Stan and Mabel Participation Pack

written by Paul Rissmann and Polly Ives,
edited by Fraser Wilson

Commissioned by Music in the Round

with funding from

Music in the Round is funded by Arts Council England
Welcome to the Stan and Mabel project!

We’re delighted that you are part of the wonderful Stan and Mabel adventure!

Stan and Mabel is the latest in a series of innovative commissioned pieces for children from Music in the Round and its Children’s Composer in Residence Paul Rissmann. Building on the success of extensive work with schools and families, and award-winning productions including Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants and The Chimpanzees of Happytown, Stan and Mabel is the focus of a multi-strand project that aims to reach a wider audience and achieve a greater impact than any other project to date. We have organised a programme that encompasses:

- **INSET sessions for teachers and educators** that increase skills and confidence, and inspire Stan and Mabel projects in schools;

- **Pre-concert family workshops** that enable people of all ages to delve into the story and music before attending a Family Concert;

- **In-school workshops led by Polly Ives** that provide inspiration and enjoyment for schools preparing to attend a concert performance later in the term; and

- **School and Family Concerts** at large-scale venues around the UK, featuring lots of imaginative and highly engaging audience participation and projected illustrations from the book. A great musical day out and an experience to be talked about!

Full details of all of this can be found online at [www.musicintheround.co.uk](http://www.musicintheround.co.uk)

In this pack

In this pack there is an introduction to the story of Stan and Mabel, the music and the audience-participation songs written by composer Paul Rissmann with audio tracks for you to listen to and learn before attending the concerts. Either:

- download the folder of MP3 files to your computer for burning onto a CD by [following this link](http://www.musicintheround.co.uk);
- use the CD provided at INSET sessions; or
- download from Dropbox (when connected to the Internet) by clicking on the links in this pack.

We have also included suggestions for additional activities that you can explore at home or at school. Feel free to spend as much time as you want on this pack. Everyone will have a lot of fun at whatever level you are at!

Music in the Round

Music in the Round is the largest promoter of chamber music outside London. We take our unique, informal, and informative style of performance to numerous venues around the country as well as presenting two concert series and an annual May Festival in Sheffield at our home venue, the Crucible Studio.

Our resident group Ensemble 360 is made up of dynamic, world-class musicians selected for their excellent communication skills as well as for their highly accomplished musicianship. They are at the heart of Music in the Community, our learning & participation programme, which engages over 17,000 people every year with high-quality music-making. Led by professional musicians and inspirational animateurs, our workshops, concerts, talks, bring-and-plays, and special projects aim to inspire, enthuse, and engage people of all ages.

Jason Chapman – Author & Illustrator

Jason Chapman is an award-winning illustrator and children’s author. As well as Stan and Mabel he has written Ted, Bo and Diz; Five Little Ducks; One Kiss, One hug! and Grunt and Snort. He has also illustrated My First Classical Music Book, written by Genevieve Helsby, which is also available as an app.

He has produced illustrations for the Natural History Museum, Singapore Science Centre, Chicago Field Museum, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, and the NSPCC and Father Christmas on their hugely successful ‘Letters from Santa’ campaign.

Jason was born in Cambridge, grew up in Yorkshire, and studied in Bradford. He now lives in Devon, just outside Axminster, with his wife, three children, and a decreasing number of small animals (23 legs at the last count, not including fish). He likes cake, swimming, and toads; but doesn’t like flies, coat hangers, or cling film.

Jason’s website is at www.jasonchapman.co.uk

Did you know:

Jason is a fan of Bradford City FC, and you can often spot the club’s colours (claret and amber) in his illustrations... Can you find them anywhere in Stan and Mabel??
Paul Rissmann – Composer

Paul Rissmann is a composer, presenter, and music educationalist working with orchestras and ensembles around the world. He is Children’s Composer in Residence at Music in the Round and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and Animateur with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Paul has written hugely popular pieces for Music in the Round which have reached well over 45,000 people including Giddy Goat, The Lion Who Wanted to Love, Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants, Giraffes Can’t Dance and The Chimpanzees of Happytown for which he won an award at the 2012 British Composer Awards. He has also won a Royal Television Society Award.

