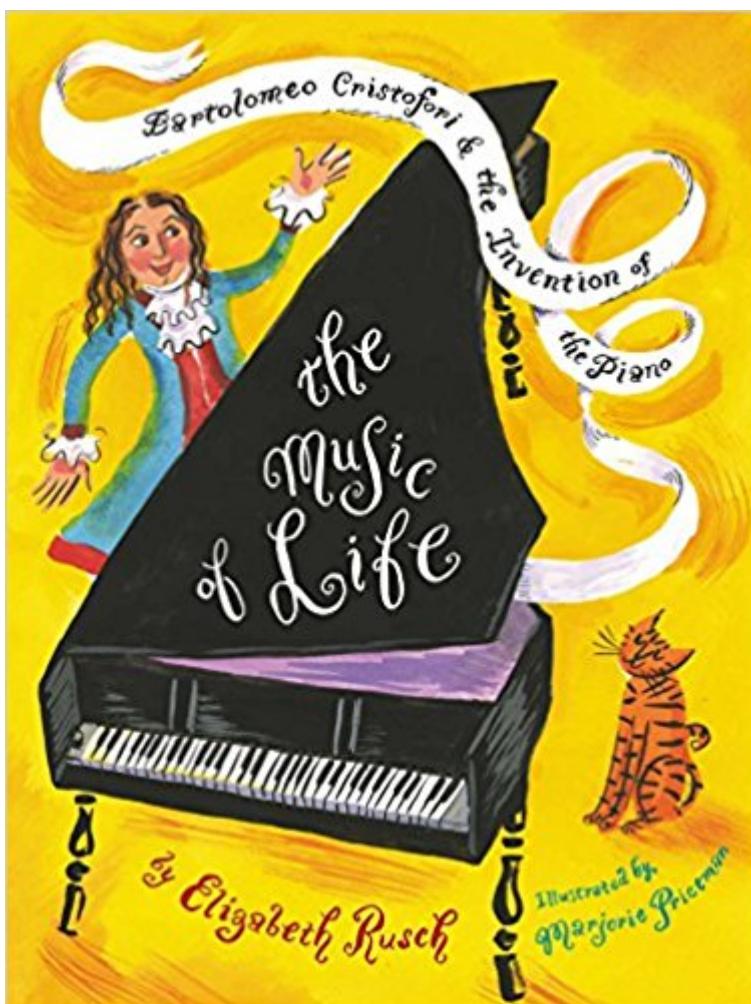


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# The Music Of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori & The Invention Of The Piano



## Synopsis

Award-winning biographer Elizabeth Rusch and two-time Caldecott Honorâ "recipient Marjorie Priceman team up to tell the inspiring story of the invention of the worldâ ™s most popular instrument: the piano. Bartolomeo Cristofori coaxes just the right sounds from the musical instruments he makes. Some of his keyboards can play piano, light and soft; others make forte notes ring out, strong and loud, but Cristofori longs to create an instrument that can be played both soft and loud. His talent has caught the attention of Prince Ferdinando de Medici, who wants his court to become the musical center of Italy. The prince brings Cristofori to the noisy city of Florence, where the goldsmithsâ ™ tiny hammers whisper tink, tink and the blacksmithsâ ™ big sledgehammers shout BANG, BANG! Could hammers be the key to the new instrument? At last Cristofori gets his creation just right. It is called the pianoforte, for what it can do. All around the world, people young and old can play the most intricate music of their lives, thanks to Bartolomeo Cristoforiâ ™s marvelous creation: the piano.

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #91,580 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > History #7 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments #24 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Musical

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

"A spirited, informative tale that will resonate with musicaficionados young and old."

--Â PublishersWeekly, starred reviewÂ "Delightfully energetic, this will inspire young pianists."Â -- Kirkus, starred reviewÂ Priceman&apos;s watercolors are zesty evocations of

sound unleashed...Rusch supplies an amazing treasure trove of back matter that extends the title's interest beyond an expected picture-book audience." -- BCCB, starred review "Rusch's latest offering brings the [piano's] history merrily to the center stage...Fast-paced, lively, and informative, this book will appeal to music lovers as well as a wider audience." -- Booklist\* "Rusch playfully weaves aural imagery throughout this engaging story of how Bartolomeo Cristofori came to invent the piano . . . It's a spirited, informative tale that will resonate with music aficionados young and old." • (Publishers Weekly, Starred Review February 27, 2017)\* "A bright, colorful introduction to a beloved instrument . . . Priceman's signature artwork is a perfect match for the words . . . Delightfully energetic, this will inspire young pianists." • (Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review 2/15/17)\* "Priceman's watercolors are zesty evocations of sound unleashed . . . Rusch supplies an amazing treasure trove of back matter that extends the title's interest beyond an expected picture-book audience . . . Kids taking music lessons or preparing for a school invention fair, teachers looking for high quality STEAM materials, and anyone with earbuds dangling from her/his head need to listen to the Cristofori story." • (BCCB, Starred Review April 2017)\* "Priceman's gouache-and-ink illustrations exuberantly fill all available page space . . . Fast-paced, lively, and informative, this book will appeal to music lovers as well as a wider audience, who may be creatively inspired by these passionate musicians and their instruments." • (Booklist February 1, 2017)\* "A well-researched, fascinating account of the father of modern-day pianos . . . Rusch's energetic text is paired well with Priceman's vibrant images, rendered in gouache and ink with bold strokes . . . A strong purchase for music lovers, budding pianists, and large biography and STEAM collections." • (School Library Journal April 2017)\* "Rusch's evocative text is underscored by Priceman's breezy but detailed gouache-and-ink illustrations and the book's dynamic design . . . which add a near soundtrack to the words. . . Bravo!" • (The Horn Book July/August 2017)

Elizabeth Rusch is an award-winning children's book author and magazine writer. Her books include *The Mighty Mars Rovers*, *For the Love of Music: The Remarkable Story of Maria Anna Mozart*, and *Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World*. She teaches nonfiction and children's literature at the Attic Institute in Portland, Oregon. Visit her online at [ElizabethRusch.com](http://ElizabethRusch.com). Marjorie Priceman, illustrator of many acclaimed picture books, has won Caldecott Honors for her illustrations in *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!* by Lloyd Moss and *Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride*, which she also wrote. She lives in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Well-written story about Cristofori and the beginnings of the forte-piano, precursor to the piano. Beautiful watercolor illustrations! Great background for older children and adults of the research and discoveries of the author in creating the book!

Life lives on through music as Elizabeth Rusch inspires those new to music, professional musicians and we who appreciate the sustaining power of music with this "Life". Liz's symbolic use of composers' terms for volume for performance symbolize, too, the curiosity about the "the sound" of the pianoforte. When the musicians can't imagine the possibilities of new sound, the illustration (all so good) of the cat playing the piano says a lot. A frequent visitor to Florence and student of the Medici, I can smell and hear the streets of the city as well as hear the sounds. The bibliography and research of original sources, chronological notes are most admirable. Everyone will enjoy this great contribution to music and to life.

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