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Baby Beats by Karen Blair

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$27.99

Making music is a joyful activity - especially when you can share it with friends. Five smiling young children gather together in a living room and decide:

*Let's play music,
make a beat.
Clap your hands
and stamp your feet.*

Evocative sound language is used where drums *bash*, pot lid cymbals *crash*, sticks *tock tick*, and shakers *chick*.

Each page displays an inventive use of words and instruments. The pastel-shaded illustrations show a mix of children; boys and girls, and different cultures. At the start, a contented cat completes the homely scene and has a starring role towards the end.

The energetic children dance and sing. They have a great time until the inevitable tiredness sets in.

*Music is so much fun.
Sleep time now, the day is done.*

Baby Beats is a happy book to share with youngsters. It encourages them to be creative and discover the pleasure of spontaneously making their own music.

Another quality hardback publication from Walker Books.

**Reviewed by children's book author
Jean Bennett**

