Emma and the Blue Baku
has been made possible with the generous support of
Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Owners, Clos Pegase Winery

Characters
- Emma (8 years old) — child soprano
- Emma's Mother — soprano
- The Baku — baritone
- Four children, Emma's friends, who appear in her dreams (and in her nightmare) —
two child sopranos, two child altos
- A dream version of Emma — soprano

The Baku is a blue dream-eating monster with a long red raspy tongue.
He is very scary but somehow also friendly and appealing.

Instrumentation — five players
Vibraphone
Marimba
Harpsichord (should be amplified or, instead, may be a digital keyboard harpsichord
sound)
Harp
Piano (a real piano is preferred, but a digital keyboard may be substituted if necessary)
EMMA AND THE BLUE BAKU

Libretto by
James Bradburne

Music by
Bruce Adolphe

SCENE I

The curtain rises on a park at sundown. Children, including Emma, are playing tag, hide-and-seek, skipping rope. In the background, hidden in the shadows, is a large adult male figure. He is the Baku.

Quickly, \( \dot{\text{\(\text{\(\text{\(=\)}}\}^3=380\)}} \)
You're it! You're it!
You can't catch me!

You can't catch me!

You can't catch me!

You can't catch me!

You can't catch me!
Ha ha Ha ha! Ha ha Ha ha!

You can't.
You count to one hundred! You won't find us! Ha ha Ha ha!

You won't find us! Ha ha Ha ha!

You won't find us! Ha ha Ha ha!

You won't find us! Ha ha Ha ha!
I'm here like ev'ry day I come to watch the children.
Ha ha Ha ha! Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!

Ha ha Ha ha!
You can't find me! Ha ha Ha ha!

What will they dream tonight?

You can't find me!
They don't like math.
love to play
But they will all grow up some day to

But they will all grow up some day to

love to play
But they will all grow up some day to

love to play
But they will all grow up some day to
Found you! Found you!
Ha ha Ha ha!

Found you! Found you!
Ha ha Ha ha!

Found you! Found you!

Found you! Found you!

Found you! Found you!

Found you! Found you!

Play
The girls now search for Emma but cannot find her.
If you'd been where I had been, you would not be out!
Emma's mother appears at the edge of the park
and signals for Emma to go to bed.

Emma slows reluctantly, looks to the other children,
who have stopped chasing and playing.
Emma,
Hurry up. It's really time to go to bed. You have a math test.

Mother
freely, recitative:
Emma leaves the park and goes home with her mother.

Emma leaves the park and goes home.

SCENE II
Flowing gently $q = 64$
Go to bed.
You have a math test tomorrow and you need your sleep.

MOTHER tucks Emma into a large bed.

Emma slowly changes into her pyjamas.
Mother picks up Emma’s math book from the bedside table and reads:

In number theory a perfect number is a positive integer that is equal to the sum of its factors, that is, the sum of its positive divisors, excluding the number itself. It follows that a perfect number is a number that is half the sum of all of its factors, including itself.
Mother leaves, turning out the light. Emma turns on her side, sighs and goes to sleep.

[Scene III]

The Baku appears.

If you could be blue, you would be, too.

Restlessly $\frac{3}{4} = 112$
If dreams were
meals not thoughts on wheels
you'd get a knife and fork and tuck in too!

The greatest treat is when dreams are sweet and
But when dreams turn scary, don't stick around but
bad, or sad, don't stick around
I feed on dreams with rasp-y tongue.
I can't eat meat nor...
I a woke
under temple

shoots, nor leaves

young in the rising sun where cherries bloomed under temple eaves

I roam the
dream - scape ev - ry night_____ in search,_____ of tast - y

tuck!____ But when

dreams are scar - y,____ bad, or
sad, I'm really out of luck!
Emma rolls over, her eyes still closed in sleep.

Emma is in bed, asleep.

