

stories2music

Bringing stories and music to life

December 2019

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

New Podcasts!

Three new podcasts are available on the s2m podcast page.

Thank you, Mr. Foley! Do you think a story can be told using only sound effects? Do you know who invented Foley sound effects? Do you think sound effects create a more immersive experience for the listener of audio stories? Get the answers in this podcast.

Interview with Bill Duftris. The audiobook industry is publishing more full-cast audiobooks with voice actors, music and sound effects. These audio dramas create a more immersive experience for the listener than a single narrator reading a novel. Bill Duftris talks about his experiences as a famous voice actor and audiobook/audio drama producer.

Interview with Dr. Emma Rodero. Dr. Rodero, a communications professor at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain, is a leading scholar in media psychology and sound. Her current research study is on sound design for audiobooks. Dr. Rodero explains why full-cast audiobooks create more immersion for the listener and why audiobook narrators need professional training.

My article “We’re All Ears for Audiobooks!” is available on the [stories2music blog](#).

New Releases!

- no new releases

Awaiting Funding!

- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!
- The Golden Hour (new)
- Heart to Heart (new)

If you would like to help fund these stories, please go to the [s2m donation page](#).

Kindle e-books

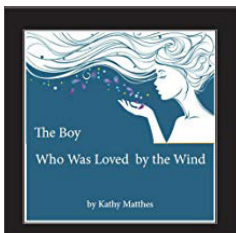
Three companion e-books are available on Amazon Kindle.

- The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind
- True Love Imagined Collection
- The Edwardian Collection

“The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” is also available in paperback with full-page color photos. This award-winning story was published in the May 2018 *Bravura Literary Journal*.

Purchase your copies today on [Amazon](#).

Great Christmas Gifts!



The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind is an award-winning story published in the 2018 *Bravura Literary Journal* and is available in paperback on Amazon. Illustrated with 17 full-color pictures, this delightful story will touch the hearts of children and adults as it reminds us of childhood memories, the consequences of selfishness and the power of forgiveness.

Purchase your copy at <https://www.amazon.com/author/kathymatthes>

Five stories are awaiting funding for music licensing. Help make our season bright by donating at Fundly: <https://fundly.com/stories2music#welcome>

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July 2019

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Interviews!

Radio dramas are making a huge comeback via podcasting. The old radio shows of the 1930s and 1940s are becoming available, and new, contemporary radio dramas are being produced. Radio dramas use voice actors, music and Foley sound effects to immerse the listener in the story.

The audiobook industry is catching on and many publishers are now doing full-cast audiobooks with voice actors, music and sound effects. These “audio dramas” create a more immersive experience for the listener than a single narrator reading a novel. This is exciting news!

Naturally, when I had to do a feature article for my Multimedia Writing/Reporting class at Palomar College, I chose full-cast audiobooks as my topic. Three interviews were required, and three influential people in this industry were willing to be interviewed. Michele Cobb is the executive director of the Audiobook Publishers Association, William Dufriis is a famous voice actor and audiobook/audio drama producer, and Dr. Emma Rodero (communications professor at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain) is a leading scholar in media psychology and sound, whose current research study is on sound design for audiobooks.

My article “We’re All Ears for Audiobooks!” is available on the [stories2music blog](#), along with the three interviews. William Dufriis and Dr. Rodero’s audio interviews will be available on the stories2music podcast page soon as well as a new podcast on sound effects and Jack Foley.

Two New Stories

Two new stories have been added to the True Love Imagined Collection.

The Golden Hour - A romantic boat ride on the lake during the magical golden hour rekindles the couple’s true love. Lovely, expressive music by Simon Arthur Rhodes captures the luminous spirit of this time of day.

Heart to Heart - In this poem, the couple’s wedding dance binds them forever heart to heart as they dance to Paul Reeves’ enchanting music.

If you would like to help make these stories available on the website for others to hear, see the [Adopt-a-Story](#) page. See the [Pending stories](#) page for all pending stories.

New Releases!

- no releases this month

Awaiting Funding!

- One Life
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- The Fire!
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- Heart to Heart (new)

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December 2018

Newsletter

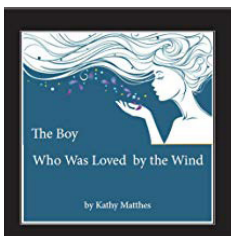
Volume 1, Issue 10

Retrospective

In 2018, stories2music achieved quite a few accomplishments!

