

Overcoming Shortcomings



In the Pringler Family Orchestra, *everybody* played an instrument. Beano played the cello (the only conventional instrument of the lot), Mama the banjoneon, Meptang the woodhinky, Papa the 37-string klangkarp, Parveen the acoustic catarrh, Dagmar the violynch, and Zagnold played Baby Eva. By twisting an arm here or yanking on an ear there, Zagnold could coax a seemingly unending assortment of sounds from his little sister. Sure, pitch was sometimes hard to control—never mind the rhythm—but the visual aspect of Zagnold’s performance always overcame any of Eva’s musical shortcomings.