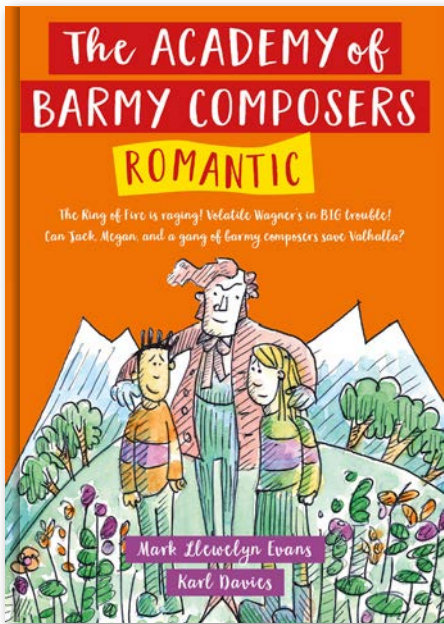


Academy of Barmy Composers: Romantic

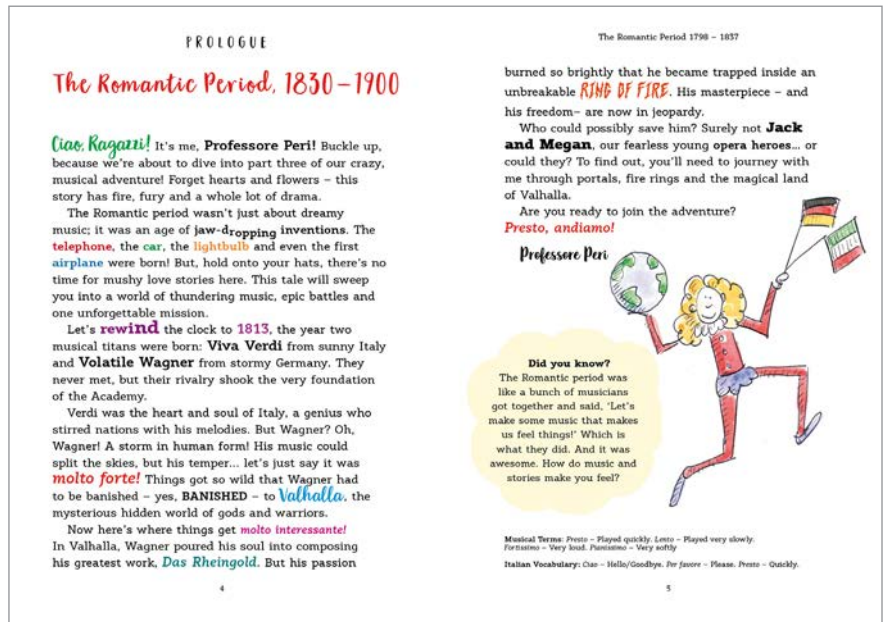


Author Mark Llewelyn Evans
Illustrator Karl Davies
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Content:

Jack and Megan meet a new neighbour in town who offers them some gingerbread, but this meeting turns sinister when the neighbour turns out to be a witch who is trying to send them both to Valhalla! But, Jack and Megan soon realise the witch is sending them on a great quest to save the legendary Romantic composer, Wagner, from the Ring of Fire in Valhalla. Will Jack and Megan get to Valhalla and save Wagner? And if they make it there, will they be able to make it back home? On the way they are helped by many of the eras famous composers including Humperdinck, Verdi, Bizet, Tchaikovsky and Puccini.



About the author:

Mark Llewelyn Evans is the founder and creative director of ABC of Opera Productions, which tours UK-wide introducing children to the stories and glories of the opera through music and storytelling. Mark is a professional opera singer who has sung the principal baritone roles for many of the opera houses. Mark lives in Llantrisant, Wales.

About the illustrator:

Karl Davies is an exciting new children's book illustrator whose work brings the cast and characters of the ABC of Opera vividly to life. Karl is a landscape artist and lives in Pontypridd, Wales.

ABC of Opera series:

- Classical – ISBN 9781912213870
- Baroque – ISBN 9781912213863


Key themes:

- Classical music
- Opera
- History

Selling Points:

- The ABC of Opera tells thrilling children's stories about opera composers from the past 500 years up to today, by meeting the composers themselves and hearing their stories as never told before.
- Based on the UK ABC of Opera workshops, which successfully educate children and stimulate their imagination while also covering key topics in the school cross-curriculum
- Within a modern context the children learn thought-provoking morals, touching, tragic, funny and inspirational tales from around the world.

