Hellene Hiner

Time to Learn!



Dear Grown-Ups,

Here is a cheerful story filled with colorful illustrations and pictures to color. But this is more than a storybook. It is a textbook! It prepares young children for a deep understanding of the language of music.

Each of the seven main characters represents a scale degree. Through these characters and their relationships, your child begins to discover how musical harmony works. Each piano key’s name offers a path toward understanding the musical staff.

Look at the pictures on the doors. They help your child recognize each character’s room and remember the note names: Door (Do), Rain (Re), Mirror (Mi), Farm (Fa), Salt (Sol), Ladder (La), and Tea (Ti).



If you have a piano or keyboard at home, place the guides behind the keys. Invite your child to find a picture from the story, press its key, and listen. The familiar pictures connect the story to a real instrument!

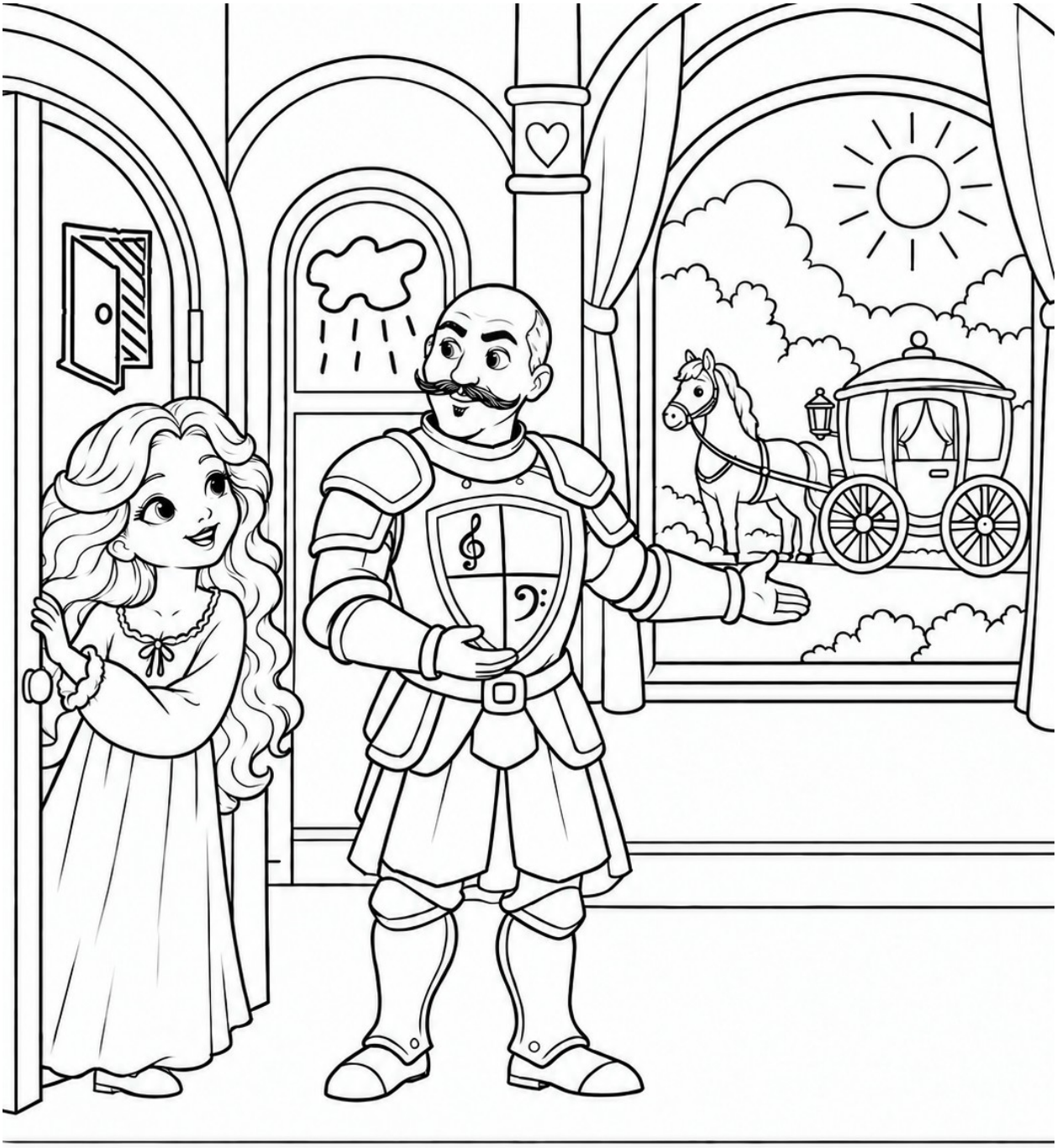
Printable keyboard guides are available with the free Soft Mozart demo.

