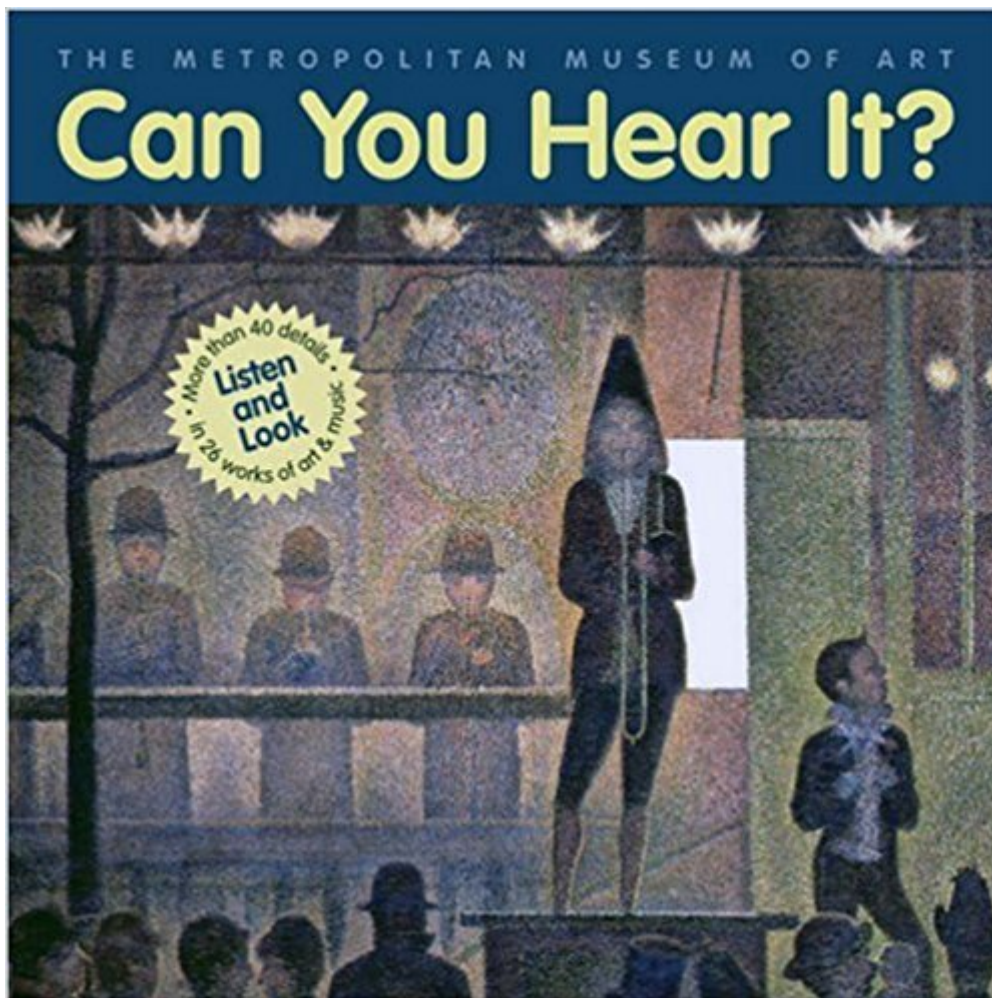


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# Can You Hear It?



## Synopsis

In association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art Now the best-selling series Can You Find It? in a great new format! Similar to Abrams best-selling series, Can You Find It?, in this book, young readers are introduced to great music through great works of art. From "The Flight of the Bumblebee"; to "The Four Seasons"; to "Night on Bald Mountain," beloved music is illustrated by great works of art, and the text and accompanying CD urge young readers to listen for certain instruments. Can you hear the car horns honking, played by clarinets? Can you hear the horses' hooves, played by castanets? When each CD track is played, young readers will stop, look, and listen as never before. Classical music is filled with unforgettable images. In this book, great examples of pictorial music are matched to masterpieces from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, for an introduction to both music and art appreciation for young listeners. Included is a CD featuring 12 short works and an introduction to the orchestra and the instruments.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams; Rei/Com edition (November 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810957213

ISBN-13: 978-0810957213

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 0.6 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,290 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical #60 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Art

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-5 • This visual and aural feast invites parents, educators, and young listeners to "listen and look" at 13 examples of pictorial music and visual masterpieces. The introduction prepares readers with an explanation of the connections between composers' notes and art images. A woodblock print by Utagawa Hiroshige, the pointillism of Seurat, and landscapes

by Jacob van Ruisdael and Thomas Cole are among those included in the presentation. The paired examples invite listeners to identify solo instruments or orchestral themes that characterize an image found in the visual art, e.g., "Can you hear the gun battles?" in a pairing of a Remington painting with Aaron Copeland's Billy the Kid: Gun Battle. Although seven of the musical pieces are by either Vivaldi or Saint-Saëns, the recordings of works by Gershwin, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Copland reflect a broad range of artists and orchestral styles from America and Europe. This treasure completes a larger unit of study or simply gives pleasure with a presentation of inspired works in dual media for children's appreciation.