- Seven new stories and one poetry2music were produced. Five obtained music licenses and three are awaiting funding, along with one story from 2015. Three have sound effects.
- “The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” won a fiction award and was published in the *Bravura Literary Journal* in May 2018.
- The three collections have companion Amazon Kindle e-books, and “The Boy” has a published paperback, all on our author page. E-book brochures were created.
- Social media sites were launched for Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.
- The newsletter and two brochures were published.
- The s2m blog was launched with 8 research-based posts.
- The promo video was produced.
- The Adopt-a-Story fundraising campaign was launched.
- All story pages have feedback forms and “like” and “share” buttons.
- Google Analytics show listeners in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, the Philippines, Peru, France and Portugal.
- “The Plea” is being adapted into a radio drama.
- The first Listen & Learn podcast was produced.

Great Christmas Gifts!



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Four stories are awaiting funding for music licensing. Help make our season bright by donating at Fundly: <https://fundly.com/stories2music#welcome>

New Releases!

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Awaiting Funding!

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November 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 9

“The Plea” Radio Drama

“Audio drama is having an art renaissance” says [KC Wayland](#). “The ease of access to the technology and the distribution platform of podcasts is turning up the volume on this form of aural entertainment.” According to [TheaterCrafts.com](#), “a radio drama depends on dialogue, music and sound effects to help the listener imagine the characters and story.”

For my final projects in my Broadcast and Media Writing class at Palomar College this semester, I am expanding the s2m story “The Plea” into an Edwardian mystery radio drama. Set in 1902 England, Dr. Alexander goes missing after a midnight visitation from a mysterious woman on a white horse. The doctor’s hidden journal has the key, but will his brother find it in time to rescue him?

Meanwhile, you can listen to “[The Plea](#)” story on the s2m listen page.

New Story

“The Golden Hour” has finished production and is now awaiting funding for music licensing. Gorgeous music by Simon Arthur Rhodes fills this story with romance and beauty.

Upcoming Blog Posts

Look for upcoming blog posts on the following topics:

Immerse Yourself (on the story immersion concept)
Points of View Matters (which affects the reader more)
Sound Design (what it is and how it works for audio stories)

Adopt-a-Story!

If you like listening to free stories2music, help bring new stories to life by adopting a new story. You can be a story’s full sponsor or be a co-sponsor with others. Please go to the [s2m donation page](#) for more information. Thank you for supporting stories2music!

New Releases!

- The Rescue
- Terrible Love

Awaiting Funding!

- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!
- The Golden Hour (new)

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Bringing stories and music to life

October 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

Listen & Learn Podcast

The first Listen & Learn s2m podcast was launched this month. This inaugural podcast is based on the s2m blog post, "Can You Hear it?" The podcast explains the concept of media grammar and uses music excerpts to test the listener and to demonstrate how music grammar works in the s2m story "Reckless Grief."

Below are comments from my Broadcast and Media Writing class professor at Palomar College this semester.

"Wow! This is an exceptional project assignment. I really appreciate your enthusiasm, passion and hard-work putting your ideas to sound :) I had a chance to listen to your full version posted on your website. I think you have combined the audio elements together seamlessly to make an engaging and interactive presentation for your listeners. Your voice is upbeat and keeps a conversational tone which is important. Wonderful use of music examples and listener questions to draw us in to your story. The swirling music and other music clips used in Katie Brown's story is pertinent and illustrates your points leading up to the dramatic closing story."

Listen to the podcast: <http://www.stories2music.com/podcasts.html>

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Look for upcoming blog posts on the following topics:

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New Releases!

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- Terrible Love

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- One Life
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September 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

Terrible Love



Christian poet, Jean Noah, and stories2music have teamed up to try a new genre: poetry2music. Jean's beautifully transparent and vulnerable poem, [Terrible Love](#), has now been released. The deeply emotional music by Christian Telford and

Matthew St. Laurent enhances the poem's message about the deep love God has for us, a love that will remove the dross from our character no matter what the cost. You can read more of Jean's poems in her collection of poems called [Legacy](#) on Amazon.com.



The Rescue!



The True Love Imagined Collection has a new release: [The Rescue](#). Heading home on a stormy night, the couple attempts a daring rescue of a run-away horse. Foley sound effects bring the story to life. Experience the drama!

New Blog Post

In previous blog posts, I explained how music (especially film music) can enhance a narrated story. The music tells the listener how to "feel" about the story. However, sound effects make the story real. Find out more about Foley sound effects and try the experiment in my new blog post: [Thank you, Mr. Foley](#).

Adopt-a-Story!

If you like listening to free stories2music, help bring new stories to life by adopting a new story. You can be a story's full sponsor or be a co-sponsor with others. Please go to the [s2m donation page](#) for more information. Thank you for supporting stories2music!

New Releases!

- The Rescue
- Terrible Love

Awaiting Funding!

- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!

Kindle e-books

Three companion e-books are now available on Amazon Kindle.

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- The Edwardian Collection

"The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind" is also available in paperback with full-page color photos.

This award-winning story was published in the May 2018 *Bravura Literary Journal*.