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Ready to start learning together with your little one? Let’s go!



Morning had come to the Kingdom of Tune. Sunshine peeked into the palace.
Princess Subdominant was still fast asleep, dreaming.
Queen Tonic was the first to wake up.
“Today we’re going to the Academy!” she remembered.



Knock, knock!

“Are you awake, Your Majesty?” asked Re, the Bodyguard.

“Yes!” Tonic replied. “The Princess is going to the Academy today. It’s time to wake her up!”

“I’ll get the carriage ready!” the Bodyguard offered, pointing out the window. “Even the horse is excited to take the children to school!”



Mimi, the Maid of Honor, hurried out of her room. The Mirror on her door showed that this was the Mi room.

She had only just woken up and went straight to Subdominant’s room.

“I’ve brought the Princess her dress!” Mimi called.

“And we’ve brought her socks!” purred White Cat and Black Cat.

Each cat carried one sock.



“On a day like this, you must get all dressed up!” Mimi told the Princess.

“Can I be all dressed up and still be sleepy?”

“Let’s see if you can!” laughed Tonic as the Princess’s nose peeked out of the dress.



“Why am I still in my pajamas?” cried Mimi, rushing off to get dressed.

“These are for you!” Butterfly told White Cat and Black Cat.

“Little butterflies? For us to chase?” asked Black Cat.

“No, bow ties!” Mimi explained. “They look like butterflies, don’t they? You wear them for special occasions. Performers love wearing them!”

“Perrrfect for perrrformers! Purrrr!” purred the cats.

