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**ABRAMS CHILDREN'S BOOKS ANNOUNCES *THE ENCHANTED SYMPHONY*
THE NEXT PICTURE BOOK FROM BESTSELLING AND ACCLAIMED AUTHORS
JULIE ANDREWS AND EMMA WALTON HAMILTON**

The first of two picture books, *The Enchanted Symphony* releases on *September 12, 2023*

New York, NY [February 6, 2023]—Andrew Smith, Senior Vice President and Publisher of Abrams Children's Books, announced today the upcoming release of *The Enchanted Symphony* from beloved Golden Globe, Emmy, and Oscar winner Julie Andrews and her award-winning writer, producer, and arts educator daughter Emma Walton Hamilton, who are together the coauthors of more than thirty bestselling children's books. Published under the Abrams Books for Young Readers imprint with an announced first printing of 100,000 copies, *The Enchanted Symphony* will release in hardcover and ebook editions on September 12, 2023, and will be illustrated by internationally recognized paper artist Elly MacKay. *The Enchanted Symphony*, which will be followed by a second picture book, was sold at auction in a deal for North American rights brokered by WME and negotiated by Smith and Emma Ledbetter, Editorial Director, Picture Books, who will edit the book. Andrews and Walton Hamilton are managed by Steve Sauer at Media Four. MacKay is represented by Emily van Beek at Folio Literary Management.

During the height of covid, Andrews and Walton Hamilton, like so many across the world, turned to nature to seek the beauty and inspiration lost with the closing of museums, theaters, and live music venues. They were inspired to write *The Enchanted Symphony* after learning about "Concert for the Biocene" at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, in which the UceLi string quartet performed for an audience of 2,292 plants—one in every seat in the hall—as a celebration of the value of art, music, and theater.

In *The Enchanted Symphony*, a lively village is beset by a mysterious fog. The town turns dull and silent; melancholy neighbors stop visiting each other and no longer go outside . . . until one day, when a boy's simple melody for a most unusual audience strikes a chord, reminding everyone of what matters most—even in the darkest of times. This powerful picture book is a hopeful fairy tale that celebrates the simple pleasures of nature and music that genuinely bring us together.

"We are so thrilled and honored to have Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton join the ABRAMS family," says Smith. "They've written a timely and inspiring story, which Elly MacKay's enchanting illustrations bring to glorious life. *The Enchanted Symphony* is sure to have a meaningful impact on readers everywhere and is destined to become a children's book classic."

"We're thrilled to partner with ABRAMS to bring *The Enchanted Symphony* to families everywhere this fall," says Andrews and Walton Hamilton. "While the fog in our book evokes our pandemic experience, it also symbolizes something larger: the creeping and countless distractions that prevent us from appreciating what truly matters most in life. For us, it's family, community, nature, and the arts that provide true beauty and meaning. We hope that *The Enchanted Symphony* will inspire families to celebrate what matters most to them."

About The Creators:

Julie Andrews has been a beloved star of stage, screen, and TV for more than half a century. Her many renowned performances include starring roles in *Mary Poppins*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Princess Diaries*. Most recently, she has played the voice of Lady Whistledown on *Bridgerton*, as well as Gru's Mother in the *Despicable Me* and *Minions* franchise, and the voice of Karethen in *Aquaman*. Not only a Golden Globe, Emmy, and Oscar winner, Andrews is also a bestselling author. Julie has dedicated her life to important causes like Operation USA, an international relief organization. Andrews received her honors as a Dame of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on New Year's Eve 1999.



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Emma Walton Hamilton is an award-winning writer, producer, and arts educator. Together with her mother, Julie Andrews, she has written over thirty books for children and young adults, and cocreated and coproduced the Netflix children's television series *Julie's Greenroom* as well as the podcast *Julie's Library*. Emma's original poetry collection *Door to Door* was published in 2022. She serves on the faculty of Stony Brook University's MFA in creative writing and literature.

Elly MacKay is an internationally recognized paper artist and children's book creator. She is the illustrator of the picture book *Too Early* and the author-illustrator of *Red Sky at Night, If You Hold a Seed*, and *Butterfly Park*, among others. The distinctive three-dimensional quality in her works is made by setting up layers of painted paper in a miniature theater. She lights the scene and photographs it to create her unique illustrations. MacKay lives in Owen Sound, Ontario, with her family.

About ABRAMS:

Founded in 1949, ABRAMS was the first company in the United States to specialize in publishing art and illustrated books. The company continues to publish critically acclaimed and bestselling works in the areas of art, photography, cooking, craft, comics, interior and garden design, entertainment, fashion, and popular culture as well as narrative non-fiction and new works of fiction for adults; children's books ranging from middle grade to young adult fiction to picture books to board books. ABRAMS creates and distributes brilliantly designed books with the highest production values under the following imprints: Abrams; Abrams ComicArts; Megascoppe; Surely Books; Abrams Image; Abrams Press; The Overlook Press; Cernunnos; Cameron + Company; Abrams Books for Young Readers; Amulet Books; Abrams Appleseed; and Magic Cat. ABRAMS also distributes books for Booth-Clibborn Editions, Bungie, Alain Ducasse Édition, Éditions de La Martinière, Editions BPI, Global Golf Group, Lucky Spool, Milky Way Picture Books, The Museum of Modern Art, SelfMadeHero, Skittledog, Tate Publishing, V&A Publishing, and The Vendome Press.