



Meet the Orchestra

Written by
ANN HAYES

Illustrated by
KARMEN
THOMPSON

The Orchestra plays tonight. The audience has arrived. The musicians are coming on stage with their instruments. What a lot of different kinds they play—strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion.





Violin

Players with like instruments sit together in "families." The violin belongs to the string family, along with the viola, the cello, and the big string bass. You play all of these with a bow or pluck them with your fingers.

The violin is the smallest of the string instruments. Its song can be bright as laughter, light as air, soft as a whisper, or sad as a tear.



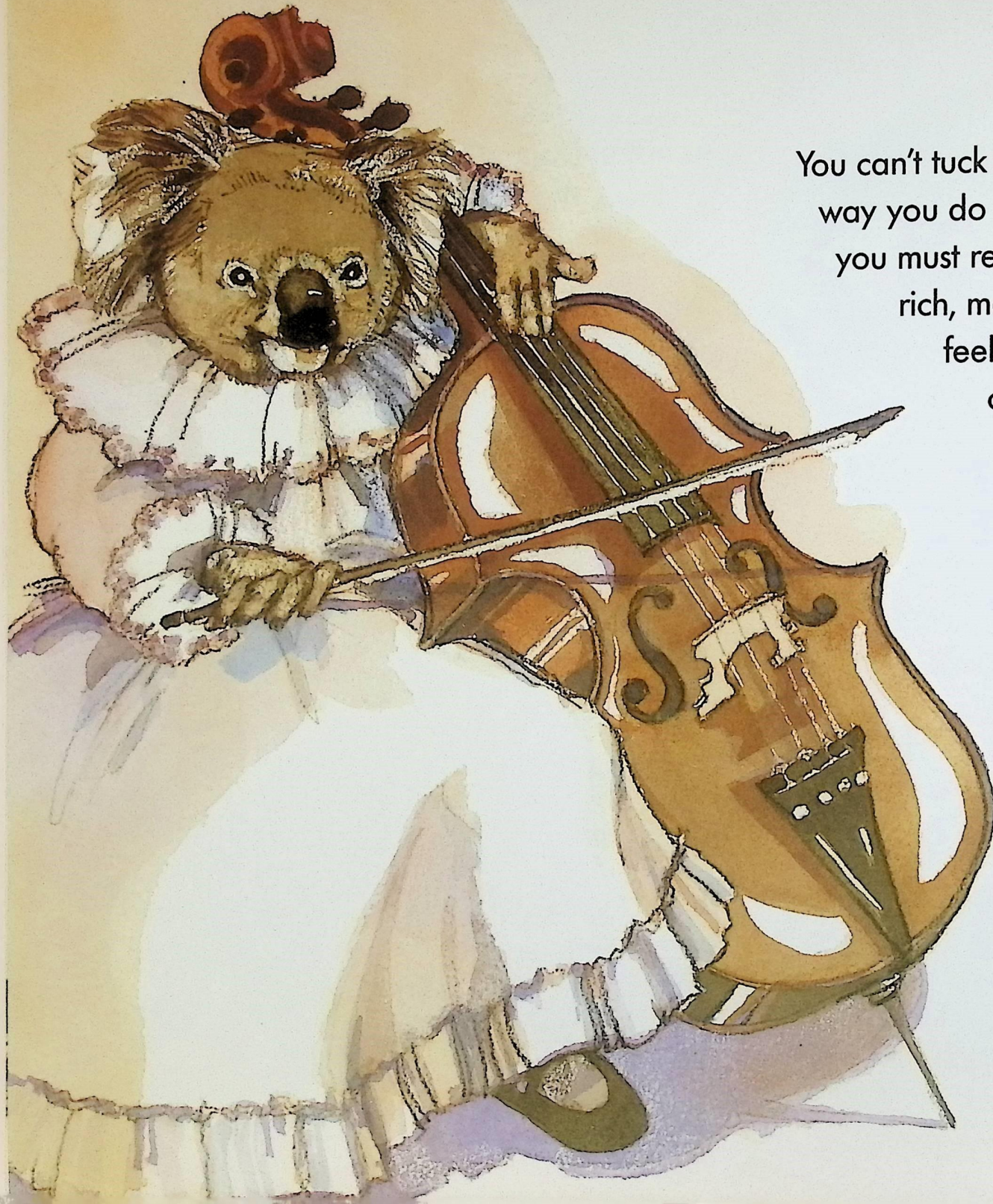
Viola

As instruments get bigger, their voices get lower. The viola looks and sounds like a big brother to the violin. It has a deeper tone, reminding you of evening shadows, cloudy skies, and the color blue.