SCENE IV
Slowly, mysteriously \( \cdot = 60 \)
DREAM 1: Emma's four friends, plus a fifth child who is dressed as Emma, come running into her room and race around her bed.

Quickly $\frac{4}{4} = 380$

They tumble happily on the floor together, get up again and begin to create tableaux vivants.
They form Botticelli's _Primavera_.

They form a picnic, Manet's _Déjeuner sur l'herbe_. The Baku sneaks up on the playing children as they create the tableaux vivants.
They form Michelangelo's *David* ...
The Baku is ready to eat the children in the dream!

First child is eaten.

(on the low chord!)
Second child is eaten.

Third child is eaten.
Fourth child is eaten.

The dream ends, the Baku disappears. Emma tosses and turns in her bed, then sits bolt upright, blinking her eyes, confused and upset.
SCENE V

She turns on the light.

Dreamily = 66

The faster it fades, like a candle's flame, the last glowing ember.

She turns on the light, like the first winter snowflake.
Perusal

Emma

like the taste of a peach.

Vib.

Why are dreams so hard to remember?

Hp.
Mother leaves, turning out the light.

Mother,

Em- ma, why are- n't you a- sleep? To- mor- row is a

school day and you'll be worn out for your math test! Go to

sleep this min- ute!

SCENE VI

Mother leaves, turning out the light.

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.

SCENE VI
Emma gets into bed...

...and quickly falls asleep.

Quickly \( \text{s} = 380 \)

DREAM II: The four children play a game with the dream Emma. They gather in a circle, and put their fists in the middle.

Out goes Bet-ty Blue

Bet-ty Blue won't go!
Emma is "it" and chases her friends around the room.

So out goes you!
Each time Emma tags a friend and she freezes, the Baku eats the child.

First child (Child IV) is devoured.

(on the low chord)
Second child (Child III) is eaten.

Third child (Child II) is eaten.

Second child (Child III) is eaten.

Third child (Child II) is eaten.

Second child (Child III) is eaten.

Third child (Child II) is eaten.

Second child (Child III) is eaten.

Third child (Child II) is eaten.

Second child (Child III) is eaten.

Third child (Child II) is eaten.
The last child left (Child I), however, before she is eaten, turns to Emma.
Some times it's not e nough to dream, to fan-ta-size, to

plan to scheme!
much more fun to do something, take a risk, try something new! Try something
At times like these
The dream ends and
what matters most is friends!
Quickly $\lambda = 380$

Child I

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.

Last child (Child I) is devoured!
Perusal

Perusal

Perusal

SCENE VII

Dreamily, $\dot{=} 66$

Why are dreams so hard to re

Emma

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.

SCENE VII

Dreamily, $\dot{=} 66$

Em - ma! This is the

Emma’s mother appears at the door

Emma’s mother appears at the door

Mem ber?

355
last time I will tell you, turn off the light and go to sleep!

I don't want to hear you whining to-mor-row that you're too tired to go to school.

Remember you have a big math test to-mor-row.
SCENE VIII: Nightmare

Slowly, mysteriously $\frac{1}{4} = 60$

The four children torment Emma in her nightmare.

Quickly, meanly $\frac{1}{4} = 380$

Emma goes back to bed and falls asleep.
They circle Emma's bed making faces, and try to pull her out from under the covers. She rolls over, without opening her eyes. The children continue to circle, chanting and making even more frightful faces, first further away, then closer, in a very threatening and scary dance. Lightning is seen outside, and there is an ominous rumble...
Beat you! Eat you!
Beat you! Eat you!
Beat you! Eat you!
Beat you! Eat you!
Boil you up! Suck your brains and then we'll sup! Tear your hair and pull your ears!
We're the sum of all your fears! Snag you! Gag you!
Beat you up! Break your arms and tie them up! Roast your feet and toast your toes!
We're the sum of all your woes! Pinch you! Squinch you!
Press you flat! Tear your coat and snitch your hat! You think you're smart but now think twice! For

