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Baseball's Beloved Anthem Comes Alive for Young Fans of the Game—and for Fans of Award-Winning Singer and Songwriter Carly Simon—in

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Picture Book and CD

Performed by Carly Simon

Lyrics by Jack Norworth

Illustrated by Amiko Hirao

In 1908, vaudeville entertainer Jack Norworth conjured up a song about America's favorite pastime. He never imagined it would become baseball's unofficial anthem, a fixture of the seventh-inning strength, and still be rousing crowds to root, root, root for their home team in the 21st century. He never imagined it would be recorded by anyone famous, let alone Frank Sinatra, Liberace, Harpo Marx, L.L. Cool J...and Carly Simon, who now has teamed up to create an inspirational and delightful children's picture book and CD, ***TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME*** (Peter Yarrow Books, an imprint of Imagine Publishing! /Charlesbridge; On Sale: April 12, 2011; ISBN: 978-1-936140-26-8; \$17.95; Hardcover with Jacket & CD), **with lyrics by Jack Norworth, illustrated by Amiko Hirao, and performed by Carly Simon.**

Everyone who loves peanuts and Cracker Jacks is familiar with the song's catchy refrain. Fewer know all the lyrics, introducing a heroine, Katie Casey, who was "baseball mad" and had "the fever...bad." In ***TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME***, artist Amiko Hirao depicts Katie as a cool, baseball-crazy cat, literally. Through the magic of Hirao's colorful, collage-like illustrations, young baseball fans will be transported to Slugger's Stadium, where two animal teams step up to the plate and vie for victory. With Giraffe at the pitcher's mound and Zebra manning first base; Crocodile up at bat, followed by the imposing Elephant; and a captivating menagerie—Kangaroo, Fox, Lion, pink Flamingo, and more—adding to the thrills and suspense, ***TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME*** is sure to be a hit with not only little ones, but the whole family. "This book is for the Katie in all of us," Hirao declares.

Baseball fans of all ages will also thrill to the book's companion CD, featuring "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" performed by Carly Simon. The Grammy®, Oscar®, and Golden Globe® award-winning singer and songwriter dedicates her particular contribution to the book to the memory of Jackie Robinson. As Simon writes in her Performer's Note, she shared a "special connection" with one of baseball's "most famous and fabulous players" and a true hero.

"Jackie Robinson, that most excellent, fun, funny, and graceful gentleman, lived with my family for close to two years," Simon tells readers. "This was in Stamford, Connecticut in 1954 and 1955. Stamford at that time was not integrated, and it was difficult for them to buy land and build a house. My parents went on a campaign to get those most archaic rules changed, and while all this activity was taking place, the Robinsons, all five of them, lived with us down the road from where their house was finally under construction."

"I got to go to all the home games with Jackie," Simon fondly recalls, "riding in his car to Ebbets Field. I became such a familiar sight that some of the Dodgers called me the little girl, and said that I was their 'mascot.' Naturally, I was in love with baseball, though it was mostly the Brooklyn Dodgers."

The CD includes two additional songs, both Carly Simon classics: "I Gave My Love a Cherry" and "Scarborough Fair." Visual and musical, whimsical and gleeful, **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME** is bound to score a home run with kids and grownups who share the "fever" for America's favorite pastime—and with everyone who's wild about Carly Simon.

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Title: **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME**
Author: **Performed by Carly Simon; Lyrics by Jack Norworth;
Illustrated by Amiko Hirao**
Published by: **Peter Yarrow Books/Imagine Publishing!**
On Sale: **April 12, 2011**
ISBN-13: **978-1-936140-26-8**
Price: **\$17.95**
Format: **Hardcover with Jacket & CD**

ABOUT CARLY SIMON:

CARLY SIMON is an internationally renowned singer and songwriter. She has won two Grammy® Awards, as well as a Hall of Fame Grammy, an Oscar®, and a Golden Globe® for “Let the River Run,” which she wrote, composed, and performed for the film *Working Girl*. In 1994, she was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Simon began her singing career in the 1960s with her sister Lucy as “The Simon Sisters.” She found fame as a solo artist in early 1970s with such hits as “That’s the Way I Always Heard It Should Be” and “Anticipation.” In 1973, she scored her biggest hit with “You’re So Vain.” Claiming the number one spot on both the U.S. Pop and Adult Contemporary charts, it sold more than a million copies and earned several Grammy nominations. Now considered a classic (and one of pop music’s greatest mysteries, since Simon has never revealed who the song is about), “You’re So Vain” is number 72 on Billboard’s definitive “Hot 100” songs, compiled over the lifetime of the chart. In 1977, Simon had an international hit with “Nobody Does It Better,” the theme from the James Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me*. Several of her albums have gone platinum.

