I love to bake and I have lots of differently shaped cookie cutters. My favorites are the animals. I wondered if I opened the oven too soon if the donkey would jump out with a “hee-haw” or if the cat would pop out with a “meow”.

Then, sitting in Symphony Hall listening to the Boston Symphony I thought about my violin cookie cutter. Would it come out of the oven playing?

more to the story...

My friend, Axel, went into the woods with his Grandfather, Farfar to look at wildlife. His Grandfather said, very seriously, “Axel, you must be absolutely quiet and perfectly still.”

Axel replied, “but Farfar, I am six. I can’t be absolutely quiet and perfectly still.”

At first I thought this was a funny story that reminded me of something the Gingerbread Baby would say. Then, I knew I had just the right ending for my book. See if you can find Axel’s quote in my story.

My White-Crested Black Polish Rooster pulls the sleigh that carries the Gingerbread Band. I would like to train Sonny to pull a small cart, just like in my story.
You could play a musical instrument! Players in Boston Symphony Orchestra are pictured backstage at rehearsal. These instruments definitely do not play by themselves. Years of practice made these musicians among the best in the world! It’s their job!

Will Hudgins plays mallet instruments and the Bass Drum in the percussion section. The Bass Drum can be solemn or arresting and you can be sure it will be noticed.

The French Horn, played by Gus Sebring has a heraldic, romantic sound. For all it’s golden tones, this instrument has a mind of it’s own, and if you chose to play it, you treat it with respect.

The bold trumpet is one of the most exciting of all the instruments. Here, Tom Roif is creating a portrait made up of hundreds of notes, astounding the audience.

The Clarinet is played by Tom Martin, who is known for creating extraordinary “color” or moods with his instrument. Sometimes jazzy, sometimes silky, sometimes primal his performances are breathtaking.

The Violin is often used as a solo voice or played together in the orchestra to create reality from the composer’s score, carrying the melody. Wendy Putnam plays a Ferdinand Gagliano violin made in Italy in 1781!

The Violin is the highest of the stringed instruments, and the lovely Viola is larger and has a deeper voice. The Cello, the next largest stringed instrument is played here by Theresa Larson. It is said to have a range closest to the human voice.

The Double Bass is over six feet tall and has a deep and majestic voice. My husband, Joe Hearne plays it with a bow, “Arco” or with his fingers, “Pizzicato”.

The Violin is the highest of the stringed instruments, and the lovely Viola is larger and has a deeper voice. The Cello, the next largest stringed instrument is played here by Theresa Larson. It is said to have a range closest to the human voice.
Make a Gingerbread Baby ornament for your tree!

Here are two versions. One is ready to go and one is for you to color and create. Just cut him out and fold on the dashed line.