The Academy of Barmy Composers - Romantic



A New Neighbour

Jack didn't hesitate for a moment. As soon as Jack had finished the last bite, he felt as light as a feather, as if he could float right out of his window.

'Do you have any **more?**' Jack asked.

'I've just baked a fresh batch. Come on over,' Mrs. Heze said. 'Be sure to bring your **BFF**,' she added mysteriously.

Jack quickly called Megan, and as soon as she arrived, both children followed the waft of baking to Mrs. Heze's front door. She welcomed them into her kitchen and offered a waiting plate of glittering gingerbread.

'Gobble up, *meine gterige!*' she told them.

The children just couldn't stop! It was **crunchy, chewy, cakey, creamy, crumbly, chocolatey...** everything that anyone ever wanted was in her mouth-watering gingerbread. Her devious plan was now in full swing. She smiled sickly sweet as she watched the children devour her delights. Any minute now, the spell would take hold...

'Oh my! You are hungry! Do you want more?' she asked.

'**Yes, YES, YES, please!**' pleaded Jack, throwing more gingerbread into his already full mouth.

'**Yes, yes, yes, YES!**' Megan begged.

'Then follow the trail of crumbs all the way to my oven!'

Meine gterige - My greedy one.

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CHAPTER 3

The Vortex to Valhalla

'Megan, hold tight!' Jack shouted.

Vivacissimo! Allegrissimo! Presto! Prestissimo!

He had never travelled so fast. He was convinced his head was going to **EXPLODE!**


'I'm going to be sick!' Megan cried, holding her tummy.

But then, everything stopped... with an announcement:

'Bing bong. I trust you enjoyed **glissandoing** with **VORTEX**. Please remember to take all your belongings with you.'

The oven door swung open, and the children tumbled out.


Jack and Megan picked themselves up and found that they were in a dimly lit chamber. The air smelled like damp music parchments with a hint of Gran's overcooked cabbage and the walls were covered with strange symbols like **Egyptian hieroglyphs**.



They started to walk, the sound of their footsteps echoing off the stone floor.

Musical Terms: **Vivacissimo, Allegrissimo** - Meaning very lively, this indicates a piece of music should be played at a fast and energetic pace. **Prestissimo** - Faster than presto. **Glissando** - Gliding or flowing from one note to the next during a piece of music.

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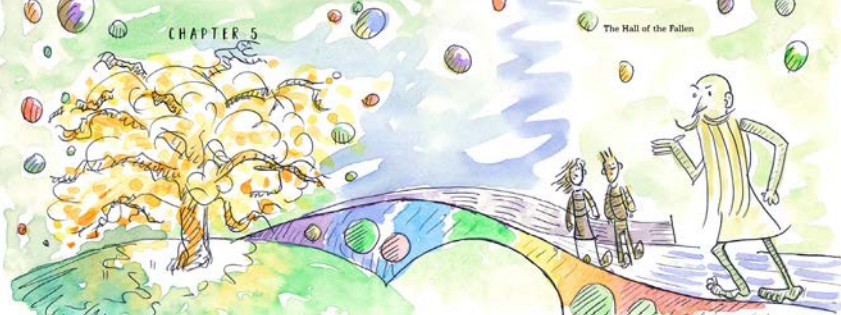
CHAPTER 5

The Hall of the Fallen

As Jack and Megan **descended** into **Valhalla**, they gasped at the sight of a **dazzling double RAINBOW bridge**, arching across the sky, shimmering with every colour imaginable. The bridge seemed to stretch endlessly. Above them, a ceiling of shields glittered like a thousand miniature suns. At the heart of Valhalla stood a massive oak tree, its thick, knotted branches heavy with golden leaves. Nestled deep within its ancient trunk was the most remarkable object they had ever seen - a **jewelled baton**. It was this enchanted baton that held the answers - the key to freeing

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The Hall of the Fallen



Wagner from his ethereal prison.

Beside the great tree, the flames of the fierce **RING OF FIRE** twisted and swirled wildly, sending out blasts of heat that made Jack and Megan squint and retreat. The fire roared loudly, as if it was alive, standing guard over the secret of the magical baton - and the fate of Wagner.

Suddenly, a voice boomed, **'WELCOME TO VALHALLA!'**

Startled, the children spun around to see a man with an **ENORMOUS** moustache and beard, just as Mrs. Heze had described. The tips of his moustache curled like musical notes, twitching as if they might sing.

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