the Civil War, Gilmore's music and his bands served the Union cause under special arrangement with the state of Massachusetts. In the years after the Civil War, Gilmore became America's PT Barnum of peace. Today, Gilmore's contribution to American life is largely missing from our history books. That's partly due to Gilmore's own ambivalence toward personal fame. His most famous song, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, was published under a pseudonym. Thomas Edison managed to capture his band in a couple of early wax recordings. A few carefully posed photographs exist of Gilmore, his band and the 1872 event. Artist Matt Tavares used this source material in smart ways for his superb illustrations that are sure to capture eyes young and old. Something about the man was charismatic to say the least. For his two peace jubilees, he managed to organize the most famous men and women in the musical world. Think of the great global music events of the late 20th century—Woodstock, the Concert for Bangladesh, Farm Aid—and you'll envision the sheer star power assembled by Gilmore. Since reading Potter's book, I've now read a whole lot more about Gilmore and I can highly recommend her picture book to all adults who love children and who yearn for peace.

"His wife told him he was crazy." Well, I don't blame her--the idea was really looney! But he pulled it off, and it was indeed a huge production. I would not have believed that this really happened--but it did. I am dumbfounded that I didn't know about this. This book is a history lesson for Kids (and adults!) I didn't realize at first that this fun book was about an actual person. I thought it was fictional! What a great event that would have been--100 choruses! 1000 musicians! Excellent illustrations + good history lesson. This is really a GEM OF A BOOK! Highly Recommend! | Courtesy of "Celebrate Boston," here's the info on the giant "Temple of Peace" that was demolished in 1869: "The Boston Coliseum, or Temple Of Peace, was a temporary building constructed solely for the purpose of hosting the National Peace Jubilee in 1869. This enormous structure stood where Trinity Church and the Copley Plaza Hotel are now located in Copley Square. The Coliseum was built upon the Back Bay land at the crossing of the railroad

tracks. The original plan of a truss roof, unsupported by pillars, was changed in consequence of damage by the gale of the 26th of April in 1869. The only truss that was successfully raised measured 340 feet across and was 130 feet high. The building was 550 feet long by 350 feet wide, covering about 4-1/2 acres. The main walls were 40 feet high, resting upon a substantial foundation of piles, and the height of the central point of the roof was 120 feet.

I am shocked I had never heard of this event, and I am so glad I read this book! It's entertaining and informative for both kids and adults, and really beautifully illustrated. The images of the enormous concert really give a feel for how huge the crowds were that attended it! I wish I could have experienced something like that. I'm so excited this book was released and this exciting musical event can be shared with children. Very recommended!

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