

SINGING WITH ANGRY BIRD

A film by Hyewon Jee



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Penny L. Talbert, MLIS of Ephrata Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Singing with Angry Bird*.

Jae-Chang Kim runs a children's choir in Pune, India. Although his quick temper earned him the nickname "Angry Bird," he has made significant changes in the lives of the choir children. But skeptical of the practical value of music education, their parents are reluctant to let them sing. In order to convince them, Angry Bird decides to train the parents with their children for a joint concert, showing them the power of music in bringing families closer together.

ADULT NONFICTION

Campbell, Patricia Shehan. *Music, Education, and Diversity: Bridging Cultures and Communities*. Teacher's College Press, 2018.

This book provides important insights for educators in music, the arts, and other subjects on the role that music can play in the curriculum as a powerful bridge to cultural understanding. The author documents key ideas and practices that have influenced current music education, particularly through efforts of ethnomusicologists in collaboration with educators, and examines some of the promises and pitfalls in shaping multicultural education through music.

Mattern, Mark. *Acting in Concert: Music, Community and Political Action*. Rutgers University Press, 1998.

In this lively account of politics and popular music, Mark Mattern develops the concept of "acting in concert," a metaphor for community-based political action through music. Through three detailed case studies of Chilean, Cajun, and American Indian popular music, Mattern explores the way popular musicians forge community and lead members of their communities in several distinct kinds of political action that would be difficult or impossible among individuals who are not linked by communal ties.

Tolan, Sandy. *Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land*. Bloomsbury, USA, 2016.

It is an unlikely story. Ramzi Hussein Aburedwan, a child from a Palestinian refugee camp, confronts an occupying army, gets an education, masters an instrument, dreams of something much bigger than himself, and then, through his charisma and persistence, inspires scores of others to work with him to make that dream real. The dream: a school to transform the lives of thousands of children—as Ramzi's life was transformed—through music.

Tunstall, Tricia. *Changing Lives: Gustavo Dudamel, El Sistema, and the Transformative Power of Music*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2013.

When Gustavo Dudamel, at the age of twenty-eight, ascended the podium at the Hollywood Bowl for his inaugural concert as conductor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, he immediately captivated the hearts of his audience, just as he had the minds of music critics who designated him a modern-day Leonard Bernstein. In *Changing Lives*, the maestro's story becomes the entry point to an equally captivating subject: El Sistema, the music education program that nurtured his musical talent, first as a young violinist and then as a budding conductor under the mentorship of its founder, José Antonio Abreu.

Boo, Katherine. *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*. Penguin Random House, 2012.

Based on years of in-depth research and reporting, journalist Katherine Boo's acclaimed first book puts a human face on extreme inequality in a rapidly globalizing India. It takes readers into the hidden world of Annawadi, a makeshift settlement that stands in stark contrast to the nearby luxury hotels of Mumbai. The book follows Annawadi residents who strive to escape poverty, from a boy who scavenges scrap metal from the city's garbage heaps to an ambitious young woman who hopes to be her family's first college graduate.

Banerjee, Abhijit Vinayak, and Esther Duflo. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. PublicAffairs, 2011.

For more than fifteen years Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo have worked with the poor in dozens of countries spanning five continents, trying to understand the specific problems that come with poverty and to find proven solutions. Their book is radical in its rethinking of the economics of poverty, but also entirely practical in the suggestions it offers. Through a careful analysis of a very rich body of evidence, including the hundreds of randomized control trials that Banerjee and Duflo's lab has pioneered, they show why the poor, despite having the same desires and abilities as anyone else, end up with entirely different lives.

Flaherty, Jordan. *No More Heroes: Grassroots Challenges to the Savior Mentality*. AK Press, 2016.

How can we build a better world? And why do so many people with privilege end up making things worse when they try to help? It's called the savior mentality, and Jordan Flaherty finds it in FBI informants, anti-sex-work crusaders, Teach For America corps members, and out-of-touch journalists. *No More Heroes* celebrates grassroots challenges to these saviors and highlights movements focused on real, systemic change from the Arab Spring to Black Lives Matter.

ADULT FICTION

Amin, Manisha Jolie. *Dancing to the Flute*. New York: Atria Books, 2013.

