

## Give Stories in Music™ to Kids You Love Instill a Love for Symphonic Music and Storytelling with Gift Sets from Award-Winning Series

(PRWEB) November 9, 2005 -- Today's kids are more media savvy than ever. But do they know how to listen?

Before you start chuckling, think about how to improve the situation: listening skills are best developed through focused auditory experiences—like storytelling and musical performances. Two new gift sets from Magic Maestro Music/Kids combine the best of both worlds to make listening fun.

The colorful Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel® gift set includes the nationally acclaimed Stories in Music™ CD, featuring the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and the original book by Virginia Lee Burton. For baseball aficionados, the Casey at the Bat gift set also includes the Stories in Music™ CD and an 11" x 17" full color poster of the American classic poem. George Steinbrenner calls it "a wonderful piece the whole family will enjoy" and Time Out New York Kids says, "it provides a solid, hummable introduction to musical thinking."

These smart and entertaining new Stories in Music™ gifts are available this holiday season for the first time at selected retailers. For direct orders, visit [www.magicmaestromusic.com](http://www.magicmaestromusic.com) 1-866-HEAR-MAGIC (866-432-7624). Suggested retail price is \$24.95 for each set.

Stories in Music™ regularly wins awards and national acclaim for its recordings created in the grand tradition of Peter and the Wolf, providing new classics for narrator and symphony orchestra. These recordings, for kids ages 5 and up, grew out of a successful family program at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Convinced that Peter and the Wolf format is one of the best ways to introduce people of all ages to the wonders of symphonic music, the Simons are building a high quality collection of family classics, featuring original music works performed by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, with professional narration and bonus tracks that help enhance the listening experience. Each CD comes packaged with a full-color Program Book with more information and activities for young listeners. Juanita the Spanish Lobster, an all-new recording of David Haslam's humorous undersea musical adventure, has just been released.

"Our goals with Stories in Music™ are to expand listening horizons, develop listening skills and accumulate musical memories," says co-creator Bonnie Ward Simon. "We also hope that children will be listening to these recordings with their parents—it's a great way to learn about music together."

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