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A Spider Named Apollo

Adventures of a Multi-legged Music Lover



Written by Jeanne Merkle Sorrell and Jeannette Sorrell

Illustrated by Gail M. Nelson



Dedications

Released in honor of the 25th Anniversary Season of Apollo's Fire, this book of Apollo's musical adventures is dedicated to the young and young-at-heart who have discovered their love of music at Apollo's Fire concerts. The passionate support of the audience and patrons in these 25 years has nurtured this special orchestra – allowing a generation of young people to grow up with the joy and emotion that rings through baroque music.

–Jeanne and Jeannette Sorrell

I would like to dedicate this book to my daughter, Katie, whose love for music is a wonderful inspiration.

–Gail Nelson



Listen to the Music!

To hear Apollo's Fire play Mozart's *The Magic Flute* just like Apollo the Spider did, please visit:

www.apollofire.org/apollo/magicflute.html/

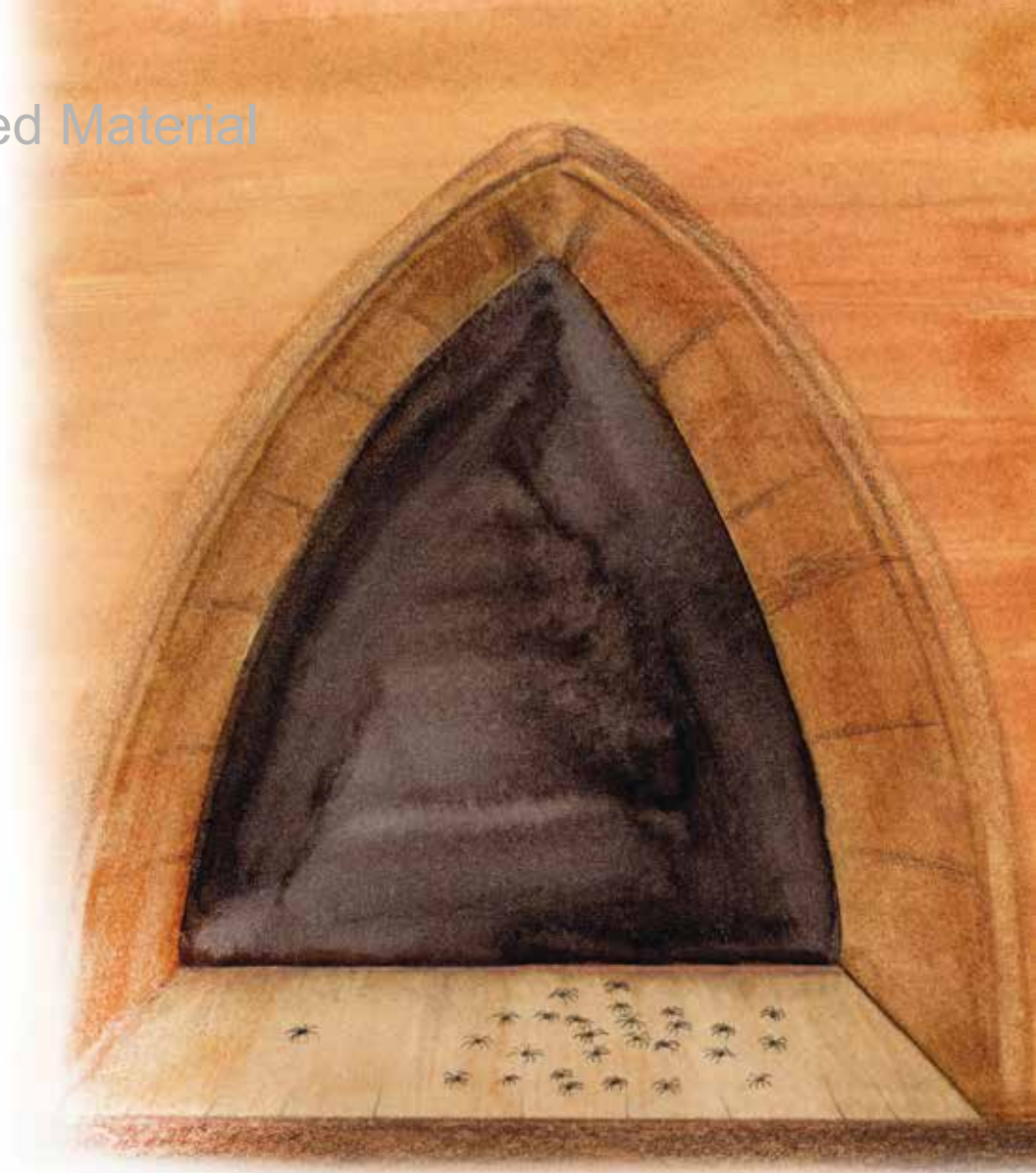
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Have you ever squished a spider? Many people do. But some spiders are nice, like me. We eat nasty pests in your home that could be harmful. And we have interesting lives...



