

Puccini Pooch and the Christmas Surprise

It was a beautiful December evening in the city. Christmas lights glittered and snow was beginning to fall. Puccini Pooch was looking out his apartment window. The snowflakes sparkled as they floated past the streetlights. People on the street below were hurrying home, many of them carrying beautifully wrapped packages. The apartments in the building across from him were brightly lit, and he admired the Christmas decorations that had been hung in the windows with care. In one apartment he could see a family decorating their Christmas tree. They were laughing and having fun.

Puccini Pooch suddenly felt very lonely. It was almost Christmas Eve, and this year he would not be able to spend the holidays with his family. The City Opera Company was rehearsing a new opera that Pachelbel Penguin had written, and Puccini had the lead part. The show would open the day after Christmas, so he had to stay in town for rehearsals. He was excited about the new opera, but sad that he would be alone at Christmas.

Thinking about the opera, however, gave him an idea.

"I know what I'll do," he said aloud, "I'll call Pachelbel Penguin and see if he wants to spend Christmas with me!" Soon, he had his friend on the phone and invited him over.

Pachelbel Penguin was happy to hear from Puccini Pooch.

"I can't go home for Christmas, either," he explained. "I would love to come!" He paused for a moment, thinking. "How does tomorrow morning sound? I have something I need to do tonight."

"Perfect!" replied Puccini Pooch. "Tomorrow is Christmas Eve, so we can wait for Santa Claus together!"

As the two friends hung up the phone, both were smiling. Puccini Pooch was excited that he would be sharing Christmas with a friend. And Pachelbel Penguin was excited about the Christmas surprise he was planning for Puccini Pooch.



To the Teacher: Use *Music for Little Mozarts Christmas Fun! Book 4* during the Christmas season, any time after the student has begun the Music Lesson Book 4. Students will enjoy the story with its related pictures, music and activity pages. Many will also want to color the illustrations found throughout the story. Merry Christmas!

As soon as Pachelbel Penguin finished talking to Puccini Pooch, he called Beethoven Bear and Mozart Mouse. He explained to them how Puccini Pooch was going to be alone at Christmas.

"I have an idea," he continued. "Would all of you like to go with me and surprise him?"

"Of course!" Mozart Mouse agreed. "Come over first thing in the morning, and we will be ready to go."

The City Opera House

The City Opera House is decorated for the Christmas holidays.

- ❶ Clap and count the rhythm pattern on each banner.
- ❷ If the pattern has 4 counts ($\frac{4}{4}$ time), color the sign red.
- ❸ If the pattern has 3 counts ($\frac{3}{4}$ time), color the sign green.
- ❹ Then color the rest of the picture.



