Blue Moo: 17 Jukebox Hits From Way Back Never by Sandra Boynton

Put a nickel in the jukebox, assuming you can locate a jukebox, and that you remember what a nickel is. Here’s legendary Beach Boy Brian Wilson singing lead and 10-part harmonies on Speed Turtle. The incomparable Neil Sedaka crooning Your Nose. B. B. King brings you a wistful One Shoe Blues, Gerry and the Pacemakers offer Mersey Lullaby, and relative newcomer (in this seasoned company) Patti LuPone of Evita fame sings—what else—the Rabbit Tango. And then there’s the hit single from Boynton’s Your Personal Penguin sung by the impossibly cute Davy Jones of The Monkees. I mean jeepers, even Sha Na Na is here.

So roll over, Beethoven—and Lieber and Stoller. Boynton & Ford once again bring great words, great music, great performers to children and vintage children alike. And OH! The book! Boynton has filled it with all things 50s and 60s. And, well, golly, it’s so happy and colorful and just terrific, Mister! Grab your saddle shoes, plunk two straws into that swell chocolate malt, and let’s twist again like we did last century.

Of the four Boynton book/CDs that we own, Blue Moo is my personal favorite. The songs have a fun do-wop style with lots of silly and amusing lyrics.

My absolute favorite thing about this CD is The Uninvited Loud Precision Band. This is a marching band that has interludes throughout the course of the CD and both the lyrics and the boisterous singing and playing style of the band make it a delight. Consider this line from one of their interludes: We are marching through your kitchen, for we need a little snack. Now we organize your cupboards and we exit out the back. I never fail to giggle when the band makes their appearance.

Another song that both my daughter and I love is Singing in the Shower. It’s a fun tribute to the superior acoustics of the bathroom and leads to lots of giggles as we talk about who does and doesn’t sing in the shower in our family.

Gorilla Song is one that’s high on my daughters list. The style of it is very reminiscent of the nonsense lyrics of a lot of 50s hits. Part of the appeal of...
the song for my daughter is that she always remembers that, in the book, there is a drawing of gorillas at an old fashioned ice cream shop. Behind them is a list of 28 flavors, all of which are Banana--except for Vanilla, which is listed once.

As with Dog Train, I recommend purchasing both the book and CD. While the songs are great, I don’t think anyone should bypass Boynton’s artwork, which is perennially adorable. The first part of the book has a two-page spread for each song. On one side is a drawing showing a scene from the song while the other side contains some of the lyrics. The back of the book contains full lyrics and music as well as information about each of the artists that have contributed to the CD. One of the best things about these books is that they contain all sorts of humorous little gems, showing that Boynton is not only funny to kids but also to adults.

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