Lani’s Concert

Lani was at the piano, practicing, when she was interrupted by the sound of a kazoo behind her, blasting an off-key accompaniment. Nearly every day, her younger brother, Michael, thought of some way to join in when she practiced.

Tonight was New Year’s Eve. Once Lani’s aunts and uncles arrived, she had the job of keeping Michael and her little cousins, Lucas and Jamie, entertained while the adults talked.

Lani’s best friend, Celeste, usually came for a sleepover on New Year’s Eve. They always made up a show and performed it, but this year Celeste would be visiting her grandparents.

Lani started looking through her music books. Maybe she could put on a solo performance. Michael and Lucas were practicing loon calls on the bamboo flutes that Uncle Robert had given them. Jamie was crawling around in a silly cap with droopy dog ears, which suddenly gave Lani a brilliant idea.

Loon sounded just like lune, the French word for moon. Lani had learned a song called “Clair de Lune” a year ago. Jamie’s dog ears reminded her of a song she already knew by heart.

“Hey, you guys,” Lani called to the boys. “What do you think about putting on a show for the grown-ups tonight?”

The show began with Lani playing and singing “Bone, Sweet Bone.” Jamie, wearing his droopy dog ears, gave a little “Woof” at the end of each phrase. Then Lani played “Clair de Lune” while Lucas warbled mournful loon calls on the bamboo flute. It was very effective, and not to mention extremely silly.

For the final number, Lani played the piano and Michael hummed on the kazoo. The sound was so dreadful that everyone was laughing and tears were running down their faces. They began looking forward to a very funny new year.