Press you flat! Break your arms and tie them up! You think you're smart but now think twice! For

Press you flat! Break your arms and tie them up! You think you're smart but now think twice! For

Press you flat! Break your arms and tie them up! You think you're smart but now think twice! For

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Press you flat! Break your arms and tie them up! You think you're smart but now think twice! For
The Baku tries to sneak up on each child in turn as they torment Emma, but he recoils with a look of disgust on his face – they don’t taste good at all! He tries repeatedly, nibbling their toes and the tops of their heads, but the result is the same – he backs away with a look of disgust on his face, illuminated by the flashes of lightning.
I'm a gentle blue Baku, I have manners, I have charm, I don't make noise, I wipe my
chirn, I tip-toe soft-ly when I come in.

always choose the sweet-est dreams, they're al-so best to eat, But to-night the dreams are scar-y______
There's nothing I can do.
432

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.
Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.
SCENE IX

A thunder clap is heard.
Emma sits bolt upright in bed,
She sees the Baku. The nightmare
children scatter, leaving the Baku forlorn,
isolated, and rubbing his tummy.

He signals to Emma to join him.
Emma hesitates, not knowing if he is dangerous.
He beckons again, and Emma slowly leaves
her bed and approaches the Baku.
The Baku moves towards Emma,
and stretches out his hands to her.
She recoils at first, then reaches out
to hold his hands. They dance.

Mother enters and watches Emma.
She does not see the Baku, but she can tell
that Emma is having a strange dream, perhaps
a disturbing one.

SCENE IX

Mother enters and watches Emma.
She does not see the Baku, but she can tell
that Emma is having a strange dream, perhaps
a disturbing one.
I know it can't be easy being blue.
The best and
I know it isn't easy.

All well and good to make a feast of children's dreams.

Dreams are sweet they don't...

The truest things are blue: the sky, the sea, and the Baku.
Now I understand why you are so blue.

The Baku disappears.
SCENE X

Slowly, sweetly \( \frac{4}{4} \) = 60

\( \text{freely, parlando} \)

Emma does not answer.

Mother

\( \text{Em-ma, were you hav-ing a night-} \)
\( \text{mare-} \) a-bout your math test?

Mother

\( \text{You can ne-} \) ver- dis-ap-point me if you do your best.

\( \text{I love-} \) you

Mother

\( \text{You are my per-fect num ber-} \)

Vib.

Mar.

Hp.

\( \text{You are my per-fect num ber-} \)
Go to sleep, my love,

less twenty

because you are eight.

You are the

sum of all

my facts...

Go to sleep,

my love...

it's late.

You

Gently Flowing $\frac{3}{4} = 147$
Perusal

Mother - are my perfect number

Vib.

Mar.

H.

Moving forward \( \frac{3}{4} = 80 \)

Mother

I remember you at two years old, a toddler falling on all fours.

Vib.

Mar.

And then a wide-eyed four-year-old,
ex- ploring out-of-doors,

Too quick-ly se- ven, just last year, all too soon, you'll be four-teen!
and then you're off to college. All those years, just like a dream.

On the outside we get older, inside we stay the same.
The years go by, but

to ourselves our childhood dreams re-

Mother

Vib.

Mar.

Hp.
She tucks Emma into bed and kisses her goodnight.

Mother leaves the room, closing the door behind her. Emma turns on her side and falls asleep, smiling.

SCENE XI

Mother leaves the room, closing the door behind her. Emma turns on her side and falls asleep, smiling.
Emma’s friends return to play around the bed, and Emma joins them. They play a very happy game of tag, chasing and tumbling. Her four friends join hands to make a circle and Emma runs around them, her arms outstretched. Slowly she lifts off the ground, and flies above her friends, as they assemble and re-assemble into clearly recognisable geometrical forms, a juvenile Esther Williams synchronised ballet.
I can circles—I run around in circles,
but it seems that I can fly like a pilot in an airplane,
or a sparrow in the sky as I get ever higher.
I see shapes beneath my feet
my friends are forms and

figures, they make my dream so sweet
Just right! at least right-er than the rest
It's made of friends all holding hands my friends are just the best!

