



A Supplement to Child Magazine
November 2004

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Magic Mestro Music™ div. of Simon & Simon, LLC

● BEST FAMILY FOLK

Parades and Panoramas, Dan Zanes (Festival Five Records, \$17, ages 5 and up) We love Dan Zanes because he creates music for the whole family, makes the ordinary seem magical, and with this album inspired by the works of poet Carl Sandburg, reminds us that sometimes the best stories don't come from fairy tales but from our own American heritage. The CD comes packaged with a book of lyrics to enhance the inevitable sing-along.



● BEST MUSICAL REVUE

Philadelphia Chickens, Sandra Boynton & Friends (Rounder Kids, \$12, ages 5 to 10) Would Mom and Dad let you keep an alien if it followed you home? In this Broadway-style CD conceived by board book author Boynton, the answer is yes! Cast members, including the Bacon Brothers and Kevin Kline, take the kooky collection of songs way over the top to delightful results.

● BEST CLASSICAL

Beethoven's Wig 2: More Sing Along Symphonies (Rounder Kids, \$13, ages 5 and up) We give a standing ovation to Wig maestro Richard Permut's second CD. By combining an enthusiastic sampling of Brahms, Schubert, Strauss, Verdi, and more with a fabulous sense of humor, he makes classical music accessible and loads of fun. His advice for singing opera? "Do what the divas do! Shatter a glass or two." Entertaining and educational, it's one of the best intersections of high art and hijinks around today.

● BEST DANCE CD

Bottle of Sunshine, Milkshake (Milkshake Music, \$15, ages 2 to 8) This magnetic follow-up to *Happy Songs* encourages kids to dream big and celebrate what makes them happy. Bursting with an "I can" attitude, it has an uncanny way of soothing, invigorating, and fostering confidence all at the same time.

● BEST MULTI-ARTIST CD

eLLAbration! A Tribute to Ella Jenkins, Various Artists (Smithsonian Folkways, \$12, ages 3 and up) Eighty-year-old Jenkins has been mesmerizing kids with catchy call-and-response songs for five decades. This wonderful CD—featuring new arrangements of her songs by Pete Seeger, Tom Chapin, and more—is proof of why she truly is a multigenerational musical force.


● BEST SING-ALONG SONGS

Humpty Jumpy, Paul Lippert (Rasperry Records, \$17, ages 3 to 8) Lippert evokes a campfire vibe in this album that sprinkles favorites—like "Polly Wolly Doodle"—among his own tunes. His inviting vocals and appealing acoustic accompaniment make this a perfect introduction to the joy of singing.

● BEST QUIET-TIME TUNES

Baby Genius: Favorite Lullabies (Genius Products, \$10, birth to 4) Sometimes it's nice to linger a little longer before bedtime. From classically rooted symphonies to original instrumentals to perennial favorites like "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," the numerous songs and styles in this three-disc collection make kids' transition into sleep even more dreamy.

● BEST STORYTIME CD

Magic Maestro Music: Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, The London Philharmonic (Simon & Simon LLC, \$17, ages 4 to 9) In *Peter & the Wolf* tradition, the narration of this classic children's book interplays dramatically with the orchestral instruments—most notably the Irish bagpipes. An imaginative way for kids to relax and slow down, the CD also includes segments on the story's origins and how the symphonies were selected. 



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