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I'm a Cellar Spider. (Don't confuse me with a Daddy long legs!) I grew up in a dark corner of a church in Cleveland, Ohio. When my 26 brothers and sisters and I came out of Mama's egg sac, everyone was pointing and looking at me strangely. They all had eight legs. For some reason, I had ten.

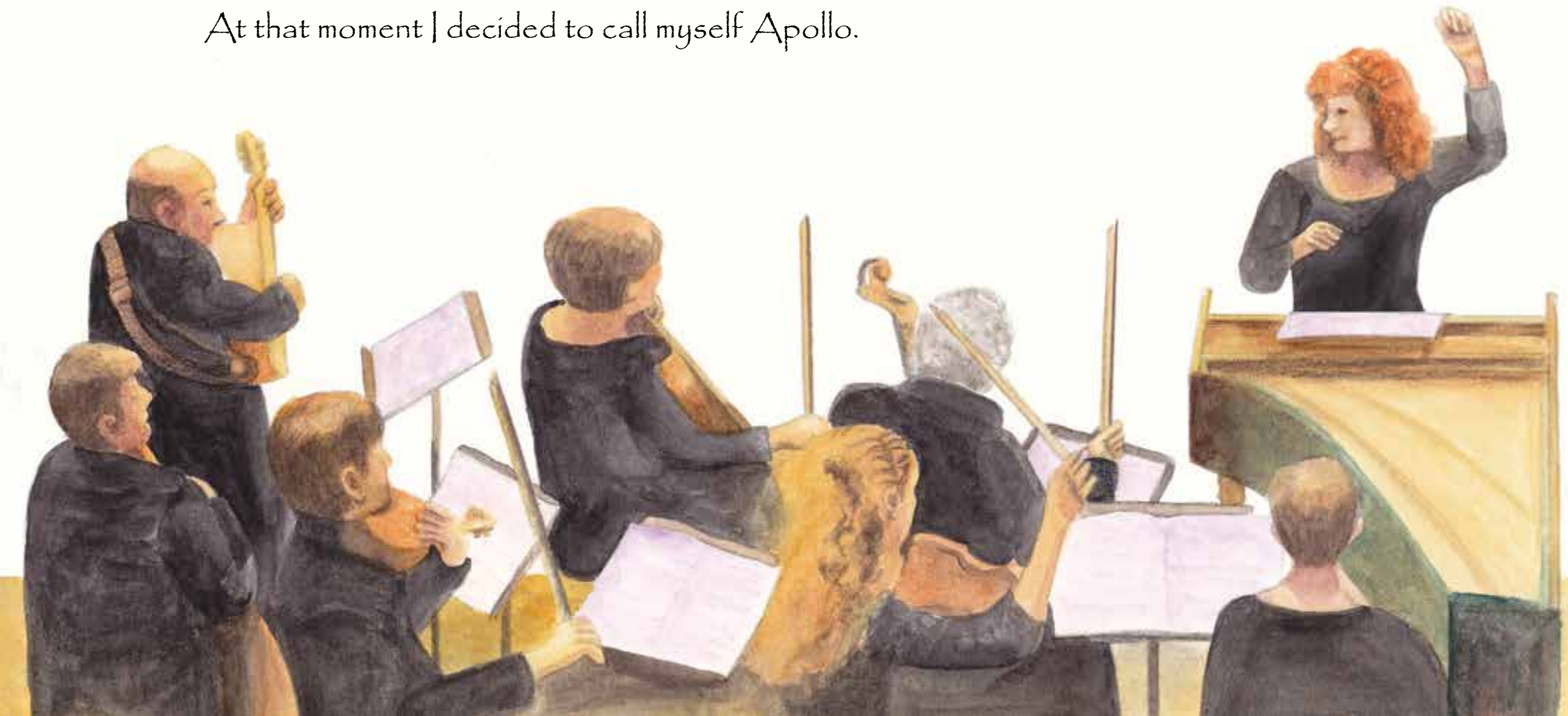


Everyone laughed because I was different. I felt shy and lonely and confused.



One day I was wandering through the church alone and I heard beautiful music. I followed the sound down the hall, up the stairs, around the corner, and came upon... an orchestra! There were 15 musicians playing beautiful music together. I saw a program lying on the pew and it said "Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra." I loved the name!

At that moment I decided to call myself Apollo.



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When the musicians went on a coffee break from their practicing, I spun a long, long silk web and carefully crawled from my microphone perch, down, down—right into the inside of Jeannette's green harpsichord! I found a comfortable corner for hiding.



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I wondered where to hang so that I could see the concert.

I spied the perfect place—Box 2—which was high up,
right across from the stage.

I spun a silk web from the orchestra seats on the bottom
floor, up to Box 2, and simply climbed up!

I attached myself to the railing
and waited...



I looked down and saw people arriving far below me. There were people of all ages—some who looked very old and also quite a few children. Most of them were dressed elegantly. I was so glad that I had worn my top hat and bow tie. Phew!

And then I had a BIG surprise.

A large DRAGON came out! And the dragon had ten legs, just like me! He was a cute dragon, not very scary, really. The Dragon was chasing a prince named Tamino. They ran around the orchestra, back and forth, as Tamino tried bravely to battle the Dragon. It looked pretty funny!



But the opera had a happy ending! An ugly old hag was magically changed into a beautiful young girl—Papagena!

Papageno and Papagena sang a joyous duet together and ran off as the audience applauded wildly. I saw some people brush happy tears from their eyes. I did too, thinking how nice it would be to have a friend like Papagena.



