

What's the secret
to doing well?

The Two

By Jane McBride Choate

(Based on a true story)

We shall make music to brighten the day; music will help us to lighten the way (Children's Songbook, 252).

Heather had been taking piano lessons for three years. She felt good about the progress she had made. She could even play a few hymns.

This year, Heather also started taking violin lessons. Her violin teacher announced that she would have a recital for her students. Heather and her teacher decided she would play "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" for the recital. Heather was sad she couldn't play a harder song.

At her piano lesson the next day, Heather invited her piano teacher, Sister Barton, to the violin recital.

"I'd love to come," Sister Barton said.

"I'm not very good," Heather said. "I still have a lot to learn."

"We all have to keep learning. I practice every day," Sister Barton said. She was the Primary pianist.



Secrets

“You have to practice?” Heather asked.

“I sure do,” Sister Barton said. “And I still make mistakes.”

“I’ve never heard you make a mistake,” Heather said.

Sister Barton smiled. “I have a secret. I keep playing, and no one notices.”

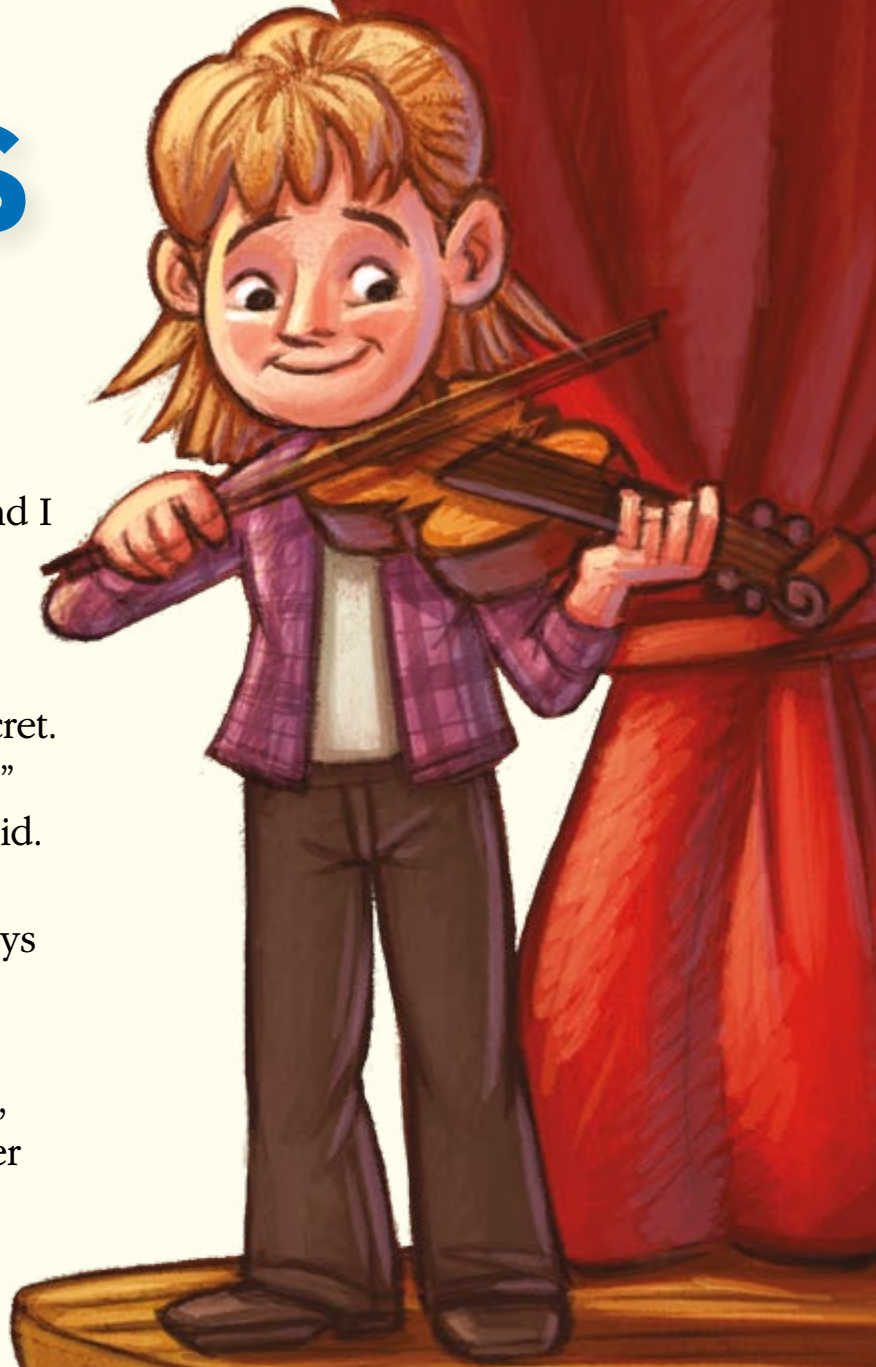
“That’s a good secret,” Heather said.

“I have an even more important secret,” Sister Barton added. “I always say a prayer before I play.”

The night of the violin recital, Heather said a prayer. At the recital, her parents, older brother, and Sister Barton sat in the first row. When it was her turn, Heather played “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” Her fingers slipped at one spot, but she kept playing.

“You did a great job,” Sister Barton told Heather afterward.

Heather smiled. “I remembered the two secrets.”



“How grateful I am for those blessed with musical talents who are willing to share their talents with others.”³

President Thomas S. Monson

