

# LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

## Author

Flack, Roberta  
With Tonya Bolden

## Illustrator

Illustrated by Hayden  
Goodman

## Reviewer

Baker, Laura

## Pages

Unpaged

## Price

\$18.99

## ISBN

978-0-593-47987-2

## Publisher & Date

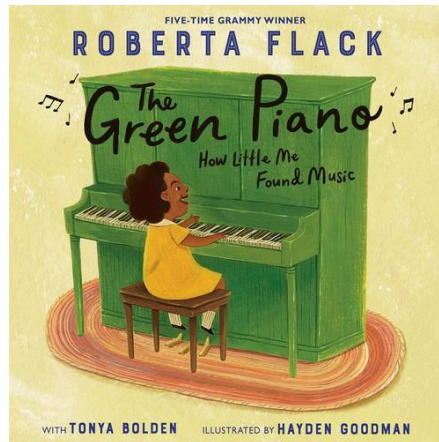
Anne Schwartz Books, 2023

## Classification

Nonfiction (782.42164092 or  
biography)

## Grade Level

K-2



## Book Review: GREEN PIANO: HOW LITTLE ME FOUND MUSIC, THE

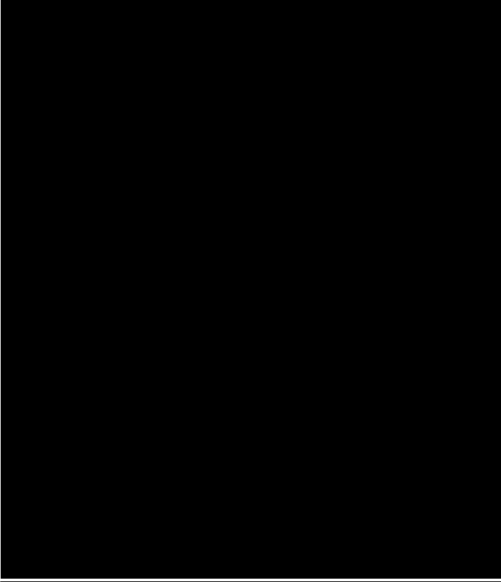
Pop music singer Roberta Flack tells of her music-filled childhood in this inspirational story. Roberta was part of a musical family of limited means but big on love. Her parents often played casually on their own or with neighbors. Roberta first began reaching for the piano at church when she was age three or four, and the feel of the piano never left her. When her daddy found a worn-out, beat-up piano in a junkyard, he brought it home and painstakingly fixed it up, painting it green as the finishing touch. Roberta "couldn't wait, couldn't wait, couldn't WAIT" to play it. She went on to make music her life, eventually winning five Grammy awards and composing and performing countless hit songs. But always she remembered the blessing of that green piano from childhood.

This is a story not only of a noted singer and songwriter but also of the power of music and the joy that comes from playing. Most of the story dwells on Roberta's childhood and how she loved music and yearned for every chance to play. One especially powerful illustration shows Roberta at the piano, eyes closed and with a big smile, as the colors representing the music literally swirl around and through her. When the green piano is finally ready to play, readers experience



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Children's and Young Adults' Books



Roberta's joy at the piano, "already a part of me, notes flowing through my fingers, to my body, to my soul."

A substantial author's note at the end recaps Roberta's career and allows her to thank the special people in her life who helped her. She urges readers to find their own "green piano," whatever that might be, and not to lose sight of their dreams. This soulful book about a musical legend will inspire and encourage both music lovers and anyone else who wants to pursue a passion.

