

Meryl Streep
Narration

George Winston
Piano

The Velveteen Rabbit

Narration and Music

1. *The Velveteen Rabbit* (piano solo) (1:01)
2. *Christmas* (1:47)
3. *The Toys* (1:35)
4. *The Skin Horse* (2:52)
5. *Nana* (0:30)
6. *Lullaby* (2:54)
7. *Spring* (2:27)
8. *Summer* (1:19)
9. *Summer Evening* and *The Rabbit Dance* (3:04)
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10. *Alone* (piano solo) (1:01)
11. *Shabbiness Doesn't Matter* (1:35)
12. *Anxious Moments* (2:20)
13. *Loneliness* and *The Fairy* (3:38)
14. *Flying* (2:29)
15. *Returning* (1:18)
16. *The Velveteen Rabbit* (piano solo) (2:39)

Piano solos without narration

17. *The Velveteen Rabbit* (1:00)
18. *Christmas* (1:46)
A short version of the traditional Ukrainian carol, *Carol of the Bells*. A longer version appears on George Winston's solo piano recording DECEMBER.
19. *The Toys* (1:35)
This piece, which is titled *Itsuki No Komoriuta (Lullaby of Komoriuta)*, is a traditional song which comes from a region in southern Japan. A longer version appears on George's solo piano recording FOREST.
20. *The Skin Horse* (0:51)
21. *This Magic Called Real* (0:31)
22. *Lullaby (Sandman)* (2:54)
23. *Spring (The Velveteen Rabbit)* (2:27)
24. *Summer* (1:19)
25. *Summer Evening* (0:49)
26. *The Rabbit Dance* (1:08)
This piece is a short version of the song *Tamarack Pines*. The full song appears on George's solo piano recording FOREST.
27. *Alone* (1:08)

A short version of the song *Moon*. The full song appears on George's solo piano recording AUTUMN.

28. *Shabbiness Doesn't Matter* (1:09)

29. *Anxious Moments – Part 1* (1:20)

30. *Loneliness* (2:22)

A version of the piece *Thanksgiving*. The original version of this song appears on George's solo piano recording DECEMBER.

31. *Anxious Moments – Part 2/The Fairy* (0:50)

32. *Flying* (2:31)

33. *Returning/The Velveteen Rabbit* (4:00)

34. **BONUS TRACK:** *Night Thoughts* (4:33)

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Love Made it Real –By original producer Mark Sottnick

www.rabbitears.com/page/our_company

There are few pleasures greater than being read to as a child, except perhaps the honor of reading a great story to a child.

My interest in storytelling for children evolved out of different phases in my own life. As a kid in Philadelphia, I loved two things: playing baseball and listening to stories, in that order. I fondly remember as a young boy listening to my mother read and sing to me. She seemed to be such a wonderful singer; I just couldn't understand why she wasn't on TV or the radio for all to hear. Later, as an adult, I would listen to my mother sing, and I realized that, in fact, she really had quite an ordinary voice. But as a child, I had listened to my mother's singing with "ears of love."

During the seventies, I taught science and film to junior high students in Rhode Island. Here were these kids with extraordinary imaginations and unbelievable storytelling instincts, especially when it came to why they needed a hall pass. And yet they were completely underserved by the media products available to them – there was a real lack of quality programming for kids and their families.

And then along came my two daughters: I desperately wanted them to have something better than Saturday morning cartoons. After returning to college to earn a Master's Degree, I spent a few years producing independent children's films. Finally in 1985, my wife Doris and I decided to repaint our kitchen table and call it a production office. Shortly thereafter we set out on our first project: to produce an audio recording of what I had always considered a genuine classic – Margery Williams' THE VELVETEEN RABBIT. I chose this story because I wanted children to hear a wonderful story *about* love told *with* love. Thinking back to my own childhood, I wanted the listener, child or adult, to feel the tenderness, strength and wisdom of a loving mother. Meryl Steep was my choice to narrate the story, and her wise reading evokes feelings of comfort and serenity.

His gentle, calm, assured playing proved to be the perfect accompaniment to Meryl Streep's voice. The happy result is this lovely, beautiful duet.