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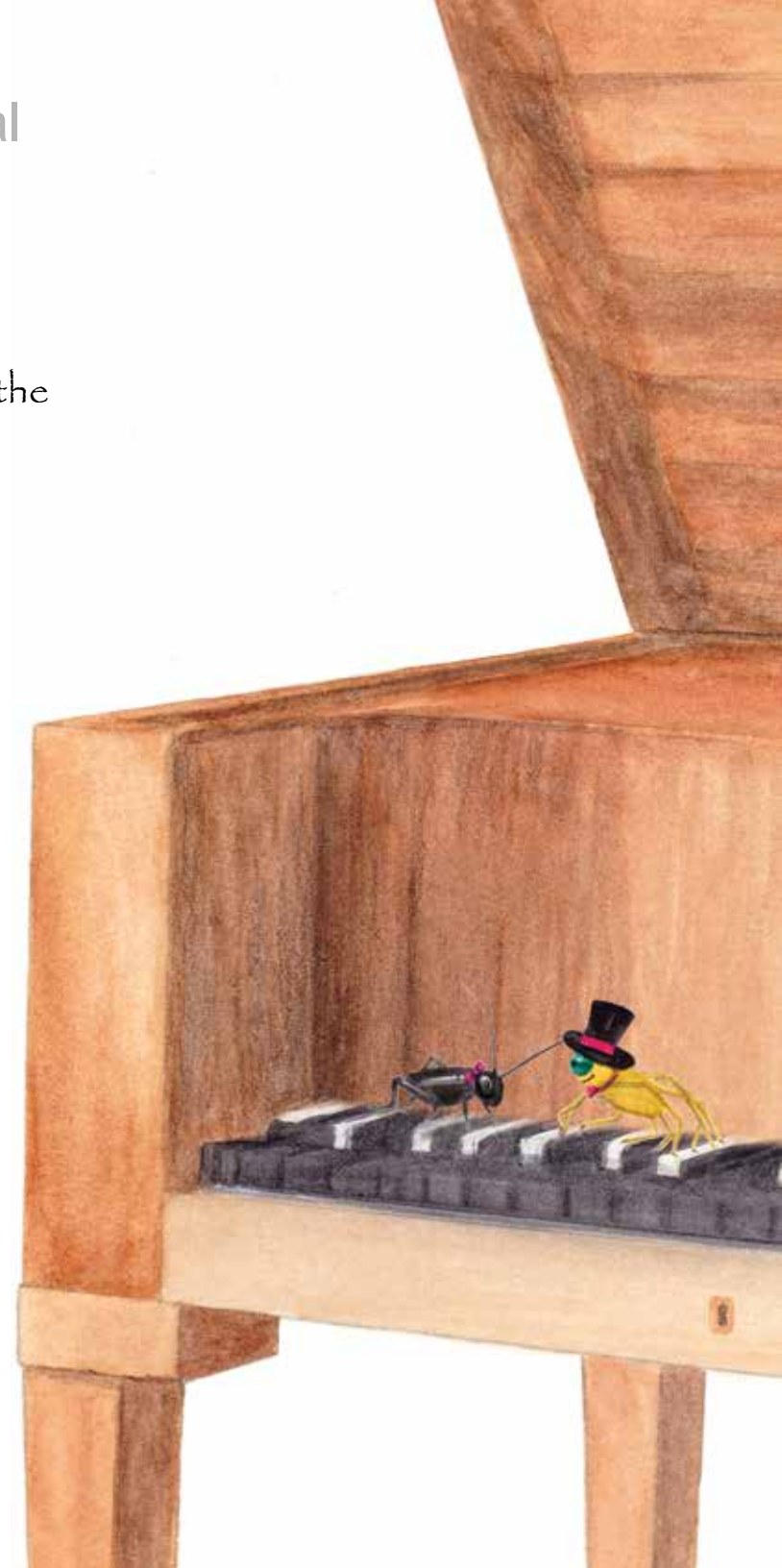
Miss Jeannette and the musicians bowed and bowed. They walked off stage and on stage, off stage and on stage, as the audience stood up and kept clapping. I clapped hard too.



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“Come on!” said Apollina. “Spin a web up to the stage and take me with you! Show me that Glock before Mr. Tom takes it away.”

And off we went—
me and my new friend.



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About the Authors



Jeanne Sorrell, Ph. D., has spent most of her career as a professor of nursing and research. The author of over 125 articles in scholarly journals, she also enjoys creative writing. She collaborated with her nursing students in writing a children's book, *The Magic Stethoscope*, to encourage young people to consider a career in nursing. She is also the author of an award-winning play, *Six Characters in Search of an Answer*, based on interviews conducted with persons with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. She hopes that children who read *A Spider Named Apollo* will come to love baroque music as much as Apollo does.



Jeannette Sorrell, *conductor and harpsichordist*, is honored to collaborate with her mother in writing this book. As a child, she was a bit shy and lonely like Apollo, and took up the violin at age 9. She was thrilled by orchestra concerts and loved playing the violin in the school orchestra. At the age of 10, she spent a year practicing the piano on a paper keyboard until her family acquired a piano. She has gone on to perform as conductor and harpsichordist on some of the world's most renowned stages, including the BBC Proms in London, the Royal Theatre of Madrid, the Tanglewood Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival.

About the Illustrator



Gail M. Nelson is passionate about books in all forms. She loves to draw, paint, and help authors bring their books to life. Her favorite expression is, "Books are chocolate for my soul."

Gail graduated with a Master's degree in fine art and she has been a freelance artist, illustrator, and graphic designer since 1984. She makes her home in the mountains of Colorado with her husband, dog, and the wild turkeys, deer, chipmunks, rabbits, hummingbirds... and spiders!

