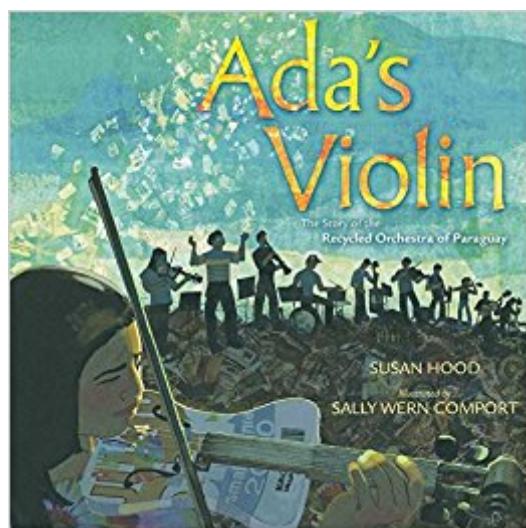


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# Ada's Violin: The Story Of The Recycled Orchestra Of Paraguay



## Synopsis

From award-winning author Susan Hood and illustrator Sally Wern Comport comes the extraordinary true tale of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay, an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash. Ada RÃƒÂ±os grew up in Cateura, a small town in Paraguay built on a landfill. She dreamed of playing the violin, but with little money for anything but the bare essentials, it was never an option...until a music teacher named Favio ChÃƒÂ¡vez arrived. He wanted to give the children of Cateura something special, so he made them instruments out of materials found in the trash. It was a crazy idea, but one that would leave AdaÃ¢â€žâ¢ and her townÃ¢â€žâ¢ forever changed. Now, the Recycled Orchestra plays venues around the world, spreading their message of hope and innovation.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers (May 3, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481430955

ISBN-13: 978-1481430951

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.4 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,191 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Recycling & Green Living #1 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Instruments #1 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Classical

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2Ã¢â€žâ¢ â€œ5Ã¢â€žâ¢ â€•Hood tells the story of a real child growing up in an actual placeÃ¢â€žâ¢ â€•CateuraÃ¢â€žâ¢ â€•a community of people who live and feed themselves by picking through the tons of trash generated by the capital city of AsunciÃƒÂ³n, Paraguay, and salvaging items to recycle and sell. Despite her bleak surroundings, Ada RÃƒÂ±os liked to imagine each garbage truck was "a box of surprises. One never knew what might be inside." When Ada was 11, a

man named Favio Chávez started to hold music classes for the local young people. Since there weren't enough instruments to go around and they were too precious for the kids to take them home to practice, the project seemed doomed to be short-lived. Watching the children play amid the rubble gave Señor Chávez an idea. He enlisted the help of the gancheros (recyclers), and they fashioned cellos from oil drums, flutes out of water pipes, and guitars from packing crates. Ada chose a violin made from an old paint can, an aluminum baking tray, a fork, and pieces of wooden crates. Through hard work and long hours of practice over time, she and the rest of the ragtag crew of kids formed the Recycled Orchestra, and the rest is history, as they've grown and made a name for themselves internationally. Comport's mixed-media collages are nothing short of brilliant as she plays with light and dark throughout. The spreads capture the look and feel of the cramped and stinking landfill, the oppressive heat, and the hardscrabble lives of the residents. They also convey the resourcefulness and warmth of the families and the aspirations of the children. The scenes of the kids embracing their instruments and sharing their joy at making music are absolutely transcendent. "With her violin, Ada could close her eyes and imagine a different life. She could soar on the high, bright, bittersweet notes to a place far away. She could be who she was meant to be."

**VERDICT** A virtuoso piece of nonfiction, gloriously told and illustrated. —Luann Toth, *School Library Journal*

"The mixed-media collages are a particular effective medium for this true story, layering images of Ada and the orchestra over the landfill. The nuances of the subject may strike a stronger chord with adults rather than children, but the interesting visuals and the underlying message of hope and perseverance should help this find an audience." (Booklist)"Comport's complex, digitally enhanced collages combine acrylics, drawing, and layered typographic elements, conveying both the oppressive omnipresence of garbage and the functional beauty of the handcrafted instruments. . . . Pair with the suggested video links to experience the music of a remarkable, resilient cultural community." (Kirkus Reviews)\*"A virtuoso piece of nonfiction, gloriously told and illustrated." (School Library Journal, Starred Review)\* "Comport (Love Will See You Through) employs a vibrant collage technique to form colorful, almost ethereal backdrops. . . [An] uplifting, instructive story." (Publishers Weekly, Starred Review)"The illustrations, compilations of torn paper, paint, and pen and ink illustrations, add to the feeling of being within the landfill, and are a beautiful representation of the location...Highly Recommended." (School Library Connection)Recipient of the E.B. White Read Aloud Award

I love stories like that told in Ada's Violin. While the story begins in a shantytown built around a garbage dump and seems like it will be depressing, that quickly changes when Favio Chavez arrives to teach the local children to play musical instruments. The problem is that none of these children's families can afford a music instrument, especially since they are all struggling just to survive. So, what do they do? They create instruments out of garbage. The ingenuity expressed in the creation of these instruments is truly inspiring. And Comport's beautiful illustrations show this wonderfully. The amount of work the children and their teacher undergo to develop their musical ability in the midst of hardship and heat and the smell of garbage. Amazingly enough, this seemingly simple idea changed not only their town, but the world beyond. I love stories like this one because they remind me that no matter how ugly the world can get, there is still hope. A beautifully told, truly inspiring true story about the impact that one person or small group of people can have on the world around them.

Wow, this book will touch your heart and inspire you, no matter what age you are! You may have seen the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay on 60 Minutes or elsewhere, but now here is a beautifully written and illustrated picture book about them, told through the eyes of one participant, Ada Rios. I loved it! Ada lives with her family in a landfill (!) in Cateura, Paraguay. An environmental engineer (Favio Chavez), sent to work on the landfill, wants to help the children there and offers free music lessons. Instruments are devised from materials collected from the garbage, the children learn musical skills and discipline, and an orchestra is born that shares beauty, hope and inspiration. The writing is lovely (Ada "could soar on the high, bright, bittersweet notes to a place far away. She could be who she was meant to be."), and the illustrations are full-page and powerful. The author includes notes, links, sources and a quote from Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." This book is a wonderful way to share this idea with children.

This is a really beautiful book and inspired my family to research more about the Recycled Orchestra. It opened my children's eyes up to a part of the world they had never considered and to realities that were almost unimaginable for them, but that led to good discussion and a greater compassion. It's a story of great hope and optimism that will leave Mom and Dad as moved as their children.

My third and fourth graders loved hearing this story read aloud! I read it the same day the students

made recycled instruments with the art teacher during a whole-school "arts integration celebration day." There are several videos on YouTube about this particular group, including a 60 Minutes segment with interviews from Ada and her family, as well as other members of this orchestra. LOTS to supplement a read aloud lesson if you have the time!

An amazing story, which carries an important life message of both persistence and perseverance. I have used the book in conjunction with videos as an extension lesson in my Spanish classroom to demonstrate the importance of becoming bilingual, which for some is difficult and requires a lot of work. In addition, as a science geek, I am tremendously passionate about the environment and take every opportunity to make students see the necessity to care for the environment! What better way than to make "Music" out of trash!

It is a poignant and heartwarming book that is wonderfully inspirational. I highly recommend it!! watched the 60 Minutes special on it that is on You tube which gave more background on the orchestra. Great to use in the classroom or with your own children.

A great story about ideals and creativity. Shared with a senior who knows members of the area's acclaimed orchestra and June Music Festival. She loved it and asked us to order one for her.

Wonderful book with excellent message.

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