Paul has worked with Microsoft, Philharmonia Orchestra, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, New York Philharmonic Orchestra and many others. Bamboozled, his interactive composition for orchestra and audience, has been performed by over 50,000 people - from Daytona Beach, Florida to Melbourne, Australia! In 2012 it was performed at an Olympic Torch relay in Leicester by the Philharmonia Orchestra. He has also written a bespoke soundtrack to The Presents - a play for babies aged 6-18 months produced by Reeling and Writhing. Paul’s website is at www.rissmann.co.uk

Paul says

“In 2013, I was commissioned by Music in the Round to set this zany story to music. It is such a fun book and Jason’s pictures are so brilliant, that they were perfect inspiration for my music. Plus, given that all the animals in the story play the same instruments as Ensemble 360 - it seemed like a perfect match. So I’ve composed a 25-minute musical adventure for narrator and ensemble with lots of opportunities for the audience to join in with the action.”

Polly Ives – Presenter & Narrator

Polly Ives enjoys a varied career as a concert narrator and presenter, workshop leader, trainer, teacher and cellist, and she is Creative Producer at Music in the Round.

She has led numerous projects with Music in the Round over the last 12 years and has worked with Wigmore Hall (and at present leads the Chamber Tots project), the Royal Opera House, Ensemble 360, The Leonore Trio, the Elias and Sacconi string quartets, Philippe Graffin, Michael Collins, Trevor Pinnock, and the European Brandenburg Ensemble. She has conducted children’s and youth orchestras including the National Children’s Orchestra, adjudicated at music festivals, and performed live on BBC Radio 3’s In Tune. Over the last 11 years she has involved over 30,000 children aged 2-7 in the pioneering Music Box project.

Polly enjoys playing netball, entertaining her niece and nephew, and horseriding. Not many people know that when she was growing up Polly had black East Indian ducks called Scott and Charlene!
Music in the Round’s resident group, Ensemble 360, performs in Stan and Mabel. Ensemble 360 has gained an enviable reputation across the UK not only for the quality and integrity of the members’ playing, but also for their ability to communicate the music to a range of different audiences. Formed in 2005, eleven musicians of international standing came together to take up residency in Sheffield with Music in the Round, establishing a versatile group comprising five string players, five wind players and a pianist. They are also members of some of the greatest orchestras in the world, have recorded lots of CDs and recorded music for film and TV including Pirates of the Caribbean and Love Actually!

Most importantly – they all love music, and love sharing it with the people they meet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMY – Bassoon</th>
<th>BEN – Violin</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLAUDIA – Violin</td>
<td>GEMMA – Cello</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATT – Clarinet</td>
<td>NAOMI – Horn</td>
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<td>LAURÈNE – Double Bass</td>
<td>ADRIAN – Oboe</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUDITH – Viola</td>
<td>JULIETTE – Flute</td>
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<td>TIM – Piano</td>
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The Story Begins

Stan and Mabel tells the story of two neglected animals – Stan (a dog) and Mabel (a cat) – who live in a tall tower block in the city.

Although their owners ignore them, Stan and Mabel find great comfort in the music played by the flute lady, who lives downstairs.

But one day the music stops.

When Stan and Mabel go to investigate, they discover that their beloved neighbour has gone to Italy, to a competition to find the greatest orchestra in the world.

In a flash, Mabel decides that they should follow in her footsteps and visit the famous La Scala opera house in Milan. They just need to find some friends to join their animal orchestra first!

And so the adventure begins... Read the book to find out what happens!
Learn the Audience Participation Songs before the Concert

Stan and Mabel’s Theme

Because Stan and Mabel are such important characters, they both get their very own tune - or theme - in the music.

Mabel, of course, is a clever and brave cat, so her music is really quite sophisticated. Stan, on the other hand, is not so independent, so his theme is much simpler. When the animals are introduced at the beginning of the story, you’ll hear their two themes very clearly in the ensemble, and then they’ll pop up in various guises throughout the adventure.

