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I, Vivaldi



Synopsis

In this dynamic picture-book biography, told as if by Vivaldi himself, the famous musician's energetic personality and steadfast dedication to music come alive. Despite his mother's vow for him to become a priest, young Vivaldi is only interested in music. He soon grows from a feisty boy who wants to play the violin into a stubborn young man who puts his musical training ahead of his studies for priesthood. Beautiful, ornate artwork portrays the spirit and splendor of Vivaldi's hometown, Venice. A historical note, musical score, and glossary will help readers more fully appreciate Vivaldi's life and musical genius.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (January 14, 2008)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #533,870 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History](#) #44 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical](#) #133 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical](#)

Age Range: 7 - 11 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

Customer Reviews

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS [Children's Crown Award Reading Programs](#), [Children's Gallery Award, Nominee](#) [International Reading Association-Children's Book Council Joint Committee](#), [Children's Choices](#) (2008) [Storytelling World](#), [Honor Book](#) (2009) [PEN Center USA](#), [Finalist, Children's Literature](#) (2009) [Kid's Wings](#), [Award for Outstanding Literature](#) (2009-2010) [Horn Book Guide](#) "This fictional account lyrically narrated in the composer's voice presents key moments in Antonio Vivaldi's life and musical career. . .

Terra cotta-toned ink-line and watercolors, which accent Vivaldi's red hair, effectively depict Venetian landmarks. Musical notation decorates the endpapers. Recommended." Â Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "The tension between spiritual and secular demands makes for an involving story, and Shefelman's smooth telling does it justice. . . Listeners who are content with a broadly imagined, biographically inspired tale may be pleased with both the domestic drama and Tom Shefelman's watercolor tour along the canals and through the churches and palaces of Venice." Â Kirkus Reviews "Fetching introduction to one of the great masters of the Baroque era." Â Publishers Weekly "The first-person narration offers an accessible and personable view of Vivaldi's intense passion for music. . . A noteworthy picture book biography." Â Sacramento Bee "This fact-based story of the famous musician from Venice will hold young imaginations." Â Chicago Tribune "Acknowledging the few facts we have about Antonio Vivaldi, Janice Shefelman makes us see not only the sickly little boy who became the famous composer but also the passionate power of music in this Venetian world. "

Janice and Tom Shefelman have collaborated on several children's books, among them A Peddler's Dream (Houghton Mifflin), a Reading Rainbow selection, and Sophie's War (Eakin Press), a historical novel. The Shefelmans live in Austin, Texas.

Love the red priest. Earliest known rebel! Thank goodness he stood up to his Mom and followed his heart of composing, performing & teaching music. My students will love this story. Vivid pix and fast shipment.

A wonderful bio for children as well as adults. It starts with his birth and family life. Beautifully illustrated. Put on his music and enjoy. I'm retired but my students would have loved this book. They knew all of his "Four Seasons" thru dramatic movement for "Winter" and words for "Spring" and "Autumn."

Perfect.

Of the books still in print I could find on Vivaldi, this is the best I found to read aloud to an upper elementary music class. It tells a nice story and overview of his life in an engaging manner.

OK for perhaps third to fifth graders. Colorful, brief, and informative.

This is a fun book and very beautifully illustrated. It is a fictitious story with the facts at the end. For learning the composers it is a wonderful addition to our collection,

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

Intended for young readers age seven to eleven, *I, Vivaldi* is a children's picturebook story about the childhood of classical violinist and composer Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741). Though there are a few author's liberties taken with Vivaldi's factual biography, most notably telling the story directly from Vivaldi's point of view, *I, Vivaldi* stays reasonably close to what history tells us of this remarkable music genius. Vivaldi's mother pushed him to enter the priesthood, but Vivaldi's first and foremost passion was his music - how was he to find his life's destiny? The text is moderately complex as picturebooks go, making *I, Vivaldi* ideal for young readers who are almost ready to make the transition to chapter books. Highly recommended.

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