



Penguins' Concert

企鵝演奏會

Author: Chen Yen-Ling **Illustrator:** Chen Yen-Ling **Publisher:** Hsin Yi

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BFT2.0 Translator: Michelle Kuo

In this charming picture book, a caretaker arrives by red helicopter to meet over a hundred lively and playful penguins.

At first, the penguins and caretaker misunderstand each other, treating each other warily. But once the caretaker starts to play a melodica, they begin to connect. As the melody fills the air, their friendship gradually blossoms.

One day, out of childlike curiosity, the penguins steal the melodica and take it into the ocean. Without the melodica, both the penguins and the caretaker grow anxious, worried that they have hurt each other's feelings. Yet, they find a way to transcend language barriers and discover new ways to communicate love and care.

This playful, exuberantly illustrated book has international appeal, celebrating the bonds of connection across species and showing that friendship can thrive even without words.



Chen Yen-Ling

Chen Yen-Ling holds a Master's degree in Visual Communication Design from Pratt Institute in New York, USA. She is an enthusiast of mice, books, and leisurely afternoons. She is a recipient of the Children's Literature Pied Piper Award and the Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award. Chen is the author of *100 Questions About Weather*, which has been recommended as excellent reading material by the Golden Tripod Award. Chen's works have received numerous accolades, including a recommendation for the Picture Book Creation Award at the 32nd Hsin-Yi Children's Literature Award, a recommendation for Excellent Publishing at the Golden Tripod Award for Children's and Youth Books, and nominations for the Taipei International Book Exhibition Grand Prize in 2022 and the 2021 Openbook Annual Best Books.

A Playful, Whimsical Story in Antarctica: *Penguins' Concert*

By Wu Xingling
translated by Michelle Kuo

Penguins' Concert tells the story of a caretaker gradually forming a bond with a group of penguins. When he first arrives in Antarctica, he struggles to connect with the penguins due to his lack of familiarity with their habits. Lonely and isolated, he plays his melodica, and to his surprise, the music piques the penguins' curiosity, leading to their first positive interactions.

The evolving relationship between the caretaker and the penguins mirrors the way human interactions often begin. At first, both sides are reserved; both undergo a process of mutual observation and adjustment. The caretaker first tries to blend in by mimicking the penguins' movements and offering them krill and small fish, but these attempts prove unsuccessful. Frustrated, he plays his melodica alone. Unexpectedly, this sparks the penguins' interest and brings them closer. The sound of the melodica delights the penguins, fostering an emotional

connection.

One day, the penguins playfully take the melodica. They pat, feed it, and even take it swimming in the sea. Like curious children, they treat the object as their friend. Eventually, the melodica breaks, with its pieces floating on the surface of the sea. The penguins, again like children, realize they've done something wrong. They worry that the caretaker might be upset and distance himself from them. Similarly, the caretaker wonders if the penguins will still engage with him without the melodica. Thus, caretaker and penguin—each sensitive to each other's feelings—began to see things from the other's perspective, deepening their bond.

As the time for separation approaches, the caretaker, looking down from a helicopter, sees the penguins lined up in a long row, resembling the keys of a melodica, as if they are playing a concert for him. This imaginative imagery

suggests the possibility that their beautiful relationship will continue to grow in different ways.

The illustrations in *Penguins' Concert* are outstanding, using just four simple colors—black, white, blue, and red—to capture the serene atmosphere of Antarctica. The appearance, posture, and expressions of the caretaker and penguins are both charming and expressive. A little penguin with a heart-shaped spot on its tail frequently appears next to the caretaker, and their evolving interaction, from initial curiosity to affection, subtly connects the emotions throughout the story. Appreciating the

illustrations adds to the joy of visual discovery. The author's choice of the melodica as a medium, with its black and white keys mirroring the penguins' colors, adds a delightful touch of whimsy.

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Wu Xingling is an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Social Welfare at the Chinese Culture University and the Department of Children and Family Studies at Fu Jen Catholic University.

This excerpt from the book's afterword has been condensed for this booklet.

Every day he documented the penguins' behavior with care.



