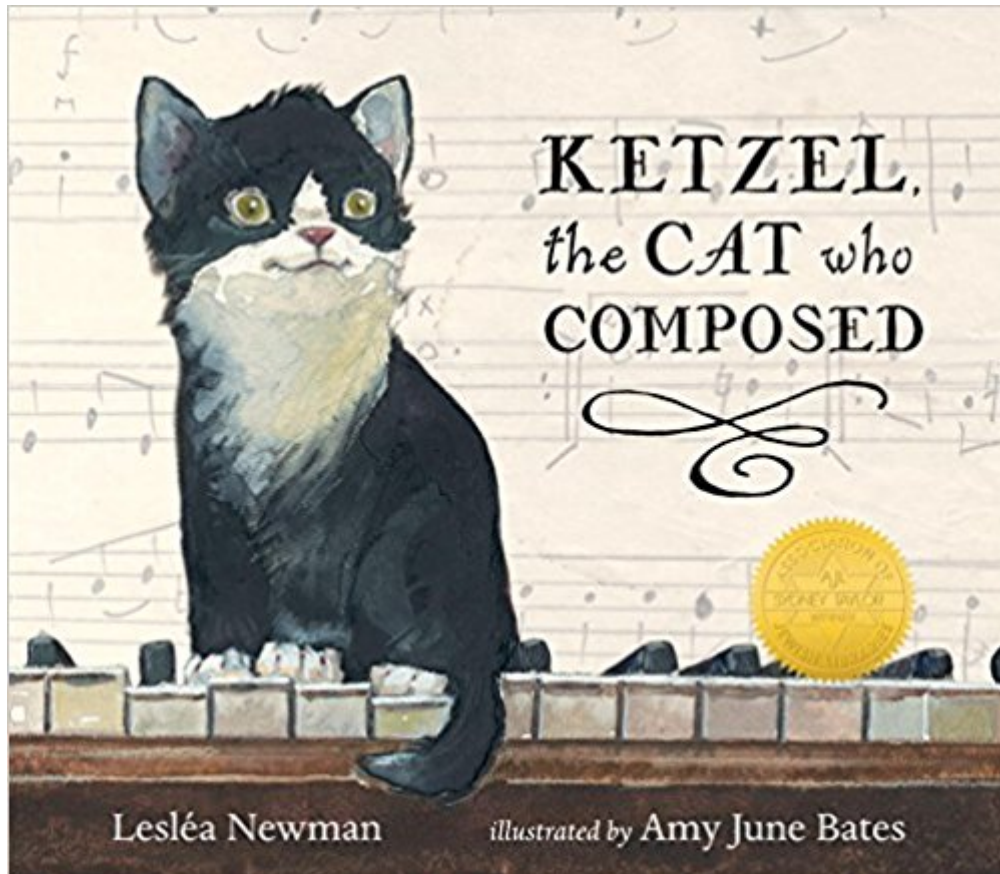




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# Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed



## Synopsis

A 2016 Association of Jewish Libraries Sydney Taylor Award Winner A kitten and a boy stroll down a keyboard leads to a celebrated one-minute composition in this charming portrait of a remarkable true friendship. Moshe Cotel was a composer who lived in a noisy building on a noisy street in a noisy city. But Moshe didn't mind. Everything he heard was music to his ears. One day, while out for a walk, he heard a small, sad sound that he'd never heard before. It was a tiny kitten! "Come on, little Ketzal," Moshe said, "I will take you home and we will make beautiful music together." And they did in a most surprising way. Inspired by a true story, LeslÃ©e Fiedler Newman and Amy June Bates craft an engaging tale of a creative man and the beloved cat who brings unexpected sweet notes his way.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #67,583 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism #79 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music #234 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 Musicians and cat lovers alike will enjoy this charming picture book based on a true story. Moshe Cotel, a young composer, lives alone in a busy, noisy city, but "Everything he heard was music to his ears." One day he discovers Ketzal, a tiny, black-and-white kitten, on the street. He holds her tenderly to his chest and declares, "I will take you home, and we will make beautiful music together," prophetic words, to say the least. When Moshe receives a letter from the Paris New Music Review about a contest to write a composition of 60 seconds or less, try as he

might, he is at a loss. Then, Ketzel creeps across the keyboard, inadvertently accomplishing what the composer could not. "Moshe grabbed a pencil and jotted down exactly what he'd heard." "Your composition has a clear beginning, middle, and end, is full of heart, and takes exactly 21 seconds to play. Ketzel, you're a genius!" The feline's "Piece for Piano: Four Paws" wins an honorable mention, and its furry composer actually attends a performance. The watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations depict a busy city, a sympathetic bearded musician, and a simply adorable protagonist. VERDICT A delightful read. — Barbara Auerbach, New York City Public Schools

Based on a true incident, this delightfully told story is unlikely and adorable in equal parts. Bates's watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations feature an un-anthropomorphic kitty whose inquisitive and quizzical nature will be familiar to all cat owners. The author's note offers all the answers readers will want. An absolute charmer! — Booklist (starred review) Newman's great affection for her subject is evident, yet she never crosses into cutesiness or sentimentality; her reportorial tone is a perfect match for her down-to-earth, generous hero. Bates, working in hues of parchment and gold, produces some wonderfully warm vignettes, pushing the graceful realism of her watercolor, gouache, and pencil drawings just enough to add a glint of magic to a story that's already one of a kind. — Publishers Weekly (starred review) This adorable account is as warm and fuzzy as Ketzel herself and all the sweeter because it's based on fact. The watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations suit the text perfectly, delightfully capturing Ketzel's furriness, the story's charming, lively energy, and Moshe and the "composer's" loving friendship. Truly, the cat's meow. — Kirkus Reviews Musicians and cat lovers alike will enjoy this charming picture book based on a true story... A delightful read. — School Library Journal Charming. — The Wall Street Journal A gifted writer and illustrator join forces to craft a charming picture book based on the true story of composer Moshe Cotel and the cat who became famous for her piano composition... — The Buffalo News This charming vignette is based on a true story, which encourages readers to suspend disbelief to enjoy a quirky plot and wonderful illustrations... Recommended for the picture book crowd and cat lovers of all ages. — Jewish Book World (starred review)

Beautifully illustrated and a sweet story. If your child loves cats and loves playing the piano then this is the right book. I was struck by the beautiful, imaginative and charming illustrations. My grandson loves (if repetitive reading is any indication) it. A lovely book.

This delightful picture book based on a true event is the winner of the 2106 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Younger Readers. Leslea Newman tells the story of the cat who ran across the piano keys of her owner, a composer who wrote down the melody, submitted it to a contest for compositions no longer than one minute, and won Honorable Mention for it. The illustrations by Amy June Bates beautifully reflect the time period and the mood of the story.

Adorable little book about a composing kitty and her owner. Gorgeous illustrations with a great story.

It's a great book based on a true story! Cute and inspiring

Wonderful book

Bought for a 7-year old girl who loves cats and is learning to play the piano. She was ecstatic, and loves the text and pictures.

What a special book and a good copy too.

Charming ! Great drawings and lovely tale

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