They make a perfect square, its diagonal root two Pythagoras' constant is
friend-ship through and through.

Emma

A cir-cle's e-ven bet-ter as cir-cu-lar as pie,

Vib.

599

the per-fect shape for friend-ship I can see it as I fly!

Mar.

Emma

Pno.

596
Archimedes' constant never ends.

Others keep us soaring.
At last, we reach the real point, for nothing's what it
Perusal to our dreams and shining - The future's bright - and shining -

other people - are the secrets - to our dreams
Emma descends; the children invite her to join them, making space for her in the circle and they dance together.

As the children dance, the Baku appears. He wants to devour the children one at a time, but stops himself each time. He wants to leave Emma her sweetest dream, her friends. He is having intense self-doubt.
Slowly he moves away from the circle of children into the shadows.
He sings to himself:

It's not my fault
I need to feed on children's dreams so sweet.
But all the same

they'll need them if they want their challenges to meet.
To plan their
Baku

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.

plans, to play their games to do their sums just right, I guess I'll be a
hungry beast on ev’ry second night. That way, they’ll grow.
they'll laugh and play; they'll make the world anew. They may find trouble.
on the way, but they'll know just what to do.
Emma wakes up. She looks around and rubs her eyes, confused. She looks for the Baku, but the room is empty.

Emma wakes up. She looks around and rubs her eyes, confused. She looks for the Baku, but the room is empty.
Emma is reluctant to go to school. You'll do fine on your
Mother

math test.

Vib.

She kisses Emma.

Mar.

She sends her off to school.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.
Emma is gone. The Baku appears, along with the dream children, to Emma's Mother.

Dreamily $j = 64$

Mother

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.

Pno.

I want to stay in bed and dream but I must go to work to-day. I don't want to go and

To dream is good.
work but I can't stay in bed and sleep. I'd rather stay at home and sleep yet I can't

To dream is fine. Perhaps

Mother
Baku
Vib.
Mar.
Hpsd.
Hp.
dream my life a way and dream of playing Hide and Seek the way I did when I was young.

you need a rest. Lie down a while and
Mother

Child I

Child II

Child III

Child IV

Baku

Vib.

Mar.

Hpsd.

Hp.
Child I

And dream of Hide and Seek.

Child II

And dream of Hide and Seek.

Child III

And dream of Hide and Seek.

Child IV

And dream of Hide and Seek.

Baku

down a while and sleep.
Emma’s Mother’s knees buckle, and she collapses gently onto the bed.
Emma’s dream friends tuck the covers up to Mother’s chin. Mother is fast asleep, and snores quietly, a smile on her face.
SCENE XIII

Emma and her friends are sitting at their desks in school, ready to take the math test.

Quickly, $\frac{q}{4} = 380$
EMMA:

In my dream, as I got high er____ I could
see the shapes below,
My friends were forms and figures;
that's all I need to
The triangle is first, made of angles and sides, a -
cute, obtuse, isosceles, each angle justified.
One triangle's just right,
at least, right-er than the rest, A and B is C, all squared,
I'm sure I'll pass the test!
A perfect square comes second

It's diagonal, root two.
Pythagoras be proud of me, I'm constant and true blue.
A circle's even better, as circular as pi, a
I could see it from the sky!
Ar - chi - med - es' con - stant_ a num - ber craz - y as they come, cir
cumference to diameter no one could say I'm dumb!

At
last we reach the point! The point is all there is. It's every where and nowhere.
Children in Math Class join in
(They are like the dream children suddenly)

and it finishes this quiz!