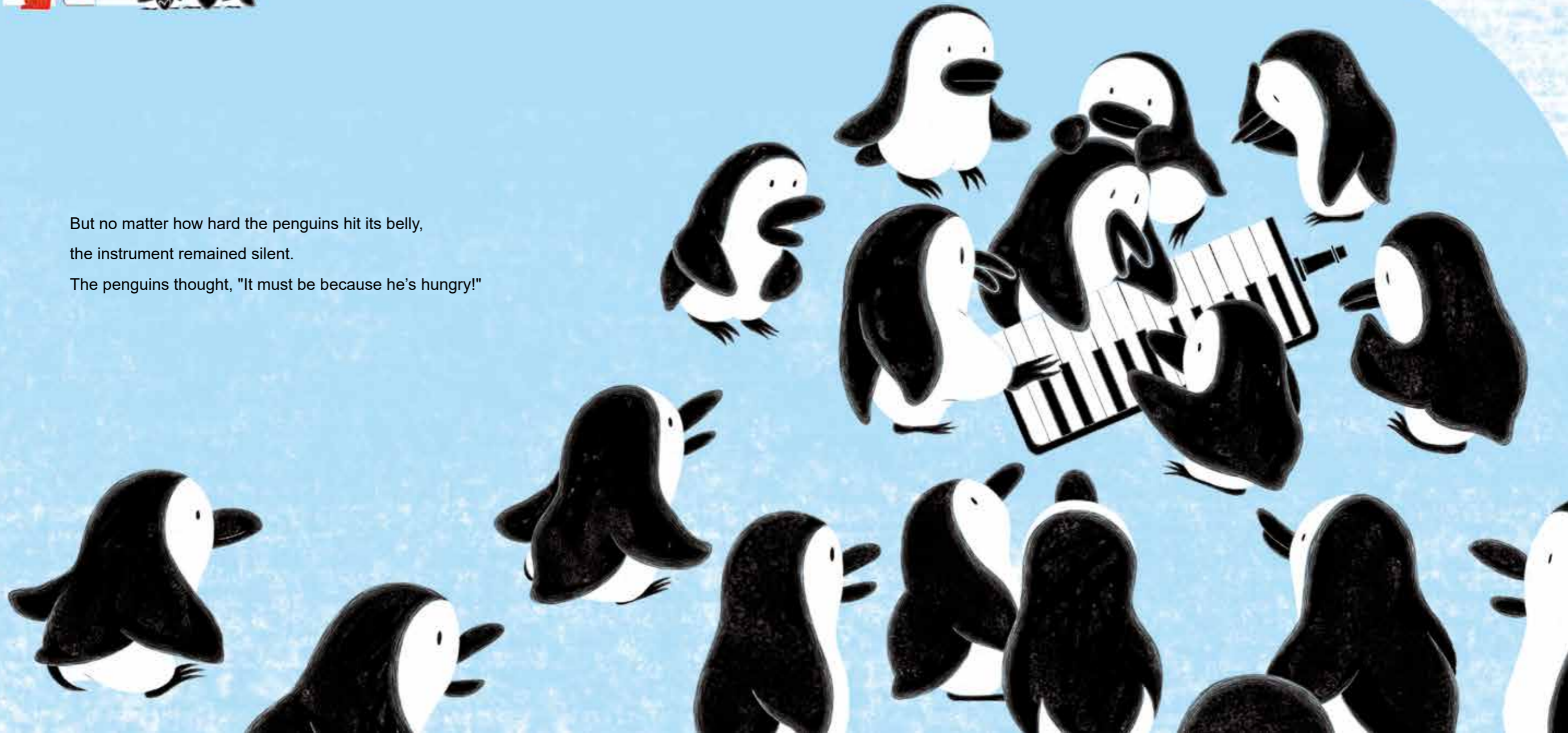
One day, when he was busy, the penguins were so curious about his instrument that they stole it.





But no matter how hard the penguins hit its belly,
the instrument remained silent.

The penguins thought, "It must be because he's hungry!"





The penguins stuffed small fish and krill into its mouth,
but it still wouldn't talk.

The penguins thought, "Maybe he's unhappy."