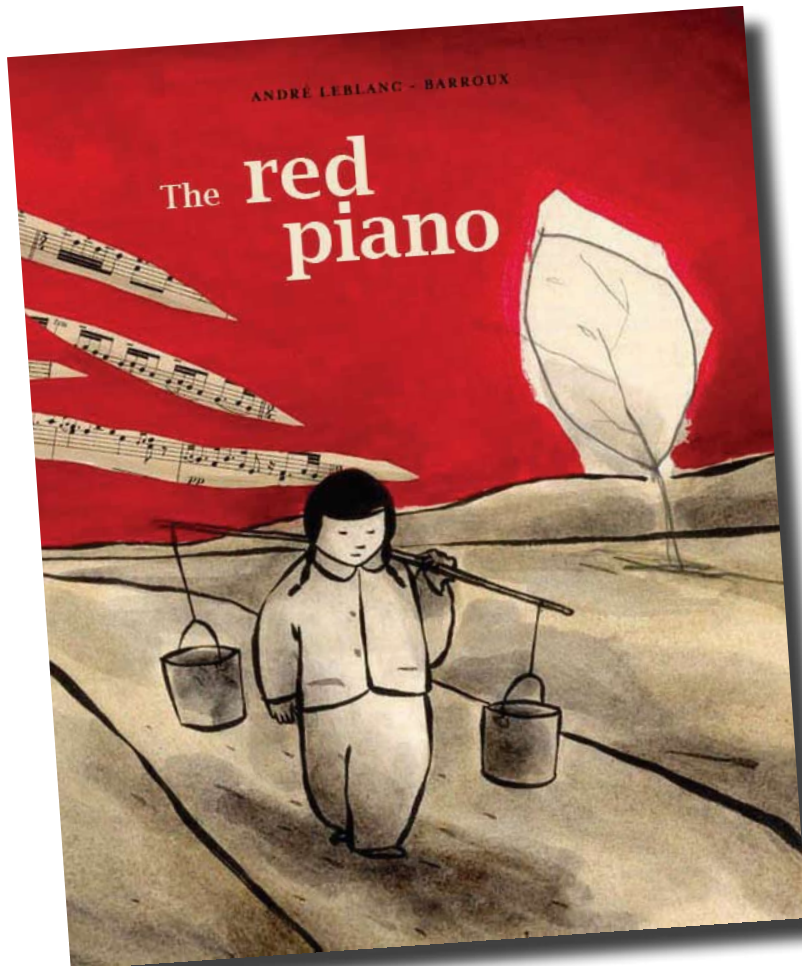


'A powerful text, an inspiring story, acrylic illustrations which reuse details from old Maoist pamphlets—all combine to make this a beautiful picture book'
— Le Temps newspaper (Switzerland)



The red piano

by
André Leblanc

Illustrated by
Barroux

- 五 Inspired by an amazing true story from China's Cultural Revolution
- 五 For those who bought Lu Cunxin's *The Peasant Prince* (the children's version of *Mao's Last Dancer*)
- 五 Acclaimed hardback picture book from France, breathtaking design
- 五 First English language edition anywhere in the world
- 五 National newspaper features and reviews



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September 2009 release



'A wonderful picture book, which not only portrays the evils attention the need to defend free expression in all circumstances'



ABOUT THE WOMAN WHO INSPIRED *THE RED PIANO*



Zhu Xiao-Mei already played the piano on radio and television in Beijing when she was only eight. At the age of ten, she entered into the National School of Music for exceptionally gifted children. There, her studies were stopped by the years of the Cultural Revolution, including five years in a working camp, where,

despite difficulties, she managed to practice the piano in hiding.

In 1979 she left China for the USA, where she obtained the highest distinctions. Zhu Xiao-Mei now lives in Paris, has made several CDs and has given concerts all over France, as well as Australia, Europe, South America and Russia.

ABOUT THE BOOK

This stirring and beautiful picture book relates the moving and inspiring story of a gifted young girl's passion for the piano in a time of historic turmoil.

During China's Cultural Revolution (1966 - 1976), a young girl is taken from her family and sent to a far-off labour camp. Forbidden to play the piano, she nevertheless finds a way of smuggling hand-written music into the camp and sneaking away at night to practice a piano in a secret location.

Then, one night, she is caught ...

Inspired by the amazing true story of the international concert pianist Zhu Xiao-Mei, Andre Leblanc and Barroux's acclaimed picture book from France poetically relates an extraordinary story of perseverance set against a cataclysmic period of history.



This Wilkins Farago edition marks the first time this exquisite work has been published in English anywhere in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Artist and historian Andre Leblanc's chance meeting with the celebrated international concert pianist Zhu Xiao-Mei inspired him to tell the story of her childhood in China during the Cultural Revolution. The book that resulted is *The Red Piano*.



Andre has taught most of his life, as a school teacher and then as a Professor of Art History. He has also devoted part of his career to painting and photography and has exhibited in both France and Canada. He lives in Montreal, Canada and is also author of several non-fiction works for children.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Stephane-Yves Barroux was born in Paris, France, and grew up in North Africa. He came back to France to study photography, art, sculpture, and architecture at the famous art schools, Ecole Estienne and Ecole Boule, for several years. He went on to work as an art director in Paris, Montreal and New York. He also worked as a press illustrator for numerous papers such as the New York Times, Washington Post and Forbes magazine.



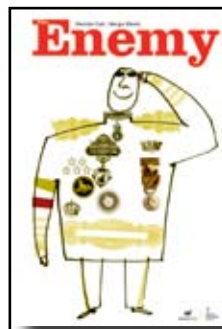
Barroux is now well known for his illustrations for children's books, both in France and the USA. Driven by his love of colors and fantasy, Barroux works on his illustrations traditionally, using linocut, acrylic painting, lead pencil, and collage. In 2005 he received Switzerland's prestigious *Enfantaisie* Award for *Uncle John* and *the Giant Cherry Tree*.

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