



# Once Upon a Time

not too long ago and not so very far away, lived a wise and talented couple named *Martin of the Strings* and *Laila of the Reeds*.

They lived together and traveled the world having adventures and making beautiful music and, before you knew it, they had a daughter. They named her *Aloysia*.

Aloysia grew up in a magical world of trees and water, always surrounded by music. She was soon making her own, playing with her parents and many others, filling her world with song.

Of all the wondrous places she traveled and played in, her very favorite was the *Isle of Orcas*. There she feasted on blackberries, she climbed trees, she played duets with the robins and the owls.

As Aloysia grew and traveled and played, she thought, as most children think at a certain age, "I love traveling and listening to my parents and their friends play, but wouldn't it be great if I could travel and play on my own?" So she did. She traveled to the far side of the land, where she played and learned more and soon she met *Jackie of the Keys*.

She and Jackie of the Keys made beautiful music together. She brought Jackie back across the land, where they and Martin of the Strings and Laila of the Reeds played together, at home and on the Isle of Orcas. So much beauty, of music and of surroundings! Before long, Aloysia thought, "Wouldn't it be great to start a chamber music festival on Orcas?" So she did.

*But she didn't do it alone.*

To start, Aloysia went forth into the dark and beautiful night and invited the stars to come down from the skies to make shining, scintillating music with her and Jackie of the Keys. And they did. Strings and reeds and keys wove beautiful sounds together through the night air.

Her friends the owls heard the music and, curious, began to gather. Aloysia thought, "Wouldn't it be great if these wise birds could be my advisors?" So they advised, and they became *The Directors of the Board*, sharing wisdom and guidance.

Busy bees were drawn to the sparkling light and beautiful sounds. They listened and were happy. Then they saw their friends the owls gathering and advising, and they said, "We want to help, too!" So they did. Soon they were performing sweet tasks as the stars performed sweet music, volunteering their labor to keep everything buzzing. *And the music played.*

Morning came, as it does. The sun shone, bringing generous warmth. This inspired them to play even more beautifully. With the dawn came gentle breezes, lifting and supporting Aloysia and Jackie and all the stars, making it possible for them to play and play and play.

As happens whenever there is beautiful music, it became a joyous party, a grand Fest, an **Orcas Island Chamber Music Fest!** It became bigger and brighter and more brilliant. On they played, through the day, through the night, through more days. Sadly, though, it couldn't go on forever without a break (though wouldn't that be great?). So Aloysia and Jackie and Martin and Laila and all the gathered stars packed away their songs for a rest.

Time moved along. When enough months had passed, they all knew it was time to joyously gather once more. And so they did. The Fest grew and grew — sunny day and starry night, and they kept doing it, year after year after glorious year.

**Still, the seasons change, and the music rests.**

Each year, at this time of the year, when the music quiets and the sun sets earlier and earlier and the bees return to their hives and the owls call their hoots into the lengthening nights, we gather to say thank you. Thank you to the wise owls, to the busy bees, to the shining stars, to Aloysia and her family and friends, all who make it a Fest. And we say thank you to you. You are the sun that brightens our day.

**Your gift is the breeze that lifts and supports the music, higher and higher, beautifully. Together we do it, it truly is great, and, thanks to your generosity, the music will play, happily ever after.**



Orcas Island Chamber Music festival

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