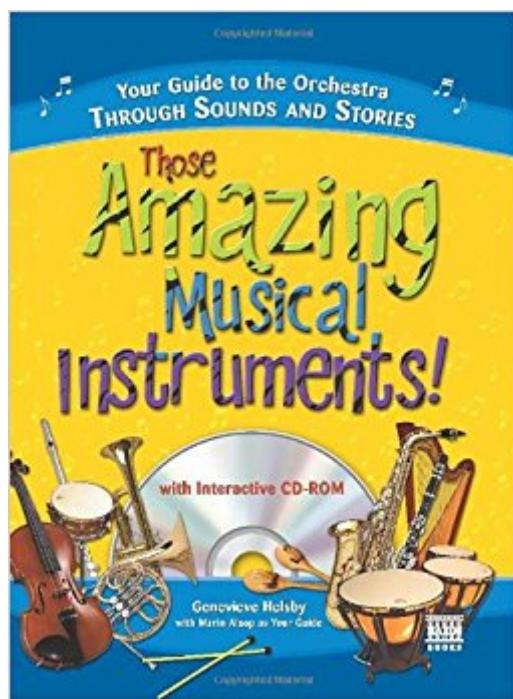


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# Those Amazing Musical Instruments!: Your Guide To The Orchestra Through Sounds And Stories (Naxos Books)



## Synopsis

From the cello to the clarinet to the trumpet to the drums, Those Amazing Musical Instruments! takes readers on a musical tour, with notes on the history, construction and sounds of the instruments from each of the major instrument "families." They can see the parts of the violin working together, read about the flute in Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro," or hear the different sounds of the tuba on the included CD-ROM. This interactive CD-ROM includes individual musical samples giving readers an audible taste of each instrument, as well as full orchestra pieces showing how they play together. Those Amazing Musical Instruments! features noted conductor Marin Alsop as kids' guide to the instruments, offering helpful comments and tips throughout the book.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

From the cello to the clarinet to the tuba to the timpani, conductor Marin Alsop takes you on an exciting musical tour! The great physicist Albert Einstein played and taught the violin. Harp strings have different colors depending on their note. The first flutes were made of bones! A silver trumpet was found in Tutankhamun's tomb in Egypt in 1922: it had been lying there undiscovered for 3,000 years. The sound produced on the clarinet is actually affected by the shape and size of the player's

mouth. Did you know? Every single bassoon is a bit different. If something goes wrong with a bassoon, a player can't simply pick up another one and expect to sound the same. Marin Alsop is your guide to Those Amazing Musical Instruments! She's a conductor who has led orchestras in Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Baltimore, Paris and Tokyo! Watch for Marin's tips and comments all through the book. The CD-ROM lets you hear the sound of each instrument alone, or playing with an orchestra. More than 100 musical samples in all! Plus loads of bonus history and fun musical information

Genevieve Helsby graduated from Durham University with an MA in music, was Literary Editor at Chandos Records, then served at Oxford University Press before becoming Editorial Manager with Naxos. Marin Alsop guides readers through the instruments, offering helpful tips and commentary throughout the book. She is Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony and Gramophone magazine's 2003 Artist of the Year.

Most of us either fiddled or tootled as youngsters. Grammar school bands and orchestras sounded all the better for our efforts. Now, in this amazing book, author Genevieve Helsby explains how that happened (or was supposed to happen). Under the direction of noted conductor Marin Alsop, musical instruments are described, their history explored, the complexity of their construction is illustrated and then the sounds are heard on the accompanying CD-ROM. They are heard alone, in groups, and finally in full orchestral glory. The book contains beautiful illustrations and captivating narrative and, together with the CD-ROM, makes a wonderful read aloud opportunity for youngsters of all ages. All the reader needs is a DVD player or laptop computer to present a wonderful program guaranteed to captivate the audience. Each family of musical instruments--string, woodwind, brass, percussion, and keyboard--is explained through word, illustration, and sound. The reader and audience will learn what inspired the shape of stringed instruments or the construction of woodwind mouthpieces, and that the nose was once used to play the flute instead of the mouth. And who knew that paper bags, toy frogs, tin foil, metal trash cans, or trays of dishes have all been used in the percussion section? These are just some of the tidbits of information that add to the joy of reading this book, either to self or aloud. Talented artists worked with the author to develop and design the book and the final product is a work of art. Don't miss this one.

This book/CD is REALLY AMAZING! I couldn't believe the information in this book and the accuracy. I teach music in a public school and ordered this for a unit I will be teaching on the

orchestra. The interactive CD-ROM can be used with a projector so the entire class can view it. The book is set up in sections: Introduction/Orchestra/Seating/Sound Waves; Strings; Woodwinds; Brass; Percussion; Keyboards; Voice; Electronic Instruments; Conductor; and even a Dictionary! An overview is given for each of the sections and each instrument has sound files on the CD-ROM. The photographs of each instrument are colorful, with the parts labeled. The descriptions include famous people who learned to play that instrument, how it is played, different genres where it is used; ranges of the instrument and its relationship to the range of the entire orchestra. This book not only includes orchestral instruments, but some folk instruments such as guitar (acoustic and electric) and mandolin. The Woodwind section includes 5 of the recorders, great bass, bass, tenor, alto, soprano, and sopranino! Awe shucks, they left out the little garklien! I let children check out materials from my room and I want more copies of this book for them and one for myself!

this book is really nice, very clear and descriptive, lots of pictures. what's even better is the CD-rom, which allows you to see the instrument, hear it being played by itself, and also as a soloist in a variety of different eras of music. the piano one is especially cool--beethoven and john cage! the CD-rom is a slightly antiquated, compared to some of the other available medias now. but, it's all in one place, allowing you to easily play samples of individual instruments, without having to search for appropriate youtube examples, etc. i use this in my music classroom all the time, with lots of different grade levels.

I came across this book at the library and checked it out. Little did I know the magic that would happen when we opened its pages! My 4 children are captivated by the simple teaching style and delightful music samples. Of course, we now own it! I love that this book is hardbound and comes with supporting CD material. It is a great starter book for introducing instruments to children. I appreciate the element of science included where they teach about sound and vibration pitch ranges with each instrument. If I could change anything, it would be to add some videos to the CD so children can see the instrument in action. (I've been finding this on [...] instead.) And also some sort of a coloring/activity page to support the reading material. (Also trying to find on the internet.) Other than that, we love it!

The first part introduces the various period/era of music history and styles, with a few life story of some of the famous composers. Very well done. The second part introduces the orchestral instruments. A few more illustrations would have helped clarify some finer points, for example, "the

snares are at the bottom of the snare drums", but there is only pictures of the snare drum viewed from the top. Young children would enjoy this book very much, even better with a music teacher present (or family member with some musical knowledge). With CD and hardcover binding, this is a very good buy. Recommended.

I bought this for my son, he just turned 3 and is crazy about instruments and orchestras. He absolutely flipped out when we gave this book to him. He is engrossed as we read to him from it, it is very informative, and I learned a lot myself. The interactive cd really helps to emphasize what is described, very happy with his purchase.

Loved the pictures and the cd. Wonderful for my older preschool group to see the instruments. I do story time at the library and my group varies from week to week who comes. If the group is 4-6 year olds there is enough attention span to look through the instruments. But if it is more 2-3 year olds with mom's it leans more to only be able to handle only pictures and the briefest of story time. I am a volunteer x school teacher.

Recommended from son's music teach and he loves this book. Tons of instruments to learn about with a CD to hear what there sound like. Only downside is I wish the book would come up to date and have a digital download of the CD. Who has a CD player anymore?

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