But as the excitement builds, a new theme appears for Stan and Mabel. This one is very clear, very easy, and very short – and we need you to sing it with us.

It goes like this:

You will sing this short theme many times in the concert!

Polly will tell you when to sing by saying “Off We Go!”

<<< Practise singing this theme using Tracks 1, 2 and 3. Track 1 is normal, Track 2 is a bit scary, and in Track 3 Stan and Mabel are on the run! >>>
The Greatest Song in the World!
(for the Greatest Orchestra in the World)

This is the main song in the piece. You'll sing it four times during the story, but to keep you entertained, the song will change ever so slightly throughout the performance.

The best way to learn it is by listening to Polly singing on the practice CD. Then, have a listen to the other versions too. The melody and lyrics are very repetitive, and the first three times you sing it, the words remain exactly the same.

<<< Sing along with Tracks 4, 5, and 6.

Track 4 is quite relaxed, Track 5 is very bouncy, and Track 6 is sung when the animals are on the aeroplane. >>>
When Stan and Mabel discover Roberta and Bobby
- the drumming rabbits -
we all sing the words
“*I like the beat of your feet*”

This music is very repetitive (but very funky) - so we’ll sing this next phrase many, many times.

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G# G# B G# G B G# G# G# B G# G B
I like the beat of your feet I like the beat of your feet
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<<< Try singing along with Track 7. >>>
The Italian Song

We’ve reached our destination! La Scala, the magnificent, world-famous opera house!

We all sing a jolly song to the opera house. This music is in 3/4 time, which means its rhythm makes you want to swing from side to side – or dance a waltz!

This is what the melody looks like:

We sing this short tune, twice in a row. Then Polly narrates a bit more of the story, and then we sing it again.

The challenge with this song is that the musicians will play around with its speed – quite a lot I expect. Italian songs are very popular, and often quite over the top – so watch Polly very closely so that you know exactly what is about to happen.

<< Pratice singing The Italian Song using Track 8. >>
At the very end of the story, once our friends have been voted the greatest animal orchestra in the world, we sing a medley of three songs we’ve already learned:

- The Greatest Song in the World
- I Like the Beat of Your Feet
- Stan and Mabel’s Theme

However, since we are now at the end of the story, some of the lyrics have to change a little.

So in the Greatest Song, you now sing:

*We came to Italy to audition, in a competition,*

*Now we’re the greatest animal orchestra,*

*I like the beat of your Feet becomes:*

*They like the beat of our feet!*

You’ll be pleased to know that Stan and Mabel’s Theme remains exactly as before.

<<< You can practise these changes using two different tracks on the CD: >>>

Track 9 - The Greatest Song (with the new lyrics) and Track 10 - Final Medley (with all three songs)
Additional Creative Activities to Explore

Animal Music

Listen to these other pieces of music and watch the videos. Discuss your own ideas about the music.

Cats

Listen to this music from Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev about a cat prowling around on his soft paws, miaowing and licking his whiskers, and then he climbs higher and higher up into a tree... Find the track at alturl.com/7xj3o

Dogs

Have a listen to this piece all about a dog by Leonard Bernstein: it’s called Elegy for Mippy II – a jazzy piece for solo trombone! Listen to it at alturl.com/oxjmv

Ducks

Just like in Stan and Mabel, the duck in Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf is played on the oboe. Watch the video of the ducks and geese waddling about, quacking and gliding on the water. You’ll find it at alturl.com/65pse

Flute in Flight

Here is some flashy music played on the flute (like the flute lady downstairs). It is called The Flight of the Bumblebee and it’s by the Russian composer Rimsky-Korsakov. You can watch and listen to it on YouTube at alturl.com/k2ga8
**Telephone Chat**

In pairs, children can create their own *Stan and Mabel Great Escape* telephone conversation.

Where are they going? What will they do? What do they need to pack?

Why not make your own cup and string telephones.

Share your ideas with the group.

