

Press Release

**Local Author's Children's Book *Neko and the Twiggets* about Music and Mice
is Entertaining and Engaging for Summer Reading List**

Buffalo, NY, July 5, 2011 -- Neko loves playing double bass in the Butterfield Symphony Orchestra -- until the Twigget family of mice takes up residence inside his instrument. Neko cannot ignore Mama Twigget's stares, Papa's boisterous dancing, or the twins who ride his bow and limbo at his feet. His playing suffers and, in a dramatic moment, Neko is fired in front of the entire orchestra and its audience. Neko is sad until something surprising happens that allows him--with the help of the Twiggets--to discover that playing music for himself is just as important as playing for others.

"I wanted *Neko and the Twiggets* to be fun *and* educational," says Buffalo-based author Donna Hoke. "The book introduces its readers to classical music in a way that most stories for this age group do not. It takes readers into musician Neko's life, the orchestra he plays in, and on a journey of friendship with the mouse family that has made their home inside his double bass. The book is perfect for parents who want to share with their children the true meaning of music."

Hoke, a published journalist, playwright, and crossword puzzle constructor, is pleased with the response she has gotten to her first children's book and is experiencing increased sales this summer. "The book is appealing not just because of the story and the lively illustrations, but because it doesn't assume that children need to have their stories dumbed- down," she explains. "Kids are smart, as well as innately musical and inquisitive. My niece read this to her two-year-old and I read it to my sons' third-grade classes, and it was equally engaging to both ages."

Available in paperback and hardcover, *Neko and the Twiggets* is recommended for children ages four to nine, and features forty pages of full color illustrations. Author Donna Hoke and illustrator Jessica Gadra both reside in Western New York. This is their first project together.