

## CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

# The boy who had music inside him

By Janaan Manternach  
NC News Service

Johann felt he had music in his blood. His whole family loved music. They filled the house with songs and music of all kinds.

Johann was learning to play the violin. He loved it. He even liked to practice.

But when he was 10, his father died. His mother died the same year. The music of his life seemed to die with them.

"I want you to come and live with me," his older brother Chris said. "I have plenty of room."

So young Johann moved into his brother's house. But he still felt sad. His violin remained in the closet.

Chris tried everything to make his younger brother happy. "I know what I'll do," Chris thought. "I'll teach him to play the organ. He should like that."

So young Johann began to play the organ. He liked it and learned fast. Slowly the music inside him came to life again.

"I'm tired of just playing practice tunes," Johann told his brother one day. "Let me play some real music."

"Not yet, Johann," his brother answered. "I don't think you're ready yet." His brother hid the books that had the beautiful music Johann wanted to play.

So Johann waited until his older brother left the house. He found the hidden music books. He copied out the music. Whenever Chris had to go out, Johann would copy more music from the precious books.

He loved to play the music he had copied. But he could only play it secretly, when his brother was not home.

One day Chris came home early. He heard Johann playing the

beautiful songs from the hidden books. He checked his room and found the books there. "Johann must have copied out the music," Chris thought to himself. He went right to Johann and took the copies away from him.

Johann was sad. But the music was inside him. So he sat down and started playing. To his surprise he could play all the beautiful music, even without the books or copies. He had it all inside him now.

Johann's life became filled with music. It made him happy. He looked forward to it.

As he discovered more and more of the music inside him, he decided not to keep it all for just himself. He wanted to share it with others. Perhaps it would make them happy too.

So Johann started writing music. He became the organist at a small church and wrote music for the



church choir to sing. He wrote beautiful music to praise God.

Soon he became very famous for his music. People still love the music, especially the church music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

*(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, Scripture stories and original stories for children.)*

a game a game

### Hidden Talents

Find the words — all talents people may have — hidden in the puzzle. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

P	M	A	T	H	C	G	H	J	R
U	T	Q	D	A	N	C	E	B	S
V	G	K	Y	I	T	L	C	J	I
D	L	S	K	A	T	I	N	G	N
S	P	O	R	T	S	M	X	N	G
Q	O	R	F	U	I	T	W	R	I
C	D	A	M	O	A	P	A	U	N
S	C	I	E	N	C	E	Y	R	G
F	U	G	S	M	H	W	K	O	T
W	R	I	T	I	N	G	Z	X	V

SPORTS MUSIC ART COOKING WRITING DANCE  
SINGING SKATING MATH SCIENCE

a game

## HOW ABOUT YOU?

Johann, the boy in this week's story, had a special talent for music. There are many kinds of talent. How many talents can you name?

### Children's Reading Corner

"Geraldine, The Music Mouse" is a story by Leo Lionni. In it, Geraldine discovers a great big piece of cheese. Nibbling away, she finds the shape of a giant cheese mouse — one who plays the flute! Geraldine is thrilled. Night after night Geraldine listens to the music of the cheese mouse. But one day there isn't enough food for Geraldine's friends. But she is afraid that if she breaks up her cheese mouse to feed her hungry friends, there will be no more flute music. Finally she discovers there is music right inside her. This is a story about how a mouse unlocks her own talent — her own gift for music. (Pantheon Books Inc., 201 E. 50th St., New York, N.Y. 10022, 1979. Hardback, \$6.95.)



## Forgiveness

The promise of God's forgiveness is fulfilled as Father Robert Whalen, S.J., hears the confession of a prisoner in the Federal Medical Prison in Springfield, Missouri. Father Whalen's message of forgiveness and the love of God help heal the pain of confinement for large numbers of repentant prisoners.

With help from the Catholic Church Extension, Father Whalen introduces prisoners to basic Christianity. It's a tough job in a hostile environment.

Father Whalen is part of a team of home missionaries who, together with Extension, pursue the vital and urgent task of evangelization here in the

United States. But the team is too small to do the job without help. It needs new members. It needs you.

Join us. Become a member of the Extension Society team. Although you won't be present in the home missions personally, your impact will be felt in this holy effort. Together we can bring the Word of Christ to those who don't have it.

Write for a free subscription to Extension magazine today and discover the difference you can make. Together, and with God's grace, we can achieve His missionary goals here in our own beloved country.



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