The Animal Concert!

A story to read, listen to and enact!

Bruno Balzano

Narrator: Hi! Do you know where we are? This is the most fabulous garden of the whole animal kingdom! A long time ago, right in this park, a little dog walked in pulling along a piano.

The dog ran back and forth with its paws on the keyboard, swaying his head to the rhythm and closing his eyes to grasp the beauty of the music. The atmosphere was so mellifluous and sublime that even the birds sat quiet and listened.
But look who's coming! It's a Lama!

Lama: What catchy music! Wouldn't it would be great if I could just tune in?

Dog: Hey! Stop that screeching! Can't you see that I'm playing a piano?! Go somewhere else to blow into that funny wooden raft!

Lama: My dear friend, these are not simple pieces of wood! This is a pan flute. It's a typical instrument in my Country. Listen to the beautiful sounds it makes. Can't you hear the wind whispering a lullaby?

Dog: Not bad at all! Why not try playing a duet?

Narrator: While the duet continued playing, a monkey poked out from behind a bush.

Monkey: Ullallà, listen to that duet! Wouldn't it be great if I could just tune in?

Dog: Hey Monkey! What's all that noise? Can't you see that the two of us are playing music? Go somewhere else to beat on those old wooden cans...

Monkey: These aren't wooden cans! They're called bongos! Everyone plays them back home. Listen to their sound. Doesn't it remind you of your own heart chiming?

Close your eyes, open your ears.
Listen to the sound you hear.
Like bells in your heart a'ringing.
Follow the beat! Start singing!

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Like the bells in your heart a'ringing.
Follow the beat! Start singing!

Dog: Not bad at all! Let's make it a trio!

Narrator: The sounds reverberated through the atmosphere with so much harmony that the apples of an apple tree ripened all at once. But look who's coming now! A tiger!

Tiger: Wow! You can call that a concert! Wouldn't it be great if I could just tune in...?

Dog: Hey you! Are you kidding?! Get lost Tiger, and stop plucking on that wiry clothes hanger!

Tiger: This isn't a clothes hanger! It's a sitar, an ancient instrument we play back at home. Listen to the beautiful sounds it makes. Doesn't it sound like a crystal clear waterfall?

Dog: Yes! Indeed it is beautiful. Why not join us?!

Narrator: In no time at all the trio became a quartet! Now the music that filled the air was so sweet that a couple of crows stopped squawking and made peace. While the quartet was happily playing together a kangaroo hopped in.

kangaroo: Cool rhytmn, guys! Wouldn't it be great if I could just tune in?

Dog: Howdy friend! What kind of musical instrument are you playing?

Canguro: It's a mouth organ, and it's really popular in my country. Doesn't it sound like the sunset melting away?

Monkey: *How lovely! How enchanting!*

Tiger: *It's so romantic!*

Dog: *Why not play together? Join us my friend!*

Narrator: The melody became so graceful and all-pervasive that it reached the Queen of Nature, who woke up from her afternoon nap surprised to hear such a heavenly concert.

Queen: Where is this music coming from? Is it a dream or is it true? I'm going to see who is making such wondrous music.

Narrator: The Queen hadn't heard such beautiful music since she was a small girl, laughing and running about in the open fields.

Queen: Nothing can give me more joy than to know that peace and harmony prevail in my kingdom. It is the only way to create the sweetest music of the world...

Nothing can give me more joy than to hear,
that in my kingdom peace and love are dear.
Then only will diversity stand still
and harmony flow to its fill.
When' music's so pure and beauty so fine.
all creation will join in a melody divine.

Narrator: The Queen softly closed her eyes cuddled by the harmony of the instruments, and had the most beautiful dream of her life.