

As seen in the pages of



Music

Stephen and Bonnie Simon

Casey at the Bat (Magic Maestro Music)



GOOD CONDUCT Stephen Simon takes the baton.

Reviews

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The low point of middle-school music was when a desperate-to-be-cool teacher had us sing "Dust in the Wind" in four-part harmony. The high point was when two hopelessly old-fashioned teachers made listening to classical music fun. That's the goal of a new CD series, *Stories in Music*, launched by husband-and-wife team Stephen and Bonnie Simon. The series pairs classic stories with Stephen Simon's classical compositions. Its latest release is *Casey at the Bat*, which sets the 1888 poem about baseball's most ignominious defeat to a cheerful John Philip Sousa-inspired march. *Casey* starts by introducing listeners to the music, with the poem narrated by Bonnie Simon. Other tracks offer listeners the piece performed by marching and concert bands, by a group of young Suzuki violin students and as a tango, by a small ensemble—a handy illustration of how the same music can sound very different, depending on the instrumentation. The CD has its "Dust in the Wind" moments, but overall, it provides a solid, hummable introduction to musical thinking.—Susan Jackson

