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Dog Train: A Wild Ride On The Rock-and-Roll Side



Synopsis

Full of attitude, full of fun, and all lit up with star power, *Dog Train* is a Recording Industry Association of America Gold Album with 600,000 copies in print. Another great book-and-CD production by Sandra Boynton, it features all original songs recorded by big-name acts and great voices. Blues Traveler performs a stomping version of the title song, a moody rock journey that Boynton wrote especially for them. And then there's Alison Krauss with "Evermore." And Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme really who do the "Boring Song." The Spin Doctors, who channel rock's rebellious side with a taste of punk for "Tantrum": "No No No, I don't want to, I don't want to./No no no, I don't want to, no no./Leave me alone. Leave me alone./LEAVE ME ALONE." And the sweetly unexpected pairing of "Weird Al" Yankovic and Kate Winslet (yep, Kate Winslet) as a duet singing "I Need a Nap." The full-color book features a portion of each song's lyrics set as a little story, illustrated with Boynton's irresistible hippos, cows, dogs, and more dogs. Full lyrics appear in the back.

Book Information

Age Range: 1 - 12 years

Hardcover: 64 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company; Har/Com edition (November 10, 2005)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 127 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #154,238 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Songbooks #900 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs #1835 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The creative team that so cleverly presented musical theater for kids with the star-studded recording Philadelphia Chickens is back this time with a mostly rock-and-roll romp, and another stellar cast of musical talent. Blues Traveler, replete with John Popper wailing on

his harmonica, rides the rails for the driving title track about, yes, dogs on board a midnight train where "Kittycats are not allowed/ .../ their ears in the breeze/ .../ Their cold, wet, happy,/ quiv'ring noises outside." Mark Lanegan takes the octave down a few notches with his deep and bluesy rendition of "Sneakers" about the favorite footwear that's both comfy and quiet. The 1960s British invasion star Billy J. Kramer sounds every bit up-to-date as he blasts off on the spaceship song "Cow Planet." And who would've thunk that actress Kate Winslet and novelty performer "Weird Al" Yankovic could pull off a sunny and theatrically emotive duet on "I Need a Nap?" There are no clunkers here; other highlights include numbers by Alison Krauss, Spin Doctors, Hootie and the Blowfish and Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme (hilariously singing the "Boring Song"). A knockout listen, in all the best ways, for the whole family. Like the songs, Boynton's book showcases her signature zippy sense of humor and loveable critters. It also includes complete lyrics and music for each number and brief profiles of all the performers. All ages. (Nov.)

Note: There is a Q&A with Sandra Boynton in the November 10 Children's Bookshelf newsletter. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreSchool-Grade 2 This collection of songs erupts with energy, humor, and a strong dose of rock n roll. Like the authors Philadelphia Chickens (Workman, 2002), the book has a spread for each song a colorful, cheerful illustration and excerpts of lyrics followed by complete lyrics and musical scores at the end. An About the Artists section includes a photo and biographical sketch of each artist who performs on the accompanying CD. As she did for Chickens, Boynton has brought together an impressive assortment of talent, including Kate Winslet, Blues Traveler, and the Bacon brothers. Train stands apart from the earlier title for its stronger rock edge and narrative thread. Interwoven throughout the album are three songs about the quest to discover Cow Planet, beginning with an homage to 2001: A Space Odyssey. Boynton captures a child's perspective of tantrums, naps, and daily life. A poignant Penguin Lament by John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting asks, Can anyone small be anyone serious? The toe-tapping Wave Bye-Bye immediately grabs listeners with its lively tune and a child's earnest desire to leave an adult party. Smart, funny, and encompassing a variety of music styles from Broadway to Sinatra to alternative rock, the book and CD together deliver enjoyable reading and listening for both children and adults.

Suzanne Myers Harold, Multnomah County Library System, Portland, OR

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This is simply an amazing set! The book is wonderfully made, and should appeal to children who

want to see the stories and also to musicians. The CD...ah, the CD! This isn't just a kid's music CD by any means! Not when you have the Spin Doctors and Hootie & The Blowfish and Blues Traveler inside. Not to mention Billy J. Kramer with the three-part genius that is Cow Planet! Plus the Bacon Brothers, and Weird Al dueting on the most subversive kid's song ever with, of all people, Kate Winslet. I need a nap indeed! There's even some old-school Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme action here! I have to be honest here...I bought this for my own shelf, no kids involved. All bow before the towering amazingness of Sandra Boynton for putting this incredible set together!

My kids can listen to this time and time again...and have. They love that the words are printed, in full, in the book because this makes memorizing that much easier. Sandra Boynton/Michael Ford CDs truly tame my "wild" son. They absolutely capture his heart. He will stand in front of the player and listen, listen, listen. Enjoyable tunes and lyrics for adults too. So charming. Clever. Creative. We really can't get enough of Sandra Boynton (and Ford) collaborations.

I bought this recently as a gift. My children had the book and CD when they were young and our family really enjoyed them both. The songs still make me chuckle. This item arrived on time as promised.

My grandkids absolutely love this. I originally bought this over 10 years ago and finally had to throw it away. After being used over and over by 5 grandkids it was time for a new one. The songs are cute, catchy and the music is great. It won't take long till you're singing along like the kids!!

My daughter has always preferred to read everything and this gives her constant access to her beloved lyrics. She gets lots of fun and silly music and gets to read it too. As an added bonus it includes the sheet music for her to have fun with when she starts piano lessons.

My 2-year-old niece and 4-year-old nephew seem to get a big kick out of Boynton's "Dog Train" and "Frog Trouble." They enjoy the music and enjoy reading the books and, unlike an Alvin and the Chipmunks "music" cassette I vaguely remember listening to as a kid, the included CDs are not painful for adults in earshot.

I originally got this for my older sister for Christmas due to the title (she's becoming a dog trainer), and couldn't resist listening to it myself (thus breaking the seal on the enclosed CD in the book)

once I saw the lyrics and illustrations. For a "li'l kids' book", the writing is definitely engaging enough for even "vintage kids" as the back of the book touts, and the music ROCKS. Very catchy; those sort of "stick in your head" songs you can't forget, and a great cast of artists, including Weird Al Yankovic and Kate Winslet in "their first duet together" (well, yeah ::grin::), Steve Lawrence and Edie Gormet, Hootie and the Blowfish, and others. There had to be something besides money to get all those folks together, and I think it was this: they had fun. So will you. (I finally put the CD back in, taped up the broken seal, and sent the whole shebang off to my sister, thinking I'd never get the chance to hear it again, and got one for Christmas myself. Karma works!)

Sandra Boynton has gathered a phenomenal cast of musicians for this CD: Mickey Hart, Blues Traveler, the Bacon Brothers - a duet between Kate Winslet and Weird Al Yankovic? - and many more. Rocking music! Although it's in the kid section, this is really for the kid at heart rock & rolling adult. I don't even know if kids would get why this is so fabulous but this is a very, VERY fun CD.

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