



Gershwin's Magic Key

produced by
 **Classical Kids**
Music Education

Music by
George Gershwin

Lyrics by
Ira Gershwin

Created & Directed by
Paul Pement

TBD as George Gershwin
TBD as "Kid"

Written by
Will Martin, Elizabeth Wheeler, Paul Pement

Production Advisor: Kevin Cole
Music Copyist/Engraver: John Blane
Lighting Design: Paul Pement
Projections: Scott Fairchild

Music Supervisor: Will Martin
Associate Director: Steve Hildebrand
Costumes: Alex Meadows
Props/Wigs: Kevin Barthel

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FOR THIS PRODUCTION ARE LICENSED BY THE GERSHWIN® FAMILY.
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Actors and Stage Manager are members of Actors' Equity Association.
LEARN MORE ABOUT CLASSICAL KIDS: WWW.CLASSICALKIDSLIVE.COM
ENGAGE on Facebook at ClassicalKidsLive and Twitter at Classical_Kids



MUSICAL EXCERPTS

1. Overture from *Catfish Row: Symphonic Suite in Five Parts: I*
2. "Swanee" (Gershwin - Wodehouse)
3. Fugue subject from *Catfish Row: Symphonic Suite in Five Parts: I*
4. "I Got Plenty O'Nuttin" from *Catfish Row: Symphonic Suite in Five Parts: II*
5. "Strike Up The Band" (Gershwin - MacPherson)
6. "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" (Norworth and Tilzer)
7. "I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise"
8. "Nice Work If You Can Get It" (Gershwin - Bennett)
9. Period Medley: "Oh, You Beautiful Doll" (Ayer) & "Baby Face" (Akst)
10. "Rialto Ripples" (Gershwin - Tyzik)
11. Humoresque op. 101 no. 7 (Dvorak - Trinkaus)
12. *Second Rhapsody (New York Rhapsody)*
13. "Promenade" (Gershwin - Berkowitz)
14. *An American in Paris*
15. "Summertime" & "Bess, You Is My Woman Now" from *Catfish Row: Symphonic Suite in Five Parts: I & II*
16. "Oh Lord, I'm On My Way" from *Catfish Row: Symphonic Suite in Five Parts: V*
17. *Concerto in F: III*
18. Medley from "Oh, Kay!" (Gershwin-Warner)
19. "Second Prelude" (*Blue Lullaby*)
20. *Cuban Overture*
21. "I Got Rhythm" (Gershwin - Bennett)
22. "Fascinating Rhythm" (Gershwin-Warner)
23. *Rhapsody in Blue*

GUEST ARTISTS

Classical Kids LIVE!

Classical Kids LIVE! is produced by Classical Kids Music Education, a Chicago-based not-for-profit organization that works to enrich communities through direct access to culturally significant venues, professional artists and organizations, and high-quality theatrical concert productions, while fostering new appreciation for classical music and music history. In combination with the Classical Kids Teaching Edition, Classical Kids LIVE! serves as one of the worlds best educational outreach and community engagement programs contributing to the long-term health of classical music. Having received more awards and honors than any other entity of its kind, Classical Kids is proud to say, "We're making a difference!" Join our newsletter at ClasicalKidsLive.com.

"Far And Away the Best for Introducing Children to Classical Music!"
- Boston Herald

"One of the Most Completely Wondrous Examples of Children's Entertainment Ever!"
- Billboard

"Art Made Accessible: Nobody Does it Better than Classical Kids!"
- Entertainment Weekly

"The Best Way to Unlock the Mind and Heart of a Child to the Wonders of Musical Masterpieces!"
- New York Daily News

PLOT SYNOPSIS



The story tells of a chance meeting on the streets of New York City between a poor newspaper boy and the great American composer, George Gershwin. The orchestra magically weaves Gershwin's greatest hits into the drama as the master composer shares historical anecdotes about his life and musical passion. A bonding friendship develops as they explore the vast melting pot of American music and discover the key to unlocking the boy's own musical potential. Family and student audiences will be captivated by over twenty of Gershwin's most popular compositions from classical compositions including *Porgy & Bess*, *American in Paris*, *Cuban Overture*, *Concerto in F* and *Rhapsody in Blue* to popular hits from the American Songbook including *I Got Rhythm*, *Swanee*, *The Man I Love*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, and *Fascinating Rhythm*.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Endorsed by the Gershwin Family Interests and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, Gershwin's Magic Key is the first-ever *educationally-entertaining* theatrical symphony concert exposing

children and their parents to the extraordinary life and musical masterpieces of one of the greatest American composers of all time! Classical Kids LIVE! produces and performs this fully directed theatrical production with full symphony orchestra and includes a featured pianist, 2 professional actors and an onsite director. The production also includes full score and all musician parts, period costumes, props, lighting & sound coordination. The music is magically woven into the drama as two actors share their anecdotes and observations based on true incidents from the composer's life. Presenting history, drama, music and fun, this engaging concert is an ideal addition to any children's education program or family concert series. The performance is approximately 50 minutes in length and is recommended for audiences age five and up.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Paul Pement – Creator and Director



