

## WHISTLING ON A RAINY DAY

(Inspired by *The Penny Whistle* by George Harcourt)

'Oh John, when are you going to let me have a go?'

'Sophie, you wouldn't know what to play. Besides aren't you reading your book?'

'Mother said you were to allow me a go. After all, papa did buy it for both of us.'

John played on and when Sophie annoyed him by tugging his sleeve, he deliberately played out of tune. John viewed the penny whistle as an extension of the recorder he had mastered through expert tuition from his school music master, Mr Hudson.

'And what precisely are you playing, John?'

'What? You don't know Mozart when you hear it? It's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik of course.'

'Well, I would never have guessed,' said Sophie looking up to the ceiling and breaking into hysterics. 'I think Herr Mozart's music is safe from you!'

John stopped playing with an abrupt high pitch from the penny whistle. He passed the instrument over to Sophie who wasted no time in performing her own favourite tune.

'And what might that be?' said a grumpy John.

'Bach!'

'Yes, I know it's Bach, but which one?'

'Oh lord, must I spell it out to you? It's J.S. Bach's toccata!'

'I never would have guessed,' said John sarcastically.

'Then we are even, but at least I play in tune which is better than you dear brother! And to think, you are supposed to be the next great composer.'

'May I remind you that very few great composers seldom played an instrument, let alone anything in tune on a musical instrument.'

'Is that so?' queried Sophie. 'Who may they be?'

'Tchaikovsky for one. Berlioz for another. Even Schumann was not proficient on piano until he received lessons, so Mr Hudson says. I do not intend to be the same,' said John confidently.

He snatched the penny whistle from Sophie's grasp, and she let out a scream which John, note perfect, repeated on the instrument in hand.

'Now children! said Nanny entering the room. 'The rain has gone. Time you went outside and John, stop that infuriating noise at once! Your father is working in his study.'