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Bringing stories and music to life

August 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6

The Duel

The ballroom . . . intoxicating music . . . a captivating woman in his arms . . . exhilaration . . . passion . . . romance . . . a kiss interrupted . . . an abrupt stop . . . an angry man . . . jealous accusations . . . tears. The music stopped, the dancing stopped and everyone stared. A slap in the face . . . a challenge for restitution of honor . . . a duel at dawn.



Thanks to the generous donations for music licensing by Jean Noah and Dr. Cynthia Sistik-Chandler, the new story “The Duel” is now available on the s2m website. Enjoy!

Adopt-a-Story!

If you like listening to free stories2music, help bring new stories to life by adopting a new story. You can be a story’s full sponsor or be a co-sponsor with others. Sponsors donate funds to pay for music licensing fees for their adopted stories.

Please go to the [s2m donation page](#) for more information. Thank you for supporting stories2music!

Two New Blog Posts

As I produced more stories, I became more aware of the music grammar—what the music was actually saying. My ear became more educated, and I began to hear areas where the music didn’t quite match the words so perfectly. Learn more about my discoveries in my new blog post: [Can Music Guide a Story?](#)

By now, it should be clear that stories2music audio stories would not be what they are without the film music. It is an integral part of the storytelling. But where did the music come from? Read about this amazing journey of discovery in my new blog post: [Where’s the Music?](#)

In Production!

- The Rescue

Awaiting Funding!

- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!
- Terrible Love (J. Noah)

Kindle e-books

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- True Love Imagined Collection
- The Edwardian Collection

“The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” is also available in paperback with full-page color photos.

This award-winning story was published in the May 2018 *Bravura Literary Journal*.

Purchase your copies today on [Amazon](#).

stories2music

Bringing stories and music to life

July 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5

Adopt-a-Story!

If you like listening to free stories2music, help bring new stories to life by adopting a new story. You can be a story's full sponsor or be a co-sponsor with others. Sponsors donate funds to pay for music licensing fees for their adopted stories.

Why Adopt?

- New stories cannot be made available on the s2m website until the music is licensed.
- Funds are limited, so new stories can wait up to 6 months to be licensed and offered on the website.
- When you adopt a story, you allow others to experience it.
- Donations allow the stories to be offered for free on the website.
- Contribution levels come with various perks.

Please go to the [s2m donation page](#) for more information. Thank you for supporting stories2music!

News

The [author page](#) for stories2music companion Kindle ebooks is now available on Amazon. It also has links to the s2m blog posts!

s2m now has been reorganized into story collections. The five stand-alone stories are now The Edwardian Collection. There are now three categories of stories:

- The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind
- True Love Imagined Collection
- The Edwardian Collection

All three collections have companion ebooks with full-color photos.

In Production!

- The Rescue
- The Duel

Awaiting Funding!

- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!
- Terrible Love (J. Noah)

Kindle e-books

Three companion e-books are now available on Amazon Kindle.

- The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind
- True Love Imagined Collection
- The Edwardian Collection

“The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” is also available in paperback with full-page color photos.

This award-winning story was published in the May 2018 *Bravura Literary Journal*.

Purchase your copies today on [Amazon](#).

stories2music

Bringing stories and music to life

May/June 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Bravura Literary Journal

“The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” story was published in the 2018 [Bravura Literary Journal](#). The story also won 3rd place in the fiction category.

Help Fund Music Licenses!

I was able to license two more stories in May, but 3 more still need licensing so that they can be put on the website. This will complete the True Love Imagined collection.

- One Life (\$150)
- A Grateful Heart (\$150)
- The Fire (\$450)

I would also like to be able to license Jean Noah’s poetry2music:

- Terrible Love (\$150)

Please go to the [Fundly](#) page if you are interested in donating.

News

I had a great time researching and writing five new blogs for the [stories2music blog](#):

- A Flash of Story and Music
- Can You Hear It?
- Imagine This!
- Experimenting With Sound
- Adventures in Sound!

Learn about flash fiction and why it works so well with stories2music. Several posts allows you to experiment with words and sound. Finally, learn why audio dramas are making a big come-back

New Releases!

- An Ordinary Day
- The Dance

Coming Soon!

- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!
- Terrible Love (J. Noah)

Kindle e-books

Two e-books are available on Amazon Kindle.

- The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind
- True Love Imagined Collection

“The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” is also available in paperback with full-page color photos.

Purchase your copies today on [Amazon](#).

s2m Promo Video

The promo video for s2m is available on the [“About”](#) page on the s2m website.

stories2music

Bringing stories and music to life

April 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Patreon Fundraising

stories2music has launched a s2m Patreon site to raise funds for music licensing. [Patreon](#) is a fundraising site that allows people to support the work of their favorite artists through monthly or project-based donations. Help support the licensing of s2m stories: <https://www.patreon.com/stories2music>

Bravura Literary Journal

“The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind” story has been accepted for publication in the *Bravura Literary Journal* for May 2018. [Bravura](#) is an award-winning Palomar College journal. The story also won 3rd Place in the Prose category.

poetry2music?

