



Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band

Kwame Alexander , Tim Bowers (Illustrator)

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When a jazz-loving rooster sets his sights on winning a barnyard talent show, he realizes he can't do it as a solo act. He's up against the talents of Mules Davis's cool duo and Ella Finchgerald's singing group. Colorful artwork from artist Tim Bowers ensures this story doesn't miss a beat. A glossary of musical terms and intruments rounds out this perfect introduction to jazz for young readers.

Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band Details

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Author : Kwame Alexander , Tim Bowers (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band for online ebook

Sarah BT says

A rhyming tale about a rooster who starts a jazz band. What I liked most is that all the animals are named after a famous musician (Duke Ellington, Ella Finchgerald, etc). There's a glossary in the back that explains who each animal is named after as well as a timeline of jazz. This would be great to use in music class-pair it with Chicken Dance for a rocking musical animal storytime.

Abby says

Following a jazzy rhyme scheme, Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band finds Acoustic Rooster looking to join and then build a band to compete in the farm's annual band talent show. With illustrations that jump off the page, Acoustic Rooster is a fun read that incorporates pun-driven names for other musical artists in the book based on real jazz artists of the past. Kwame Alexander also includes a great deal of factual information in the back, including a musical instrument glossary, brief biographies of the parodied names, and a timeline of jazz music. Perhaps a source of inspiration for the young aspiring musician, Acoustic Rooster is a fun and fast-paced read that would be appropriate for preschool and up.

Kelli Bratten says

Acoustic Rooster is a fun book with colorful illustrations and plenty of musical jargon to introduce the kids to. There is also plenty of rhyming words for the kids to point out and have fun with. They could play a musical cooperation game to the tune of jazz music by some of the artists slyfully mentioned in the book as having animal monikers. Since the pictures are so vivid the kids who would want to read to themselves and look at the pictures to make their own story. Depending on the grade and the class, they might be able to write their own lyrics, as a class, about another subject using similar music related to this book.

Maria says

Cute book. I like the references to jazz greats, and the extra information about jazz.

Alena says

Good read aloud. Music, jazz, instruments, famous musicians, play on words with names (name puns), farm animals, talent show. Similar farm animal talent show theme as Dooby Dooby Moo by Doreen Cronin but with more historical/educational content and references.

Vicki says

Ha ha ha! Okay, so I read an **excellent** children's book that I recommend for anyone to read, especially if you love farm animals and music!

The Acoustic Rooster wanted to be a star so he practiced all summer on his guitar. He knew that Farmer held a talent contest every year to find the best farm band there is. The story is told in rhymed poetry as the rooster goes around talking to other animals to see if he can join their band: Thelonious Monkey's crew, Mules Davis, Ella Finchgerald, Duck Ellington, Bee Holiday, Poncho Ernesto Cruz (the percussion pig) that the other animals decided to call Pork Chop.

I had NO idea I'd learn so much about music from this book! Thank you, Kwame Alexander! There is a page that has "Acoustic Rooster's Jazz Glossary" and it has "Musical Vocabulary" such as terms like Riff, "a repeated phrase or pattern in jazz music," and Bebop, "a style of instrumental jazz that features a fast tempo and a lot of improvisation. It's also known as bop." And several other types are listed and defined, which is very educational for children (and evidently some adults...me)!

There is also a page that titled "Musicians, Characters, and Music" that tells about the allusions in the book: "Bee Holiday," for example, "is based on Billie Holiday, who was an American jazz singer and songwriter. She was admired all over the world for her deeply personal and intimate singing style." Then there is " 'As Long As You Can Swing,' inspired by Duke Ellington's hit song, 'It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing).' " And of course Duke Ellington is one of the musicians listed so the reader can learn about him and many others.

Then the "Acoustic Rooster's Jazz Timeline" describes very well different types of music: "1700's Powerful rhythms of African percussion, slaves' work songs, and spiritual hymns form the roots of the American music genre that would become known as jazz," and then it goes on to discuss the 1800's all the way through the 2000's.

Yes, this is a children's book. Yes. It. Is. Colorful. Yes, it is poetry told in rhyming stanzas. Yes, it is EASY and QUICK to read. BUT I guarantee you that if you read it you will be very delighted and I truly hope some of you will pick it up and read it! It would make a wonderful gift. And don't forget that it's educational!

I am SO impressed!

Lauren Waters says

This has quickly become a bedtime favorite in our household. The rhythm and clever word choice of the story flows easy off the tongue, and my kids love the playful, creative characters. The story also has a great message about having confidence and believing in yourself.

Taya Bower says

Acoustic Rooster sees the farmers flyer for the talent show so he goes on a journey to find a band to play in. The rooster tries and tries to find a band but everyone is already full. Rooster begins to get sad but then he decides to make his own band. In the end the rooster was content because he knew he had the best band.

This book is kind of hard to follow but at the same time it does have some pretty good morals. Through this book it teaches that you have to keep trying to succeeding although its not completely clear it is a good moral. For that reason I gave this book a 2 star rating.

Mikey Golczynski says

A very musical rhyming book. I like the idea of teaching kids that it's ok to not win every time. That even in losing, you can take away something good from your experience. My only knock on it is that no kid is going to get the jazz references, nor will they care when they are explained to them.

Caryl says

Inspired by Kwame Alexander's Newbery win, I checked out his webpage and discovered he also wrote this picture book. Super-fun! Skye: "I like how it referenced [jazz] people I don't know. I want to learn about them now." Felix: "I liked the music!"

Lee says

Acoustic Rooster is a book for young and old. The references to well-known musicians could reinforce the love and curiosity of music in the young. Whereas it would bring a smile on the older generation - giving them a flashback memory of days ago.
I enjoyed reading the book and sharing it with my children.

Kathryn Bergeron says

Summary: Acoustic Rooster puts together his jazz band to try to win the barnyard prize.

Why I Read This: Kwame Alexander is coming to town.

Review: I actually really liked it. The rhyme scheme fit the jazz theme well. Plus, I love the educational program as Alexander played with the names of jazz greats.

Michelle Gray says

This is just a delight to read. The illustrations just pop and the parents in storytime will get a chuckle out of the Barnyard Jazz greats. :)

Elizabeth says

If you have an appreciation for music and especially jazz and the history of jazz this is a great book. There is a timeline in the back of the book taking the big milestones and mentioning some of the musicians. This book could spark the interest of students. The story itself is entertaining even through third grade but I would recommend playing some of the music for the students who you are reading this to.

Jonathan Westbay says

Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band.

I'm actually a jazz guitarist, pianist, vocalist, and trumpeter myself, so I was thrilled to find Kwame Alexander and Tim Bowers' work. My 3 year old niece has repeatedly asked me to read her this book. She loves the barn and cows in the background. She always remembers that Duck Ellington is Rooster's cousin. She attentively listens as I stop to explain some of the musical terms, such as trio, scat, baby grand, pianist, gig, percussion, bebop, bossa nova, encore, and riff. I mimic some of the instruments and musical forms, and sing the title "The Hen from Ipanema." I don't think she fully understands the details, but the story is brief and entertaining, and every time I read it, she wonders if Miles Davis is going to win the talent show again. Acoustic Rooster is a wonderful vehicle to share the love of music and animals with children of a variety of ages. I highly recommend this book, and rate it 5/5 stars.
