



***Accordionly: Abuelo and Opa Make Music***  
**by Michael Genhart**



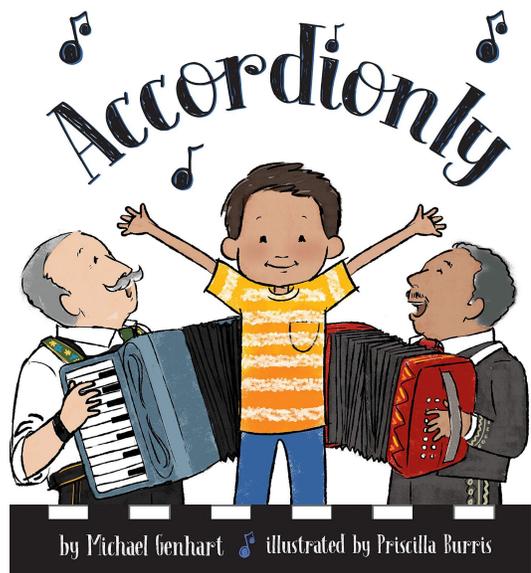
**Michael Genhart, PhD**, is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in San Francisco and Mill Valley, California. He lives with his family in Marin County.

He received his BA in psychology from the University of California, San Diego and his PhD in clinical and community psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park.

He is the author of several picture books including: *Ouch! Moments: When Words Are Used in Hurtful Ways* (2016), *Peanut Butter & Jellyous* (2017), *Mac & Geeez!* (2017), *Cake & I Scream!* (2017), *So Many Smarts!* (2017), *I See You* (2017), and *Rainbow: A First Book of Pride* (2019) all from Magination Press, as well as *Love Is Love* (Little Pickle Press/Sourcebooks, 2018).

When both grandpas, Abuelo and Opa, visit at the same time, they can't understand each other's language and there is a lot of silence. The grandson's clever thinking helps find a way for everyone to share the day together as two cultures become one family.

This unique book includes a bonus fold-out and a note from the author sharing the true story of his own family.



**RRS connection to TEKS: Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading**

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.*
- *Composition II: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres.*
- *Inquiry and research*

**Relevant Vocabulary:**

- German and Spanish multiculturalism
- Tradition
- Mariachi band / Ranchera music
- Family
- Accordion / piano / harmonica
- Community cultural wealth
- Abuela / abuelo
- Opa / oma
- Yodel
- Polka dance
- Funds of knowledge
- Culture / heritage
- Rituals
- Folklorico
- Harmony
- Language brokering
- Community Cultural Wealth

**Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do? What does an illustrator do?
- Think about the title of this book and its cover illustration. How does it make you feel? What does it make you think about?
- Who might the characters on the cover be?
- What genre do you predict this book will be?
- Ask your librarian about where to find more latinx and german books or books about music.
- Read the author's biography together. What did you find interesting about him?

**While/post reading engagement:**

- What do you know about an accordion? What is unique about this instrument?
- What country do you think the grandson's family is from?
- Take a close look at the picture of the family fiesta? What details stick out to you? What does this tell you about the relationship he has with his family?
- What does "opa" mean? What does this say about his family roots?

- Ranchera music is very different from yodeling, but what similarities do you think abuelo and opa have?
- How is folklorico dance different from polka?
- Make a prediction about what it will be like when opa and abuelo meet. Why?
- Problem solved! What steps could they take to communicate with each other?
- What makes music such an awesome way to communicate?
- What kinds of music do you and your family like listening to together? How does it make you feel?
- Music is just one part of culture and heritage. What are other things that contribute to one's culture? (hint: flip back through the book!)
- Create an anchor chart outlining the elements of this story: Setting, characters, plot, conflict, theme, and point of view.
- How does this community cultural wealth help this family thrive?
- Read the author's note. What did you learn about the author? How do you think his background influenced this story?

#### Useful links:

- Author website: <https://michaelgenhart.com/>
- Illustrator website: <http://priscillaburris.com/>
- Book trailer: <https://videopress.com/v/ac21KHA1>
- Author read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IppLF9Xcis>
- Author interview: <http://www.kidlit411.com/2019/06/Kidlit411-Author-Michael-Genhart.html>
- Article by Michael Genhart (author):  
<https://www.maginationpressfamily.org/mindfulness-kids-teens/finding-connection-through-music-and-books/?fbclid=IwAR2Oj2wN4cr5BHJ-gdieN2XFyF7-j3NGW686XPItdmAsctcQQ0MtxkBWwG>
- Illustrator interview:  
<http://www.kidlit411.com/2020/04/Kidlit411-illustrator-spotlight-priscilla-burris.html>