Can poetry be set to film music like stories2music? We set the poem “Terrible Love” by Christian poet Jean Noah to the extraordinary film music “In Memoriam” by Christian Telford and Matthew St Laurent. The mingling of the words with the music created a deeply moving poetry2music. It is currently awaiting funding for music licensing.

News

Check out the first of five new s2m blog posts: [A Flash of Story and Music](#). Upcoming topics will include media grammar and film music; audio stories’ effect on the imagination; audio books with full cast dramatizations; and synchronized film music and audio stories.

The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind e-book was mentioned in two publications from the National University Sanford School of Education:

- The Quest Scholarship & Research Newsletter (March 2018)
- The Dean’s Digest (March 30, 2018) and (April 13, 2018).

See the News section of the s2m website to view them.

Coming Soon!

Five new stories in the True Love Imagined Collection have been completed and are waiting for licensing funds.

- An Ordinary Day
- The Dance
- One Life
- A Grateful Heart
- The Fire!

Kindle e-books

Two e-books are available on Amazon Kindle.

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Purchase your copies today on [Amazon](#).

s2m Promo Video

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stories2music

Bringing stories and music to life

March 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Kickstarter Funding Fizzled

stories2music launched a Kickstarter campaign in December 2017 to raise funds for music licensing. The stories currently have web-only music licenses, which allows them to be displayed on a website for listening, but the stories cannot be downloaded or sold. The funding would have purchased “sale” licenses, so the audio stories could be sold on Amazon Audible, iTunes and the s2m website.

Unfortunately, Kickstarter requires that the full amount requested be funded by backers; otherwise, the project doesn't get funded at all. The amount was not achieved in the 30-day time period, so the project did not get funded.

On a positive note, my account representative at West One Music, the main music licensing company for s2m, was disappointed to hear that the Kickerstart project didn't get funded, so he said that he would be willing to figure out other discounts to get the stories licensed.

The Kickstarter project did yield some good results. Six new sections were added to the [s2m website](#), and a [s2m promo video](#) was created. This [newsletter](#), [two brochures](#) and a [Facebook](#) page were also established.

Research, Blog and News

Five research-based blog articles will soon appear on the [s2m blog](#) for a class project in the “Writing for Online Journalism” class at Palomar College this semester. The blog link will also be posted on the Journalism Department's website! Topics will include flash fiction and audio stories; media grammar and film music; audio stories' effect on the imagination; audio book publishers and full cast dramatizations; and synchronized film music and audio stories.

The Boy Who Was Loved by the Wind e-book was mentioned in the March 2018 issue of The Quest Scholarship & Research Newsletter and the March 2018 issue of the Dean's Digest for National University's Sanford School of Education.

Coming Soon!

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s2m Promo Video

To prepare for the Kickstarter project in December 2017, a promo video was created that tells the story of s2m.

You can view it from the “[About](#)” page on the s2m website.

stories2music

Bringing stories and music to life

January 2018

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Kickstarting the year off right!

stories2music has launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for music licensing. The stories currently have web-only music licenses, which allows them to be displayed on a website for listening, but the stories cannot be downloaded or sold.

Amazon Audible has a “WhisperLink” feature that allows Kindle readers to switch back and forth between text and audio versions of the book. s2m has two Kindle e-books on Amazon, so we want to put those audio books on Audible. However, music “sale” licenses must be purchased in order to sell the stories on Audible or on the s2m website.

West One Music has generously offered a discounted “sale” license price if all 16 stories are licensed together. Once the stories are sold on Audible, they can't be offered for free on the s2m website, so a members-only area will be provided through Wild Apricot where s2m members have access to the stories as well as options to donate, register for webinars, etc. The Kickstarter campaign is raising funds for all of these features.

Check out the [Kickstarter page](#) and support s2m.

Media Grammar and stories2music

stories2music's “[Aurora's Secret](#)” was used in a History of Multimedia [class research project](#) in fall 2017 at Palomar College. The study tested the effects of orchestra film music and sound effects on the listener's imagination as well as the participants' awareness of media grammar. Participants listened to three versions of the story: narration only, narration with music and narration with music and sound effects. They completed a survey after each section. The addition of the music and sound effects each altered the listener's imagination.

This type of research is important because the audio book industry is starting to produce “full cast” productions of [audio books](#) with music and Foley sound effects similar to the old radio shows.

Coming Soon!

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- The Dance
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- The Fire!

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New Web Pages

New web pages have been added to the [s2m website](#):

- Social Media
- Publications
- Research
- Resources
- Donate
- Members