

# "LET THE MUSIC PLAY"

Written & Illustrated by Ron Hevener

Funny, how we never seem to know what's just around the corner. We go about our lives: working, laughing, loving ... and we never know how our life is going to turn out. I know this doesn't sound like the goal-oriented thinkers that I encourage people to be. I encourage animal lovers to be their best and to reach as high as they possibly can. After all, if we don't reach for the stars, how can we ever touch them? Yes, I know ... Childish words ...

Maybe it's the moody weather outside as I'm writing this, here in Michigan, on a horse farm that has seen better days and certainly has its woes ... maybe, for just a while, as I look at broken fences and barns begging for paint, I know how much we need those hopes and dreams I'm always talking about. That's when I turn on the radio.

I let the music play as we're getting ready for a show. Not just any show, but a show that's become important to everybody around here. What's so important about it this time? This time, it's important just to be there. It's important to let everyone see that we're still in the game. It's important for us, ourselves, to know we're still in the game, I think to myself, as the music plays.

Animal lovers are very different from other people. When life throws road blocks at us, we can't stop and pity ourselves if it's taking longer now to get where we want to go. Unlike our friends, we don't have that luxury. Yes, of course, we can pull over and pity ourselves for a while. But, we can't do it for long. We can't pity ourselves for long because we've got other lives depending on us.

Maybe it's just a puppy or a kitten. Maybe it's a horse. Maybe it's a whole kennel or a cattery or an aviary or a farm. The point is: The show can only go on if we get out of bed in the morning, put one foot in front of the other, and do whatever we have to do to keep the bills paid and the animals fed.

Animal lovers are people with big hearts. Sometimes, those hearts are too big for our own good. It doesn't matter how late we stayed up last night, reading or watching TV or talking on the phone until we fell asleep ... it doesn't matter how long we stayed out ... it doesn't matter what we thought, or said, or dreamed last night.

Do you hear the rooster crowing? It's time to get up again ... time to make eggs and pancakes ... time to pour some coffee. What matters is that we get up, feed our pets and all the rest of the animals that depend on us. What matters is that we sing to the radio and fill the place with music -- all the way from the floor to the rafters and out every window into the world around us.

Animals like music. They like the sound and the feeling of it. They like the way music goes through their skin and all the way into their soul and they are very true about what they like to hear. Sometimes, they like soft music; other times, they like a great symphony. As a singer, I know the best songs are ones that animals like to hear. I've heard of singers letting their animals pick the songs they record in the studio. I'm one of those singers. Of the many songs I've recorded over the years, the most successful were the ones my animals liked best. "I Wish You Love" was one of those songs.

Funny, how music fills us with emotion ... Funny, how our animals do the same thing ... Why is that?

I don't know. I don't know the answer to that any more than I know the answer to the mystery that brings new life into the world, keeps it going for a while, and then takes it away ... I just don't know.

What I do know (and I know it no matter what happens) is that, as long as I have animals, I will have something to do. I will never wonder what is happening today, or tomorrow. I know my animals will need fed, watered, groomed and cared for. I know I'll do my best for them ... and I'll let the music play.



ILLUSTRATION BY RON HEVENER:  
<https://www.ronhevener.com/essays/LetTheMusicPlay.html>

# Ron Hevener Limited Edition Dog Collectibles

## Purchases help fund cancer treatment costs for our working dogs

Ron Hevener makes his figurines by hand in his Lancaster studio, in limited editions of 100 to 1000, each one hand-numbered. They are hand-cast from Hydro stone and finished with a durable high-gloss glaze. Individual pieces may vary slightly in color and decoration. They additionally have felt tips on the bottom contact areas for protection.

As figurines are made to order, allow 3 to 4 weeks for these handmade collectables to be produced for you. Mr. Hevener will also custom paint any casting to match your dog—or a dog you love—for an additional \$10. Picture files of the dog from all sides are required, and can be sent to us at the following address: [foundation@landofpuregold.com](mailto:foundation@landofpuregold.com).

Please note that due to the glazing on figurines, the camera's flash is reflected in many images of the various breed items. Here, at the Land of PureGold, we are carrying



**Above: Christina Karsadi-Tadiello with her new husband Jason Tadiello share their special day with Kyler (left) and Clytie (right).**



over 40 breeds from The Hevener Studio, Blue Ribbon and Country Kids collections.

Recently, we had a very special request when a young woman ordered two Corgi Minis. You see, she wanted them as toppers for her wedding cake, rather than the standard bride and groom figures.

When we asked about how her parents were handling this unique 'dog themed' wedding, we got this fun reply:

They cannot understand why we would want our dogs as part of the wedding. They think they can't handle themselves. Yes, they are in the wedding as Flower Corgi and Ring Bearer, and they are attending the reception. They are very excited! ... Everyone loved the cake toppers!

**Christina Karsadi**  
Land of PureGold Foundation

Photos: Benoit Photography.