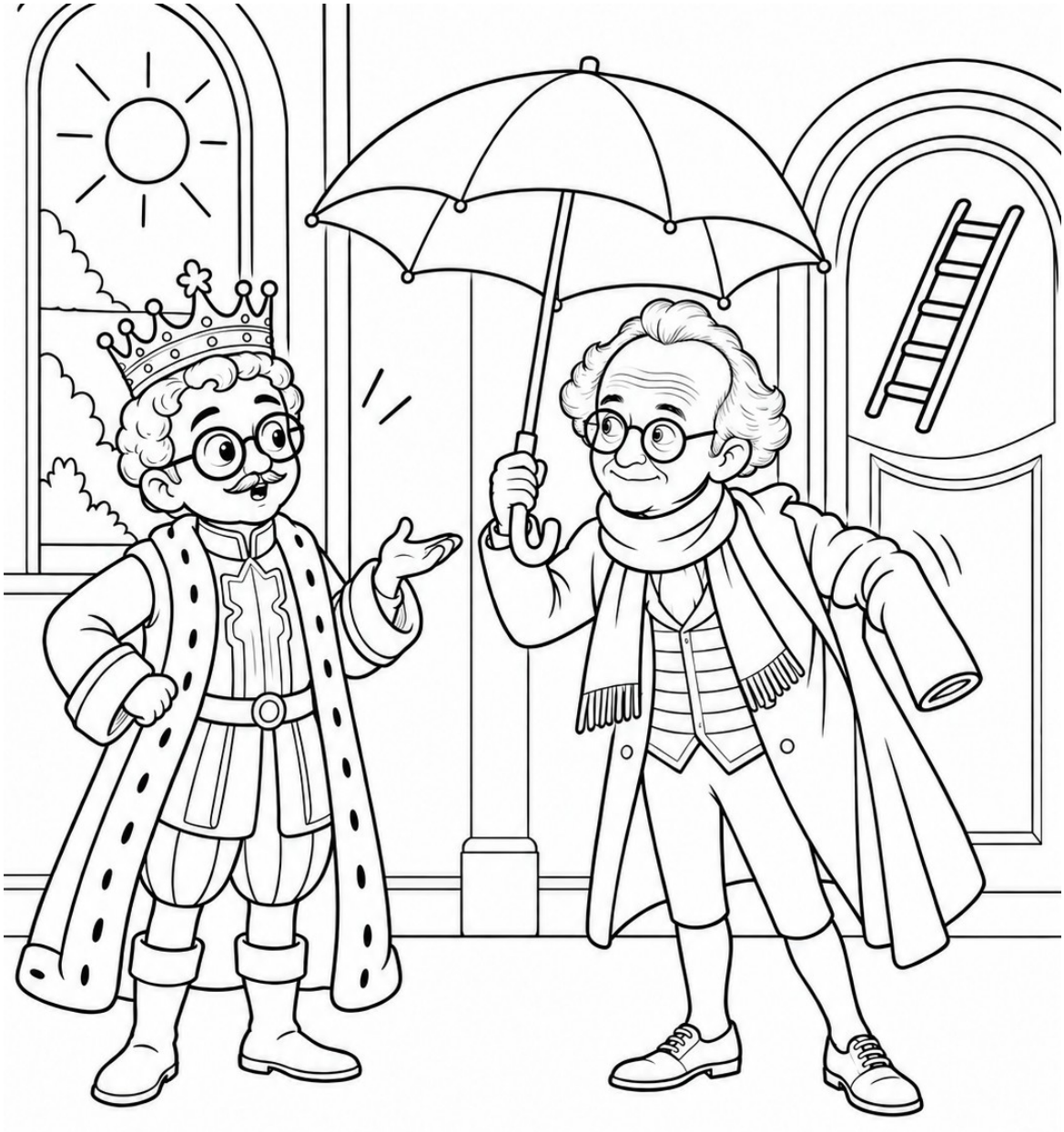


“What about breakfast?” asked King Dominant.

“Anyone who’s all dressed up and wide awake needs breakfast!” Tonic announced.

“We’re all dressed up and wide awake!” chimed in the cats, straightening their bow ties.

“Isn’t your little table ready?” the King asked impatiently.



Uncle What-If appeared in the dining room.

“Why are you so late for breakfast?” demanded the King, growing even more impatient. He was eager to start eating!

“I’ve been looking for my umbrella all morning!”

“What for? Isn’t it sunny today?”

“It is. But what if it rains?”