Kalu is a young orphan growing up in the remote village of Hastinapore, India. Kalu creates music with a makeshift horn made from a banyan tree leaf. One day, a traveling healer overhears the notes and approaches Kalu, setting into motion a series of events that will change Kalu's life and test his sense of identity. *Dancing to the Flute* is a story of a changing community, a boy's journey to become a man, and the transformative power of music.

Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things*. HarperCollins, 1997.

This is the story of Rahel and Estha, twins growing up among the banana vats and peppercorns of their blind grandmother's factory, and amid scenes of political turbulence in Kerala. Armed only with the innocence of youth, they fashion a childhood in the shade of the wreck that is their family: their lonely, lovely mother, their beloved Uncle Chacko (pickle baron, radical Marxist, bottom-pincher) and their sworn enemy, Baby Kochamma (ex-nun, incumbent grand-aunt). Arundhati Roy's Booker Prize-winning novel was the literary sensation of the 1990s: a story anchored to anguish but fuelled by wit and magic.

Galloway, Steven. *The Cellist of Sarajevo*. New York: Penguin Group USA, 2009.

A novel of great intensity and power, and inspired by a true story, *The Cellist of Sarajevo* poignantly explores how war can change one's definition of humanity, the effect of music on our emotional endurance, and how a romance with the rituals of daily life can itself be a form of resistance.

Powers, Richard. *The Time of our Singing*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004.

On Easter day, 1939, at Marian Anderson's epochal concert on the Washington Mall, David Strom, a German Jewish émigré scientist, meets Delia Daley, a young Philadelphia Negro studying to be a singer. Their mutual love of music draws them together, and—against all odds and better judgment—they marry. They vow to raise their children beyond time, beyond identity, steeped only in song.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Armstrong, Jennifer; Koertge, Ronald; Bruchac, Joseph, et. al. *What a Song Can Do: 12 Riffs on the Power of Music*. New York: Laurel-Leaf, 2006.

This compelling collection of stories explores the powerful impact that music has in our lives—especially in the lives of teens. Each story strikes a new note: Ron Koertge introduces us to the boys in the band—the marching band; Joseph Bruchac contributes a Native American boy with no rhythm whatsoever; Jennifer Armstrong writes about what was perhaps the first battle of the bands—during the American Civil War; and David Levithan offers up a love song that speaks powerfully to an unintended audience.

But while each story is different, they combine into harmonic song of praise—for the depths music can reach in us, and the power it has to bind us together.

Verma, Sunanda and Spanuth, Carolin. *Namaste, Lata Mangeshkar!: Her Voice Touches at Least a Billion Hearts*. Singapore: The Indologist Pte., Ltd., 2017.

This is the absorbing story of a girl, Lata, born in a small town of India. At five years of age, she was a theater singer and artiste. At thirteen, she became the sole bread winner of her family when her father passed away. She moved cities, walked long distances and survived on cups of tea in search of work. Lata Mangeshkar went on to become one of the most famous playback singers and a woman who fought for the rights of playback singers.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Castrovilla, Selene. *Saved By The Music*. Lodi, NJ: West-Side Book, 2009.

Fifteen year old Willow reluctantly spends her summer on an old barge helping her aunt convert the vessel into a floating concert hall, but her time there is brightened by the introverted and mysterious teenage boy living alone on a neighboring sailboat.

Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl*. Boston: HMH Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Girls cannot be drummers. Long ago on an island filled with music, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.

Reynolds, Peter H. *Playing From The Heart*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2017.

When a young boy begins to play on his family's piano, reveling in the fun of plunking the keys, his father signs him up for lessons so that he can learn to play properly. With his father's encouragement, Raj learns notes, then scales, then songs, and finally classical pieces that his father can recognize and be proud of. But the more Raj practices and the more skilled he becomes, the less he enjoys playing, until he grows up and stops playing altogether. But when his father becomes ill and asks Raj to play for him, will Raj remember how to play from the heart?

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo*. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 2016.

Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica—and decades later three children, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California find themselves caught up in the same thread of destiny in the darkest days of the twentieth century, struggling to keep their families intact, and tied together by the music of the same harmonica.