

# Stan and Mabel

Audience Participation Pack



by Paul Rissmann



## Say 'G'day' to Stan and Mabel

*Stan and Mabel* is a fantastic picture-book written and illustrated by Jason Chapman, published by Templar.

It 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 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, their adventure begins.

**A Musical Tail (Tale)** In 2013, I was commissioned by Music in the Round to set this zany story to music for Ensemble 360 and Polly Ives. It's such a fun and musical book, Stan and Mabel were perfect inspiration. I created a 25-minute musical adventure for narrator and an ensemble of 11 players. In 2015 I was invited by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra to create a new version of my music for full symphony orchestra, and this is the music you will hear in concert.

## Join Our Band!

*Stan and Mabel* was designed to be highly-interactive work for young audiences, so there are lots of opportunities to join-in with the action on stage.

This pack details all of the participatory elements your class will perform during the concert. It would be great if you could teach all of these songs to the children in preparation for attending our performance.

To make the music even easier to practise in class, I have created a digital resource containing all of the songs, manuscript and audio extracts. You can download this file as a PowerPoint or Apple Keynote file.

You will find a PowerPoint file of all the participatory songs here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zc\\_6BbtUTspZY2NvTNFogHmD6xn-Hh7P/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zc_6BbtUTspZY2NvTNFogHmD6xn-Hh7P/view?usp=sharing)

A PowerPoint show file (if you don't have PowerPoint installed on your computer):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Tce4MtWft0npqr8SnBQGDYF-jSGAWTu2/view?usp=sharing>

An Apple Keynote file of all the participatory songs here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YqbHHCx-AHxyap9RYYm\\_ltkChKWc4hH/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YqbHHCx-AHxyap9RYYm_ltkChKWc4hH/view?usp=sharing)

If you prefer, you can download all the practice tracks as separate audio files here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yx\\_SRZKKIso1N4dy4FDQ05HpxWsnFbTe/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yx_SRZKKIso1N4dy4FDQ05HpxWsnFbTe/view?usp=sharing)

## ABC Recording

In 2018 the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Young Adelaide Voices recorded *Stan and Mabel* for ABC Classics. You can download and stream this recording on all online platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify and Deezer.

## This Pack

Overleaf, you will find each participatory song or phrase from the piece. Musical manuscript is included for music specialists, but please do not worry if you don't read music – simply use the audio or presentation files and you will quickly grasp the songs. All of the songs are very simple and can be mastered in a matter of seconds.

Have fun.

Paul Rissmann, 2021

# 1. Stan and Mabel's Theme

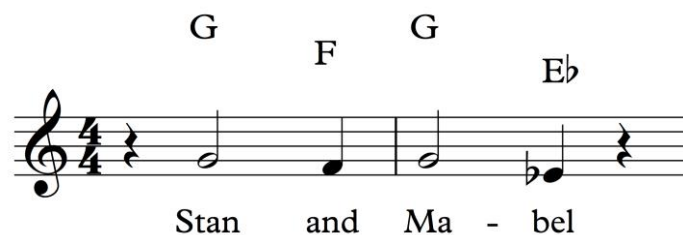


Since Stan and Mabel are the main characters in our story, they both get their very own tune - or theme - in my music.

Mabel is a smart and brave cat, so her music is really quite sophisticated. Stan on the other hand is not so independent, so his theme is far simpler. When the animals are introduced at the beginning of the story, you'll hear their two themes very clearly in the orchestra, 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'll have to sing this short theme many, many times in the concert, but don't worry - we will always tell you exactly when to sing!

Try singing this theme using Practice Tracks 1, 2 and 3. Track 1 is normal, Track 2 is a little bit scary and in Track 3 Stan and Mabel are on the run!

## 2. The Greatest Song in the World!




This is the main song in our story and you will sing it on four different occasions. The best way to learn it is simply to listen to Practice Track No.4.

A A A A B B B G A A A B  
F# F# F# D

We're going to I - tal - y to au - di - tion in a com - pe - ti - tion.

(exactly the same as before) D D E  
We're going to I - tal - y to au - di - tion in a com - pe - ti - tion. To be the

F G E D C D A G D D E F G E C D (exactly the same as before)  
great - est or - ches - tra in the world, To be the great - est  in the world. To be the

great - est or - ches - tra in the world, To be the great - est  in the world.

Add Some Actions!

'To be the greatest orchestra' - hold two thumbs up on greatest.

'In the world' - draw a big semi-circle in the air - moving your hands wide-apart.

Notice the stars marked in the music - they are claps. These claps will really help with the rhythm of the song. Try singing along with Practice 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 airplane.

### 3. I Like the Beat of Your Feet



When Stan and Mabel meet Roberta and Bobby the drumming rabbits, we all sing “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.

G# G# B G# G# B G# G# G# B G# G# B G#

I like the beat of your feet I like the beat of your feet

If you like, you could also gently tap the rhythm of this song on your thighs as you sing.

Try singing along with Practice Track 7.

## 4. La Scala Magnifica!



As soon as Stan, Mabel and their new friends arrive at the magnificent La Scala opera house, we have a new song to sing.

This music is in 3/4 time, which means its rhythm makes you want to swing from side to side or dance a waltz. Feel free to do either!

Here is the song:

B $\flat$  B $\flat$  A $\flat$  G A $\flat$  A $\flat$  F A $\flat$  A $\flat$  G F G

La Sca - la mag - ni - fi - ca, La Sca - la Mi - lan.

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

The challenge with this song is that the orchestra will play around with its timing - quite a lot I expect. Italian songs are lots of fun (though often quite over the top) - so my tip is to watch the conductor very closely so you know exactly what is about to happen.

Try singing along with Practice Track 8.

## 5. The Grand Finale

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 all of which 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,  
We came to Italy to audition, in a competition  
Now we're the greatest animal orchestra,  
Now we're the greatest in the world,  
Now we're the greatest animal orchestra,  
Now we're the greatest in the world.*

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!

We will remind you of all these changes in the concert – so please don't worry too much about this new text – it will all be projected above the orchestra.

You can practise these changes using two different tracks:

Track 9 - The Greatest Song – New Text  
(with the lyrics above)

Track 10 – Finale  
(featuring: *They like the beat of our feet* & also *Stan and Mabel*)

I hope you have lots of fun.

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