Thanks to

Thanks to

Thanks to

Thanks to

(They are like the dream children suddenly)
I've kept a dream so

you, my blue Baku,

you, oh blue Baku,

you, oh blue Baku,

you, oh blue Baku,

you, oh blue Baku,
That will help me every day to face each challenge that I
That will help every day to face each challenge that we
That will help every day to face each challenge that we
That will help every day to face each challenge that we
## The Learning Maestros Series
*Composed by Bruce Adolphe*

### Piano/ Keyboard

#### PIANO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piano Solo</th>
<th>X410101 City Sounds</th>
<th>HL42666</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piano Solo</th>
<th>X410088 Well, It's Not Exactly Beethoven</th>
<th>HL42365</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romanticomic fantasia on &quot;Fur Elise&quot; for piano.</td>
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### Strings

#### STRING ENSEMBLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>String Quartet</th>
<th>X504076 Farmony</th>
<th>HL42698</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A short interactive string quartet especially for youth concerts where kids in the audience pretend to be farm animals. Written for Sharon Roffman and the Stone Barns Quartet.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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### Woodwind

#### OBOE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oboe Solo with Keyboard</th>
<th>X121008 Into a Cloud</th>
<th>HL42355</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A brief fable with optional narration from The Learning Maestros catalog. About a teenage boy named Lan Tsai Ho whose character is portrayed in the oboist.</td>
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### Scores

#### Orchestra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X077559 Carnival of the Creatures</th>
<th>HL42625</th>
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<tr>
<td>Premiere by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra 2/12/11</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>X077532 Aeh for Chamber Orchestra</th>
<th>HL42416</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned and premiered by the Park Avenue Symphony, this short piece is suitable for amateur and professional chamber orchestras alike.</td>
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#### Chamber Orchestra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X077538 The Purple Palace for Narrator and Chamber Orchestra</th>
<th>HL42442</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A musical tale for young audiences. In the land of Chromatica where everything is light and color, the selfish Queen Purple banishes all the other colors but diversity and tolerance ultimately triumph.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X077530 Tyrannosaurus Sue: A Cretaceous Concerto</th>
<th>HL42398</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel back 67 million years and discover the life and times of Tyrannosaurus Sue as she competes with a tricky Troodon, chases a Parasaurolophus, and battles with a menacing Triceratops!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mixed Ensembles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X060405 Drumming a Dream for Four Players, Narrator, and Indian Dancers</th>
<th>HL42619</th>
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<tr>
<th>X060609 Self Comes to Mind</th>
<th>HL42393</th>
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<tr>
<th>X060601 The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses</th>
<th>HL42395</th>
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<tr>
<th>X060602 The Tiger's Ear: Listening to Abstract Paintings</th>
<th>HL42396</th>
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<tr>
<th>X060621 Tough Turkey in the Big City</th>
<th>HL42397</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A charming and funny Thanksgiving tale featuring the bass trombone as the protagonist, Tom the Turkey.</td>
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</table>

#### Woodwind Ensembles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X015020 Zephyronia</th>
<th>HL42399</th>
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</table>

#### Brass Ensembles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X029011 Santa and Isolde: A Holiday Opera Fantasy for Brass</th>
<th>HL42623</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned by The Metropolitan Opera Brass, Santa and Isolde brilliantly combines popular Christmas and Hanukah tunes with well-known opera themes creating a thoroughly enjoyable holiday delight.</td>
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#### String Ensembles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X054060 Farmony</th>
<th>HL42697</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>A short interactive string quartet especially for youth concerts where kids in the audience pretend to be farm animals. Written for Sharon Roffman and the Stone Barns Quartet.</td>
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#### Choral - Conductor/ Full Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X90430 Reach Out, Raise Hope, Change Society: A Cantata in Ten Movements</th>
<th>HL42626</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composed for the 90th Anniversary of the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan</td>
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#### Vocal Solo/Soli & Chamber Ensemble

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X078080 Let Freedom Sing: The Story of Marian Anderson</th>
<th>HL42392</th>
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Questions/ comments? Write to: info@laurenkeisermusic.com