Beyond her distinguished career as a recording artist, Simon has produced albums for numerous singers and written theme songs and scores for film and television. Her notable contributions include the song “Coming Around Again” for the 1986 film *Heartburn*, the score for the 1990 film *Postcards from the Edge*, the song “In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning” for the 1993 film *Sleepless in Seattle*, and songs for Disney’s *Piglet’s Big Movie* in 2003 and *Pooh’s Heffalump Movie* in 2005. She has recorded four collections of American songbook standards, as well as a collection of “soothing songs and lullabies,” called *Into White*. In 1994, she covered “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” for Ken Burns’ PBS special, *Baseball*. She is also the author of several children’s books, most recently, *Midnight Farm*.

Carly Simon is a breast cancer survivor and a political activist. She is the mother of two grown children, Sarah “Sally” Maria Taylor and Ben Taylor, both musicians and political activists. In 2007, Simon became a grandmother when her daughter gave birth to a son, Bodhi Taylor Bragonier. She lives in Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts.

ABOUT THE ARTIST, AMIKO HIRAO:

AMIKO HIRAO earned a degree in art history in her native Japan and later graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has illustrated four children’s books, including *Tulip at the Bat*, written by J. Patrick Lewis; *How the Fisherman Tricked the Genie*, written by Christopher Sunami; and *All Aboard*, written by Mary Lyn Ray. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR, JACK NORWORTH:

JACK NORWORTH was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1879. In the early 20th century, he was a celebrated, multi-talented entertainer, as well as a professional songwriter for Tin Pan Alley. In 1908, he wrote the lyrics to “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” while riding a New York City subway train. Ironically, he had never attended a baseball game.

Suggested Interview Questions for CARLY SIMON

(Contact: Patrick Paris or Pamela Epstein at 212-260-7576 or Media@MouthPublicRelations.com)

1. What drew you to collaborating on the delightful children's picture book and CD, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* (Peter Yarrow Books/Imagine Publishing; On Sale: April 12, 2011)?
2. As you note in your Performer's Note for the book, you had a "special connection" with Jackie Robinson. What do you most remember about this exceptionally talented, trailblazing baseball player?
3. Throughout your career in music, you've been an outspoken political and social activist. Looking back at your childhood, did Jackie Robinson play a role in inspiring your future commitment to justice?
4. *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* celebrates baseball's unofficial anthem, which was written in 1908 and has become one of the most frequently played songs in American culture. From your perspective as a fan, what makes the song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" so appealing to so many and for so long?
5. You first recorded "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" for Ken Burns' PBS special, *Baseball*. How did you come to work with Ken Burns? What most stands out from the experience?
6. You were born in Riverdale, "Bronx Bomber" territory, and now live on Martha's Vineyard, which isn't all that far from Boston. So, which home team do you root, root, root for, the Yankees or the Red Sox?
7. *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* is far from the first book you've worked on, and in fact one of your editors was Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. What inspired an award-winning singer and songwriter to write a children's book? Please tell us about the CD that's embedded in the spine of the book?
8. Speaking of children, your two—Sally and Ben—are all grown up and both musicians. Did you encourage your kids to pursue a career in the music business? Have you performed with them?
9. How do you feel about being a grandmother?
10. A book for baseball fans and music fans, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* is, above all, a book for parents to share with their children. In a world where everyone is busy—where video games, TVs and smart phones steal hours away from our family, why do you think it's important for parents to still read to their children?
11. Your children are also, like you, political activists. At what age are kids old enough to start becoming aware of and getting involved in political, social, and global issues?
12. On the topic of activism, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* is published by an imprint created by Peter Yarrow—the "Peter" in the legendary folk trio, Peter, Paul and Mary, the group who sang alongside of Martin Luther King, Jr., during his "I Have a Dream" speech. How did you meet Peter and get involved in his publishing endeavor?
13. What are your thoughts of the music industry today versus when you first started out? Does a new musician really need a traditional recording company to get played?
14. Your father was the "Simon" in Simon and Schuster, the legendary publishing company. How important was reading to you growing up? With the onset of e-readers, and e-tablets, do you think the traditional publishing company is dead?
15. Aside from "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," of all the songs you've recorded—either written/recorded or solely recorded—throughout your career, do you have a personal favorite? Do you ever get tired of being asked about the mystery man who inspired "You're So Vain"?
16. Aside from your children, are there any young singers or songwriters you particularly admire?
17. Can you share with us what you're working on next? Do you have any final thoughts to share with your fans or with all the parents out there?