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**Sing *Old McDonald had a Farm* featuring the animals in the story:**

Introduce each of the characters as you go along:

- **Stan**, dog
- **Mabel**, cat
- **Roady** the duck
- **Bobby** and **Roberta** the rabbits
- **Houston** the horse
- **Margaret, Tony, Mrs Drake, Jo, Jackie P, Dale, Betty** and **Evelyn** the cows

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**Making Masks**

Children can make their own animal masks – there are lots of good templates online.

Sing each verse of *Old McDonald* in smaller groups (all the children in dog masks sing the dog verse).

The children can re-enact sections of the story in groups. Get all the children with rabbit masks to create a little paw dance; the children with horse masks a gallop dance, etc.

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**Standing Ovation**

In the story, there is a standing ovation which everyone will do in the concert. Choose one child to start the applause by standing up and clapping, then others copy until everyone is standing and clapping. When the child who started it sees that everyone is standing, they can sit down and stop clapping – and everyone else does the same.

- Talk about how it starts as a solo (just one person), then becomes a duet (two), a trio (three), and finally an ensemble (lots of people).
- Talk about how it starts with silence, the sound gets louder and louder and then quieter and quieter.
- Talk about starting and stopping.
- Talk about following the leader.
The Journey

The animals go on a journey in lots of modes of transport (see pages 18+19 of the book).

*In the concert, we will do the following actions:*

- **Taxi** – move your arms like you’re holding a car steering wheel;
- **Bus** – move your arms like you’re holding a bigger bus steering wheel;
- **Train** – move your arms by your sides like a train;
- **Plane** – hold out your arms like the wings of a plane.

**Firstly** ask the children to do each of the actions above.

**Secondly** use flashcards of each of the vehicle illustrations (you will find these towards the end of this pack); the children can then follow the instructions by watching your ‘conducting’. A child can then lead the group in which actions to do.

**Thirdly** choose one sound or tune for each of the vehicles either played by the grown-up or child. This can be an improvised tune on the piano/guitar or just a single sound e.g. a triangle for the taxi, a bell for the bus, a cabassa for the train, or shakers for the plane.

**Listen to some more Travelling Tunes!**

*John Adams, Short Ride in a Fast Machine.* [alturl.com/ovaqq](alturl.com/ovaqq)
*Richard Wagner, The Ride of the Valkyries* [alturl.com/4nt8t](alturl.com/4nt8t)
*John Williams, Superman Theme* [alturl.com/9qh42](alturl.com/9qh42)
*Ron Goodwin, Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines* [alturl.com/7f4c3](alturl.com/7f4c3)
*Eric Coates Dambusters March* [alturl.com/9es34](alturl.com/9es34)
**Listen and Watch: music to stimulate**

**Verdi O Sole Mio**  
This music is one of the most popular operatic songs and has been performed at La Scala Opera House probably thousands of times! alturl.com/pnk3s

**Mozart Overture from The Marriage of Figaro**  
A perfect introduction to the instruments in the orchestra. An overture is the opener to an opera so grabs everyone’s attention right away! alturl.com/qbweh  
- Ask the children which instruments they can hear.  
- Can they describe the music (is it fast/ slow, happy/sad, loud/ quiet)  
- What can they imagine happening if it was a story?  
- How did it make them feel?

**Rachmaninov Italian Polka**  
Rachmaninov wrote this piece after a family holiday in Italy in 1906. While travelling there, he met a street musician singing a Neapolitan song which inspired the theme for this piano piece. alturl.com/3tkpt

**And finally Banjo Brilliance!**  
Watch this video of some young boys performing a wonderful piece on the banjo. Listen to how it starts slowly and how they copy each other and how it then gets really fast! alturl.com/imr5h
Share!

Feel free to send us your pictures, videos and stories – we’d love to see what you have created.

Or why not write a letter to the composer, author, narrator, or musicians telling them your favourite bits? (Send it to us here in the office and we can forward it to them.)

We really hope you enjoy exploring all these activities at home or at school.

We look forward to seeing you at the concerts!

With questions about the pack, the project, performances, or anything else, please contact:

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