The video of THE VELVETEEN RABBIT aired nationally on PBS, and the audio and video components went on to win numerous honors, among them a Grammy nomination for Best Children's Recording and numerous awards,

including the prestigious Action for Children's Television and Parent's Choice.

Ultimately, 60 titles* were produced by Rabbit Ears, each chosen for their enduring and universal appeal. Between 1985 and 1996, Rabbit Ears titles received two Grammy Awards, 18 Grammy Award nominations, 21 Parent's Choice Awards, seven Action for Children's Television Awards, a Humanitas Prize and National Education Association Award among many others.

Great literature almost always has one common feature: the stories were written or told for a special child. PETER RABBIT, ALICE IN WONDERLAND and THE HOBBIT are each, in their own way, a love poem to a particular child. THE VELVETEEN RABBIT was my two daughters' favorite story. And this recording is an expression of my love for them.

---Mark Sottnick

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Notes by George Winston

"Mark Sottnick was a visionary, and I am very happy I had a chance to participate in this project. I loved the way he produced the 60 videos, retaining the feeling of a book, with beautiful illustrations gradually segueing from one to another - giving the effect of a parent reading a story to a child, and letting the child's imagination come into play. He brought together many great narrators, musicians and illustrators to create a beautiful library of classic children's stories. I have recorded three of the many great songs from these productions: *Fragrant Fields*, by pianist Art Lande, from THE THREE BILLY GOAT'S GRUFF story, which is on my album SUMMER; *Love Theme for a Ballerina*, by Mark Isham, from THE STEADFAST TIN SOLDIER story, which is on the album FOREST; and *Thumbelina*, by Mark Isham, from the THUMBELINA story, which is on the album MONTANA – A LOVE STORY. Also, dance companies are invited to use the piano solos gratis for stage productions of THE VELVETEEN RABBIT. ---George Winston

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***You can find the following information on THE VELVETEEN RABBIT page online at www.georgewinston.com:**

- In 2002, the Ballet Arts Center in Scotts Valley, CA brought the story of THE VELVETEEN RABBIT to life through a children's theatre production. Learn more about this performance and others, including stories, reviews, pictures and video clips.
- A list of the 60+ titles of the classic children's stories produced by Mark Sottnick for Rabbit Ears.
- More information about the author of THE VELVETEEN RABBIT, Margery Williams.

Produced by Mark Sottnick, Clay Stites and George Winston

Music composed and/or arranged by George Winston

Recorded July and December 1984

Engineered by Howard Johnston

Music published by Dancing Cat Music (BMI) or Imaginary Road Music (BMI)/Dancing Cat Music (BMI)

Illustrations by David Jorgensen

Calligraphy by Raphael Boguslav

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT is based on the story written in 1922 by Margery Williams.

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION CREDITS:

20th Anniversary Edition produced by George Winston

Bonus track: *Night Thoughts* recorded in 1999.

Engineered by Howard Johnston & Justin Lieberman

Assembly & no-noise engineers: Howard Johnston & Justin Lieberman

Mastered by Bernie Grundman at Bernie Grundman Mastering, Hollywood, CA

Sonic wizard: Ron Rigler

Enhanced CD developed by Tom Leone at Metropolis Video

Sheet music transcription of *Returning/The Velveteen Rabbit* for the enhanced CD by Tom Bochold and George Winston

Graphic design by Lynn Piquett, Santa Cruz, CA

DANCING CAT RECORDS & HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR

George Winston is recording many of the masters of Hawaiian Slack Key guitar for Dancing Cat Records. Slack Key is the name for the beautiful solo finger-style guitar tradition unique to the Islands, which began in the early 1800s and pre-dates the better-known steel guitar by half a century.

For more information about Slack Key, to hear song samples and to order online any recordings available on Dancing Cat Records, visit our website at www.dancingcat.com, which includes an eight section information booklet on Hawaiian Slack Key guitar. If you would like to be on Dancing Cat's mailing list, or if you have any questions about Slack Key guitar, email us at ml@dancingcat.com.

A poster of THE VELVETEEN RABBIT cover is available at George Winston's concerts. All proceeds will benefit local food banks.

Set 1 – Narration with music

Set 2 – Piano solos without narration

-Parents' Choice - Parents' Choice Award for Recording

-National Association of Record Manufacturers (NARM) - Best selling children's album