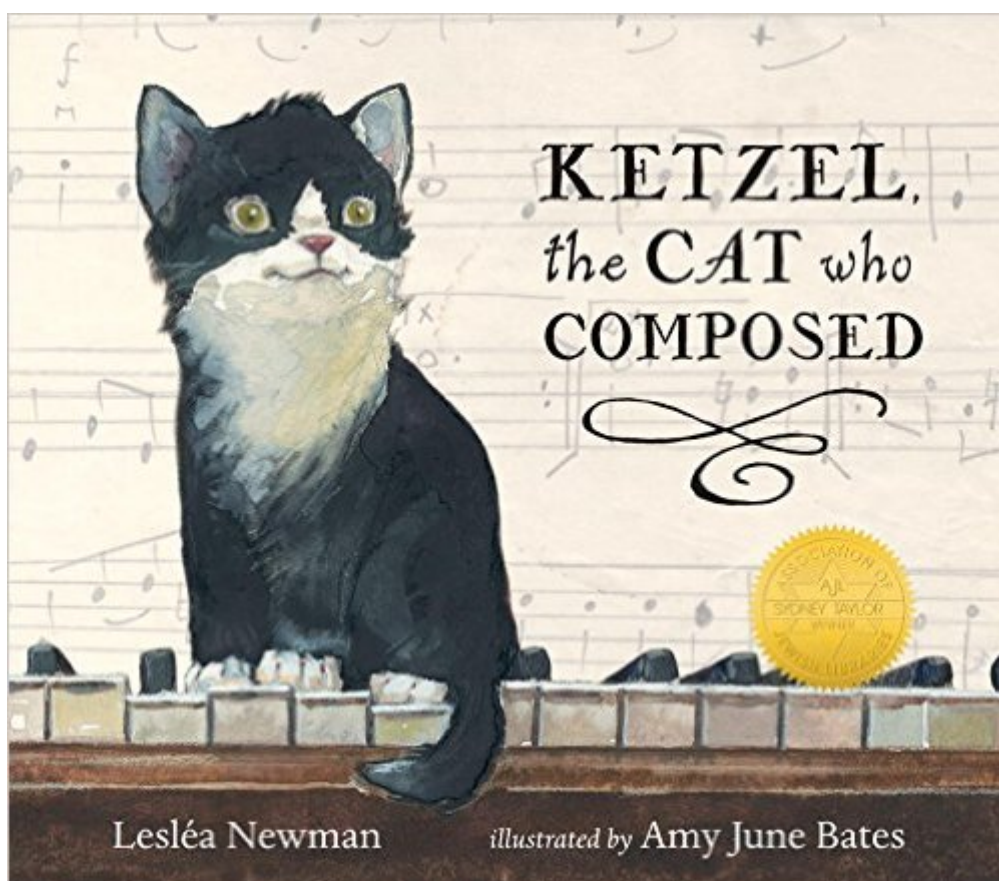


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# Ketzel, The Cat Who Composed



## Synopsis

A 2016 Association of Jewish Libraries Sydney Taylor Award Winner A kitten's stroll down a keyboard leads to a celebrated one-minute composition in this charming portrait of a remarkable true friendship. Moshe Cotel was a composer who lived in a noisy building on a noisy street in a noisy city. But Moshe didn't mind. Everything he heard was music to his ears. One day, while out for a walk, he heard a small, sad sound that he'd never heard before. It was a tiny kitten! "Come on, little Ketzal," Moshe said, "I will take you home and we will make beautiful music together." And they did—in a most surprising way. Inspired by a true story, Lesléa Newman and Amy June Bates craft an engaging tale of a creative man and the beloved cat who brings unexpected sweet notes his way.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (October 6, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 076366555X

ISBN-13: 978-0763665555

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.3 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #216,380 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism](#) #213 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music](#) #645 in [Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

"Ah, Ketzal, I see that music stirs your soul" he said. "And that is a wonderful thing." In this charming picture book for children, a young and passionate composer and piano player meets a lonely but lively street kitten- and together they are able to do something inspirational! Ketzal is a Yiddish word that means "kitten". The cutest thing about this story is that it was a true story. Ketzal was a real kitten who composed! The story is easy to read for young readers, and great for a read-aloud book in the classroom or to read as a family. The day I received the book, my younger siblings already

requested to have it read as a bedtime story. They quite enjoyed it. The illustrations are delightful, by one of my favorite illustrators Amy June Bates. While reading the book, the mood of the illustrations and the characters reminded me a little of the animation 101 Dalmatians that I used to watch when I was a young child. The story is dynamic and takes readers through the ups and downs of the life of Ketzel and his owner, and builds up to the final conclusion, a triumphant happy ending! Yet I appreciated that the book kept a realistic tone and showed that sometimes even when you work hard, things don't turn out the way you want them at first, and you may have disappointments in the process. In addition, although Ketzel and his owner were successful in the end, it was not a Hollywood type of triumph where they strike it rich. They continue their life as usual but always have the joy of looking back on their success! Pros: This is a great story for children and families who are musicians and have a passion for music, as well as for those who love animals. It is a fairly new release and it would make a lovely gift.

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