Paul serves as Executive and Artistic Director of Classical Kids Music Education, a non-profit arts organization focused on introducing children to the lives and musical masterpieces of the great classical composers. A BFA in theatre from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and professional experience as an actor, singer, dancer, director, choreographer and stage manager have enabled Paul to achieve success with Classical Kids LIVE! programming - the leader in the field of family concert programming presented by orchestras throughout North America and abroad. Over the past decade Mr. Pement has led the organization in processes that include strategic planning, board and committee development, financial accounting, funding development, community engagement, and marketing and communications. Together with the help of dedicated consultants and passionate board and committee members, Paul is proud to have created the organization's newest program, *Gershwin's Magic Key* - the first-ever symphony concert production that introduces future generations to the legacy of the great American composer, George Gershwin.

TBD – George Gershwin

TBD – “Kid”

Will Martin – Co-Writer, Music Supervisor



Will is very pleased to play a pivotal role in the creation of *Gershwin's Magic Key* as co-writer, music supervisor and featured pianist. He graduated from Lawrence University in 2010, where he took the B.M. piano performance *magna cum laude* and the B.A. English *magna cum laude*. There, he received additional honors for his scholarly work on the original manuscripts of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. He studied piano under Anthony Padilla, Michael Mizrahi and Emma Tahmizian at the Lawrence Conservatory of Music. Will has garnered acclaim for his exciting and idiomatic interpretations of Gershwin's music in particular. He has performed on broadcast in the *Impromptu* series on Chicago's WFMT 98.7, in concert on Wisconsin Public Radio, and won first prize in the Neale-Silva Young Artists Competition. Currently, Will works with the

world's leading Gershwin pianist and archivist, Kevin Cole and continues to study piano with Sheila Paige. He began his musical journey at age seven when he was given the Classical Kids recording *Mr. Bach Comes to Call*. He is very proud to now be working with that same organization to expose children to his favorite composer, George Gershwin.

Elizabeth Wheeler – Co-Writer



Elizabeth joins the creative team of *Classical Kids* as a contributing writer. Her first young adult novel, *Asher's Fault*, won the National Federation of Women's Press and Illinois Women's Press Association Young Adult Creative Fiction Book of the Year. Her second novel, *Asher's Shot*, received accolades from USA Today, and her final book in the trilogy, *Asher's Out*, is scheduled for release through Bold Strokes Books in July 2015. Elizabeth is driven by a quest to unleash the authentic human experience in literature, on the stage, and in life. As an educator, she is touched and inspired by the real-world examples of how students, facing adversity, assimilate the lessons learned from those experiences to persevere and transform into triumphant adults. As an advocate for storytelling in the print and digital world, Elizabeth has spoken at international and regional educational conferences. She is a graduate of the University of Florida and the inaugural novel writing

program at the University of Chicago's Graham School.

Kevin Cole – Production Advisor

Kevin is an award-winning pianist, musical director, arranger, composer, vocalist and archivist who garnered the praises of Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, E.Y. Harburg, Hugh Martin, Burton Lane, Marvin Hamlisch, Stephen Sondheim and members of the Jerome Kern and Gershwin families. Known as “America’s Pianist”, Mr. Cole has delighted audiences with a repertoire that includes the best of American Music. Cole’s performances with orchestras around the world have prompted accolades from some of the foremost critics in America. “A piano genius...he reveals an understanding of harmony, rhythmic complexity and pure show-biz virtuosity that would have had Vladimir Horowitz smiling with envy,” wrote critic Andrew Patner. On Cole’s affinity for Gershwin: “When Cole sits down at the piano, you would swear Gershwin himself was at work... Cole stands as the best Gershwin pianist in America today,” Howard Reich, arts critic for the *Chicago Tribune*. Classical Kids is proud and grateful to have the support, knowledge and expertise offered by our good friend, Kevin Cole, in order to create this first-of-its-kind production introducing the life and music of George Gershwin to future generations.

Actors’ Equity Association

Actors and Stage Managers are members of Actors’ Equity Association. Actors’ Equity Association, founded in 1913, is the labor union that represents more than 45,000 Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans, for its members. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.