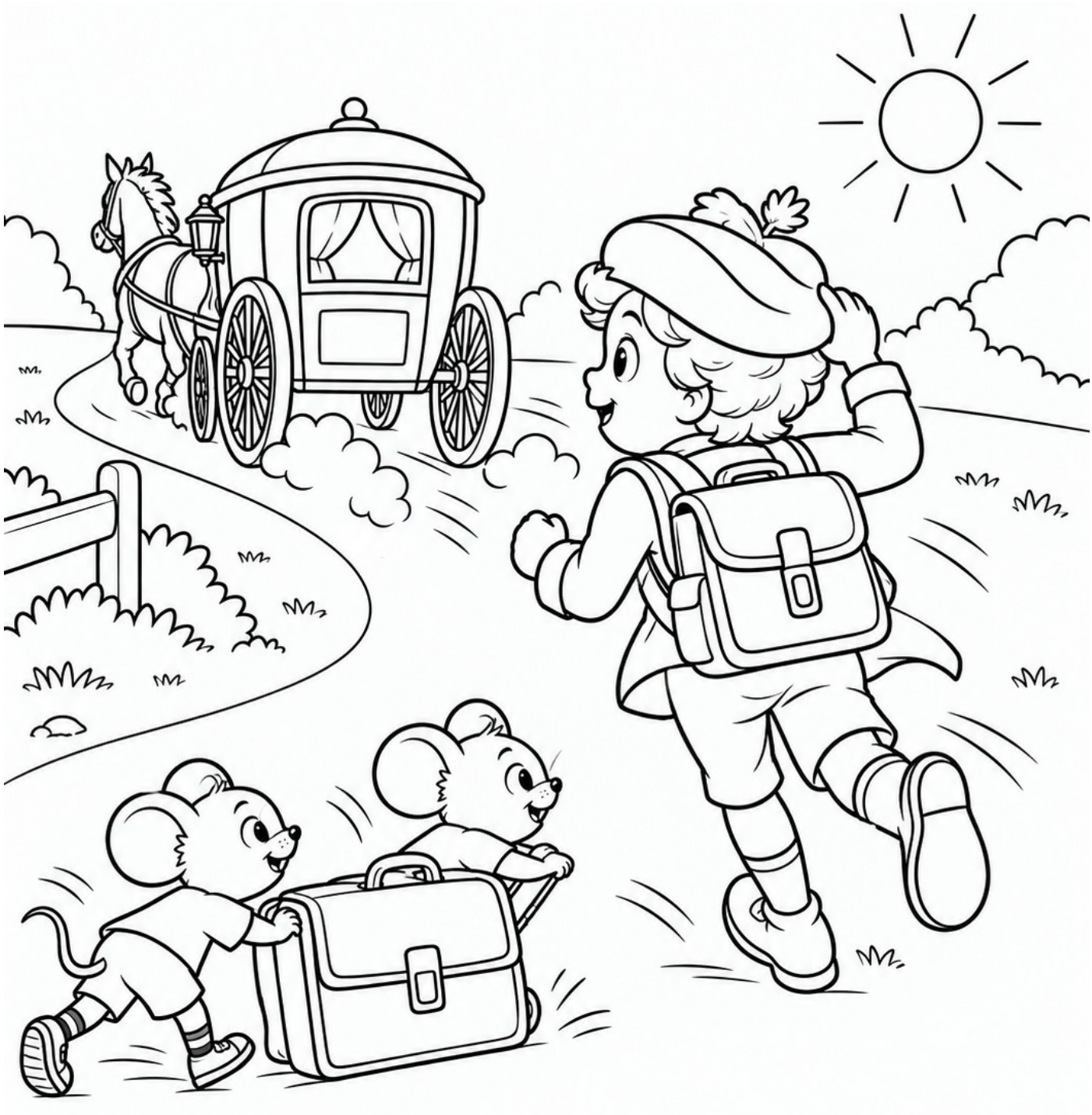
“That’s not very likely,” Tonic pointed out.

“‘Not very likely’ is boring!” What-If protested. “You must always be ready for an adventure!”



“Oh! We forgot about everything while we were practicing!” exclaimed the Courier. “I just can’t stop! I want to play it without a single mistake!”

“You can try again later,” Cloud Mouse reassured him. “You played it better today than yesterday! Now hurry, or they’ll leave without you!”



“Good thing I’m a courier—and such a good runner! I have to make it to my lesson on time!”

“This heavy bag is easier to pull together! Come on—we have to keep up with the Courier!”



“Welcome to our Academy!” Mr. Tuning Fork greeted his students with a beaming smile.



And What-If was still waiting for an adventure, peeking hopefully out from under his umbrella at the sunny sky.

Tales from the Kingdom of Tune

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A book to read, explore,
and color together

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