

Kid culture STORYTELLING

A celebration with music and dancing

MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL: A NEW WORK FOR NARRATOR AND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, story by Virginia Lee Burton, narrated by Yadu, music composed and conducted by Stephen Simon, with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Irish bagpipes played by Paul Brennan, Simon & Simon, 2004, \$16.98 for CD and "Program Book" that explains the music, the story and its author and includes several games, 51 minutes; ages 5 and up.

This story is the first in the read-along audio series "Stories in Music" that pairs classic literature with original orchestrated music. The story is told first, then information is provided about the author and the story, after which Simon gives listeners insight into techniques that composers use and the instruments and musical style. He then points out things the audience should listen for. At this point the story is repeated, so the listener can hear it with their "educated ears."

The whole family will be delighted with how a town helps Mike Mulligan keep his promise that his beloved steam shovel, Mary Anne, can finish a job in a day that would normally take 100 men. They also will root for the little boy (voiced by Sebastian Simon) who comes up with a solution to the dilemma in which Mike and Mary Anne find themselves.



Children and adults alike will be entertained by Yadu's energetic narration. His authentic Irish accent along with Simon's choice to use the Irish bagpipes as part of his orchestra (due to the ethnic origins of the name Mulligan) lends a three-dimensional quality to this character. Yadu's emotive delivery is well supported by the music that comfortably follows the ups and downs of

this endearing tale. This well-produced musical version of the classic story is bound to replace the "just-book version" on the list of favorites of many young listeners.

"Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel: A New Work for Narrator and Symphony Orchestra" can be purchased by calling (866) HEAR-MAGIC or online at www.magicmaestromusic.com. 🎧