— Mary Elam, Forman Elementary School, Plano, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Classical music is filled with unforgettable images," writes Lach, a senior editor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In this title, he pairs reproductions of the museum's masterpieces with selections of classical music, included on an accompanying CD, that correspond with themes and images in the artworks. A spread featuring Utagawa Hiroshige's Chrysanthemums, which pictures a bee hovering over a flower, is matched with Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov's Flight of the Bumblebee, for example. For each pairing, Lach suggests what to find in the art and what to listen to in the music, making strong connections between the sounds of instruments and the mental images that they may evoke. The easily misplaced CD may pose a problem for libraries, and a reassuring note about the subjective nature of arts interpretation would have been welcome. Still, this beautifully produced volume fills a gap in arts titles for youth. Additional sections about musical instruments, the artists, and the composers round out this creative, useful title.

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I absolutely love this book. It's such a fun and creative way to introduce art and music to kids. I got this when my son was 4. He's now 6 and still loves it. The first time he listened, he kept hitting the replay button on the computer. He listened to it 8 times in a row! It always amazes me how he'll recognize a tune from the book when he hears it in another context. "Hey, that's the song with the horses." He'll make the connection to the artwork. The songs and art are a nice variety although if I had my way, there would be 50 more pairings. There are just so many more options.

My 5 year old is obsessed with this book. Nicely chosen pieces of music and great art to go with them. The CD and book really go hand in hand but we also like to listen to the CD in the car and try

to recall the composer, piece, and details of the paintings. Some classical CDs give you only snippets of the music, this gives you good chunks.

I absolutely adore this book. As a preschool music teacher, I search for ways to make classical music interesting and fun for young children, and I think this book has done it. With colorful, beautiful artwork and fun musical selections, children love listening closely to "find" the items that are "described" in the music. For young children like mine, I pull out this book occasionally to work on critical listening skills by putting on one or two of the pieces at a time. The only thing I would have liked better is a little more variety in the musical pieces. Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Carnival of the Animals are both used 2-3 times.

This short book begins with a quick overview of a few orchestral instruments, and then proceeds to present 13 paintings covering a broad range of genres. The book is accompanied by a CD which includes a classical music selection for each of the 13 paintings. The reader is asked to imagine that certain elements in the music correspond to certain elements in each painting. We felt that this correspondence was usually pretty good, but some cases seemed to be a stretch, so we were sometimes a bit disappointed and felt that we could have come up with better and more correspondences. But the concept behind this book is certainly good and innovative, and makes this book a unique resource, so I recommend it to parents interested in introducing their kids to both paintings and classical music. Another good resource to consider is *Story of the Orchestra: Listen While You Learn About the Instruments, the Music and the Composers Who Wrote the Music!* by Robert Levine, which provides a much more comprehensive introduction to orchestral instruments.

My 2 1/2 year old really loves this book/music duo - granted, it's new, but all she wants to do this week is "play with my special book". I love that she can look, listen, and even move (like an elephant, like a marching knight, etc.) The concept definitely took - "can you hear the horses' tails swishing, mama?" She requests certain songs over and over again, and always makes sure to match the page to the song. There's even a number-recognition element - if she requests a song, I ask her to tell me what number it is (each artwork is numbered) so that I can play it. I wish that the artwork for the last track was included inside the book instead of just on the cover... Back on to see if I can find more like this!

This book begins with a great introduction by explaining the different sections of an orchestra with full color photographs of the different instruments. The CD quality and literary & artistic content of the book are comprehensive without being boring or redundant. This book is so fantastic that I look forward to gifting to friends in the future in addition to using it with our own children.

This music is wonderful! My only wish is that the songs were labeled with title and composer vs 1, 2, 3, ect.

The first section gives an overview of some orchestral instruments as background to the next, main, section. In the main section, the illustrations are very well chosen and enjoyable to find the finer details. Young children like it, looking at the pictures while listening to the audio CD, and trying to identify parts of the pictures where the music is trying to describe (as noted in the text). The third section gives a background of the selected illustration - very informative for anyone who enjoys both music and pictures. The hardcover binding is durable and ensures many will enjoy reading and listening to this product. Recommended.

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