Cello

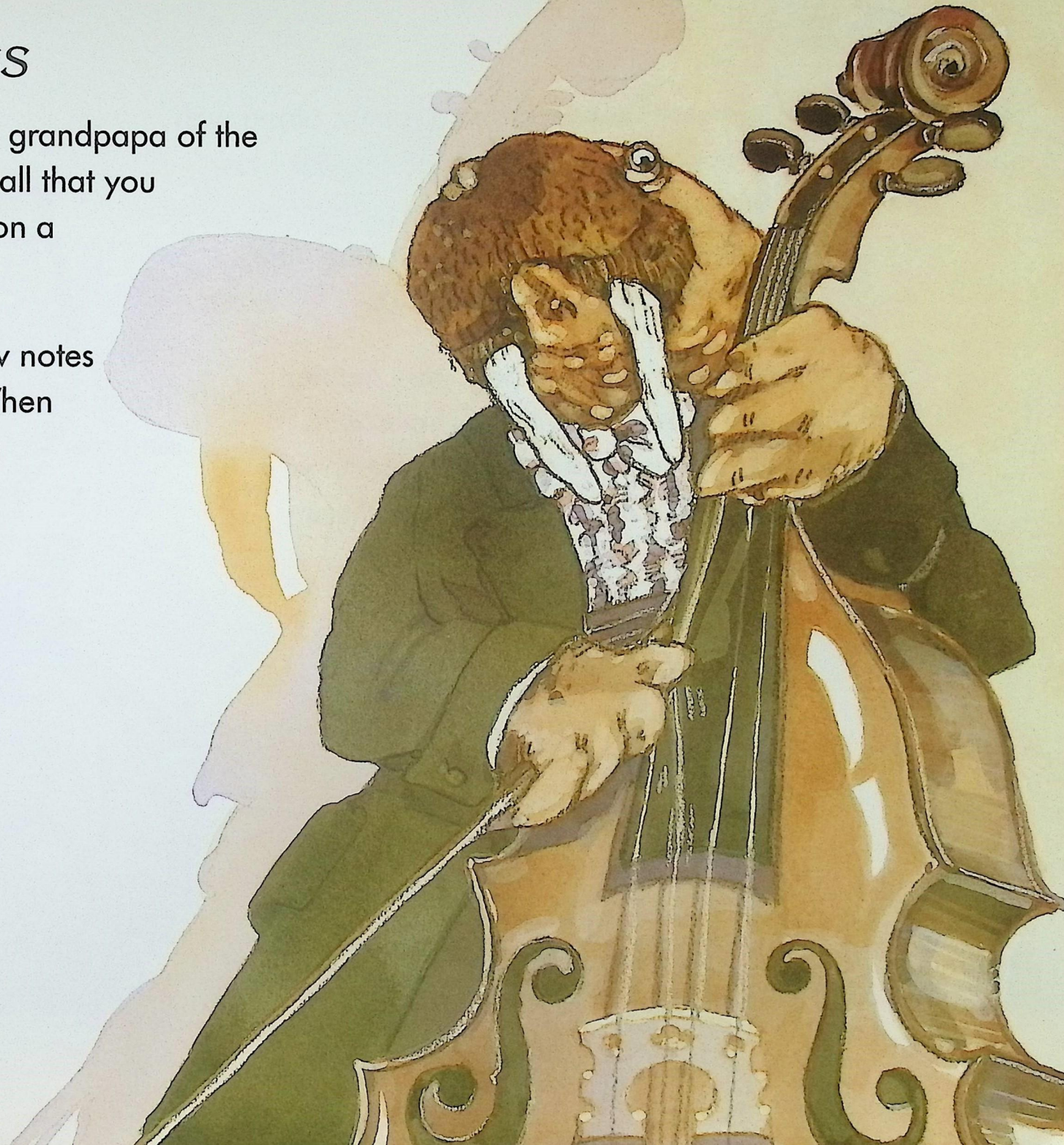
You can't tuck a cello under your chin the way you do a violin or viola. It is so big you must rest it on the floor. The cello's rich, mellow voice speaks of deep feelings like joy and sadness. It can remind you of the calm beauty of a drifting swan and of the color purple.



String Bass

The string bass is the grandpapa of the string family. It is so tall that you must stand up or sit on a high stool to play it.

When bowed, its low notes moan and groan. When plucked, its booming sound helps other musicians to keep the beat.





An ABA's Pick of the Lists
Nominated for an Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children
A Selection of the Literary Guild

Cover illustrations copyright © 1991 by Karmen Effenberger Thompson
Printed in China

\$7.99 US / \$9.99 CAN
ISBN 0-15-200222-7
9 780152 002220 5 0799 >
clarionbook.com