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## 'Angel Heart:' A Fairy Tale for the Digital Age

*Collaboration of Author Cornelia Funke, Composer Luna Pearl Woolf and Soprano Lisa Delan Builds on Tradition of 'Peter and the Wolf'*

By JENNIFER MALONEY

In 1936, children were introduced to Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf," a fantastical romp in words and music that inspired generations of young people to love classical music. Now, a 21st century musical storybook hopes to build on that tradition, telling a new story through original classical music, a printed book and iPad animation.



Mirada

Luna, the main character of 'Angel Heart'



Gillian Crane

ANGELIC Author Cornelia Funke wrote a story about a girl named Luna, for 'Angel Heart.'

"Angel Heart" is a collaboration of classical composer Luna Pearl Woolf, soprano Lisa Delan, and best-selling children's book author Cornelia Funke. It tells the story of an angel who, with the help of a witch and an ominous raven man, endeavors to lift the spirits of a brokenhearted girl named Luna.

The story will be released Tuesday as a small-format book-and-CD set narrated by Jeremy Irons. Then, "Angel Heart" will take to the stage. Multimedia presentations of the work, performed by vocal soloists, children's choir, cello ensemble and mandolin, are planned for October at Alfred Hertz Memorial Concert Hall in Berkeley, and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Late this year or early next, it will be released as an iPad app designed by Mirada, a Los Angeles production studio that specializes in digital storytelling on multiple platforms, including interactive, animated books.

The idea for the project emerged when Ms. Woolf and Ms. Delan, who are friends, discovered they each had been thinking about creating an album of lullabies for children.

Ms. Woolf is a contemporary classical composer based in Montreal. Her compositions include "Après Moi, le Déluge," a tribute to the victims of Hurricane Katrina,

and "Max's Moon," a work for cello and string orchestra inspired by Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are" and Margaret Wise Brown's "Goodnight Moon." Ms. Woolf's husband, cellist Matt Haimovitz, leads a Grammy-nominated cello ensemble called Uccello.

Ms. Woolf and Ms. Delan envisioned a collection of songs—ranging from Engelbert Humperdinck's opera "Hansel and Gretel" to the Beatles' "Mother Nature's Son"—all arranged for voice and cellos. These songs, they decided, should be knitted together with a narrated story and original music, also for cellos, composed by Ms. Woolf.

They invited Ms. Funke, who is best known for her "Inkheart" trilogy, to write a story that wove the songs together.

Ms. Funke, a native of Germany who lives in Los Angeles, said the task seemed "impossible," but she promised to lock herself inside her backyard writing house for three days and see what happened. "I sat there and the story came out by itself," she said. "It was one of those really, truly magical things."

Ms. Woolf then composed music to bring Ms. Funke's words to life.

In her score, performed by Mr. Haimovitz and Uccello, the wide-ranging timbres of the cellos evoke ethereal angels, a croaking, ill-tempered witch and Luna's inconsolable grief.

"I'm trying to make the music speak the words, and I think children can grasp that," said Ms. Woolf, who has two daughters, ages 3 and 6.

The iPad app is still in development. Mirada co-founder Javier Jimenez said it would be similar to the app his studio created with Ms. Funke to accompany her "MirrorWorld" series.

That app, a deep dive into the fictional world of the books, offers intricate illustrations, and animated stories with music written by Icelandic film score composer Atli Örvarsson.

The collaborators of "Angel Heart" said their app is intended to draw children and their parents into the story and offer a fun platform for exploring classical music.

"By enjoying and experiencing the story and the music of 'Angel Heart,' you're becoming a part of the world we love—the world of acoustic instruments and beautiful voices," Ms. Woolf said. "You're living it instead of thinking about it."

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