Performed by
Symphony Tacoma
Sarah Ioannides, conductor
Emily Laliotis, narrator

Music and story by Deborah J. Anderson
Illustrations by Erika Ray

Kitty’s Big Adventure tells the story of Emma who lives with her grandmother on an island by the sea. Emma’s pet Kitty continually teases Bad Max, the big dog who lives down the road. One day Kitty goes too far and Max chases her all the way to the ferry dock. What an exciting day it turns out to be!

This production features a recording of a past Symphony Tacoma performance accompanied by illustrations colored by local children. Kitty’s Big Adventure is part of Symphony Tacoma’s Mini Maestros concert series for kids 2 to 8.
Symphony Tacoma

***Building community through music.*** Inspiring audiences with live musical experiences that transcend tradition, Symphony Tacoma has been a vital part of Tacoma’s cultural landscape for more than 70 years. We are deeply committed to our role as one of the hubs of Tacoma’s cultural sector and dedicated to the belief that the community is made stronger and more vibrant by experiencing great music together. Under the musical direction of Sarah Ioannides, today’s Symphony Tacoma is a metropolitan professional symphony orchestra with more than 80 orchestral musicians and a volunteer chorus of 70 that keep live musical performance alive in the heart of the region. symphonytacoma.org

Kiddos and Kin – Kindermusik with Shay

Shay Ryan is an Early Childhood Music Specialist with a Level 1 certification and membership from the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association. She teaches all levels of Kindermusik at Kiddos and Kin, a music studio in downtown Tacoma. kiddosandkin.com

Anna Jensen, Education Specialist

Dr. Anna Jensen serves as Symphony Tacoma’s Education Specialist and Assistant Principal Double Bass. She is a sought-after teacher, performer and clinician in the Pacific Northwest. doublebassbridge.com

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Deborah J. Anderson, composer
Deborah grew up in Tacoma and began composing at the piano at age 6. In college she majored in languages, later serving in the Peace Corps (Tunisia) where she studied the Arabic ‘oud and popular Arabic songs. Later she fulfilled a life-long dream of learning to play the English Renaissance lute.

Deborah’s compositions range in setting from solo voice and choir to instrumental ensembles, solo works, duets, trios, chamber works, brass ensemble and symphonic band. She composes intuitively rather than intellectually and endeavors to engage the musicians as well as the audience in a stimulating flow of moods and experiences. Her compositions are performed world-wide.

Deborah served on the Symphony Tacoma Board of Directors from 2014 until 2020. She remains our dedicated friend and advocate and we are delighted to share Kitty’s Big Adventure with you.
deborahjanderson.com

Erika Ray, illustrator
We didn’t have to look far to find an illustrator for Kitty’s story. Deborah’s daughter, Erika Ray, is a visual artist specializing in paintings, drawings and clothing. Like her mother, Erika describes her work as intuitive. She earned a Certificate in Fashion Design & Construction from New York Fashion Academy and has shown her work widely in solo and group exhibitions in the Seattle and Tacoma area.
erika-ray.com

Celebrating our health care heroes,
now working together as one team.
There once was a little girl named Emma who lived with her grandmother on an island in the sea. They lived on a little farm with a horse named Norah, a donkey named Fritz, and a cat named Kitty. A small ferry boat came to the island twice a day.

Norah was an old horse who liked to stand in the shade by the barn, or over in the corner of the pasture under the trees. She loved apples. Sometimes Emma rode her around the island. It was a small island. At the end of the summer when the apples were ripe, Norah wanted to stop at every apple tree, and she begged Emma to pick one for her.

Fritz the donkey was very frisky and would not pay attention to you unless you had a carrot. Even then sometimes he would trick you. He would pretend to go along with you, then suddenly stop so you fell on your bottom.

Fritz was friends with the horse Norah, although sometimes he teased her because she was old and slow. He was a naughty donkey! Emma would scold him and rub Norah’s nose and give her a sugar cube to cheer her up.

Emma’s favorite was Kitty. Kitty was big and fluffy and had a big tail. Like all cats, Kitty would do anything you told her to do, except come when you called her for dinner. She liked to hang out in the woods, hunting mice and birds, chasing butterflies, taking a nap on a log in the sun. Sometimes, when Emma called her, Kitty did not come, but Fritz the donkey usually came, hoping for something to eat.

One time, Kitty did not come when Emma called and called. “Here, kitty, kitty, kitty. Here, kitty, kitty, kitty.”

Emma asked Grandma if she knew where Kitty was. Grandma had been busy baking chocolate chip cookies and taking care of the farm animals and garden. “No, I haven’t seen her. Why don’t you ask Fritz? He’s a busybody.”

So Emma asked Fritz. “Hee haw, if you give me a carrot, I will tell you.” And he kicked up his heels and grinned his donkey grin.

Emma went into the vegetable garden and pulled up a carrot. Fritz gobbled it up.

“Now will you tell me where Kitty is?” asked Emma.

“Oh yes, as a matter of fact, I saw her this morning heading towards the ferry dock,” said Fritz.
“Oh no, that means… she went past… Bad Max’s house!”

Bad Max was a big, bad dog who did not like cats.

“Yeah, and because Kitty felt like it, she teased Bad Max,” said Fritz. “Bad Max was so mad, he dug a hole under the fence and chased after her!”

“Oh no!”

Emma ran to Norah. “Norah, please take me to find Kitty! Bad Max got out of his yard and chased her towards the ferry dock!”

Norah said, “Okay, climb up on me.”

She went and stood by an old tree stump, and Emma climbed up. They set off.

“Norah, go faster!” said Emma.

“Ok, this is my fastest!” said Norah.

They rode past Bad Max’s house, and there he was, gnawing on a bone and grinning a dog grin.

Emma said. “My, what big teeth you have, Bad Max!”

“All the better to bite your cat!” said Bad Max.

“Oh no! You didn’t!”

“No, but I chased her all the way to the ferry dock and nipped her long tail. I’ll get her next time!”

Emma shouted, “Oh Norah, take me to the ferry dock! Hurry! Faster! Faster!”

“Oh, this is my fastest!” said Norah.

They went along, and all of a sudden Norah stopped. “Norah, don’t stop!”

“But here is an apple tree, with juicy red apples,” said Norah.

Emma reached up and picked one and put it in her sweatshirt pocket. “I’ll give it to you after we get to the ferry dock.”
Finally they arrived. Emma called, “Here, kitty, kitty, kitty. Here, kitty, kitty, kitty.”

But Kitty wasn’t there. Emma slid off Norah and started to run onto the ferry dock.

“Hey, what about my apple,” called Norah.

“Oh, here you are.” Emma tossed her the apple and kept searching the ferry dock.

No…

Kitty.

On the pilings in the water under the ferry dock she saw starfish. They were orangey pink and as big as her head! She even saw an octopus with its eight arms. Emma asked them, “Have you seen my kitty?”

But they didn’t answer. Emma was so sad. Then she heard the ferry horn and saw the ferry coming in. She decided she would ask the ferry man if he had seen Kitty.

When the ferry had almost arrived at the dock, Emma saw Kitty sitting on the railing. “Oh Kitty, there you are!”

Kitty was so excited to see Emma she jumped off the side into the water.

Now YOU tell ME, do cats like water? Noooo!

But Kitty bravely swam while Emma ran back down the dock and onto the beach. She waded in the water and grabbed Kitty. “Oh Kitty, I’m so glad you’re back!”

Emma took off her sweatshirt and wrapped Kitty in it.

Norah whinnied and said, “You naughty kitty! You teased Bad Max and he chased you all the way to the ferry! Well, let’s go home now.”

Emma asked the ferry man to boost her up onto Norah, and they set off. Of course, they had to stop again at the apple tree. Emma picked an apple and threw it ahead on the road, encouraging Norah to keep going.

As they approached Bad Max’s house, he barked and growled and ran up and down his yard. Kitty squirmed in Emma’s arms and jumped down, racing towards Grandmother’s house. Bad Max found the hole he had dug under the fence and chased after her.

Emma slid off Norah and ran as fast as she could.
Bad Max had almost caught Kitty’s big tail when… Grandma came out of the house with her broom. “Shoo! Go home!”

Kitty streaked into the house and Bad Max ran off. Emma showed up, Fritz the donkey ambled over, and Norah finally appeared, slobbering apple juice.

Emma found Kitty under her bed. “Oh Kitty, you are a naughty kitty, but I love you so much.”

Kitty crept out from under the bed and Emma took her to the kitchen for dinner just in time to catch Fritz the donkey stealing chocolate chip cookies through the open window. “Stop! Go away!”

Fritz grinned his donkey grin, but later he had a tummy ache.

“What a day,” sighed Norah the horse. She slept standing up, as horses do.

Bad Max slept in his doghouse, dreaming of chasing cats.

Emma mumbled, “What a day!” as she fell asleep with Kitty.

Grandma nibbled chocolate chip cookies as she sat on the front porch watching the stars come out, and she said to herself, “What a day!”